

# *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.*

**January 2019**

---

## ***The Season of EPIPHANY Begins January 6!***

*When God restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy. Psalm 126:1-3*

**How might we, at St. James', see ourselves in a place where we can say,  
"God is doing great things, and we are filled with joy?"**

The word *epiphany* means to "show, make known, reveal." The Season of Epiphany begins Jan. 6, with the Magi bringing gifts to the baby Jesus. They were the first Gentiles (non-Jews) to acknowledge Jesus as a divine gift and so were the first to *show* or *reveal* Jesus to a wider world as *God-with-us-in-the-flesh*. This act of joy-filled awareness and response was one of the first indications that God-in-Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few, or to only the insiders.

As with the rest of our Church liturgical calendar, this *Season-between-Christmas-and-Lent* has theological significance as a teaching tool. During this season, we are invited to ponder ways in which God is being made known to us, and to act based on that awareness. This season – along with our time of Interim Transition – invites us to move from Church-centered to God-centered questions. "Who will be our next Rector? How will we grow our Church?" can be more joyfully understood when we ask, instead, "How is God already at work in our lives, our neighborhoods, our community; and how are we being invited to join in *that (God's Mission)?*"

How are we to engage with this Mission of God? The Season of Epiphany introduces us to spiritual practices – rather than strategic plans or new programs -- and trying on small experiments to reveal what is life-giving and what is life-draining. These spiritual practices are: *listening, discerning, trying on, reflecting, deciding*. When we engage in these practices, as individuals and as a parish, we are

transitioned and filled with joy by our participation in the mission of God. The rest will unfold as we journey on together.

*Rev. Lisa*

### ***Next Steps in Our Transition – Might YOU be Sensing a Nudge to Serve?***

The Vestry met with our Transition Consultant on December 11 to begin the process of discerning Transition Team members. At that meeting, we discussed whether the Team will consist of just two subcommittees (Discernment and Recruitment) or four subcommittees (adding Prayer and Hospitality). And *that* decision will be based on how many of *you* are sensing a call to be part of this important process.

If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Transition Team, a list of the characteristics being sought among those discerning this call to serve is given below.

A letter of interest will be requested from each potential Team Member. Please place any letters of Interest in the offertory plate or send to Dilsa in the office. **The Vestry will meet again with our Consultant on January 12 to prayerfully identify our Transition Team members.**

In the Body of Christ, no one member possesses all the gifts, rather we need one another. Likewise, no single team member will have all the desired characteristics, yet together we will discern God's will, recruit our next Rector, pray for God's guidance diligently and open our hearts to a posture of hospitality throughout the Transition Process.

**In general, here are some desirable characteristics for all team members, regardless of which team they desire to serve:**

- Communicant in good standing (attends services regularly, giver of record, serves in parish life with time and talent, etc.)
- Team player
- Prayerful
- Good organizational skills (essential for Team Leaders)
- Works for the good of the whole and not in a partisan manner
- No hidden agendas
- Can maintain confidentiality (an absolute for the Recruitment Team members)
- Comfortable with assessment, data gathering (Discernment and Recruitment)
- Willing to commit time required to attend meetings and to participate fully
- *For Recruitment Committee:* to prevent conflict of interest, team members are not related to each other (spouses, parent/child, etc.)

- *For Discernment & Recruitment Committees:* at least one and not more than two team members are members of the Vestry and serve as liaison to the Vestry (if a Vestry member completes his/her service during the Transition Process, the Vestry may appoint the person to continue to serve as a team member an liase with the Vestry in an *ex officio* capacity throughout the transition)
- *For Discernment & Recruitment Committees:* to prevent conflict of interest, staff, their spouses/partners and family may not participate

Please carefully discern your role in the transition and discuss questions with any Vestry member or Rev. Lisa regarding your interest in serving. Together we can make an impact on the future of Saint James “

Joe Walkovich, Janet Brown, Wardens

---

### ***Our Parish Annual Meeting is Scheduled for Sunday January 27 11:30 am***

Once a year, we gather as “One” parish to review our life together and look toward to the future, seeking what God has envisioned for us. We enjoy fellowship around a meal, with some guided table conversation about our Transition process, do a little business (vote in new Vestry members and thank those who have served) and re-commit ourselves to our on-going learning anew about what God is up to in our lives. All are invited and encouraged to participate. A Voting Member list will be posted on the doors of the Church and in the Parish Hall. Voting members are those who are 16-years old and older, have been worshipping with this community for at least six months, and who contribute financially as they are able to the ongoing ministries of this parish.

