

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
405 EAST MAIN STREET
BATAVIA, NEW YORK**

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2020



Water in the Desert

Dear Friends,

Lent may be described as a journey into a desert, a self-imposed exile into a time of introspection, prayer and penitence. Just as Jesus went willingly into the desert after his baptism, during Lent we are called to set aside distractions and look inward to recognize the barriers that we hold in our hearts that keep us from God, keep us from each other.

Lent is not our only experience with a desert. Our very lives may at times feel like a wasteland, when doubt, or difficulties, or our own choices may seem to divide us from love, reconciliation and wholeness. We might be pushed or stumble blindly into this parched place of desolation or walk into it willingly. Here is our hope: whatever or wherever our desert, and however we find ourselves there, remember that every desert has water. A well, a spring, a river or an oasis, no matter how hidden, water is there. We are offered the living water of life that comes from the wellspring of God's love for us. No matter our path, where it takes us, with roadblocks and detours, God's love, our church our worship, friendship and fellowship are with us. God bless you in your Lenten journey as you seek that living water.

In the love of Christ,

Mother Bonnie+

Jesus said, 'Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'
John 4:13-14

MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

We pray God's blessing be with you
on your special day and every day.

Happy Birthday!

Jo-Ann Bestine 3/2, Connie Findlay 3/8, Cathy Judkins 3/9,
Bridgitt Hammond 3/9, Russ Dvoroznak 3/11, Dillon Hirsch 3/11,
Patrick Morris 3/19, Theresa Kershner 3/20, Eve-lynn Sofia 3/22,
Barb Pierce 3/24, Corkey Best 3/24, Dominic Celentano 3/26,
Pat Roblee 3/27, Judy Essig 3/27, Elizabeth Colantonio 3/30



**When offering your prayers at home
please include the following people who
are loved ones of our parish family:**

**Douglas, Tim, Venus, Nicholas, Bob, Pat, Travis, Pat, Charlene,
Brian, Evan, Debbie, Cathy, Ken, Aiden, Kathy, Paul, Beth Ann, Lisa,
Sharon, Gabriella, Diana, Wendy, Matt, Carla, Peter, Virginia, Garth and Carter**

For those serving in our military:

**Eric, David, Paul, Brandon, Michael,
Alex, Chad, Jim, Devyn and Trevor**

DIAKONIA MUSINGS

by Deacon Diana

I was excited to see that Bishop Sean spoke about the work being done in the diocese as well as nationally with racial justice, equity, equality and reconciliation. I am a member of this commission and would love to talk to anyone that is interested to know what we are doing. I am suggesting this deanery as a host for one of the four bias trainings by Ursi Bankhead, so I'll keep you posted. The author visit with Richard Rothstein was absolutely enlightening and well attended by people of all ages and ethnicities. His book, *The Color of Law*, is in the guild room book shelf if you'd like to borrow it.

BISHOP SEAN'S LENTEN MESSAGE:

DEEPENING OUR COMMITMENT TO RACIAL JUSTICE

Dear People of God:

In a prayer of confession often used in our church, we promise to “repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.” Understanding sin in this way—as both a personal and collective failing—seems particularly apt this Lent as we continue to deepen our partnership’s commitment to the work of racial justice. Building on the work done by the Diocese of Western New York’s Commission on Racial Understanding and the Bishop James Theodore Holly Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians, in January we hosted author Richard Rothstein in order to understand better the policies that have segregated our communities and divided us from one another. Last Saturday, the commission sponsored a workshop with Dr. Ursuline Bankhead in which we learned to identify our implicit biases—the attitudes and stereotypes that we all impose unconsciously—and correct those patterns of thinking. And in March, we will begin participating in a racial justice survey, sponsored by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s office, that will help us transform our structures and practices to foster healing, reconciliation and justice.

In all of these ways, we are building our capacity to face honestly the history of structural racism in our church—to acknowledge, in the words of the confession, the evil we have done and the evil done on our behalf. Our journey toward justice will undoubtedly be difficult at times, but I pray that it will lead us to understand what Beloved Community might look like in our dioceses and how we as the people of God can foster reconciliation, justice, and healing.

If you would like to join me in making the work of racial reconciliation part of your Lenten discipline, you can find resources, including a video from Presiding Bishop Curry, prayers, reading lists, and more on the Episcopal Church’s website. I invite you to share your reflections and experiences with me as we undertake this journey together.

