

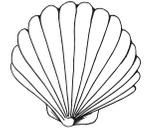
The Network

St. James' Episcopal Church



January 2015





Grow spiritually and
spread the love of Christ

Service Schedule

Sundays	8:00 a.m.	Rite I Holy Eucharist
	10:15 a.m.	Rite II Holy Eucharist
Wednesdays	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers

Highlights

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Storm Closings

Storm closings are posted on the St. James' website as well as on WFSB Channel 3, TV and online (<http://www.wfsb.com/weather>). You can sign up for text alerts on the WFSB website. Please, always use judgment when deciding to travel in inclement weather.

Mission Statement: To grow spiritually and spread the love of Christ.

Vision Statements:

- ❖ All of our ministries are Christ centered, joyfully sharing Christ's love.
- ❖ Led by our Commissions we will reach out and encourage participation to nourish spiritual growth.
- ❖ Using our time, talents and treasure, we will support the ministries and activities of this faith community.
- ❖ We will be an open, welcoming and inclusive faith community with honest and respectful communication.
- ❖ Our ministries will serve the community of St. James' and those beyond our walls.

Kids Are Us

St. James' recently held two events that intentionally included parishioners of all ages: the All Saints forum and the Christmas Pageant.

On All Saints Sunday, November 2, between services, Matt Cornish and I led an intergenerational forum in which about 20 participants (ranging in age roughly from 7 to 75) crafted "prayer flags" to commemorate someone who is a "saint" to them. While crafting, we conversed about who we had chosen and why. Some flags honored someone well known (such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer), but the majority honored a family member. From youngest to oldest, we learned things about one another that we would never have learned otherwise. While crafting a flag for my grandmother Vivian, I told high-schooler Alex a story about her that I myself had almost forgotten. During the 10:15 service sermon time, when participants were asked to share who they picked and why, grade-schooler Grace stood up next to her dad, Bill, and explained why he was her saint. It was a touching and priceless moment.

As for the December 14 Christmas Pageant, most of you were there! Second only to Easter, it was by far our biggest Sunday attendance of the year. We used a new pageant script, one that wonderfully incorporated our all-ages congregation. When the first narrative started—the moment Jim stood at the lectern wearing a "shepherd costume"—I got teary and stayed that way throughout. We canceled the 8 o'clock service that day so that everyone could gather together. That was a sacrifice for some, but most of the feedback was positive. Several people told me how glad they were that they "had" to attend the pageant, because they enjoyed it so much.

We were blessed on Christmas Pageant Sunday, as we are most Sundays, to see our church filled with people all ages. Visit many churches these days, and you see mostly older people. Without younger congregants, those churches

might not be around much longer. But that's not the only or the most important reason to be grateful for our all-ages congregation. Those of us on the far side of middle age (and that includes me) surely would be poorer without the wonderful vibrancy injected by our children, youth, young adults, and young parents. We surely are poorer when we choose to stick to ourselves, skipping opportunities to develop relationships with those across even the farthest generations. It really does take a village to raise a child, but it's not just about the children. Mixing between the generations is good for us all.

Elsewhere in this issue of *The Network* you will read about the closing of the nursery. This does not reflect a reduced commitment to our children—if parents ask for it, we will bring it back. It simply reflects the reality that the nursery hasn't been used for at least a year and a half. We actually have children young enough for the nursery, but the parents are bringing them to church, and that's even better. Their presence among us is a blessing to us all. And in my experience, no one is too young—or too old—to participate in church.

At the Christmas Pageant, a highlight for me was the final musical piece, which included four stanzas. The first stanza was sung by the adult choir, the second by the choristers, the third by the children's choir, and the fourth by the entire assembly. It was so sweetly beautiful and so wonderfully symbolic: each of us, of every age, comes bearing unique gifts, and then we offer them together for the glory of God.

Keri +



Vestry Update

Happy New Year from the Vestry!

In December the vestry discussed and acted on three areas: Annual Meeting Format, the 2015 budget, the Nursery, the next steps in the transition process. Here are the updates:

- Annual meeting format will remain the same, with the meeting happening after a shortened 10:15 service. We plan to have an activity for the kids so that the parents can participate in the meeting. We will not print out copies of the Annual Reports in an effort to save money, staff time and the environment. We ask parishioners to print your own copy OR if you are not able to or need help, contact Jodi in the church office and she will be glad to print one out for you.
- The 2015 budget was worked on, reviewed line by line, adjusted, and approved by the vestry at the December 15th meeting. Due to the pledging being less than last year, we made expense cuts to several areas. We decided that Art in the Abbey can fund the entire Outreach of the parish, given its second year success. And the vestry recommends that the Outreach committee use some of their funds to fund the Shawl Ministry, since the Shawl Ministry provides outreach to many groups outside the parish. More detail on the budget will be discussed at the Annual Meeting.
- As part of the 2015 budget cuts, it was decided that we would no longer continue to employ two caregivers for the Nursery. As of the first week in January the nursery will be closed. The fact is that no child has used the Nursery for the past 18 months. We came close to making this decision last year at budget time, and decided to give it one more

year. And we have had feedback that most parents do not want to leave their kids in a nursery, but keep them with them in church. The vestry has asked the New-comers Committee to keep us posted if the flow of nursery age kids (under age three) grows. If that happens, we can look at adding volunteer and/ or paid positions. Under the safe church requirements there must be two adults working with kids at a minimum.

