

The St. James' Weekly News
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 1, 2016



*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...
Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."*

[Picasso's "Dove of Peace" image courtesy of coloringpanda.com; used with permission.]

The Very Rev. Christopher L. David, Interim Pastor

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WELCOME

A warm welcome to all and a special welcome to those who are visiting; the addition of your praise and thanks heartens us all. If you are seeking a church home or simply a place to rest for a while on your spiritual journey, we invite you to consider St. James' to be that place. The service leaflet will guide you through the liturgy. In the pew racks you will find the *Book of Common Prayer* (red binding) and *The Hymnal 1982* (blue binding). Please do not hesitate to ask a fellow worshipper for help.

If you are new to St. James' and wish to be included in our weekly e-mails (*This Week At St. James'*), please fill in one of the welcome forms (available on the table in the narthex) and leave it in the offertory plate or with an usher. Restrooms are located in the undercroft on the right-hand wall. There is an elevator located in the narthex for those who need it. **Please do not hesitate to speak to an usher or any church member if you have questions or need assistance.** Whether you are a visitor or a parishioner, if you would like a call and/or a visit please call the office at 375-9952 or send an e-mail to stjamesparishoffice@gmail.com. If you have a need for hospital visitation for yourself or for a family member or friend, **you must call Fr. Christopher or the Parish Office.** The SWVMC, like many hospitals these days, does not inform us of nor do they make available the names of patients being admitted.

TODAY'S HYMNS are listed on the hymn board and also on the back cover of this issue.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Susan and Paul Gratz, Co-Chairs, and all the people who worked so hard to make the final Free Community Dinner another successful evening of good food, good conversation and good feeling. It was a wonderful occasion and we are grateful for your generosity and hard work. Thank you!

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM RETURNS! Hardly seems possible but it is almost time for the Summer Lunch Program to resume. We will participate again in this excellent opportunity for us to serve our community. The Summer Lunch Program will be offered this year from June 14th – Aug 16th. Volunteers from St. James are needed to pack the lunch bags each Tuesday morning at Fisher Elementary School at 10 AM for about an hour. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the undercroft. Bring your calendars!

And with the SLP comes **THE GREAT SNACK CHALLENGE**. There is very little room in the program budget for those little extra snacks that children enjoy (well, don't we all enjoy them?). So each week we will be collecting snacks to take to Fisher Elementary on Tuesday mornings to add to the lunch bags. These need to be packaged snacks, preferably of the healthier variety. We need about 150+ snacks a week so start planning now – keep your eyes out for those supermarket specials. Please see Sue Claro with any questions about SLP or the Great Snack Challenge.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the Sick: Bob Alexander; Ken Blackler; Garrett Brewer; Don Brown; Janet Cassell; Joseph Eppink; Tammy Lynn Farrell; Peter Garneau; Mary Gerisch; Jo Gillikin; Pamela Harris; Thomas Hayton; Esther Jaffee; John Jaworski; Jane Jersey; Bruce Keene; Marianne Kennedy; Joyce Klugewicz; John Laughrey; Shirley Letiecq; Mary Loring; Gail McDevitt; Charlie Menghini; Jack Michael; Cecelia O'Brien; Ralph and Natalia Panelli; MaryAnn Schaefer; June Sherwin; Tom Snow; Dot Whitley; Anita; Beth; Bruce; Celia; Dennis; Dick; Helen; Isaac; Jan; John; Kathy; Kay; Kelly and her parents; Mary Ann; Susan; Laurie and Jim; Val; Susan Gratz' mother.

For the Departed: Judy Briggs

For Those In Need of Our Prayers: The family and friends of Judy Briggs; Charles; Anna, Sherri; Alyce; Sue; Sara; John; Katie; Joan; Cathy; Alex; Sofia; Eleanor; Jack, Vin, Jan and A.J.; Wanda; the Kluj family; the victims of the earthquakes in Japan and Ecuador; the victims of terrorism, strife, hunger and deprivation throughout the world; for the homeless; for all who need our prayers. Pray for peace among all nations and among all peoples.

For Those Who Celebrate This Week:

Birthdays: 5/3-Anderson Jacob King; 5/6-Sandra Preble; 5/7-Michael Arlotta, Brooks English

Wedding Anniversaries: None this week

Baptismal Anniversaries: None this week

For Those Who Serve in the Armed Forces: Gary Marckres; Margaret; Willow Bucchieri-Sibley

In Thanksgiving For: The ministry of our Interim Pastor, Father Christopher; the work of the volunteers on the Free Community Dinner; God's love, freely given; for the gift of hope; and especially in this time of discernment, the continuing presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

For The Church: For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; the people and mission of this Diocese; the Very Rev. Christopher L. David, Interim Pastor; this parish of St. James' and its mission; the Revs. Paul Gratz, Sean Lanigan, Rolfe Lawson, John Miller, Scott B. Neal, Keith F. Patterson, priests; Kathleen Moore, postulant; in the Diocesan Prayer Calendar we pray for the Congregation of St. John the Baptist Church, Hardwick; and the Church of the Province of Melanesia.

