

**ST. JAMES CHURCH
WELCOMES YOU**

9 Williams Street
Clinton, NY 13323
www.stjamesclinton.org

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This e-version of the newsletter has been modified slightly from the published version. Children are identified by initials only. In some cases, adults are identified by first name and last initial. Private telephone numbers and e-mail address have been removed.

Print versions are mailed to our parish families and can be picked up from the back of the church or from the church office.

January



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*We saw His star at its
rising and have come to
pay Him homage*

Matthew 2:2

Regular Services of Worship

Saturday, 5:15pm Holy Eucharist
Sunday, 9:30am Holy Eucharist
Nursery care provided
Church school (4 yrs to 6th grade) also at 9:30am

St. James Church January 2008 – Newsletter

Our mission is to welcome all, reach out to others and grow in faith.

The Rev. Jenny Montgomery - Rector
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The Way I See It
By Jenny Montgomery

During Advent I attended a conference in Boston sponsored by Harvard Divinity School entitled “Finding Our Way”. Featured speakers Marcus Borg, Diana Butler-Bass and Brian McLaren challenged us to rethink the mission of the church, re-imagine who we are as Christians and to re-envision what we as clergy can do to bring about change. It was a time for asking new questions and seeking new answers to old questions. It was a time for taking stock of who we are and where we’re going.

The way I see it we, as St. James Church, have a great challenge ahead of us in 2008. Some hard questions need to be asked as to where we are going as a parish and what we want to accomplish as a people of God. But in the midst of asking these hard questions one thing struck me as especially good advice. “Lighten up” says Brian McLaren as excessive seriousness blocks change and limits the movement of the Spirit in and through us. So I, for one, am going to take that advice to heart and in this New Year seek to laugh more, love more, and live more fully in God’s grace.

Happy New Year and may God lighten your heart with much joy and laughter.

Vestry News and Update on the Lewis House

At our December meeting, the Vestry approved a preliminary budget for 2008. It will be presented at the annual meeting on January 20th. We hope you will be able to attend. We are counting on receiving the last few anticipated pledges for the next year, so if you have not yet done so, please return your pledge card as soon as possible. Your continued financial support remains vital to the health of the parish.

We also continued our discussion of the Lewis House. For well over a year, the Vestry has been gathering information to determine what is best for the parish regarding the future use of the Lewis House. Early on, we started with a series of conversations with the congregation. Members of the parish have had opportunities to walk through the house and to consider its best future use. After much prayer and thoughtful discussion, the Vestry is leaning towards the sale of the Lewis House and will vote on approving the sale at its January meeting.

Other alternatives were explored by the Resource Management Committee and by the Vestry but are not viable because each alternative would require spending close to \$100,000 to restore the house to a habitable condition. One alternative that the Vestry had hoped for was that a non-profit agency such as the Refugee Center would be able to use the house, but after a year of discussions with various agencies, no agency has been found that would have the funds needed for the required renovations. Another alternative was to rent the house at fair market value; however, this was rejected because, St. James itself does not have the funds (without borrowing) to renovate the house for rental. Also, the Vestry believes the parish should not be in the business of being a managing landlord of the house. A third alternative – to demolish the house – would not be permitted under the village’s historic preservation laws. Therefore, many members of the Resource Management Committee and Vestry believe that a sale of the Lewis House is the best option. If a sale is approved by the Vestry, approval by the diocese would also be required. Before any sale occurs, the parish would retain the space in back of the house for the day school playground and try to make sure the existing church parking lot is preserved. If you have any questions, please discuss them with the wardens or with any member of the Vestry.

Chris Fox, warden

Treasurer’s Update

Many thanks to all who have pledged their financial support to St. James. Pledge Envelopes are at the back of the church in alphabetical order. Extra boxes of pledge envelopes are available for those who would like them (please sign the sheet). As of mid December, we had received 99 pledges totaling approximately \$161,500. The budget for 2008 with an anticipated pledge amount of \$170,000 will be presented at the Annual Meeting (20 January 2008). Copies of the proposed 2008 Budget are on the back table of the church.

If you are looking for additional ways to contribute, our wish list contains three new items: donations toward organ tuning, towards speakers for the new electric piano, and towards the new copier (which cost us \$7,500). Thank you again for all the gifts you provide to St. James!

Worship, Formation and Parish Life

Service of Hope and Light Wednesday, January 2, 2008

As we usher in the New Year a candlelight service of hope and light will be held on Wednesday, January 2 at 7pm. At this time we will gather for prayers, reflection and sharing in the Lord's Supper. All are welcome!

Feast of the Epiphany and Pageant Sunday January 6, 2008 9:30am

We celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with our Intergenerational pageant, "The Littlest Star" about the star that shines over Bethlehem on Christmas and the visit of the Wise Men. Following worship we will convene to the Parish Hall for our children's Epiphany Party.

