

St. James' Episcopal Church
Diocese of Central New York
9 Williams Street, Clinton, New York 13323



*St. James', Built 1865
National Historic District*

Almighty God, you know the needs of your Church in every place:
look graciously upon us, the people of St. James', and grant us the guidance
of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new Rector for this parish.
Give us discernment, wisdom, and confidence in your timing. Grace us with
continuous direction and inspire us toward genuine self-reflection.
All this we ask as we walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Amen.

(From St. Martin-in-the-Fields)

St. James' Episcopal Church Parish Profile 2022

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*Thank you for your interest in
St. James' Episcopal Church*

Searching for a New Rector



Who We Are

St. James' Episcopal Church, part of the Diocese of Central New York, is a small parish in a vibrant college community. We have an active congregation, dedicated lay leaders, and a long history in the Village of Clinton.

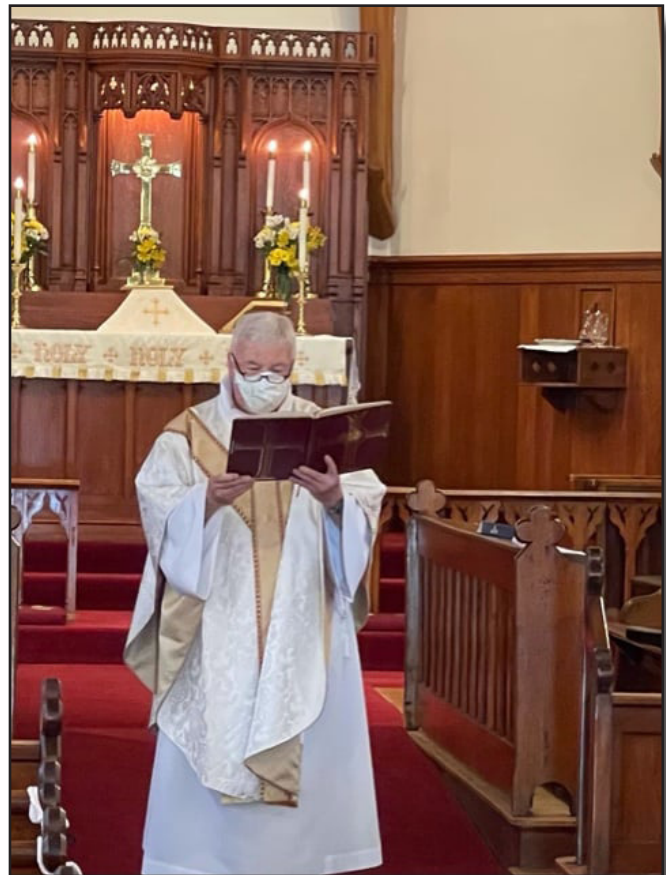
We are searching for a full-time Rector to affirm who we are, to help us discover who we can become, and to work with us to enrich our community and our world.

We seek a person who will care deeply for all in our congregation from the youngest to the oldest, who will work hard to teach us, guide us, and inspire us to a deeper faith, and who will help us discern where and how we might do good in the world around us now and in the future.

Specifically, we seek a rector who:

(this list was compiled by the search committee)

- Offers spiritual leadership: someone who models personal spirituality and fosters spirituality in others and who writes and delivers a thoughtful sermon.
- Sees her/himself as a teacher: someone who is comfortable working with children, who is excited and energetic about reviving children's and youth ministry, and who organizes adult education that promotes spiritual growth.
- Is a communicator and a good listener: someone who engages all people with respect and who manages conflict in ways that lead to healthy resolution.
- Shares her/his vision and new ideas with the congregation: someone who is a collaborator and who encourages lay leadership and participation.
- Considers ways to grow the parish: someone who will connect and collaborate with the local community.
- Is authentic, transparent and trustworthy in all relationships.
- has administrative skills: someone who is organized and who has the necessary understanding of church financials.



Fr. John Crosswaite reads the Gospel

History

Early: Episcopalians began meeting in Clinton as early as 1832, and St. James' parish was formally organized in 1863. The present church on Williams Street was built in 1865, and the rectory was completed two years later. Over its long history, there have been twenty rectors, six of whom served the parish for more than 10 years.

Recent: St. James' has had 3 full-time rectors in the past 20 years, with 2 interim periods and a part-time parish priest for the past 2 years. The first of these three full-time rectors, who left us to move closer to her children and grandchildren, was a wonderful spiritual leader and left us with a healthy and vibrant laity. We had some difficult experiences with our past two full-time rectors. Both left at the encouragement of the diocese. These experiences took their toll on the overall dynamics of the parish. Along the way we lost the presence and participation of many of our young families with children and youth, but we remain hopeful they will return.

