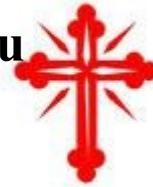




ST. JAMES NEWS



Seeking God, Serving Community, Welcoming You



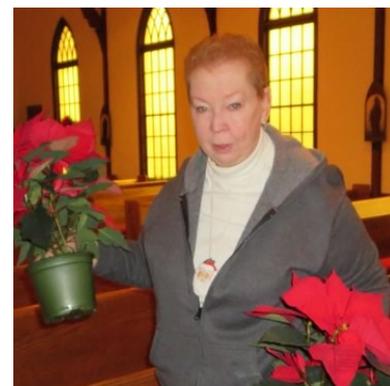
The Reverend Kathryn Costas
The Reverend Deacon Melissa Eggers

JANUARY 2016

LENOIR, NC
828-754-3712



CHRISTMAS AT ST. JAMES, 2015



December 14th Vestry Minutes, in Brief



*You may request a copy of full Vestry minutes after they are approved at the following month's meeting. **You will find full approved minutes on the church website; go to www.saintjamesepiscopal.org**. Also, Vestry meetings are open, so you are welcome to attend. Below is a summary of topics discussed and actions taken (motions approved) at this month's Vestry meeting, provided by Senior Warden Barbara Busch.*



Guest Steve Cartee discussed a recommendation regarding the two large Pin Oak Trees. The vestry motioned to investigate his proposal.

Finances are improving; we should end the year in the black.

Kempton Smith was elected Parish Treasurer for 2016.

The vestry needs to elect two new Finance Committee members to replace Jim Crawford and Anne Bartlett, who are rotating off the committee, as required by the bylaws. Volunteer candidates are sought.

Jim Crawford will be the acting Senior Warden while Barbara Busch is out of town at the end of December.

In 2016, the Vestry will meet on the third Monday of the month at 6 PM. The Finance Committee will meet the previous Wed. at 5:30 PM.

The church office will be closed Dec. 28th through Jan.3.

The St. James Elders will work on developing St. James Heritage for the transition period.

Eric Miller has made a new small table for the sanctuary.

The Rector's housing allowance was set.

The Vestry Recorder will maintain the vestry agenda.

The first quarterly Mutual Ministry Review was discussed at length. The goal was to determine how well the Rector and Vestry are working together for the St. James parish and to make improvements as needed.

Jim Evert volunteered to be Vestry on Duty for January and February.

The Vestry Retreat will start on Friday evening Jan. 22 and continue during the day on Saturday Jan. 23.

Next Regularly Scheduled Vestry Meeting: Monday, January 18



On Friday, December 11, at 6:00 in the evening Chuck Lovins and Chad Barnes were married at St. James, with over 200 parishioners and guests present to witness and celebrate their marriage. The Rev. Kathryn Costas conducted the service and celebrated at Holy Eucharist. Below is her sermon.

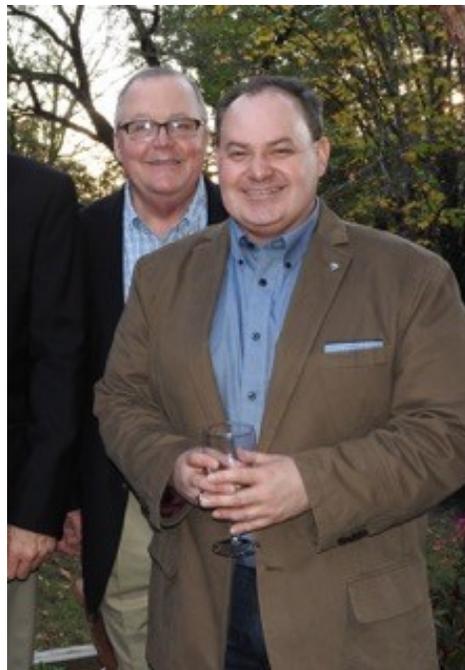
The late mythology professor, Joseph Campbell has this to say: “Marriage is not a love affair, it’s an

creating, redeeming, and sustaining love of God” (Liturgical Resources I: “I will bless you and you will be a blessing,” New York: Church Publishing, p.22).

We are gathered to witness and bless Chuck and Chad as they commit themselves to each other and to God in this sacrament of Holy Matrimony. We understand the celebration and blessing of committed, monogamous, life-long, faithful same-sex relationships as part of the Church’s work of offering outward and visible signs of God’s grace among us. Blessing originates in God.