May this season of reflection and repentance lead us all to perfect liberation in Christ’s resurrection at Easter.

Faithfully,

Sean

WARDEN'S REPORT

With the Annual Meeting in the rearview mirror St. James is moving on to perhaps its busiest time of the year- Lent and Holy Week. Of course Lent, at least here at St. James, means another fish fry season. By the time you have read this we will have had our first week under our belt. It is not too late to help out. Please see Wayne (the Codfather) Judkins or Jim Ellison if you'd like to volunteer. And of course if this is not possible please stop in on Fridays in Lent for dinner- dine in or take out.

A special thank you to Kevin Skelton for finding our water pressure problem with the dishwasher and rebuilding the pressure valve before fish fries. We are fortunate to have someone with the skill and time to do this and save St. James some money to boot. Thanks Kevin.

We have not forgotten the Rectory. By now all should know the Crossroads House will be taking over the Rectory. It is just going to take some time to get the lease written up and signed by both parties. It is in the hands of their lawyer and hopefully will be finished soon.

The Finance Team is putting together an Adopt-a-Project to purchase an AED for the church building. It has been recommended like fire extinguishers and smoke alarms a facility of this size with the number of people using it has at least one of these life- saving devices. In conjunction with this, we hope to have a CPR class available for church members and the general public as well as demonstration of the AED once we have it. Watch this space for updates.

Lastly, it is not too late to make a commitment to the Bricks & Mortar campaign for 2020. You can make a commitment for a specific amount for the year or just give what you can as you go along. Either way just mark your envelope "Bricks & Mortar." All of these funds will be used strictly for capital projects which will require the money in hand before being undertaken.

Jim Neider & Judy Essig, Wardens

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS, JANUARY 20, 2020 REPORT:

- **The use of space heaters** in the offices saved \$300 in the first two months of our heating season.
- **Crossroads House Board** approved the proposed to use the St. James rectory building. This is part of our outreach and will not generate income. Crossroads House will assume all maintenance, repair and utilities cost of the rectory.
- **The Fundraising Committee** submitted 4 proposals which were approved by the vestry.
 - Pierogi dinner and 50/50 raffle to be held on February 21st. The anticipated income is \$750.
 - Craft/vendor sale with lunch to be held in the spring. The anticipated income is \$800 from the sale of vender space and \$200 from food sales.
 - Pie sale/basket raffle to be held November 21st. The anticipated income is between \$2500 and \$3000.
 - Sell a pew that is being stored in the barn. This is a test to see if such sales are feasible. The pew could be put up for sale to either E-Bay or Craig's List.
- **Nominees for Diocesan Delegate were approved for election at the Annual Meeting.** The nominees are: Diane Cox, Diane Skelton, and Kevin Skelton, and Dean Perry. Nominations may be made from the floor.
- **Slate of candidates for warden and vestry members was approved for election at the Annual Meeting.** The candidates are: Wardens: Judy Essig and Jim Neider; Vestry: Bill Sofia, Liz Findley, and Dorian Ely. Nominations will be taken from the floor.

- The vestry approved a request from **The Rupprecht Fund Advisory Committee** to increase the amounts of money allocated to clients due to the increased costs associated with the new shopping arrangement with Target since K-Mart closed.
- The vestry approved the **ECW proposal to purchase 125 chairs** for the Parish Hall at a cost of \$3309. \$2,400 has already been received by donations to defray the cost, and more will be solicited.
- The vestry approved the **2020 organ tuning contract**.
- **Rick and Anne Iannello have agreed to assist Wayne Judkins with fish fries this year.** This does not mean that they are volunteering to take it over next year.
- The **United Way Day of Caring** has been scheduled for May 17th.
- **Future and on-going conversations in the Vestry:**
 - How to get financial information out to the parish and find
 - Better ways to communicate to the congregation
 - Creating standard procedures for the vestry and perhaps adopting a "Rule of Order:."
- **Good News: We ended 2019 under budget** (thank you Barb King); average church attendance is up; our ministries are expanding, like the Respite Program (thank you Deacon Diana); the Rectory problem has found a solution; people have taken on new roles; there are many opportunities for study – Bible Study on Wednesday, Our Faith on Sunday, EFM on Tuesday.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

We have planned a number of capital improvement and major maintenance projects at St. James, this year, and are actively seeking quotes for repair of the two church chimneys, and repointing of the exterior vertical joints adjacent to the south stained glass window. That work will include repair of deteriorated and spalled surfaces surrounding the window.

