

The St. James Connector

NOVEMBER 2008

St. James United Church of Christ
76 Main Street, Hamburg, NY 14075
716-649-6171

Robert Matlack, Pastor
Music

Alva Looze, Associate Pastor

St James e-mail: stjamesucc@choiceonemail.com, Website - www.saintjamesucc.com

Edited by Charlotte Lujan

Christina Schrewsbury, Director of

Karen Reinagel, CE Director

November 2nd

The weekend of November 2nd is our Commitment Sunday (and Saturday weekend). Please return your pledge cards to church before – or ON November 2nd. Thanks

Harvest Home Sunday – November 23rd

At Thanksgiving time one of the natural things to do is to give in gratitude to help those who are less fortunate than we are. Sunday November 23rd is a wonderful opportunity. On Harvest Home Sunday we encourage people to bring donations of food, or monetary donations that can be used by area food pantries to buy food through the Buffalo Food Bank.

Thanksgiving Eve

Thanksgiving was at its heart a religious festival, as the pilgrims gave thanks to God that they had enough! Please join us at church on our Thanksgiving Eve, Tuesday - November 25th. We'll have a brief 20-30 minute service of worship at 7 p.m. as we give

thanks together.

GIFT Thanksgiving Dinner GIFT – Growing in Faith Together.

Six churches that have been meeting and sharing together in a variety of ways as we support one another on our journeys as Christians. St. James (Hamburg), St. John's (Strykersville), First Congregational (Angola), St. Paul's (Alden), Amherst Community Church, and First Congregational (Niagara Falls).

The Thanksgiving meal has become an annual tradition – and a wonderful one. Please plan on joining us. The meal is free. Just sign up on the bulletin board so we know about how many people to expect. It's a wonderful gathering – with great food (a full turkey dinner), great company (from 6 different churches), and great worship!

We eat at 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 8th. Worship is at 6:30, and afterwards we go back to the Assembly Hall for coffee and dessert. Please join us!!!

Christian Education Advent Items

On the first Sunday in Advent November 30th during the children's sermon the children will receive a special advent gift. They will also hear about the special "No TAG Left Behind" policy for this years Angel/Mitten Tree (more information in Angel/Mitten Tree Article).

There will also be a basket of advent items on display located near the bulletin board. Please help yourself to any items you might like during the advent season.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

January 24, 2009

It may seem a long way off but it'll be here before you know it. Those of you who enjoyed this event last year will want to sign up and be on the committee to plan the meal and shop. It's a great way to fellowship with other St. Jamers and beat the winter blues. Stay tuned for more planning.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join us in the Lounge at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings to discuss God's word and how it applies to living a faithful life. Come whenever you're able. No need to be a Bible scholar - just have a desire to know God more deeply.

Heidi & Mark Walling, Facilitators

SERVERS

The Servers will meet in the Horton Lounge Tuesday, November 25 at 1:00 p.m. The Servers Christmas Party is planned for December 9th.

SEWING MISSION

Sewing Mission will meet Tuesday November 11th at 9:30 a.m. in the Assembly Hall. Bring your lunch and join us for our morning work session. Sewing skills are not needed at this meeting. We will be choosing our entree and collecting \$16.00 for our joint Christmas luncheon with the Servers. The luncheon will be held at Fox Run on Tuesday, December 9th so please save this date.

November 1st, the ladies will be cleaning the kitchen, please bring your cleaning supplies to get the kitchen spruced up for the holidays.

CAPITAL FUND PROJECT UPDATE

We continue to accomplish important projects around our building, thanks to the generosity of members who have contributed and are still contributing to our Capital Fund Campaign.

The latest project was accomplished through the efforts of three of our members, Don Pfister, Mike Zoerb and Horst Kirsten. Together they have installed new energy efficient windows in our Church Office, the Resource Room and our Christian Ed Building. Don, Mike and Horst made it possible to have these new windows for the cost of the windows and other needed installation materials. Thanks to each of them for making this possible.

If you wish to contribute to our Capital Fund Campaign, it's not too late. Contributions can be put in the offering plate any weenend. Just mark them Capital Fund!!

Grill Needed

Periodically at church we grill hamburgers or hotdogs on various occasions. We have a couple of old grills kept behind the Youth House, but they aren't in the best of condition. If you have a grill in good condition that you would like to donate, please call the church office.

Soup Labels

To remove the "Soup Labels", fill the jar with hot water and then soak them in hot water and the labels will come off. Please return the rings and lids when returning the jars. We are in need of rings and lids for large mouth jars.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Come be a part of our choirs for the holidays! We invite anyone to come and participate with the choirs of St. James for the Advent Christmas season. The Chancel Choir warms up at 9:15 on the Sundays they sing, so please join in.

