

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, 2016/2017

The Network



St. James' Episcopal Church

2584 Main Street, P.O. Box 206, Glastonbury, CT

Service Schedule

Sundays	8:00 am	Rite I Holy Eucharist
	10:15 am	Rite II Holy Eucharist
Wednesdays		10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers
<i>Christmas Eve</i>		<i>5:00 and 10:00 pm</i>
<i>Christmas Morning</i>		<i>9:00 am</i>
<i>New Year's Morning</i>		<i>9:00 am (including a carol sing of your requests)</i>

Our sound system is equipped with a supplemental system to aid those who need **hearing assistance** during the service. The personal units have been upgraded and are **available from the ushers**.

Safe Church Policy requires that minor children should not leave the sanctuary during worship unaccompanied by a parent. Ushers will ask unaccompanied children to go back into the church and get a parent. We appreciate your compliance with this policy.

St. James' Vision (2016)

We are a community committed to our individual faith journeys through learning, sharing and listening to God and one another. We live this faith through hospitality and acceptance, challenging ourselves and one another to join God in God's mission in our neighborhoods and the world.

RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

It is hard to believe that I have been with you here at St. James' Church for 18 months. Some days it feels like I have been here forever, and others it seems like I just arrived. I have spent a good deal of time over these 18 months getting to know you, listening to your stories, learning the culture of the community, and getting a sense of where God is leading this church. I have sat with many of you in your homes and learned how you found your way to St. James', and what you love and value about your life here; I have attended meetings with all of the ministry groups and listened to what you do and why you feel God has led you to this work; and I have worked alongside the Vestry as we have listened, shared and discerned who God is asking us to be as the leadership of this community. From these experiences I have learned a few things.

One is that St. James' is a community of people with open hearts and minds. We have had some wonderful conversations, sometimes disagreeing with one another, sometimes wanting to try new things, and you have been consistently willing to engage in the conversation. You rarely say "that's not how we do things here" or "but we have always done it this way" and this is a wonderful thing.

Another is that people live very full and busy lives here. Families with children are going in a million directions between school, sports, and other activities. Working folks have full days and have their own activities on nights and weekends. Even our retired members are very active with volunteer activities, visiting children who live away and spending time at their summer homes. Life is busy! And in spite of all this there is still a longing, a hunger to know and love God in a way that has meaning and gives meaning to our busy lives.

I have come to believe that God has a plan for the people of St. James' Church which I shared with the vestry on our retreat this past September. We formed that plan into our vision statement - what we believe is God's vision for us. The statement is:

We are a community committed to our individual faith journeys through learning, sharing and listening to God and one another. We live this faith through hospitality and acceptance, challenging ourselves and one another to join God in God's mission in our neighborhoods and the world.

You saw this in your annual pledge appeal letter. It simply means that God is calling us to take our faith journeys seriously; that we will become a community that is known for taking our journeys seriously. It means we will make learning and listening and growing a priority both in church and in our home lives.

RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS CON'T

It means we welcome everyone into our community, accepting them where they are on their journey, challenging and encouraging them to grow in their relationship with God, and asking them to do the same for us. And it means we are looking for ways to join God in what God is already doing to bring about God's Kingdom here on earth. We will do this by sharing and listening - to one another, to our neighbors, and to ourselves. We will listen to that voice in us that says, "I can do something about this" or "I can help someone who is doing something about this," and we can listen to those tugs at our hearts that are God's way of talking to us. We are all on a journey of our faith. None of us have "arrived." We are all being asked to walk more closely with God. We are being asked to be a faith community that takes this seriously and that helps one another along the way.

We will be looking for more and more ways to help one another, opportunities for listening, for sharing our stories, for learning and for putting our faith into action. I hope you will take the first step by giving some of these opportunities a try, by taking some risks and trusting that others will be here to support you. In October, we started our 5th Sunday breakfasts and conversations. We have Bible Study between the services and are looking at offering one in the evenings as well. We have "Midweek Musings" – an opportunity to talk about issues of faith and the world; we have a Thursday morning book group, and this is just the beginning. If you have any suggestions on topics, times to offer something, or thoughts on how we can make it easier for you to attend, please share them.