---

### ***Our Worship Committee is Dreaming Great Dreams***

I have been asked to share a very real dream: at first it seemed like a nightmare, but then God made it a blessing. He reminded me that the job of the worship ministry is to “make a space to feed souls”. The wonderful people I’ve had the pleasure of working with this past year take this commission to hear and serve the body of Christ in making our worship services a place where God’s Presence can be felt. It takes many volunteers to create such a space. Many of them shared with me the joy they feel of making a beautiful altar, making moving music, sharing a welcoming smile, assisting the priest as an acolyte, offering the cup at communion and all the other gifts we share to bring God to all who join us for services. Whatever your personality or abilities you too can share in this joyful service. There is a place for

all in this church and God cherishes all we do to bring Him praise and honor. The joy of giving of yourself is the gift you get in return. Jeanne Todaro

### ***Ritual Reasons Why***

*“Who is Suheil, the Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and why did we add all of these names to our Sunday Prayers of the People?”*

Our Episcopal tradition teaches us that “prayer shapes believing”. In other words, the prayers we offer help inform our faith. In our worship’s Prayers of the People, we include prayers for “the Universal Church, its members, and its mission” (Book of Common Prayer, p. 383). Traditionally, we have included prayers for our Bishops and our Clergy. By adding Michael (Curry), our Presiding Bishop, we are reminded that St. James’s is part of the larger Episcopal Church. By adding Justin (Welby), the Archbishop of Canterbury, we are reminded that St. James’ is part of the larger Anglican Communion. And by adding Suheil (Dawani), the Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (a diocese that covers Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon), we are reminded that St. James’ very core is where Jesus was crucified, died, and rose again. All of which reminds us that we, the beloved of God at St. James’, are part of the larger whole, and more than just ourselves.

If you have a question about why we do what we do in worship, please speak with Rev. Lisa. For every question you have, there are at least another 10 people in our pews wondering the same thing. Just ask!

---

### ***New for 2019 – Red Doors Concert Series***

These concerts will feature local and international artists and are open to the public.

A free will cash offering will be accepted at each concert to provide funding.

**Sunday, 3/17/19 at 2pm** The Danbury Madhatters Barbershop Chorus will offer Irish tunes and traditional barbershop harmonies.

**Saturday, 5/18/19 at 7pm** The well-known Chime In! Community Handbell Choir from Bethlehem, CT. under the direction of Rick Wood will wow us with their amazing techniques and arrangements of bell music. St. James’ Ringers will join them for one or two pieces.

**Saturday, 10/5/19 at 7pm** Hans Uwe Hielscher, Carillonneur and Organist from Germany will play several songs on St. James’ historic carillon before offering an evening of organ music in the sanctuary.

**Saturday, 11/30/19 at 7pm** Welcome back the St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble (acapella quartet) from Russia who will perform Russian Sacred, Classical and Folk Music.

### ***Adult Faith Formation is now "Growing in Faith"***

Let us begin the New Year in Peace, Love and Harmony with one another. We meet every Monday from 3:30 - 5 PM in the Library. I invite you to join us on this spiritual path as we study the Holy Scriptures together. We all learn from one another by keeping God as our focus and filling us with the Holy Spirit.

We have a number of Faith provoking ideas and workshops for 2019. These will include movie events, book studies and our presiding Bishop Michael Curry's new book "The Power of Love".

Saint James' is blessed to have the Reverend Dr. Lisa Hahneman during this transition process to help us prioritize our focus and listen to God's Direction. Reverend Lisa has brought a bright light to Saint James'. It is up to us to commit ourselves toward working together and praying for God's guidance as we recruit our next Rector.