November rehearsal schedule:

Nov. 2, 9, 16 9:15 warm-up in music room

Nov. 2, 9, 16 11 a.m. chancel choir rehearsal

Youth Choirs will meet:

November 5, 12, 19

Cherubs 7 p.m.

Youth/Teens 7:30 p.m.

No rehearsal November 26th. Cherubs and Youth choirs sing on Sunday, November 23rd.

Our first singing party was a great success and we were able to cover many different songs. When we sing together everyone has fun, and the next Sunday the cherubs and youth can feel prepared to sing in church. Come and join in the fun and come to rehearsals Wednesday evenings. We need your voice!!

Christina Shrewsbury, Director

**Paula Pfister Pie Auction -
Sunday, November 23rd**

Twice a year a pie/dessert auction is held to raise funds for the Paula Pfister Christian Education Scholarship fund. This fund was established to honor the memory of Paula Pfister who served as CE Director at St. James for several years. Students who serve faithfully in our CE program for their high school years are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Paula was a wonderful person who worked hard for our children and congregation. Please honor her memory by participating in this event.

If you would like to help please sign-up to bring a pie in a non-returnable pie plate. Just sign-up, bring in the pie or pies the day of the auction, fill out an admittance form the day of the event which is held in the assembly hall, stay and bid on other pies, or watch as your donation raises money for this worthwhile event. Other types of desserts are welcome as well as pies.

SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER

A number of our church families are self-employed and we urge everyone to support them in their work. There are many who don't mind taking a small job. Please help us make this list comprehensive by calling the church office to add your name.

One member is:

Carol Lee Rubeck, Associate Broker
Hunt Real Estate
Phone: 743-5163 or check her website at www.RubeckResults.com

**Western New York Churches
In Covenant Fall Meeting**

The meeting is November 2nd at St. Stevens-Bethlehem, 750 Wehrle Drive, Buffalo, NY.

**GETTING TO KNOW OUR
MEMBERS**

Since 1988, Horst and Billie Kirsten have been familiar faces to the St. James congregation.

They met when they were both employed at Albany International. Horst worked there as a machinist for 47 years and Billie did set up work on those machines.

Horst served in the Army Infantry in World War II. He landed on Normandy a week after D-Day, and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. These days, he does battle with St. James' maintenance issues. His recent projects include refurbishing the church's front doors on Main Street, and building shelving at Tender Loving Day Care. His compensation? Pictures from the TLC kids. "I enjoy doing things for people," he says. This also includes taking friends to medical appointments, and cutting grass for his neighbors.

When asked what they appreciate about St. James, Billie and Horst mention our pastors, Bob and Alva, and "the friendliness of the people."

ADVENT WORKSHOP

December 7th after church, please join us for our annual Advent Workshop. Our Youth are making subs in honor of Pearl Harbor Day. Please sign up for the workshop and luncheon on the bulletin board.

We are trying something different this year. We will again make bags so that our youth can put their crafts in a bag after completion. We will have small tables set up so they can sit down to work on the crafts.

Our mission project will be making Christmas cards for our shut ins.

**DECORATE FOR THE
HOLIDAYS**

Saturday, November 29th at 10 a.m. helping hands are needed along with the cabinet to decorate our church. It's a fun time to get together and get into the Holiday spirit.

PARISH NURSING

Hospice month is observed each November. For almost 30 years we in WNY have been blessed by its caring, competent help for patients and families at the end of life. It has touched many lived within our congregation.

FOOD PANTRY

Nov 2: Dry Milk
Nov 9: Cake & Muffin Mixes
Nov 16: Canned Vegetables
Nov 23: Instant Potatoes
Nov 30: Noodles & Macaroni

**CHARACTER COUNCIL
OF HAMBURG**

Gratefulness is letting others know by my words and action how they have benefitted my life.

- Count your benefits
- Simplify expectations
- Identify your benefactors
- Make time to thank
- Express your thanks

THANK YOU!!!!

Our **volunteer** team works, Horst Kirsten and Don Pfister work together not only doing repairs for the church but also for TLC. We thank them and our Property Committee for all their hard work.

Just a note to our ladies, please feel free to join the Property Committee on Saturday mornings to help with some dusting and sprucing up. Last month we dusted and cleaned the Lounge.