God has a vision for St. James' Church, and now it is up to us to join God in making this our reality.

Peace,
Denise⁺

Advent Quiet Morning on December 10

Does preparing for Christmas stress you out? Do you find it difficult to find some quiet time to reflect on the season of Advent and prepare for Christmas as a celebration of the birth of Christ? If so, please consider carving out 2 hours for quiet and reflection and join us at St. James' for our Advent Quiet Morning from 9:00-11:00 am. Sign-up by the 4th of December.

Please join us for

ADVENT LESSONS CAROLS

The annual service of Advent Lessons & Carols will be presented on Sunday, December 4, at the 10:15 AM service. The Adult Choir will sing music by Ravenscroft, and the contemporary composers Archer (English), Philips (American), and Sirrett (Canadian). This traditional service follows that of King's College, Cambridge, with readings and musical responses by either the choir or congregational carols. All are welcome to join us for this Advent service as we await the coming of our Savior.



Music on Christmas Eve

4:15 PM | Music for Harp

5 PM | Holy Eucharist with the St. James' Choristers, Adult Choir, Harp, and Organ

9:45 PM | Music for Choir and Organ

10:00 PM | Holy Eucharist with Adult Choir and Organ

Interested in joining the Adult Choir in singing Christmas Eve? We welcome additional voices to help make a glorious sound at either (or both) the 5 PM or 10 PM services. Rehearsals begin December 8. If you are interested, please contact Jim Barry by Thursday, December 1 at dirmusic@sbcglobal.net.

Adult Formation Offerings

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION is open to everyone and meets every other Thursday at 11:00 at the Church. We are reading Brian D. McLaren's *We Make the Road by Walking*.



Christmas Pageant News!

St. James' will once again team up with St. Luke's for our Living Nativity pageant at Beacon Woods Stables on Sunday, December 18th at 3pm. If you want to participate, it isn't too late. There are still plenty of opportunities for you to be involved either in the performance or the surrounding behind the scenes work. If you'd like to perform, speak with Matt, if you'd like to help with cookies, chairs, or anything else, touch base with Denise. There will be 4 pageant rehearsals. While it is not necessary to attend all of them, it is highly encouraged.

- ✓ Sunday Nov. 27th at 1pm at St. Luke's
 - ✓ Sunday December 4th at 1pm at St. James'
 - ✓ Sunday December 11th at 1pm at St. James'
 - ✓ Saturday December 17th at 10:30am at Beacon Woods Stables

The Return of the Jesse Tree

Last year's journey through advent with the Jesse Tree was an exciting one! We enjoyed it so much we'll be celebrating Advent with it again this year. For those who don't remember, The Jesse Tree is an Advent tradition that allows us to share the *story of the church from creation to the birth of Christ*. Each Sunday our church school children will create an ornament that represents one of the stories of our faith. We'll decorate the Jesse Tree each Sunday as we prepare for the coming of the Christ child! If you'd like to make ornaments with us, feel free to join us in Church School each Sunday. Our first ornament will be made on November 27th!



Dear St. James Family,

It is hard to believe that Advent is upon us. I have enjoyed worshipping and serving with everyone this past year. Your warm welcome and support have meant so much to me. You have taught me so much. St. James will always hold a special place in my heart. With you I preached my very first sermon, led liturgy of the Word and set God's bountiful table. Together we journeyed towards a better understanding of all God's children. Thank you all for joining me on this awe -inspiring journey. Please join me on December 18th as I share my favorite Godly Play story with you and celebrate my last service as your Deacon intern.