- The new rector search will continue this month. The Recruitment Committee will be presented a new list of candidates in the first part of January and has a streamlined process in place to meet and interview them. It is planned that the vestry will make the final interviews and decision sometime in March. Watch the email blast and the website for updates, or ask the Recruitment Team or vestry members about their progress.
- As we move into the New Year we have much to be thankful at St. James'. We are in the midst of God's work inside and outside the church walls. We have a talented staff, a strong sense of lay ministry, a wonderful mix of generations, and an amazing facility. It will be exciting to see where God leads us in 2015.

What is God calling you to do in 2015? Let us each listen and ACT.

Gail Lebert, Senior Warden
Glebert14@gmail.com
860-202-7674



*Everyone Doing Their Part
at the Pageant*



ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 25, 2015

Holy Eucharist as usual
at 8 and 10:15 a.m.
~abbreviated with no sermon
and reduced music~

Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary
at 11:15 a.m.

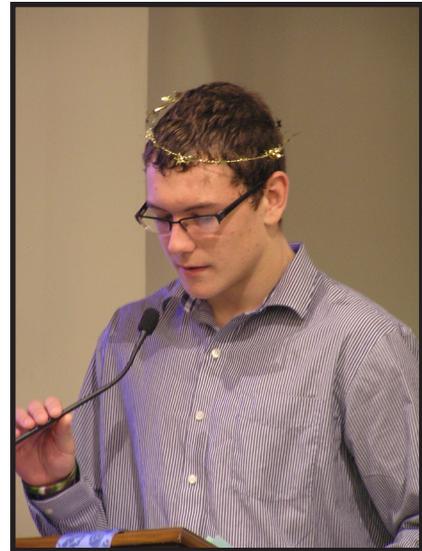
Sunday School during 10:15 worship;
children's activity during the meeting

Worship Commission

Many Contributions to a Beautiful Season at St. James'

I know you share my gratitude for all who made possible our beautiful Lessons & Carols, Christmas Pageant, and Christmas Eve services! So, so many people helped to make it all happen: the altar and flower guilds; the ushers, Eucharistic ministers and acolytes; the Adult Choir, Choristers, and Children's Choir; the many pageant participants; staffers Jim, Matt, Jodi, and Jeanne. To all, thank you!

Keri +



At the Pageant



Outreach Commission

Holiday Shoppe

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the Glastonbury Holiday Shoppe on very short notice. A total of \$840 was collected in gift cards from Target, Walmart, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, and Barnes and Noble and given to the town social services department. Thank you all for your generosity!

Coat Collection

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

Soup Sunday Is Back

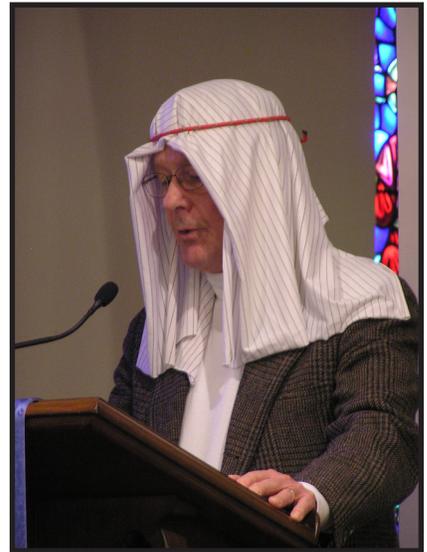
Outreach will again be selling soup by the quart on January 25 – this time to benefit the new Paper Pantry which is planned to start up in the spring. Because January 25 is the day of the church's annual meeting, we will not be offering a soup lunch that day, but there will be an opportunity to taste the soups on the Sunday before, January 18. The tentative plans are to offer one of last year's hits – Portuguese Kale soup, and a new chicken and tomato soup, which we think you will find delicious. One of the many benefits of being on the Outreach Committee is that our meetings are occasionally accompanied by soup tastings, and we'd love to have more of you participating.

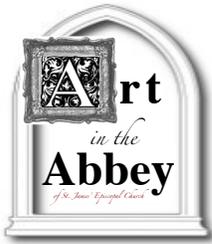
Thank You

A big THANK YOU - to all who generously supported the fall Outreach projects with your contributions of time and dollars:

- Lunch in the Park
- Assisting Food Share with Turkey and \$30
- Operation Christmas Child (shoebox project)
- Special collection of warm socks for the homeless
- Holiday Gift Card collection for Glastonbury Social Services

Still at the Pageant





Art in the Abbey Is Coming!

Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21

Let's start the New Year talking about the most exciting event at St. James'! Please attend our kickoff planning meeting on **Sunday, January 11, right after the 10:15 service.**

If you are willing and able to help in ANY WAY (large or small) please attend this meeting and/ or let me know prior to the meeting.