It has been a privilege and honor to work with the Vestry for the past 3 years. Thank you to Growing in Faith members Linda, Denise, Cheryl, Carole, Mimi, Joanne, Brenda, Janet and especially our mentor Reverend Carolyn for your dedication, compassion and joy. Your faith has been an inspiration to me.

Together we can Grow in our Faith as we Pray, Hope and Dream for the Family of God at Saint James.

Blessing and Peace, Karen Montecalvo

### ***Religious Education for our Children***

#### **Godly Play**

We really enjoyed our Advent lessons in December. At the beginning of each class, we lit an additional candle on our Advent Wreath to help us get into the season and prepare the way for Jesus to arrive. We talked about how purple is the color of kings and how we can get ready for the greatest king of all. Each week the children grew more excited to move ahead one purple square on our Church Calendar.

We will start off 2019 with our Epiphany lesson, move into Baptism, and then explore various lessons of the parables. The Parable lessons are always a favorite of the children, particularly The Parable of the Good Shepherd and The Parable of the Good Samaritan.

#### **St. Nicholas Party**

Thank you to all who were able to attend the St. Nicholas Party on December 9th. Much thanks to Rev. Lisa, Vicky Crea, Sandi Nichols, Susie Sarkisian, Bob Pearson, and Pat Pearson for all your help with set-up before the party and your help during the party. The children always enjoy Bob Pearson's reading of The Night Before Christmas and our pass-the-gift game of How the Grinch Stole Christmas.

### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

Beginning Sunday, January 6th, we will be collecting soup cans and soup packages for our annual Souper Bowl of Caring event at St. James. The Souper Bowl of Caring is an event which helps fight hunger in our local communities and is done by churches nationwide. All the soup cans and soup packages donated will go to Daily Bread, our local food pantry. We will be collecting soup cans through Super Bowl Sunday on Sunday, February 3rd. For more information on this wonderful event, please check out the Souper Bowl of Caring's website at [souperbowl.org](http://souperbowl.org).

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

---

### ***Progress in Our Ministry With El Hogar And Maria De Jesus***

The warm-hearted, generous people of Saint James' walk the talk! I am speaking of the Cookie Walk and Craft Fair, where our congregation pooled its resources to raise \$1,020.00! People in our congregation gave gifts of wood and yarn and flour and sugar, much time, and a good sum of money to the glory of God.

We have entered our second year of sponsorship, and Maria is now entering 4<sup>th</sup> grade. School in Honduras runs from February to November. Sponsorship of \$5400 per year pays for everything Maria need: clothing, books, medical care, dental care, food and a home. El Hogar raises Maria much as we would raise our children: in a loving environment, surrounded by friends and caring adults, grounded in the faith she is a child of God, much loved, though an orphan.

We had a balance remaining from our sponsorship in 2017, and our generous congregation continues to make individual sponsorship donations. We currently have \$2400 toward our commitment of \$5400 for 2018. We will make our first payment of \$2400 in January. Our hope is to have a second payment ready by April. The Mission Ministry **asks the congregation to join forces** to help support Maria. We hope that 50 individuals or families will each contribute \$60 so that we can make our full financial commitment.

All gifts are welcome! Some in our family can give more and will. Some can give less and will. **Working together, as God intended, we accomplish our goals.**

Is God calling you to walk this journey with Maria? If so, please make your check to Saint James' Church with EL HOGAR in the memo. Questions, comments, want to help: [Christine.dimeglio@yale.edu](mailto:Christine.dimeglio@yale.edu) 203-730-8884

### **St. James' Vestry Notes (11/20/2018)**

The following were in attendance:

Rev. Lisa Hahneman		Interim Priest-in-Charge
Joe Walkovich	Janet Brown	Wardens
Linda Spaziani		Treasurer
Sandi Nichols		Temporary Clerk

#### **Class of 2019**

Rob Mondello

#### **Class of 2020**

Susie Sarkisian	Victoria Woody	Beth Cox
-----------------	----------------	----------

#### **Class of 2021**

Lyn Meyers	Jeanne Todaro	Carolyn Flynn
------------	---------------	---------------