Sunday evening the traditional Adult Champagne Potluck Dinner will begin at 6pm. Last names A-F please bring a dessert; G-L a main dish; M-R a salad, S-Z an appetizer. Please sign-up at the back of the church or in the Parish Hall.

Women's Spirituality Group

The monthly Monday Group will meet on January 7th at 7:15pm in the All Saints Room and we are reading through chapter 8 of Brian McLaren's book, A Generous Orthodoxy. Reading is not required and the conversation lively.

Lectionary Reflection Group Wednesdays, Noon-1pm

You are invited to join the Rector and others in the library to reflect on the upcoming Lectionary Readings. Together we reflect on what we hear in the readings. No preparation is needed and feel free to bring your lunch! *We will not meet December 26th.*

Men's Study Group

The Men's Group meets on Friday mornings at 7:30am and is open to all men. Currently the group is reading Seeking Enlightenment Hat by Hat by Nevada Barr. Randy W and Phil McK are glad to answer any questions about the group. All are welcome!

Fellowship Dinners Continue in 2008 and You Are Invited to be a Host!

Our parish-wide fellowship dinners are great fun with good food and you are invited to host one in your home this year. The host provides the main course and beverages and others bring an appetizer, salad, vegetable or dessert. These meals are informal and simply a time to be together and get to know one another better. Diane B is our coordinator for these dinners and is glad to answer any questions. The dates for the 2008 Fellowship Dinners are: February 1, April 4 and May 2.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 20 – Annual Meeting after the 9:30am service. Continental Breakfast is planned; sign up sheets will be posted so we have a head count for set up and for contributing continental breakfast goodies.

Friday, January 25, 6:30pm – Vestry Dinner

Saturday, January 26, 9am-noon – The Vestry, staff and leaders of the Ministry Groups Planning Session.

January 26 - February 3 – Diocesan Medical Mission to El Salvador

February 16 - 24 – Diocesan Pilgrimage to El Salvador

Resource Management Update

As will be obvious to everyone in the congregation the weather is not conducive to the installation of a slate roof, and so we have deferred the job until spring. The slate, itself is stored in crates at the Vermont Structural Slate plant in Fair Haven VT, thereby saving the cost of renting a heavy-duty loader to off-load the slate in warehouses in Richfield Springs where it would be stored for the winter, and then loading it on a tractor trailer again to bring to Clinton in the spring. Next spring the slate will be shipped directly to St. James.

Peter Nelson Associates has examined the roof rafters and related structures of the church. Bill Huggins and I met with the architect and his engineer and we should soon have their report regarding the ability of the church to take the stress related to the removal of the old roofing and installation of the new. When we receive this report, and we hope it will be favorable, we will notify NY Landmarks Conservancy and receive our \$10,000 grant. Don P.

St. James Episcopal Church
Worship, Annual Election and Meeting Agenda
January 20, 2008

Worship

We begin our Annual Meeting at 9:30am by worshipping God through Word and Sacrament

Fellowship Time

After worship we move to the Parish Hall for coffee, treats and a time of being together. Nursery care is provided and children will have an extended time of play during the meeting.

Call to Order for Business

Around 10:45am the Rector calls the parish to order with a prayer and tellers are appointed for counting the ballots for the election of the vestry.

Introduction of Vestry and Nominees

Each year a Senior Warden and Junior Warden are elected to serve for a one year term on the Vestry. And with a rotating three-year commitment, three vestry persons are also elected to serve on the Vestry. This year Chris Fox has agreed to serve as our Senior Warden, having served this year as our Junior Warden. Heidi Philley has agreed to serve as our Junior Warden. Jennifer Potter Hayes has agreed to serve on the Vestry, to fill a vacant one-year term. Don Neil, Jim White and Jeff Wooldridge have agreed to serve for a three-year term. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. We also thank Mary Lou I. for serving as our Vestry Clerk and Jan Wilson as our Treasurer.

Approval of 2007 Meeting Minutes

Generally in the Episcopal Church the whole parish meets for business just once a year except when special meetings might be called. So at this time we will look back to 2007 and approve the minutes from a year ago.

Presentation of 2008 Budget

In our Annual Meeting, we receive the budget proposal from the Vestry. Questions may be asked and suggestions made for changes. (Copies of the proposed budget are made available prior to the Annual Meeting and are on the back table of the church or one can be mailed to you by calling the church office.)

Celebration of Ministries

At this time we hear from the Staff and Ministries Groups as we celebrate all that God is doing in this place.

Words from the Rector

She loves this part of giving thanks for the many blessings of the past year and visioning the new opportunities for this year.

Vestry Election Results

"Election" is probably not the best word to use in that there's usually not a plethora of people agreeing to serve on the Vestry. It's a big commitment of time and responsibility so usually the process is one of affirmation of those who are willing to serve. But the canons of the church require an election so that's what we call it. (This does not mean, however, that we wouldn't be pleased if more people volunteered to serve than were needed!)