We recently had a wonderful part-time parish priest who helped us with the healing process and guided us through the worst of the COVID pandemic challenges. In 2021, the Vestry and parishioners joined together in "Holy Conversations," to reflect on what makes St. James' special, to identify concerns needing to be addressed, and to consider where God is calling St. James' to be in the future. These conversations were an honest and open dialogue to strengthen our community.

We enjoyed sharing the qualities of St. James' that bring us joy including fellowship, spiritual understanding and growth, a sense of heritage (history), music as a spiritual meditation, support in adversity, being a caring community, and supporting meaningful outreach.

We recognize there is still work to be done, especially in the areas of better communication, transparency, and spiritual growth. The Vestry continues to discern ways to address these concerns.

Future: We hope this Parish Profile piques your interest for the challenge to help us rejuvenate our parish, which has a strong core of dedicated members and great potential. As we begin our next chapter, we feel we are now in a good place and are ready and eager to welcome a new rector.





Ministries

Worship

Currently our weekend services are scheduled on Saturday late afternoon and Sunday morning. Most often, we follow The Holy Eucharist: Rite II in the Book of Common Prayer but can also include Morning and Evening Prayer led by lay worship leaders, when needed. We have a ministry of lay Eucharistic Visitors who faithfully take communion to parishioners who cannot attend in person and are hoping to resume this ministry once COVID is no longer an issue. Special services in the past have included Advent Vespers Services, healing services, weekday evening Eucharistic services, and ecumenical services shared with other parishes in the Clinton area.

With exceptional help from a number of tech-savvy parishioners, we were able to continue with Zoom services during the COVID pandemic and now with hybrid services. When we were unable to meet for services in person, our Minister of Music at the time performed his own compositions for each Prelude and Postlude and orchestrated all the voice recordings into an enjoyable virtual choir.

Music

In the Episcopal tradition, music has been an intrinsic part of the worship experience. It lifts our hearts and souls to God. We have been extremely fortunate over the past decades to have talented and dedicated Ministers of Music who have been both organists and choir directors. Our current Minister of Music will soon be retiring after 30 years at St. James'. During his tenure he has helped our choir grow and keep singing during rector transitions. An accomplished composer, he has written original anthems for St. James' and has also arranged hymns, psalms, and other music specifically for our choir.

We will begin the search process for a new organist and choir director in the near future and are optimistic and hopeful the search will bring us someone equally talented and dynamic and who will enjoy collaborating with our new rector.

St. James' has a well-maintained 40-rank pipe organ and a piano keyboard to accompany hymns and anthems and for organ preludes and postludes. Our devoted choir has sung a variety of music ranging from 16th and 17th century to contemporary pieces either a cappella or accompanied by the organ or piano. Youth and children's choirs have also been active in the past, and we are hoping to revitalize that effort.



View from St. James, up Williams Street



Altar Guild

Our Altar guild members prepare the altar for Eucharist for our twice a week services (late Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning), change the hangings according to the Episcopal church calendar, care for the hangings and vestments, and assist in decorating the church for special services (Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter Vigil, wedding, baptismal, and memorial services).

As our in-person/hybrid Eucharist services have resumed, altar guild members have now returned to regular altar guild duties.

Some parish members have a deep history with the altar guild and the guild also welcomes new members. A recent member recalls her mother's decades-long service on Altar guild and remarks how a pair of patens were gifted in memory of both her parents.



Formation

For Children and Youth

Sunday School

In the recent past, the Sunday School was a one room classroom attended by up to 8 students and staffed by 4-5 faithful volunteers on a rotation basis. Students were dropped off to the Sunday School room before the service and joined their families in church during The Peace. Lessons were lectionary-based with an opening prayer, a story, and a related craft. In the parish hall we have also hosted seasonal family fellowship evenings with a shared meal, a story relating to the church season, and a fun craft for the families. On our last in-person evening in March 2020, we read the book *Brother Giovanni's Reward: How the Pretzel was Born* by Anna Egan Smucker, shared chicken noodle soup, and made and baked prayer pretzels for Lent. Pre-COVID we had an annual intergenerational Christmas Pageant that was great fun for all.