Please be reminded that receipts credited to Bricks and Mortar are the sole revenue source for these projects. Parishioner pledge money is no longer used to support these non-operating expenses.

The Property Committee would like to thank everyone who has made a financial commitment to Bricks and Mortar in 2020. To date, 10 commitments have been received, totaling \$20,840.

If you haven't already returned your commitment card, please consider doing so.

Without the financial support of the parish, we would be unable to continue, since work will be progressed only when there is a sufficient Bricks and Mortar balance to fully fund a project.

That said, it is advantageous for Bricks and Mortar donations to be received early in the year, if possible, since Vestry approval of recommended work is contingent upon having necessary funding 'in-hand,' and contractors' schedules tend to fill up rapidly as the construction season progresses.

Please contact me, or any member of the Property Committee, with questions about St. James' 12-Year Capital Improvement and Major Maintenance Plan or any of the listed projects.

Respectfully submitted,
 Dave Lange
 Property Committee Chair

ST. JAMES ECW HIGHLIGHTS

Business:

1. Guild Room and Kitchen cleaning completed January 30-31, 2020, cost \$ 495. All very pleased with results.
2. Men's Retreat: attended by 11 +/- . All expressed thanks to ECW. Hope for another.
3. Book Discussion: For One More Day, by Mitch Albom is scheduled for Feb.29th.
4. Woman's Retreat is postponed till Fall.
5. Chair Purchase will be delivered the week of Feb.10th. Donations are bringing the cost to ECW to less than \$500. +/-
6. ECW By-Laws will be reviewed and updated as need.
7. Confirmation with the Bishop Reception is Feb.23. Anne Iannello will chair.
8. Easter Vigil Reception will be April 11.

Motions:

1. Plastic runners will be purchased to use in Guild room during Fish Fries.
2. ECW will ask Vestry's permission to purchase a wireless doorbell to use during their meeting and other times when the building should be locked.
3. ECW authorized Wayne Judkins to spend up to \$400 on Fish Fry needs.

The meeting was closed in prayer at 7:30pm.

A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

An old Cherokee told his grandson

"My son, there is a battle between two wolves
inside us all."

"One is evil. It is anger, jealousy, greed, resentment,
Inferiority, lies and ego"

"The other is good. It is humility, kindness, empathy
and truth"

The boy thought about it and asked

"Grandfather, which wolf wins?"

The old man quietly replied

"The one you feed"

ADOPT A PROJECT: PARISH HALL CHAIRS

At the January the meeting, the vestry voted to approve the purchase of new chairs for the parish hall. This ECW initiative has been already partially funded through generous donations from Genesee Chorale members as well as donations from several parishioners, currently totaling over to \$3000. If you are interested in helping fund the remaining \$300, please give your donation to either Diane Skelton or Joan Ellison. Checks should be made out to St. James ECW. Now that the new chairs have arrived many of the current chairs will be sold for \$5.00 each. We also have older tables that are no longer being used that we are selling for \$10.00 each. If interested in purchasing some, please contact the parish office to arrange for pick up. They will also be for sale in the Thrift Store on Thursdays.



Our handbell choir has been practicing weekly and will soon be ringing for select services during the seasons of Lent and Easter. Anyone interested in ringing is encouraged to contact Dawn at musdmark@aol.com

Our children's musical future is bright at St. James!
Please save these dates and plan on participating in our first annual



SPRING RING!

- 15-minute practice right after the May 10th service
- Collective ring and sing to "Let There Be Peace on Earth" at the May 17th service

Pure FUN for all ages and absolutely
NO MUSICAL TALENT or
TRAINING NEEDED!



PLEASE LET US KNOW!



Are you sick, having surgery, facing a life challenge? Please let Mother Bonnie or the office know. Mother Bonnie is available for confidential conversation and prayer and would love to come visit you if you can't get to church! St. James cares about you!

FISH FRY HELP NEEDED



The twenty-sixth annual Lenten Fish Fry began last Friday. With five more weeks to go, we need wait staff, bussers, delivery people, dish washers, and more. Please see Wayne Judkins or Jim Ellison for an assignment.

UTILITY COSTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY



Here are our utilities costs paid for January usage. Please help conserve our resources by turning out lights when you don't need them. If you are the last one out of the building, please make sure the windows are shut, the lights are out and the door is locked behind you. If you have any questions at all on how to do this, please contact a warden or administrator.