- Call to Order- The meeting was called to order
- Opening prayer/Dwelling in the Word – 1 Corinthians 12
- Approval of Minutes-
  - Minutes were accepted with amendments by Joe W. and seconded by Jean T.
- Caring for the resources God has given us
  - Interim Priest-in charge review of goals and Letter of Agreement was read
  - Review of goals was discussed
    - Updating letters of agreement for staff was discussed and/or creating building use agreements and our relationships
    - What other organizations that use our space was also discussed
    - Take a look at the body/ministries/activities and identify descriptions and who does what. That way we can work better together and know who is responsible or who needs help.
    - Update on Next Steps for Transition

- We have been assigned a Transitional Consult, Bevin Stanley. We will be setting up a meeting soon with him. After a short discussion we decided to ask if 12/11 would work for him.
- Nominating Committee for new Vestry leaders update
  - The nominating committee met. Had a good meeting and came up with some names. At this time, they still need to be approached.
  - A discussion was held about the “At large” vestry position. The discussion included: how do we feel about this position, do we still want/need. It was decided that yes we do, but we should see what the position molds, changes and turns into. More to come on this.
- Financial Concerns
  - Stewardship Update- The Stewardship committee met and at the meeting they split up names to reach out to still so that we could reach our goal (wanted-260,000/250,000 hoping for)
  - 2019 Budget- The budget was discussed and a discussion revolved around how are we using the resources that we were given and how we are spending those resources. It was stated that we need to wait till January to vote on it.
  - Audits for 2015,2016,2017 – It was discusses that before we call a new Rector we will need to have an audit done and Linda said she would get the information and paperwork over to those involved.
  - 2019 Housing Allowance Resolution- We received the Housing Allowance Resolution and it was voted on, Carolyn F motioned, Lyn M seconded and all agreed to accept. (see attachment)
- Property Concerns
  - Renting the Rectory- We discussed what needs to be done so that we can rent it and who we could we ask to be represent us.
    - Susie stated that she would lend her cleaning lady out for a week to go over and do a full cleaning of the inside.
    - It was also discussed to find a few days that B & G could get together to do small things.
    - It was discussed that we will need a painter hired for 3 rooms, not all and that Vicky W. would reach out to her father and see what can be done.
    - We would also need to hire a chimney sweeper to clean the chimney.
    - It was discussed who we would ask to show the house (Jehod/Betsy) and who would be signing the contract?

- Rectory Boundary Updates – the latest terms & agreements have come from the lawyers regarding the boundary lines
  - Linda S. motioned to accept the terms and Rob M. seconded, all agreed to accept the terms.
  - Linda also stated that we need to send to the Standing Committee.
  - Carolyn F. motioned to accept and pay the lawyer fees and Rob M. seconded, all agreed.
- Old Business
  - All Committee gathering Saturday Dec 1- a reminder was given and a discussion was had about hearing more and understanding more about what each committee needs.
    - It was asked if each committee would right a short paragraph about “Who they are” and “What they do”
    - It was also asked why the meeting was for only 1hr and if we needed more time could we.
    - It was asked if we would do a checklist of what is needed when a committee has an event.
  - It was asked of Lisa, if she could reach out to Father Joseph and asked him for a photo image for our history board.
  - Reminder and discussion about the 12/2/18 concert.
    - Reminder the coffee hour after 10am service will be put luck and to include lunch.
    - Who will be helping set up before and cleanup afterward was also mentioned.
    - A orange cone was requested to reserve a spot in the back of the church for the singers to park in
    - It was also requested a place they could use to change and be able to lock their valuables in.
    - A broader discussion also involved who will be helping with the other Concert Series to come in regards to set-up/cleanup etc.
- New Business:
  - Annual Reports due Jan 13-
    - It was stated that we would like to have them a week before (1/6/19) so all could read ahead of the annual meeting.