Recognition of Persons Rotating Off the Vestry

As a parish we will give hearty thanks to Bobbie D for serving two years on the Vestry and Randy Ericson, Steve Havlovic and John Hecklau for their three years of service. And we will thank Wendy Weber for her year of serving as our Senior Warden.

Commissioning of the Vestry and Ministry Group Leaders

As servant leaders, Vestry members, Wardens, Treasurer, Vestry Clerk and chairs of the Ministry Groups will be commissioned and blessed for ministry at St. James.

Final Blessing

By noon (or so) the Annual Meeting of St. James Church concludes, the Rector says the final blessing and we depart for home.

St. James Server Schedule

Please see the print version for the server schedule.

Prayer List

For those seeking wholeness & healing: **The Hebert Family, Joan, Jill, Chuck, Bob and Ed.** For our family & friends: **Debbie Andrzejewki** (our Office Administrator), **Kristina, Chris, Beverly Allison, Pete, Dennis Rich & Beryl, Phyllis, Sally, Anders, Robin, Barbara and Conrad, Elizabeth, Maria, Noreen; The Bornick family, Bob, Jan, Keith and Krista.**

(Please notify the church office when names may be removed)



January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 30 9:30 am Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR NURSERY 6:15-9pm Tapestry Rehearsal	Dec 31 7-10pm Mohawk Valley Scrabble Group Patsy Couper	Jan 1 8:30pm AA NEW YEAR'S DAY church office closed	Jan 2 Noon-1 pm Lectionary reflection group 7pm Service of Hope and Light John & Piper Crawford	Jan 3 7:30 pm Adult Choir John & Cynthia Crossley	Jan 4 7:30am Men's Study Group The D'Angelo family	Jan 5 5:15pm Holy Eucharist John & Alice Dahlin
Jan 6 - Epiphany 9:30 am Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist (nursery provided) Children's Epiphany Party follows 6pm Adult Potluck Champagne Epiphany Party	Jan 7 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:15pm Women's Spirituality group 7-10pm Mohawk Valley Scrabble Group Kate Davis and family	Jan 8 8:30pm AA Dave & Irma Davis	Jan 9 Noon-1 pm Lectionary reflection group 7pm Vestry meeting Alicia Davoli	Jan 10 7:30 pm Adult Choir The Andrew Dawes family	Jan 11 7:30am Men's Study Group Bobbie Dawes	Jan 12 5:15pm Holy Eucharist The Dick family
Jan 13 9:30am Holy Eucharist and Sunday School (nursery provided) Coffee Hour follows 10:45am Children's choir rehearsal 6:15-9pm Tapestry Rehearsal	Jan 14 7-10pm Mohawk Valley Scrabble Group 7 pm ABC meeting Conrad & Dorene Dorn	Jan 15 8:30pm AA 7 pm book club Ida Rae Donovan	Jan 16 Noon-1 pm Lectionary reflection group 7pm Worship and Formation Leadership group The Drumm family	Jan 17 9 am- 2pm Fiber Arts Group 7:30pm Adult Choir 7 pm Mohawk Valley dog training club The Earl family	Jan 18 7:30am Men's Study Group The William Elliot family	Jan 19 5:15pm Holy Eucharist The John Ellis family
Jan 20 9:30am Holy Eucharist and Sunday School (nursery provided) Annual Meeting with Continental Breakfast after the service 6:15-9pm Tapestry Rehearsal	Jan 21 7pm Resource Mgm't. Group 7-10pm Mohawk Valley Scrabble Group Madeline Ellis	Jan 22 8:30pm AA The Ellingson-DeWeerth family	Jan 23 Noon-1 pm Lectionary reflection group The Ellison family	Jan 24 7:30 pm Adult Choir Alan Engle	Jan 25 7:30am Men's Study Group 6pm vestry dinner Randy and MaryAnn Ericson	Jan 26 9am to noon vestry/ leadership planning 5:15pm Holy Eucharist Bruce & Sharon Evans
Jan 27 9:30am Morning Prayer (nursery provided) and Sunday School Coffee Hour follows 10:45am Children's choir rehearsal 6:15-9pm Tapestry Rehearsal	Jan 28 7-10pm Mohawk Valley Scrabble Group The Chris Evans family	Jan 29 8:30pm AA The David Evans family	Jan 30 Noon-1 pm Lectionary reflection group Tom and Pat Evans	Jan 31 7:30 pm Adult Choir Janet and Jana Evelyn-Dorsey	Feb 1 7:30am Men's Study Group John & Mimi Fehlner	Feb 2 5:15pm Evening prayer Helen Ford

Note: Names listed at the bottom of each day (except Sunday) designate a family or individual to be prayed for on that day.