As Chuck and Chad and I were meeting together—getting to know each other, finding out about their lives, and talking about their desire to marry—I asked them this question, “What difference will this sacrament of marriage make in your life?” Being together now for almost 22 years, they feel very married. Yet, I will continue to hold that question before them.

Chuck and Chad chose three Scripture readings for tonight, all having to do with love. In the very famous reading from first Corinthians, we are told that all have gifts, that there is a better way, and that better way is to embody love. “Love is patient, and kind, isn’t irritable, doesn’t seek its own way, puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” We know this about love, and we want to embody love. At times we find ourselves being called back to love, not because we purposefully walk away from it, but because life gets too busy and we have way too much to do.



We participate in this blessing by thanking God for the grace already discerned in the lives of Chuck and Chad. We ask God’s continual blessing so that Chuck and Chad may manifest more fully the fruits of the Spirit in their lives. And we seek the empowerment of the Holy Spirit as the Church commissions Chuck and Chad to bear witness to the Gospel in the world.

Chuck and Chad are coming together and publicly declaring their love for and commitment to each other. And we are supporting them in their covenant by being here and holding their love up as a sign of God’s love. We are also accountable for encouraging, supporting, and nurturing their relationship through the years.

“Remain in my love,” says the gospel reading. “If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love.” And Jesus commandments are these: love God with all your heart, and souls, and mind; and love your neighbor as you love your self. Simple living, as we open ourselves to the love of God in our midst.

As I watch Chuck and Chad together, I see them living out the love of God. I see this in their joy for each other and the joy and laughter they share with friends. A full church this evening shows how much they touch the lives of others. Chuck and Chad live out God’s love in so many ways. And we are here tonight to witness to their love and to hold them up and to share with them the love God has manifested in their life together and to bless them with many more years.

“As Christians one of the ways we witness to Christ is how we live in our closest relationships. The Church commissions a couple bound by sacred vows in Holy Matrimony to participate in God’s mission of reconciliation. Such relationships are set apart to witness to and

God’s holy blessings on all here tonight and especially upon Chuck and Chad. *Amen.*

A SERVICE OF SHADOW AND LIGHT

On Sunday, 20 December, St. James had our first ever Service of Shadow and Light. A number of women arrived early and assisted Kathryn in preparing the space with greenery and candlelight and icons. Evelyn Beam played the piano for the service, and Alyce Walton and Jeanne Whisnant read Scripture. Around 30 people attended.

Many of us are filled with such joy and peace during the time of Christmas. Others are saddened and carry great burdens. The liturgy for the service acknowledges that many people are suffering losses and grief and anxiety, which are deepened by this time of year. This service allowed us to acknowledge those feelings.

It was a beautiful service, filled with deep meaning and warm candlelight. During the service, we heard readings and scripture that spoke to the feelings that many have during this holiday time of year. Those in attendance also had the opportunity to light a candle for someone they may have lost or for a memory that was important to them. Times of reading, listening, praying and chanting were followed by times of silence and meditation.

People who attended spoke of how much the service meant to them and their hope that it will be continued each year. *By Betty Purcell and Jeanne Whisnant*





The family of Willie Frazier extends our kindest thoughts, prayers, and thanks to the St. James family for everything they did the last couple of weeks. From the visits to the food, the touching and reverent service, The Daughters of the King's wonderful reception—we could not have wished for a better way to remember and honor our mother. Thank you all for your gifts of kindness.

KNITTING LESSON GROUP

We will be having a knitting lesson group at the church beginning in January. The dates are tentatively January 12, 19, and 26 from 1-3 each week. The lessons will be taught by Kadi Townsel, a master knitter. The cost will be \$30. You don't have to have any supplies. Debbie Allen will bring needles and yarn for you to make your first project. If you wish to continue knitting once you have completed the lessons, Kadi will guide you with what you need to get for your own knitting.

If you "used to knit a long time ago" and would like to begin again, this would be a great time to begin. If you have never knitted and want to begin, this would

be perfect for you, too. Or, if you already knit and just want to come and sit and knit on a project you are already working on, that would be great fun, too.

If you are interested, just email Debbie at alldeb49@gmail.com or speak to her at church so we will know how many are interested.



By Debbie Allen

To the folks at St. James:

Many thanks for your kind thoughts and prayers during my lengthy recovery from my fall in June. While I still have much work to do to become independent again, I am home from the rehab facility. Please know your cards, calls and visits have kept my faith and spirits high during this difficult time. I look forward to once again participating in church activities.