- We discussed about having an updated Energy Audit done and see what it says. Green Bank does these and it is free for the walk thru.
- Closing Prayers:
  - Closing prayers were done by Rob M and the meeting was adjourned

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 2019

Robert Mondello

Karen Montecalvo

William Ostrand

Class of 2020

Beth Cox

Susie Sarkisian

Victoria Woody

Class of 2021

Carolyn Flynn

Lyn Meyers

Jeanne Todaro

**Interim Priest-in-Charge**

The Rev. Dr. Lisa D. Hahneman

ldhahneman@sbcglobal.net

**Deacon**

The Reverend Carolyn Legg

sealeg@sbcglobal.net

**Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper**

Dilsa Quade

**Director of Religious Education**

Kerry Santoro

dre@saintjamesdanbury.org

**Director of Music**

Joanne F. Archibald

joannearchibald@saintjamesdanbury.org

**Sexton**

Jose Lopez Sanz

**ECCT Convention Delegates**

Dan Cox & Marion Liberati

# *Prayers for a Blessed New Year from all of us to all of you*



**PARISH CYCLE OF PRAYER – January 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:

James Cooks; Michael & Pamela Cummings; Wendy DaCosta  
Kathleen Dannenhoffer; Karen Davidson; Ruth Davis; Jeffrey & Denise Day  
DeStefano Family; Barbara DeVeaux; Anthony & Nanci DiPerrio; Emily Disney  
Joe Dobbins; Bridgett Downer; Roderick & Alexandra Edwards  
Elizabeth Egan; David & Marcella Emerito; Margaret Emerito; Harold & Josette Eynon  
Sean & Rebecca Fanning & Family; Anne Felizardo, Eugene & Shirley Fernekes  
Shirley Ferrarone; Randall & Elizabeth Fescocoe; Joseph & Sally Fiorita  
Etura Fleming; Robert & Carolyn Flynn; Jason & Meghan Flynn & Family  
Sean & Janis Flynn & Family; Marcia Folderauer; Scott & Dawn Ford  
Helen Gallo; Theo Gammie; Wayne & Doreen Geist; Tancy Gemza; Madeline Franco  
Francis & Judith Toth; Carole Conaway; Lillian Heering; Dick & Mary Lou Johntson  
Frank Giarratana & Family; Melissa & Nicholas Gieda & Family; Doreen Gilliland  
Richard & Ruth Goetz; Vanessa Grant & Family; Scott & Michelle Grayson & Family  
Barbara Greene; Russell & Judith Griemsmann; Karen Haddad; Dianne Fleischer  
Erland Hagman; Cheryl Harewood; Ernest Harrington & Lyn Meyers; John Morris  
Linda Harrison, Mark & Kathryn Harrison & Family; Jean Hassen  
Dorothy Hoagg; John Hofmann; Denise Holl; Virginia Huff  
William & Vicki Hutchinson; Linda Immarigeon; Delores Ireland; Lillian Heering  
Catherine Jaber-Kreiger; Edith Janesky; Carl & Susan Johnson; Catherine Johnson  
Amanda Johnson; James Johnson; Robert Johnson; Robert & Leslie Johnson  
Deborah Kaufmann; Denise Kaufmann; Carol Kelly; Margaret Kelly  
Yvonne Kiddoe; Nancy Kinkade; Nancy Haplin; Stephen & Amanda Huntley & Family  
Clair Rundhaug; Christopher Kuell & Cristine DiMeglio

Nicholas Kuell; Grace Kuell; Harry & Jill Kuhn; Adam & Sherry Kyriacou & Family  
Kevin & Susan Lally; Sheila & Richard Landis; Roma Landry; Pat Larsen  
Ethel Leahey; Laura Lee & David Katz; Daniel & Marion Liberati; Kerlen & Letty Lim  
Walter & Louise Liston & Family; Lillian MacBain; Francis Mann & Maureen Bent  
Wendi McCabe; David & Ingrid McCarthy; Jane McGarry; Ashwin Robin Raj  
Maria McGowan; John & Loretta McLaughlin; Suzanne McLean  
Mark Meyer & Family; May Molinaro; Linda & Robert Parker; Michelle Cullen  
Robert & Deborah Mondello & Family; Elise Montanari; Albert & Karen Montecalvo



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