We will need volunteers to help with so many things including:

- Food & beverages
- Gift baskets
- Music & entertainment
- Gift cards
- Wine & cheese tasting
- Network articles
- Newspaper ads & press releases
- Finances
- Artist coordination
- Flowers
- A children's art center (Saturday only)
- St. James' artwork & handmade items
- Signage
- Website/ Facebook
- Ticket sales & tracking
- Sandy bucks
- Welcome/ advertising booklet
- Community advertisement
- And much more!!

This event is essential to fully fund the St. James' outreach ministries and gives us great visibility within our Glastonbury community. I would love to make this year's event even more successful than last year... And we can do it with your help!

Please contact Sandy Ouellette with any questions or helpful information (phaseoneid@cox.net, cell 860-338-3573, or home 860-633-7303).





"Martin, Music and the Movement"

**14th Annual Glastonbury Martin Luther King, Jr.
Celebration**

Monday, January 19, 2015

7 P.M.

**Smith Middle School
216 Addison Road, Glastonbury**

For additional information:

860-643-0473 or 860-633-8284

www.glastonburymlkci.org

The 2015 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will focus on the music of the civil rights movement and how that music—whether freedom songs, folk songs, spirituals or hip hop—has been an integral part of the American struggle for human rights and social equality. The program will showcase the music of the movement in its historical context through performance, narration and multi-media presentations.

Performers will include the Glastonbury Naubuc School Early Bird Choir, the Glastonbury High School Jazz Orchestra, and the Glastonbury High School Madrigal singers. Frank Mitchell, assistant director and curator/curator at large of The Amistad Center for Art & Culture at the Wadsworth Atheneum, will provide the historical backdrop for the musical performances.

The program is free and open to the public. Those attending are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to benefit the Glastonbury Food Pantry.

Pastoral Care Commission

The holidays are winding down, but let's not forget those in the parish who might need a little support or encouragement during the cold winter months.

Pastoral Care Emergencies

For pastoral care emergencies, please continue to call the church number, then dial 9. Your call will be routed to Keri+, or to Walter+ in her absence. For less acute needs associated with our various pastoral care ministries, please contact Judy Knowlton (see Pastoral Care Coordinator).

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Judy Knowlton is the Pastoral Care Coordinator who oversees all the pastoral ministries –the Shawl Ministry, the Women's Spiritual Support Group, the Lay Eucharistic Visitors, the Meals for Parishioners, the Prayer Chain, and the Note-Writing Committee. If you know of someone who can benefit from one or more of these services, please contact Judy at 860-295-0489 or judyknowlton@comcast.net. All services are confidential.

Prayer Shawl Team

A wonderful group of very talented ladies welcomes anyone interested in helping to knit hats or prayer shawls for people at special times of need. Please contact Kay Ferris on 860-530-1440 to learn more.

Spiritual Support Group

Please come on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 for an hour and a half of uplifting discussion centered around the book - *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* by Rachel Held Evans. All women are welcome. Contact Jennifer Daukas on 860-657-1505 for more information.

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain offers special prayers for those in need. Requests for prayer are kept private and confidential and are not discussed outside of the prayer group. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list or if you would like to join the group, please contact Diane Obernesser on 860-633-7930.

Healing Prayer

There are times when healing prayer is needed. Please contact Judy Knowlton on 860-295-0489 if you would like a special healing prayer visit made to you or someone you know.

Meals for Parishioners

A group of volunteers have offered to make a home-cooked meal or prepare a plate of cookies to help someone at a time of need. Please contact Barbara Massy on 860-633-4556 or MaryJo Logan on 860-368-2480 if you would be willing to help out once or twice this year.

Notes for Parishioners

St. James' would like to reach out to any parishioner who needs support. Please contact Alyson Kataja on 860-633-3191 or Caryl Donovan on 860-633-4844 if you know of someone in need of a friendly note of cheer.

Please contact Lauren Furtak, the Vestry Commission leader, on 860-652-8384 or any of the team leaders to get involved or to learn more.



The creche



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

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

www.ctdiocese.org

St. James' Clergy

The Rev. Keri Aubert, *Interim Rector*
The Rev. Walter McKenney, *Deacon*

ktaubert1@sbcglobal.net
walter41634@att.net

Music Ministry

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

dirmusic@sbcglobal.net

Christian Formation

Matt Cornish, *Director of Children and Youth Ministry*

mcornish@sbcglobal.net

Office

Jodi Lussier, *Parish Administrator*
Jeanne Kowalsky, *Bookkeeper*

st_james_church@sbcglobal.net
accounts-stjames@sbcglobal.net

Vestry

Gail Lebert, *Senior Warden*
Gayle Kataja, *Junior Warden*
Steve Ciccalone, *Treasurer*
Ralph Urban, *Clerk*

glebert14@gmail.com
gpkataja@sbcglobal.net
sciccalone@gmail.com
rhurban@comcast.net

Office Hours - 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Pastoral Emergency: Call the church office, 860-633-8333, and then dial 9 any time during the message. Your call will be routed to the clergyperson on call.