REGISTRY

Baptism:

Ethan William Coyle
Born: 10/9/2007
Baptized: 10/12/1008
Parents: Kevin and Jill Coyle

Weddings:

Jillian McKee and Jason Davis
Married 9/22/2008

Dana Marzullo and David DiSanto
Married 9/27/2008

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

Family Night

**Wednesday, November 12th
from 6:30pm - 8:30pm .**

Please remember to sign-up if you are planning on attending. When you sign-up please indicate if you can stay and help clean up following the event. Also, please indicate if you are can bring a dessert. If you have a special activity you would like to lead to entertain the children be sure to let Karen know. She is always looking for suggestions and help. Remember sign-up, help if you can, and please remember to attend. This night is for you and you can make it what you want! Talk to Karen if you have questions or idea's.

Heifer Fair

We began the Fall Church School Program by having a Heifer Fair on Sunday, September 28th following worship in the Assembly Hall. The Church School children raised \$348.00 and legacy funds are doubling that amount making it \$696.00 which will be sent to Heifer International. This is an annual event that the Church School presents. GREAT JOB KIDS!!!! Thank you to everyone who supported this great event and cause.

Crop Walk

On Sunday, October 5th the children of our church school program held their own CROP Walk during church school to help raise awareness surrounding HUNGER! They raised \$120.00 and legacy funds are doubling that amount making the total \$240.00. This is the church Schools 2nd annual CROP Walk. Thank you for supporting the children's efforts. A special thank you to Margaret Stuhr and all the Church School Staff who ran this event and Linda Meyer for overseeing the Youth House Rest Stop for the Community CROP Walk, and to Rita Los and Donna Schumacher for setting-up the Youth House Rest Stop.

Mark Your Calendars

**Youth Pancake Breakfast -
Sunday, Nov. 9th.**

All Middle and Senior High Youth are asked to help with this event. We will also hold a Youth Group Meeting at some point during the morning.

Sr. High Youth Class

Sunday, November 23rd - Bag the donations from Harvest Home Sunday.

Youth Board

Tuesday, November 25th - 6:15pm

Special Youth Thanks

We would like to thank Dave Bimber for all his great lawn mowing and Peter Reinagel for trimming the shrubs along the side of the Youth House.

please speak to Karen.

4th Grade Bible Study

Our 4th Grade class will participate in Bible Study on Sunday, November 23rd and Sunday, November 30th. A copy of The Good News Bible will be presented to each 4th graders on Sunday, December 7th during worship. The children will be studying with Pastor Alva in preparation to receive their Bibles. This is a special time in the life of the children; they are now old enough to be able to read and have a better understanding of what has been written about within the covers of this special book. If you have a child in 4th grade and have not received a letter before the classes start please speak to Karen or Pastor Alva.

If you have a child in fourth grade be on the look out for a letter explaining the details of the Bible study and the presentation. If you have any question please feel free to speak to Karen Reinagel.

Youth Fund Raising

Don't forget our fund-raising projects:

- ▶ Abitibi Paper Recycling;
- Can & Bottle Drive;
- St.Pauly's Textile Drive, and
- our Candy Bar Sale

We will also be selling "***Enjoy The City Coupon Books***" during November and early December. Books are \$20.00 each. Please speak to a youth or Karen or Donna if your interested in purchasing a book.

Thank you to all those folks who continue to support our Youth Program!

Angel/Mitten Tree

The Board of Christian Education has decided to center this Advent Season around the theme "Giving" and, with that in mind, the Board is pledging to make sure every tag on the Angel Tree has a gift to be sent back to the Salvation Army - The "**No Tag Left Behind**" policy. The money donated in the children's offering envelopes will help to defray the cost of purchasing the gifts we need in order to fulfill the goal of "No Tag Left Behind". You are also invited to make monetary donations to help defray the cost of purchasing gifts to fill the tag requests during the advent season. Please help make this Christmas special for someone in need.

The Angel/Mitten Tree is a tradition at St. James for as long as I can remember. The tree is used to place warm hats, mittens, gloves, & scarves on the branches and then given to needy children. The tags on the tree are to be taken so you can purchase a gift for the child whose name appears on the tag you've chosen. You can either purchase the suggested items or choose one that you would like to give. If you keep your receipt it can be attached to the top part of the tag for tax purposes.

The gift tags have arrived so let the giving begin. **Remember do not gift wrap your gift!!!!** Please just return it and place it under the tree in the sanctuary or the lounge with the original tag attached to the item/s. The Salvation Army needs to be able to see all the gifts, if you wrap them they have to unwrap them to check each gift. The deadline to bring in gifts, hats, mittens, etc. is Sunday December 14^h. If you have any questions

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 21st is the date to circle on your calendar for this year's Christmas Pageant. It is always a special morning and service when the children of our congregation tell the story of the birth of the Christ Child. The service begins at 10:00am and the pageant will be presented in place of the children's sermon. Fittings for costumes will be taking place in November and finishing on December 7th. Please be sure to fill out a pageant permission forms and return it to the box at the CE Bulletin Board display or the CE Office..