God Bless, Jessie





Did you know...

that every Friday a group of women gather to fold and stuff our bulletins for Sunday? A thank you breakfast was prepared for these folks this summer to let them know how much we appreciate their work.

Adult Bible Study

The Adult Bible Study discussion group has been active at St. James since 2010. Our group is open to all adult members of St. James' Episcopal Church, Glastonbury and their guests. The basic concept involves sharing ideas as to how scripture relates to our Prayer Life, our concept of Christ's promise of Abundant Life, and how scripture is relevant and influential on current life and times.

Currently we are engaged in conversation about the "Church's Mission" as it relates historically and practically in the world, past and present. We will use our conclusions of the "Church's Mission" as a springboard to discuss how we may "re-imagine" St. James and the Episcopal Church, in general, as on-going future entities. We are using selected passages from both the Old and New Testaments as they refer to God's Mission and the Church's Mission as well as the Alan Rothburgh book, *Joining God, Remaking the Church, Changing the World, The New Shape of the Church in Our Time*.

We meet most Sundays from mid-September to Memorial Day, between services, in the downstairs meeting room beginning at 9:00AM. Come help us grow in size and knowledge by sharing your ideas with our group. See Clint or Marie Dixon for further information.



September Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser for Carol's Closet



Carol's Closet

Thanks to the tireless work of CC's volunteers, the group continues its service to our Glastonbury neighbors in need. On the third Saturday of October, we provided 47 clients with households totaling 81 adults and children and 7 people were new. We distributed 56 bags with 580 items. Since September, 2015, 6,004 items have been distributed.

We are grateful for the strong support of St. James, particularly at the Lasagna Dinner in September (see picture on this page)! Our Glastonbury faith communities continue their support, as well, and have asked all attendees of the *Glastonbury Interfaith Thanksgiving Service* on November 22 at the First Congregational Church to contribute items for Carol's Closet.

We thank you, in advance, for your continued support, either monetary or in donated goods!

Please Donate Winter Outerwear for the Homeless

The winter coat collection is well underway. Numerous coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, hats and other winter wear have been donated and will be given to our cathedral for distribution to the homeless. The collection will continue until February 1st. Thank you all for supporting this Outreach project!



Faith in Action

Faith in Action has been busy this fall. Thanks go to Blakeley Crevoiserat for organizing the fall Flower Sale, Jeannette Brown for organizing the fall Bloodmobile at St. James' for the American Red Cross, Bea Farlekas for her leadership in our first-ever Pet Adoption weekend. Thanks to Marie Dixon and her crew for again providing lunches for those in need in Hartford as part of Church by the Pond / Lunch in the Park and for her ongoing dedication to Carol's Closet – fund-raising and organization of the monthly distribution of paper pantry items. Thanks to Kay Ferris and her merry band of knitters for the Shawl Ministry. The prayer shawls, lap robes, baby blankets, and warm hats produced by that group are amazing – both in quality and quantity. And, as I write this, we are in the middle of preparing soups for the first Soup Sunday of the year, the proceeds of which will be used to supply the bread, meats, and cheese needed for the Lunch in the Park sandwiches. Thanks to all who have helped. The success of ALL of these efforts depends on volunteer manpower from our St. James' family (and friends), and sometimes on in-kind donations. So if you have an hour or two available, PLEASE volunteer to help with, or otherwise contribute to, these on-going projects as the needs arise.

What's Your Ecological Footprint? Want to join the Green Team?

Those gathered for *Midweek Musings* on November 2 were treated to a presentation by Letty Naigles (from St. John's, Vernon) on the topic of **Faith and the Environment**. We reflected on our spiritual experiences in the natural world and she then led us through an engaging discussion of our responsibilities to the environment as described in Genesis 1 and 2 when God directed Adam to “till” and “keep” it, or, as it is also translated in Hebrew, to “serve” and “guard” the garden, Earth. We discussed the ethics of and our responsibility to “preserve the integrity, stability and beauty, of the biotic community”(A. Lopold), that is, to take *care* of *creation*. Dr. Naigles shared resources to support our environmental stewardship, as individuals and as a faith community. There was agreement that evening to start a St. James' Green Team (4 members so far) and to regularly share “Eco-Tips” with the congregation. Watch the weekly email blasts, as well as the Network! ...A couple for now:

- ✓ Observe the Sabbath: “rest” by being “off the grid” for 3 hours (save electricity)
- ✓ Fasting: Use less fossil fuel
- ✓ And of course: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle . . .

Resources:

- www.irejn.org (Interreligious Eco-Justice Network)
- www.greenfaith.org
- www.interfaithpowerandlight.org





The Vestry

Did you know...

...that **Vestry meetings** are open meetings and everyone is welcome to attend? If you would like to see what the Vestry is up to, or what the vestry does, please join us the 3rd Monday of the month in the Parish Hall at 7:00.



SAVE THE DATES

November 27 (2:00-6pm) Camp Washington - 2nd Annual Family Advent Event: Make a family Advent Wreath, make your own Advent candles, paint ornaments, worship, enjoy a light supper. See www.campwashington.org or talk to Matt!

December 3 11:30 am **Lunch in the Park** Help make/pack sandwiches, donate homemade cookies/ help deliver and distribute bag lunches in Bushnell Park in Hartford. Lunches are made and packed on that day between about 11:30 and 1:00, and the delivery into Hartford is shortly thereafter. Contact: Marie Dixon

December 4 10:15 am Service: *Lessons and Carols* (as in King's College, Cambridge, England)

SAVE THE DATES

December 10 9:00 – 11:00 am *Advent Quiet Morning* (Sign up by December 4)

Mid-December (TBA) ***Soup Sunday*** We make one soup on Friday night (help needed between 5:30 and 8:00 p.m.) and the second soup on Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Help is needed prepping vegetables in advance, making the soups, packaging the soups, and distributing them on Sunday morning. Contacts: Barbara Buddington and Blakeley Crevoiserat

December 17 (10:00 am – 12:00) ***Carol's Closet*** (+ Christmas gifts under \$15)

December 18 *Deacon Intern Jessie's last service at St. James'*

December 18 ***Pageant at Beacon Woods Stables*** **3:00 pm**

December 24 - Christmas Eve

*December 25 - Christmas
Day*

January 6 6:30 pm (Friday) ***Twelfth Nigh Celebration!*** This is a dinner and celebration of the Epiphany. We will have a roast pork dinner, singing, prayers and fun! You are asked to bring a side dish for the roast pork (no dessert, as this is provided) and a *gift for the baby Jesus* in the form of something for Faith in Action – Carol's Closet, food for the Glastonbury Food Pantry, yarn for the Shawl Ministry (including baby yarn for baby blankets), or checks for any of these as well (just clearly mark what you want it to go to). Watch for the sign-up sheet! Everyone is welcome!

January 29 One service at **9:00** followed by breakfast and the **Annual Meeting** in the Parish Hall.

Contact Information

P.O. Box 206, Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033 ♦ 860-633-8333

E-mail ♦ st_james_church@sbcglobal.net

Website ♦ www.stjamesglastonbury.org

Facebook ♦ www.facebook.com/StJamesGlastonbury

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

www.ctdiocese.org

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian T. Douglas, Diocesan Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

St. James' Clergy

The Rev. Denise Cabana, Rector

dcabana1@sbcglobal.net

Music Ministry

James R. Barry, Minister of Music
Jeff and Amy Brown, Debbie O'Donnell,
Children's Choir Directors

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Vestry

Ralph Urban, Senior Warden
Don Gardner, Junior Warden
Steve Ciccalone, Treasurer
Lindsey Nunes, Clerk

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Office Hours: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Mondays through Thursdays

Pastoral Emergency: Call the church office (860-633-8333) and dial 4 any time during the message. Your call will be routed to the clergyperson on call.