

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, 2019, 2020

The Network



Celebrating 4 years of Carol's Closet

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
December 8		<u>One service @ 10:00 am</u>

Lessons and Carols and Bishop Douglas's Visit



Advent Lessons and Carols

Join us on Sunday, December 8, at 10:00 am, for our annual service of Advent Lessons & Carols. This traditional service is patterned after that of King's College, Cambridge. The Adult Choir, Choristers, and guest singers will present music by Kirkby, Cooman, Phillips, Archer, and White. The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas will be the celebrant for the Eucharist. All are welcome to attend.

St. James' Vision

We are a Christian 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.

Advent and Christmas Service Schedule

Sunday, December 1 – First Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist

Regular services at 8 A.M. and 10:15 A.M.

Sunday, December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent

Advent Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist / Bishop's Visitation

One service at 10:00 A.M.

Sunday, December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist

Regular services at 8 A.M. and 10:15 A.M.

**Christmas Pageant with Living Nativity
(in partnership with St. Luke's Church)**

3:00 p.m. at Beacon Woods Stables, 99 Beacon Woods Lane, South
Glastonbury

Sunday, December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist

Regular services at 8 A.M. and 10:15 A.M.

Tuesday, December 24 -Christmas Eve

Holy Eucharist

5 P.M. with Choirs and Harp

9 P.M. with Choir

15-minute musical prelude before each service – please arrive early!

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist

9 A.M. with Carols

Sunday, December 29 – First Sunday after Christmas

Regular services at 8 A.M. and 10:15 A.M. with Carol Sing

(Family Service at 10:15 A.M.)

Prepare the Way

Isaiah 40

3 Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

4 Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth

5 And the glory of the Lord shall appear and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Based on the scripture above, the theme of the art sculpture in the Nave focuses on preparation and journey as we move through the Advent season to the celebration of Christmas. This can be seen in the *draping of blue and pink ribbons* that lead to the star at the altar. The variety of heights and widths of the hangings remind us that the sometimes crooked, rough paths of our journey to the Incarnate Christ, the Light of the World, will be made straight and smooth. Observe the movement of the hangings as air currents move through the layers of fabric. Like our journey to the Divine, the movement is always there, sometimes in ways that are palpable and obvious and sometimes in ways that are almost imperceptible and subtle.

A sincere word of thanks to those who helped with the installation of this year's Advent project:

Becky Lee, Barbara Edwards, Diane Obernesser, artistic designers

The 3rd Annual St. James'

Christmas Tea

will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2019 from 2:00-3:30 pm.

The tea is for adults and children 13 and above. Tickets for everyone are \$25. Proceeds from the Tea will be used to support the church's Faith in Action programs. The Tea will feature teas, "savory" tea sandwiches, scones with whipped cream and homemade raspberry jam, and an assortment of "sweets." *All food items are prepared by members of the church.* Also featured is a silent auction and works from artists from the area. Tickets/Reservations are available Sundays after each service or by calling Caryl Donovan.



Rector's Ramblings

During Last Sunday Breakfasts, Thursday morning Coffee & Conversation, and Vestry meetings, we have been talking about what would it look like if we truly lived into being a church that love built. It is challenging. It means that EVERYTHING we do – including worship, faith in action, fellowship, hospitality, life inside AND outside of our church would be done through the filter “Does this reflect the love of Christ?” As we approach Advent, the season of reflection on the greatest gift of love, I thought I would share this story about what a church built on love might look like in the world.

Tony Campolo, ordained American Baptist Minister, tells of a time when he was speaking in Honolulu, Hawaii and had a very interesting encounter with folks who were skeptical about church, to say the least. Tony lives on the east coast of the United States so his body was six hours ahead of Hawaiian time. At three o'clock in the morning, it felt like nine o'clock to him. Awake and hungry for breakfast, he found himself in a "greasy spoon" café in the small hours of the morning. As he bit into his doughnut, eight or nine prostitutes walked in. They had just finished for the night. Their talk was loud and crude, and it was difficult to avoid listening in. He heard one tell the others it was her birthday the following day. "What do you want from me? A birthday cake?" was the sarcastic reply. "Why be so mean?" she replied, "I was just telling you. I don't expect anything. I've never had a birthday party. I'm not expecting to have one now." When Tony heard this he made a decision.