Presently, each family is receiving a weekly email with web links and attachments that they can access. These generally include the weekly lectionary readings from the International Children's Bible, a video of the Gospel reading, a Children's Worship Bulletin, a coloring page, and a simple craft activity to do with the family. For the Advent-Christmas season, goody bags were distributed to 11 families with children, ages 4-18. Inside were a variety of seasonal items including an Advent calendar, Advent wreath and candles, Christmas decorations crafts, Nativity stickers, and activities and coloring pages for each season. As soon as possible, when it is safe and comfortable for all, we hope to gather in person again and reinvigorate our children's programming.

Youth Activities

In the past, we had an active **youth group** who met for fellowship and Outreach activities. For fun and fellowship, there was an outing to the local Corn Maze in the fall and snow tubing in the winter. For Outreach, the youth were instrumental in helping staff the parish's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Also, they sponsored "Souper" Bowl Sunday, a canned goods collection for the local food pantry that took place on Super Bowl Sunday. They later brought the collected donations to the food pantry and helped stock the shelves. Every few years, youth had the opportunity to participate in the Nightwatch Program at St. John the Divine in New York City. Youth were also active as **Acolytes**, both as Crucifer, assisting at the altar, and preparing for confirmation. We appreciate and recognize the importance of these youth ministries at St. James' and are eager to see them reestablished and reinvigorated.



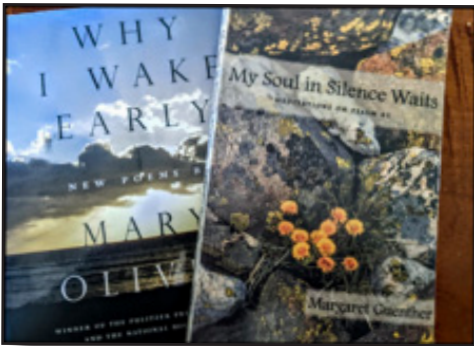
National Day of Prayer 2020

For Adults

Book Discussions

Book Studies led by our recent priest, Fr. John Crosswaite, were well attended via Zoom:

Lent 2021 *My Soul in Silence Waits*, by Margaret Guenther.



Summer Book Study, June/July 2021 *On the Brink of Everything*, essays and poems by Parker Palmer.

Advent Scriptures and poetry. Questions to ponder throughout Advent. Poems by Mary Oliver and others.

Lay Leadership-led Discussions

During the past several years, we had two lay leadership guided group programs related to systematic racism,

Sacred Ground and *An American Lament*. *Sacred Ground* is an 11- part documentary film and readings dialogue series on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories, part of the Becoming Beloved Community program from the national Episcopal Church. *An American Lament* via the Repentance Project, is described as “a journey through America’s history of slavery, segregation, and racism”, a 7-week devotional program of prayer, scripture, and reflection, linked through the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York.

Women’s Spirituality Group

Our group meets Monday evenings at 7:00 pm for fellowship and friendly discussion. Spiritual development and lively discussion are the hope of the group, with the additional benefit of forming bonds in fellowship. Anyone with the time and interest is welcome to join. Previously, we were meeting in the church library, but have made a smooth transition to weekly meetings on Zoom. Participants bring book suggestions to the group, and we determine what book will be the next selection. Often the book is something on a timely topic or something new in the spiritual book aisle, but sometimes we will read a book that is referenced in one of the books or that others may have recommended. In Spring 2022, we began discussing *The Book of Joy* (Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama)

Men’s Spirituality Discussion Group

Our group is one aspect of adult formation which has endured for many years. Open to all men who have an interest in discussion and fellowship, this group of 5-8 current and former church members met weekly in person during pre-pandemic years. Various books on spirituality, books of the Bible, and books on other religious questions have been read, studied, and discussed. There continues to be a core group of attendees who keep this group active and sharing spiritual and formative conversations.

Fellowship

COVID restrictions shut down a rich array of fellowship activities at St. James'. These included a busy coffee hour following the Sunday service and sometimes wine and cheese following the Saturday service, our annual Epiphany Party, our pancake dinner on Shrove Tuesday, occasional pot-luck suppers, Foyer's dinners, Christmas caroling and youth programs. We have been able to resume lemonade-on-the-lawn on Sunday mornings, weather permitting, and when COVID subsides, we will return to more of these events.



Outreach

St. James' has a tradition of strong commitment to a vigorous outreach ministry, and we seek a rector who will join us in our outreach efforts. The Outreach Committee encourages parish support for local and international programs. With a generous endowment, we strive to focus on providing hands-on and financial support.

Local Outreach

Although the pandemic has impacted our Outreach activities to some extent, parishioners have found financial and other ways to participate in many worthwhile activities and events to help in our community.