The dress rehearsal for the pageant is scheduled for Saturday, December 20th from 10:00am - Noon and will be followed by a holiday pizza party. If you would like to help with the pageant, rehearsal or party, please speak to Karen. Permission slips are available on the table by the CE bulletin bd. display. We always have room for all the children that would like to be included in the cast. Participation in the pageant is usually for four years old and up. If a parent feels that their three-year old is ready to be in the pageant, please speak to Karen to make arrangements. The youngest children are usually the stars. If you have any questions please feel free to call the Christian Education Office and speak to Karen.

**Operation Christmas Child -
The Power of a Simple Gift**

Samaritan's Purse Project sponsored by the Board of Christian Education is being held *November 17th - 23rd*. Operation Christmas Child bring joys and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Here is a way you can make a difference in the lives of those children:

Step 1 Shoe Box - Please pick up an empty shoe box (standard size) or a small plastic container. You can wrap the box, (lid separately), but wrapping is not required. Most important pray for the child who will receive your gift.

Step 2 Boy or Girl? Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. Use the appropriate boy/girl label provided with the shoe box. Mark the correct age category on the label, and tape the label to the top of your box.

Step 3 Fill With gifts - Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child. Gift Suggestions: School Supplies - pens, pencils, and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps, and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.; Toys - small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yo's, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.; Hygiene Items - toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.; Other hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball, caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries); A Personal Note - In a separate envelope, you may enclose

a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child might write back). DO NOT INCLUDE used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out of date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Step 4 Include Your Donation Please donate \$7 or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover the shipping and other project costs. You can use the donation envelope included in the shoe box. If you or your family are preparing more than one shoe box, please make one combined donation.

Step 5 Drop Off - Place a rubber band around each closed shoe box and drop off at the collection center near the lounge of church office by *November 23rd*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Calendar of Events

2008 - 2009

If you are a member of our Youth program you should have received a mailing of our yearly events calendar list for 2008 - 2009. If you did not receive one please let Karen know and she will have one sent to you or you can pick up a copy in the bin outside the CE Office or in the bin on the Youth Bulletin Board.

Youth Sponsored Sabres Game

Saturday, November 22nd

Buffalo Sabres vs. The Islanders

We have 50 tickets which cost \$60.00 each. They are available on a first come first serve basis. The \$60.00 includes the cost of your ticket and a Pre-Game Pep Rally starting @ St. James @ 3:53pm. We will car pool to the game following the Pep-Rally. Interested speak to Donna or Karen or sign-up on the bulletin board.

Snow Angels Needed

Last year more than 30 youth in the village signed up to be "Snow Angels" and volunteered to provide assistance to village residents who needed assistance during the winter months. Our Snow Angel Program was recognized by the National League of Cities as one of the most successful and creative programs from cities and towns across the country. We are looking for volunteers to sign up once again.

If you are a youth that is interested in participating, please contact Lynn Detzel at 649-6170 or my email at

ldetzel@villagehamburg.com or Bill Nye at bnye@villagehamburg.com)

It is this service spirit that enables the village to work toward its vision of being the most desirable community in Western NY. Where quality of life, affordability and innovation are the norm. Thank you!



St. James
United Church of Christ
76 Main St., Hamburg, 14075



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How Many Gods Do You Have?
They had worshiped other Gods.
Reflection by Donna Schaper
on 2 Kings 17:7-20

Some times it is scary how much we have in common with the Jews. They just couldn't keep themselves from a healthy portion of idolatry. Neither can most of us.

Consider the cranky faith of the piety police; those who know all and wish the rest of us would catch up. They are always complaining, always whining, always correcting. Such joylessness must not know God. It is idolatry in a sneaky way.

Or consider the worries that crossed your countenance just this very morning. What if the oil runs out? How cold will I have to be in December? What if they murder a presidential candidate? What if I slip and slide in the snow this year? What if, what if, what if, all meaning what if God's promises are not true?

Our false Gods are worry and joylessness. We can do better. Joy is the adoration of God in the great Beethoven hymn's sense: Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee. Grace is the state of being free of worry. We are so convinced of the power of God's forgiveness of all our previous idolatries and those, now systematized, which choke the earth, that we have faith in our future, humanity's future, and today. Joy and grace trump fear

and whining.

Prayer:: O God, relieve the burden from my shoulders and bring me into the house of grace and joy. Amen.