Fuel - -\$1,750.00

Electric - \$212.35

DONATIONS FOR FISH FRY BAKING WOULD BE HELPFUL



Donations of canned blueberry pie filling, cherry pie filling, raspberry pie filling, frozen blueberries, flour, sugar, graham crackers and confectionery sugar will be greatly appreciated. Thanks Sue Best

BASKET RAFFLE 2020



The Fund Raising Committee would like to continue with another basket raffle next November. It is never too early to begin collecting items for the baskets. The more that are donated, the bigger the profits. This is also the time when we may be looking over some lovely gifts we received in the past that are just not quite what we needed. Bring them in and we'll add them to a basket. Make a habit of picking up some bargains this year to donate and our basket raffle will be more profitable than ever. Thanks for the help.

DON'T FORGET!

PURCHASE SCRIP

RETURN CANS AND BOTTLES TO BATAVIA RECYCLE

East Main Plaza

BRING IN THE ALUMINUM PULL TABS FROM CANS

PUT PAPER IN THE RECYCLE BIN IN THE BACK PARKING LOT

PUT LOOSE CHANGE OR QUIET MONEY IN THE PAINT CANS

Pennies make dollars

GOING TO A PARTY

Have you ever been invited to a party and not told the host you would bring a certain something? Everyone else seems to have brought their specialties but for whatever reason you just never thought to let them know what you were bringing. Did you feel a little like you really weren't part of the group, maybe a little like visitor instead? Everyone was asking each other for the recipe or where did they buy what they brought. Your contribution was eaten and enjoyed for sure but just not planned on for a balanced menu.

So the next time you and your friends got together you told the host to count on you for Doritos. She said "Great! That will help me with knowing what is coming. Oh, we are going to have a great time together." And you did and you all did...you brought a contribution and you all had a great time! Everyone worked together and made it a great celebration of friends and fellowship. And the host was relaxed knowing there was enough for all.

Now suppose, for one reason or another, you could only bring a bag of Doritos. You were kind of wondering if that would really make any difference to the overall menu but it was what you had and so you brought it. Now, someone else with lots of time on their hands and a little more resources, made an elaborate guacamole dip and put it in a lovely serving dish. When you arrived at the party, that dip maker had just discovered that they had no chips which were supposed to surround the dip in that large serving plate! So you saved the day! Your basic contribution combined with another and together the party was the best in a long time! You filled the hole in that beautiful plate.

Do you see any correlation between this and pledging, letting your family and friend know they can count on you; you are a contributing member of the group no matter what you bring to the table?

Just a thought to ponder.

It is never too late to make a pledge.

Lay Ministries Schedule for March and April 5

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29	April 5
EM1	Diane Cox	Carol Queal	Judy Essig	Terry McGuire	Bonnie Dvoroznak	Diane Cox
EM2	Jo-Ann Bestine	Bonnie Dvoroznak	Jo-Ann Bestine	Jack Kershner	Judy Essig	Jack Kershner
Chantry EM	Jack Kershner	Barb King	Diane Cox	Jo-Ann Bestine	Carol Queal	Terry McGuire
Lesson 1	Wayne Judkins	Bette Rung	Bill Sofia	Bill Hawkins	Jim Neider	Joan Ellison
Lesson 2	Bill Hawkins	Joan Ellison	Lexie Belluscio	Amy Celentano	Terry McGuire	Bette Rung
Prayers of the people	Steve Hawley	Liz Findlay	Jim Neider	Steve Hawley	Wayne Judkins	Larry Belluscio
Acolytes	Carol Queal Rich Geitner	Nichole Essig Jo-Ann Bestine	Scott Belluscio Jaykob Belluscio	Diane Cox Nichole Essig	Scott Essig Rich Geitner	Carole Queal Judy Essig
Ushers	Dean Perry Bill Coughlin	Nancy Harrington Jane McKeehan	Carol Queal Paula Alker	Jane McKeehan Nancy Harrington	Dean Perry Bill Coughlin	Kathy & Larry Belluscio
Greeters	Bette Rung Bonnie Smith	Dean Perry Bill Coughlin	Bonnie Smith Larry Belluscio	Bill Coughlin Glenn Hammond	Nancy Harrington Dean Perry	Bonnie Smith Glenn Hammond
Element Bearers	Jane McKeehan Glenn Hammond	Kathy & Larry Belluscio	Jenn Wood & Rich Geitner	Donna Kauffman & Bette Rung	Diane & Kevin Skelton	Jenn Wood Donna Kauffman
Coffee Hour	Need a volunteer	Need a volunteer	Need a volunteer	Need a volunteer	Need a volunteer	Need a volunteer
Flower Delivery	Dean Perry	Liz Findlay	Betsy Dexheimer	Dorian Ely	Need a volunteer	Betsy Dexheimer
Altar Guild	Jo-Ann Bestine Joanne Fleming Donna Kauffman	Kathy Belluscio Anne Iannello Debbie Barone	Jolene Folger Karen Odell Harold Odell	Bette Rung Carol Queal Bill Coughlin	Jo-Ann Bestine Joanne Fleming Donna Kauffman	Kathy Belluscio Anne Iannello Debbie Barone
Closer	Larry Belluscio	Dave Lange	Rick Iannello	Jim Neider & Jack Kershner	Larry Belluscio	Dave Lange & Jack Kershner