We continue to provide both hands-on and financial support to **The Country Pantry**, our local food bank. For several years, many parishioners have helped pack and distribute food to those in need, delivering to the homebound and assisting in distribution to the general public. Currently, the Pantry serves about 750 families at its distribution each month.



Preparing food for Your Neighbors, Inc.

In addition, we have cooked meals for **Your Neighbors, Inc.** which serves the elderly, and cooked and served meals for **Hope House**, an inner-city kitchen that serves meals to the homeless and others in need. On a weekly basis, many of us have helped deliver surplus food from local supermarkets to Hope House. We have our annual Christmas “giving tree,” which over the years has been used to collect parishioners’ donations of new towels, blankets, gloves, hats and mittens, toiletries, and children’s toys for those in need.

Our parishioners have been actively involved with Clinton’s **A Better Chance (ABC) Program**. The ABC program helps inner city youth of color live in Clinton in a residential setting, attend Clinton High School, and take advantage of opportunities they would not otherwise have to prepare for college.

Each year during Lent, the Outreach committee suggests a charity to be the focus of our parish’s Lenten giving and matches funds donated by parishioners. In 2022, the focus of our Lenten giving was **The Center** (formerly the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees). We contributed over \$4600 to The Center to help it welcome and assist refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan.

We also encourage **community groups** to use our parish hall. Alcoholics Anonymous, Clinton Garden Club, a painting group, the Fiber Arts Guild, and many other groups benefit from this outreach. Groups of Hamilton College students have stayed in the parish hall during their first-year orientation, as they in turn provided community service to the village.

Recently, we have been exploring opportunities to volunteer with **Rebuilding the Village**, an organization in Utica devoted to combatting generational poverty and violence, and the racial, economic, educational, criminal justice, and health disparities that exist in the Black and Brown communities there.

At the onset of the pandemic, we supported the **Girl Scouts**, who were struggling to maintain their sales that year, by purchasing 500 boxes of Girl Scout cookies. In turn, we distributed the cookies to local front line, essential workers to thank them for their service.

International Outreach

Our international outreach efforts are many. For years, we have supported **St. Paul’s Church and St. Paul’s Parish School in Haiti** through our ongoing relationship with the parish priest, Père Fred. Our ministry with Père Fred has allowed us to make a personal connection with our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Parishioners have traveled to Haiti, and Père Fred has visited St. James’. One of our parishioners continues to maintain close contact with Père Fred and serves as our liaison with him and his church in Haiti. St. James’ parishioners have contributed funds to provide lunches to school



St. Paul's Parish School, Beaudin Jean Pierre, Haiti

children, to help pay teachers' salaries, and to help build a school and rebuild Père Fred's church in the rural part of the country.

For the past few years, in addition to providing financial support, several parishioners have gathered with other community volunteers in the local school gym to help pack meals for **Rise Against Hunger**, an international hunger relief organization that provides packaged meals for those in need

due to natural disasters, political unrest, and other crises. This past year, we helped pack 30,000 meals that went to the people in Haiti.

St. James' Day School

A significant form of our outreach is the St. James' Day School, a pre-school program that meets in the lower level of the church. Although St. James' sponsors the school and offers tuition scholarships, it is independently administered and does not include religious education. The Day School welcomes children of all faiths.

The objective of the school is to provide an enriching environment where children can develop at their own pace and reach their highest potential. Through play and guided activities children learn how to become independent, interact and cooperate with their peers, listen and follow directions, and be respectful to self, others, and property.



Church Administration

Finances

St. James' is blessed with a generous congregation and a healthy endowment gifted to us by prior generations. One portion of the endowment is designated solely for Outreach purposes, while we draw a Vestry-designated percentage on the other portion to support our operating budget. The treasurer reports the finances monthly to the Vestry. Our Finance Committee, of which the treasurer is a member, assists with annual budgeting, oversees the endowment manager of our investments, and makes recommendations to the Vestry regarding any financial issues.

Staff

In addition to the Rector, St James' employs three others. The Minister of Music serves as organist and directs the adult choir. When the youth and children's choirs resume, he assists with these groups. The part-time Office Administrator serves as secretary to the Vestry, manages communications (weekly newsletter, email messages, mail, telephone, etc.), produces service bulletins and works with the Rector and Wardens on administrative matters. The part-time Sexton is responsible for cleaning and maintenance of buildings and grounds.