I wish you all the most blessed of new years.

Carolyn Evert



2015 DECEMBER ROOM AT THE TABLE

Team Captains: Evelyn Beam & Jennifer Greer

It may have been December, but it was a warm Saturday, December 12. Some guests arrived in shorts and sandals, even. Nevertheless, it was a lively and happy crowd, and all seemed to enjoy the menu of baked pasta casseroles, salad, toasted French bread, and various desserts plus ice cream. Almost 80 people were fed at the meal itself, plus another 50 takeouts went out the door. We sang "Happy Birthday" to everyone there who had December birthdays. We met new people and were happy to see old friends again.

Captains Evelyn Beam and Jennifer Greer saw the meal itself through, with captain Charlene Clark being in on the preliminary planning. They did a thorough job of using what could possibly be used from foods already on hand, such as planning brownies and desserts with cherry pie filling. And then the ingredients for eleven ziti casseroles were put in tin casserole pans and laid out in the church kitchen for the cooks to pick up. The casseroles were to be brought to the



church at 3:30 the day of the meal, hot and ready to serve. In the meantime team members prepared salad from a little over \$20 worth of various salad ingredients purchased at Aldi. And they sliced, buttered, and toasted 10 loaves of French bread. The planning and preparation for this meal was a case of organization personified.

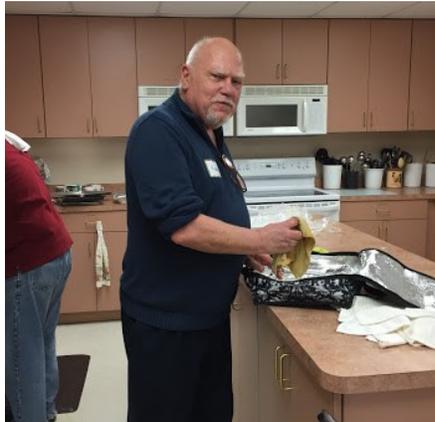
This team had most of its members present at the meal, despite some last-minute and unpreventable absences that occurred. The captains had done a splendid job of using people we call "core cooks" and "core bodies." These are parishioners who volunteer to help out at Room at the Table meals for teams on which they are not even members. Core cooks offer to help prepare food for other teams; core bodies offer to come be on hand to help serve or whatever else may be asked of them. A number of parishioners helped in that way with this meal. The result was a full house of parishioners and a lively and fun time for all who were there. Also, a number of people from Water Life church came and set up a table at which they made Christmas ornaments, inviting guests who would like to learn how to make them to come join in.

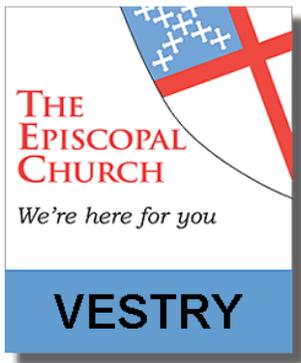
Here is a listing of names of people who participated in any way in making this meal happen, whether by providing food, contributing financially, or by coming and helping at the meal itself:



Evelyn Beam
 Charlene Clark and Larry Bailey
 Jennifer and Steve Greer
 Barbara Kirby
 Verneda Kirk
 Chris and John Limbrunner
 Dave and Tricia Masters, and Rachel
 Debra Philyaw
 Claudia Salgado
 Marietta Smith
 Bill and Sherry Wall
 Betty Purcell
 Annette Beam
 Hank and Gloria Friberg
 Kathryn Costas
 Craig Mills
 Roger Muckenfuss
 Jennie Deal
 Rosemary Rowland
 Melissa Eggers
 Alison Davis
 Chad Gragg

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Also in December we had our 2015 Annual Meeting this year. At it we elected three new Vestry members. Here you see outgoing members Dianne Swanson, Emerson Dickey, and Susan Strawn counting ballots at the meeting.

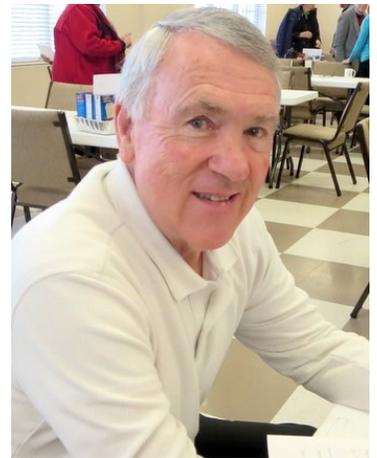
And the three new members to serve three-year terms on the Vestry are Jim Evert, Tim Scobie, and Bill Wall.