When the women left, he went over to the café owner, a guy called Harry. "Do they always come in here?" "Yes," said Harry. "Including the one who sat next to me?" "Yes, that's Agnes. Why do you want to know?" "Because I heard her say it's her birthday tomorrow and I thought we might throw her a party." Pause. Then a smile grew across Harry's lips. "That'd be a great idea." A moment later his wife was in on the plot. Half past two the next morning. Tony had brought decorations and Harry had baked a cake. Word had got out and it seemed as if every prostitute in Honolulu was in the café, plus Tony, a preacher. When Agnes entered with her friends, she was flabbergasted. Her mouth fell open and her knees wobbled. As she sat on a stool, everyone sang "Happy Birthday". "Blow out the candles," people shouted, but in the end Harry had to do it for her. Then he handed her a knife. "Cut the cake, Agnes, so we can all have some." She looked at the cake. Then slowly said, "Is it alright ... would you mind ... if I wait a little longer ... if we didn't eat it straight away?" "Sure. It's okay," said Harry. "Take it home if you want!" "Can I?" she said, "Can I take it home now? I'll be back in a few minutes." And with that she left, carrying her precious cake out the café.

There was a stunned silence. So Tony said, "What do you say we pray?" And they did. Tony lead a group of prostitutes in prayer at 3:30 in the morning. When they were done, Harry said, "Hey! You never told me you were some kind of preacher. What kind of church do you belong to?" Tony answered, "I belong to a church that throws birthday parties for prostitutes at 3:30 in the morning." Harry waited for a moment. Then he kind of sneered, "No you don't. There's no church like that. If there was, I'd join it. I'd join a church like that."

Tony reflected on this later saying "Wouldn't we all? Wouldn't we all love to join a church that throws birthday parties for prostitutes at 3:30 in the morning? But anybody who reads the New Testament will discover a Jesus who loved to party with prostitutes and with all kinds of left-out people. The tax collectors and "sinners" loved him because he partied with them. The lepers of society found in him someone who would eat and drink with them. And while the solemnly pious people could not relate to what he was about, those lonely people who usually didn't get invited to parties took to him with excitement."

A church that love built. Who are the lonely people who don't get invited to Christmas parties? Who are the people who might be alone this holiday season? How do we live into the incarnation and bring the love of Christ alive in the church that Jesus, that love, built?

Denise⁺



Sunday School

Faith in Action

Quite a Busy Fall!

- The September Mum Sale brought in \$110.
- The impromptu Soup Sunday on November 10 netted \$192. These funds will be used to support Lunch in the Park and other Faith in Action ministries.
- On September 28, 60 lunches were prepared and distributed at the Church by the Pond service in Bushnell Park in Hartford (aka, "Lunch in the Park").
- The Rice and Beans/Chili Cook-Off on October 20, a joint project with *Trinity Wethersfield*, continues to grow and raised \$1,000 for St. Vincent's Center for Disabled Children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Congratulations to Blakeley and Rick Crevoiserat for winning the "People's Choice" award in the chili contest!
- The Pet Adoption and Blessing of the Animals event on October 5 brought many to St. James' and resulted in 2 pet adoptions. Many thanks to Judy Knowlton for stepping in for blessings, which included two hedgehogs and a cricket.
- The Halloween Blood Drive resulted in 33 pints of usable pints for the American Red Cross.
- Operation Christmas Child (aka, the "Shoebox Project") is currently concluding. The project distributes shoe boxes filled with small toys and other gifts to children around the world.

Thanks to all who took charge or assisted with these projects

and to all who have supported them.

SAVE THE DATES:

- ✓ Saturday, December 14, the Christmas Tea
- ✓ Friday, December 27, American Red Cross Blood Drive @ St. James'
- ✓ Sunday, January 4, Soup Sunday, Tangy Tomato Mushroom & Split Pea with Ham
- ✓ Tuesday, January 6 – Faith in Action meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room
- ✓ Tuesday, February 25, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The next Faith in Action meeting is scheduled for January 6. We welcome new participants at any time. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Barbara Buddington, Blakeley Crevoiserat, or Jeannette Brown.



Judy Knowlton blessing animals
on October 5



Distribution of
bagged lunches
for
"Lunch in the Park"
at Bushnell Park in
Hartford

The Coffee and Conversation Book Group

will begin meeting again after the holidays. Thursday, January 16th will be our first meeting at 10:00. We will be reading *Crazy Christians* by The Right Reverend Michael Curry.



Tag Sale
in
September



Great turn out for the
Men's Group Dinner
on November 19! We
welcomed guests
from St. Monica's.

The kitchen crew from last year's **Christmas Tea** are keeping the tea very hot and the next round of scones and sweets ready!



Children's Choir at Offertory

Congratulations to
The Reverend Keri Aubert
on her Installation as the Rector
at St. Thomas, New Haven on
November 20!



Twelveth Night Supper

Save the date! Join us for 12th Night on Sunday, January 4th at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We will celebrate the arrival of the Magi and the announcement of the Christ child to the world. We'll have dinner, hear the story, crown a king or queen, and sing! Please sign up in the foyer no later than Sunday, December 29th. We ask that you bring a side dish for the pork roast that we'll be serving. Drinks and desserts will be provided.

Contact Information

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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

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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.