Facilities

The St. James' facilities are comprised of the Carpenter Gothic church, large parish hall, and an attached rectory. The main level of the parish hall, used for fellowship gatherings and meetings, includes the Rector's office, administrative and volunteer offices, a library

with a large conference table, the All-Saints Room for small meetings and meditation, a spacious, well-equipped kitchen, and the nursery. St. James' Day School is housed on the lower level of the parish hall.

The rectory, built in 1867, has a living room, dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, screened-in porch, bonus room that could be used as a study, and a garage. The Vestry is currently investing in some rectory renovations, including new windows and interior painting. Additional renovations are under consideration.



Rectory

Clinton, Central New York, and the Mohawk Valley



St James' is located in Clinton, a village of about 1850 residents, centrally located in New York State. It is about nine miles south of Utica, forty miles east of Syracuse, and ninety miles west of Albany. Clinton is part of the Town of Kirkland, which has 10,075 people.

Our Community

Clinton is a picturesque and historic community. It was settled in the late 1700s and follows the design of an early New England village. It is centered around a lovely green with a fountain and gazebo. There is a strong community spirit, a good quality of life, and many organizations and activities which enable this relatively small village to 'punch above its weight' in civic engagement and cultural and recreational offerings.

Clinton is home to **Hamilton College**, one of the oldest, most selective liberal arts colleges in the country. Since its founding in 1812, the college has had a strong and positive influence on village life. The college supports community development projects through its "town/gown" fund, and residents are always welcome at sporting events, the Wellin Museum of Art, musical performances, and lectures. **The Kirkland Art Center**, on the

village green, offers dance and art classes, gallery exhibitions, a coffee house with live folk music, and other events. **The Kirkland Town Library** hosts regular lectures, film series, and other programming for children, youth, and adults. **The Clinton Historical Society** houses a trove of artifacts from the rich history of Clinton and its surrounding communities and holds regular lectures. **The Clinton Arena** is home to the high school hockey team, youth hockey programs and the Clinton Figure Skating Club. Skating lessons are offered for all ages

Local churches include Methodist, Presbyterian, Society of Friends, Assemblies of God, and Roman Catholic. There is an active Jewish community. There is also a diverse and active chaplaincy at Hamilton College. **The Clinton Area Ministerium** is comprised of local clergy and meets regularly to organize ecumenical services and outreach events.

Clinton Central School District has a village campus (elementary, middle, and high schools) within a 5-minute walk of the church. It also houses the Performing Arts Center, which is capable of staging high school musicals, symphony orchestra concerts, and ballets. With over 1250 students enrolled, the school district has a reputation for excellence in academic, artistic, musical, dramatic, and athletic programs. A parish family who recently moved to Clinton has commented on how welcoming the school community has been to their three children.

The Surrounding Area

Clinton is in the southern part of Oneida County, a mostly rural region that is characterized by rolling hills, forests, and farmland. In recent years many farms have been purchased and occupied by Amish families, so it is not uncommon to pass horse drawn buggies when driving on local country roads.

The Adirondack Mountains are within an hour's drive to the north and provide hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, camping, and boating opportunities. **The Adirondack State Park** is the largest state park in the United States.

Utica is our nearest city. It is home to the **Munson-Williams Proctor Art Institute**, one of the leading small art museums in the country. Nearby educational institutions include **Utica University**, **Mohawk Valley Community College**, and the **State University of New York Polytechnic Institute**. **The Stanley Theater**, an ornate, nationally renowned theater, offers live productions by well-known performers and theatrical



touring companies. Each summer Utica hosts the nation's top **15K race**, "**The Boilermaker**," with up to 14,500 runners participating from across the country and around the world. The new Wynn Hospital is under construction in downtown Utica, and is scheduled to open in October 2023. It will consolidate three local hospitals into one facility.

Utica is a crossroads and a **true melting pot of many ethnic groups and cultures**. **These influences** are found in the multiple churches, restaurants, markets, and festivals. In recent decades Utica has been a significant destination for U.S. government **refugee resettlement**, and The Center has made great strides in welcoming immigrants to further this diversity. The city has an impressive and well-maintained architectural heritage, including **Olmsted landscapes**, and major revitalization projects are underway in the downtown area.



How to Apply

After reviewing our profile, we hope you are interested in this opportunity,

To apply please contact:

The Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent

Canon for Transitions and Church Development, Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

P.O. Box 3520, Syracuse, NY 13220

carriesb@cnyepiscopal.org

direct phone line: 315/352-5322

For more information: www.stjamesclinton.org

Preference will be given to applications received before October 30, 2022