Jim Evert



Tim Scobie



Bill Wall



On the fourth Saturday of each month, St. James parishioners will be volunteering at LEOS, the Lenoir Emergency Outreach Shelter, from 8:00 AM until 3:30 PM in order to

keep it open for residents during the weekend day-time hours. Here are Ken Klinger, Betty Purcell, and Melissa Eggers, who were at LEOS on December 26. Does this sound like a volunteer opportunity for you? Let us know!!



2016 Room at the Table Teams
St. James, Lenoir: 2nd Saturday each month

Team 1 May 14 October 8	Team 2 January 9 June 11 November 12	Team 3 February 13 July 9 December 10	Team 4 March 12 August 13	Team 5 April 9 September 10
Jennifer Greer	Jennie Deal	Barbara Busch	Annette Beam	Teige West
Evelyn Beam	Don Bushman	Rebecca Sime	Gail Evert	Anne Bartlett
Charlene Clark	Martha Combs	Phyllis Fields	Jeanne Whisnant	Ryan Brown
Larry Bailey	Jim Crawford	Virginia Jennings	Debbie Allen	Helen Chittenden
Cheryl Dickey	Melinda Crawford	Linda Jonas	Doris Conn	Jim Chittenden
Emerson Dickey	Leigh Ann Frye	Chuck Lovins	Jim Evert	Melissa Eggers
Carolyn Evert	Nancy Havrilack	Kriszta McGee	Julie Gootman	Gloria Friberg
Steve Greer	Roz MacGuire	Parker McGee	David Icard	Hank Friberg
Barbara Kirby	Lucy McCarl	Helen Miller	Ginny Knouse	Susie Lenfestey
Verneda Kirk	Maggie Martin	Fran Pursley	Debbie Marshall	Jesse Massey
Linda Lawson	Barbara Nordstrom	Marlin Pursley	Bill McKinney	Michelle Morran
Chris Limbrunner	Don Nordstrom	Charlotte Reid	Dorothy McKinney	Susan Rowe
John Limbrunner	Brad Prestwood	David Reid	Eric Miller	Gina Smith
Dave Masters	Betty Purcell	Judy Sanders	Sherry Miller	Kempton Smith
Tricia Masters	Mary Teague	John Scroggin	Janet Muir	Mary Lib Todd
Debra Philyaw	Becky Whisnant	Susan Strawn	Jim Muir	Dawn Vines
Claudia Salgado	Lee Wilson	Lynn Swann	Laura Owens	Marcus Vines
Marietta Smith	Mary Ruth Wilson	Dianne Swanson	Christina Rosen	Randy Wood
Bill Wall		Amy Watson	Chris Sams	
Sherry Wall		Michele Willis	Sandra Scobie	
			Tim Scobie	
			Carl Tolbert	
			Karen Tolbert	

Our annual St James Ladies Christmas luncheon was held on Saturday, December 12 in the Hogan Room. There were around sixty ladies who joined us for a lovely luncheon catered by Myra's of Valdese. Before lunch, we enjoyed a social time with coffee and wassail being served, and thanks to Rosemary Rowland telling me about a lovely lady who played the piano beautifully we were able to have Brenda Roper come and play Christmas music for us.



This year's luncheon was dedicated to Willie Frazier. Willie was instrumental in beginning this holiday festivity years ago, and she did the work all by herself for years. We all loved and admired this wonderful lady whose spirit will always be with us.

By Rebecca Sime



The reins of the Daughters of the King have officially been turned over to our new president, Jeanne Whisnant. We all wish her well in her next two years as President and will support her in any way we can. It has been my pleasure to serve as President of the Daughters for the last two years, and I thank all who have been by my side.

By Rebecca Sime

Our St James Sunday School children have done it again. They children did a great job with this year's Christmas pageant. "Starry Night" was the Christmas story read by our storyteller, Don Bushman, and performed by the children with all the usual characters. We worked on this new version of the Christmas story, and all



seemed to like it. So we will do some tweaking for next year's performance, thanks to ideas from those in attendance this year. I thank each child and each adult who helped put this play together.

Sunday School will officially start back on **January 10th**, since I will be out of town on January 3, when we will have Children's Chapel activities that day. I will be in touch with volunteers for teaching soon. Thanks to all who have helped with Sunday School these past few months.