Can also be found on www.stjamesbatavia.org
and Facebook at St. James Episcopal Church Batavia

If you are unable to serve at a scheduled time,
please find a sub and notify the parish office

If you are scheduled and cannot serve please find a sub and call the parish office 343-6802 ext-1

The St. James Calendar

Sun, Mar 1	9:00 am – 9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am – 11:15 am	Holy Eucharist
	10:00 am – 11:00 am	Sunday School
	11:15 am – 12:00 pm	Coffee Hour
	11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Our Faith Discussion Group
Mon, Mar 2	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Genesee Chorale Rehearsal
Tue, Mar 3	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Baby Café, Parish Hall
	3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	EFM Meeting at Judkin’s Home in Corfu
	5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	ECW Meeting
Wed, Mar 4	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Property Committee Meeting
	11:00 am – 11:30 am	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Bible Discussion Group
	4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Hand Bell Choir
Thu, Mar 5	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Thrift Shop Open
Fri, Mar 6	9:00 am – 10:00 am	Deadline for vestry agenda items
	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Lenten Fish Fry
Sun, Mar 8	9:00 am – 9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am – 11:15 am	Holy Eucharist
	10:00 am – 11:00 am	Sunday School Class
	11:15 am – 12:00 pm	Coffee Hour
	11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Our Faith Discussion Group
Mon, Mar 9	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Respite Care Program
	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Genesee Chorale Rehearsal
Tue, Mar 10	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Baby Café
	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Vestry Reports Due
	6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
	3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	EFM Meeting, Judkin’s Home in Corfu
Wed, Mar 11	11:00 am – 11:30 am	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Bible Discussion Group
	4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Hand Bell Choir
	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
Thu, Mar 12	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Thrift Shop Open
Fri, Mar 13	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Second Lenten Fish Fry
Sun, Mar 15	9:00 am – 9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am – 11:15 am	Holy Eucharist
	10:00 am – 11:00 am	Sunday School Class
	11:15 am – 12:00 pm	Coffee Hour
	11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Our Faith Discussion Group
Mon, Mar 16	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Genesee Chorale Rehearsal
Tue, Mar 17	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Baby Café
	3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	EFM Meeting, Judkin’s Home in Corfu
	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Vestry Meeting



St. James Episcopal Church
405 East Main Street
Batavia, NY 14020

Sunday Worship Service:
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Weekday Services

Wednesday, 11 a.m. – Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

The Second Tuesday of the Month, 3:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist at the Genesee
County Nursing Home, 278 Bank Street, in the Mall Walk

The Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 10:45 a.m. – Holy Eucharist at
The Manor House, 427 East Main Street, in the Grand Parlor

Everyone is Welcome!

The Rev. Bonnie F. Morris, Rector
rector.stjames@outlook.com

The Rev. Deacon Diana Leiker, dllart@aol.com

Choir Director: Dillon Hirsch, Organist: David Lange
Administrator: Barbara King, Bookkeeper: Sherry Garigen

Warden:

Warden: Jim Neider, (585) 409-8891, jmaneider@outlook.com
Judy Essig, (585) 820-2615, jessig@gvboces.org

Vestry:

Diane Cox, Amy Celentano, Bonnie Dvoroznak,
Dorian Ely, Barbara King, Dean Perry,
Harold Odell, Barbara Pierce, Bill Sofia
Clerk of the Vestry: Cathy Judkins
Treasurers: Peter Mark and Keith Price

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