TODAY'S HYMNS can be found in the blue-covered *The Hymnal 1982* in the pew rack.

Processional: #292
Sequence: #Insert

Offertory: #513
Recessional: #400, vs. 1,4,5,6,7

LOOKING AHEAD

WORSHIP

Wednesday, May 4, 5:30PM, Eve of the AscensionHoly Eucharist
(Iona Tradition)
Thursday, May 5, 12 Noon, Ascension Day.....Holy Eucharist

MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 11, 6:15PMMinistry Discernment Committee
Wednesday, May 18, 6:30PMVestry Meeting

EVENTS

Saturday, May 14, 9AM-12Noon.....Spring Clean-Up
Saturday, June 18.....St. James' Annual Pork Roast
Saturday, August 13.....Norman's Attic
Saturday, October 1.....Harvest Fest

2016 VESTRY CONTACT INFORMATION.

Steven Blackler (518-677-5024); Nancy Boardman, Clerk of the Vestry (375-6138); Rob Faley (375-9355); Ed Gust, People's (Junior) Warden (375-9311); Evan Lawrence (518-677-5662); Kathleen Moore (768-8027); Patricia Gordon Michael (379-8132); Garry Roosma (375-1374); Joanna Taylor, Rector's (Senior) Warden (375-9330).

THE ST. JAMES' FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS: Marilyn King, President; Nancy Boardman; Pat Clancy; David Durfee; Vivian Lacy; Evan Lawrence; Patricia Gordon Michael; Jill Roosma; Joanna Taylor.

MINISTRY DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE: Susan Gratz; Chris Meyer; Patricia Gordon Michael; Eileen Rice; Garry Roosma

From the Interim Pastor

Spring Again, The World Rejoices.

You don't have to be a Christian to rejoice in the world around us, or a Buddhist, Hindu, Jew, Muslim or complete infidel, for that matter. Everyone can rejoice in the blooming of Spring. I certainly enjoyed the view of flowering trees when I visited our son in Peekskill last weekend.

There are some reservations, of course, for those who pay really close attention to God's creation and what we are doing to it. Signs such as global warming, species extinction or sprawling development tell us that all is not necessarily for the best, even as the world can be and was meant to be a beautiful place. Follow your joy as you find it and much of the natural world remains joyful. So does a great deal of the human drama. Fruit trees are probably blossoming in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria right now, if they haven't been blown up or cut down in the conflicts there. Human agency is responsible for climate change and conflict but can be a part of the cure, which offers hope unless we fail to find a way to make the changes needed to honor creation.

Underneath it all, the message is positive: Creation is good and humanity was made for the good. We were thrown from Eden and sank into sin, but God never gave up on us. God reaches out again and again even though we often reject the gesture as we did on Calvary hill. But God's bag of tricks isn't empty yet. I really do believe the Easter message tells us that moral regeneration is just as possible as the natural renewal of Spring. Some folks will wallow in pessimism and sin, some will trash the environment or the lives of their fellow humans to spin profit or keep hold of so-called "power"; but the good is so close, the true power is all around us.

Easter tells us that the true power, that of love and redemption, is reaching out to us yet again and seeks to draw us upward, just as it drew the Risen Lord Jesus in the Ascension. We do not have to

respond; we can turn away altogether, or put our trust in the passing blossoms of the seasons. Or we can reach out and grasp the joy that will not fall with the petals at the first harsh gust of wind and rain. Welcome Spring! Welcome Risen and Ascended Lord!!

Fr. Christopher +

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY is Saturday, May 14, 2016, 9AM to 12 noon. Bring your rakes and other gardening tools and help get things in shape for the spring and summer. We will have coffee available!!! If you need more information, please check with Rob Faley or Garry Roosma.

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN: ALL HANDS ON DECK!

At the Annual Meeting Senior Warden Joanna Taylor made a call to each of us to pitch in and help with St James' activities: Coffee hours, church cleaning, community dinners, assisting in the office, etc.

We especially need chairpersons for our three major fund raising events: Pork Roast, Saturday, June 18; Norman's Attic, Saturday, August 13; and Harvest Fest, Saturday, October 1. This can be a rewarding task personally as well as a benefit to the community and St. James: Fun; camaraderie; financial support for St. James' activities and the satisfaction of a job well-done.

See Garry Roosma if you need more information or to volunteer. (And remember, the Senior Warden will be home very soon.☺)

BENNINGTON COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS WISH LIST.

Deodorant; soap; shampoo; toothbrushes; toothpaste; razors & shaving cream; diapers (all sizes); feminine products; men's clothing (all sizes); cleaning supplies; toilet paper; paper towels; garbage bags. There is a large plastic bin in the narthex to collect the donations. For more information, please check with Michael Rice.