By Rebecca Sime

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Melissa Eggers
 3 Betty Early
 3 Marcus Vines
 6 Katy Willis
 6 Rhonda Schlacter
 7 Rebecca Purcell
 9 Dianne Swanson
 12 Dorothy McKinney
 14 Alison White-Wilsey
 14 Ken Klinger
 15 Cheryl Dickey
 17 Paul Bulot



Happy
 Birthday!

18 Kriszta McGee
 23 Shilda Burns
 24 Tim Scobie
 25 Garren Bryant (Y)
 25 Caelin Owens (Y)
 25 Doris Conn
 25 Martin Crisp
 26 Emerald Hollar (Y)
 27 Hope Surpris
 28 Martha Combs

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

13 Bill & Dorothy McKinney
 18 Barbara & Don Nordstrom
 25 Nancy & Dick Mitchell

28 Emerson & Cheryl Dickey
 29 Hank & Gloria Friberg



Lunch Bunch was held at the Sagebrush in December. There was a small group, but they

all enjoyed the fellowship. We will meet at the Empire Buffet for our January lunch on Monday, January 4, at 11:15.

Events

(Regularly Occurring)

- **Sunday Services:** 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
- **Children's Chapel:** 9:10 a.m.
- **Adult Forum:** 9:10 a.m.
- **Children's Sunday School:** 10:30 a.m.
- **Wednesday Healing Service:** 12:10 p.m.
- **Adult Choir Practice:** Wednesdays - 7:00 p.m.
- **Hands & Hearts:** 1st Monday 10:00 a.m.
- **Daughters of the King (DoK):** 2nd Mondays - 5:30 p.m.
- **Centering Prayer** -4:30 p.m. Thursdays -Oertel Room
- **CARE Committee:** 3rd Tuesdays - 12:30 p.m.
- **Room at the Table:** 2nd Saturday - 4 p.m. Hogan Room
- **AA:** Sundays at 8:00 p.m., Youth/Comm. Room
- **AL-Anon:** Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Youth/Comm. Room
- **Archive Committee:** Monday 1-4:00 p.m. Archive Room

Next Up for

JANUARY 12 R@T Meal

Team Two, captained by **Jennie Deal**, is at bat for our Room at the table Meal in January. Here you can see that team's roster of members. These are the people who will be providing food and fellowship for people in need on January 12. If you are not yet on a Room at the Table team and you'd like to be on this one, please give Jennie a call.

Jennie Deal

Don Bushman
 Martha Combs
 Jim Crawford
 Melinda Crawford
 Leigh Ann Frye
 Nancy Havrilack
 Roz MacGuire
 Lucy McCarl

Maggie Martin

Barbara Nordstrom
 Don Nordstrom
 Brad Prestwood
 Betty Purcell
 Mary Teague
 Becky Whisnant
 Lee Wilson
 Mary Ruth Wilson



Saint James Episcopal Church

806 College Avenue
Lenoir, NC 28645
828-754-3712

Website: www.saintjamesepiscopal.org

The Reverend Kathryn Costas

rector@saintjamesepiscopal.org

The Reverend Deacon Melissa Eggers

melissaeggers@earthlink.net

Vince Crist, Music Director/Organist

Finance Secretary

financesecretary@saintjamesepiscopal.org

Amy Green, Parish Administrator

information@saintjamesepiscopal.org

Worship—Sundays @ 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Healing Service— Wednesdays @ 12:10 p.m.

Church Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 8:30—12:30

The Vestry

Larry Bailey

Barbara Busch

Jim Crawford

Emerson Dickey

James Hogan

John Limbrunner

Kempton Smith

Susan Strawn

Dianne Swanson

Jim Evert (Treasurer)



**Diocese of
Western North Carolina**

www.diocesewnc.org

Want to know about....?

*(Check church directory for phone
numbers and email addresses)*

Acolytes, Rebecca Sime

Archives, Sherry Miller

Backpack Ministry, Gloria Friberg

Hands and Hearts, Betty Purcell

Altar Guild, Laura Owens

Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Melissa Eggers

CARE Committee, Jennie Deal

Lunch Bunch, Rebecca Sime

Centering Prayer, Melinda Crawford

Ushers, Susan Strawn

Daughters of the King, Jeanne Whisnant

Children's & Youth Group, Rebecca Sime

Room at the Table, Melissa Eggers

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