

The St. James Connector

May 2011

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

Robert Matlack, Pastor
Alva Looze, Associate Pastor
Jess Kacalski, NYSOM Student
St. James email: stjamesucc2@verizon.net

Karen Reinagel, Director of Christian Ed
Ciaran Krueger, Director of Music
Patty Jensen, Office Secretary
Website: www.saintjamesucc.com

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is always a very special time. We recall the vows that their parents took at the time they were baptized, and now these two young people stand before us as adult Christians, ready to make their own commitment of faith.

For the last four months Jason Stuhr and Lucas Mumm, and their mentors - Dave Marzullo and Mark Touris - have been meeting regularly, and exploring together what it means to live as a Christian in today's society. We celebrate their commitment and their faith, and hope that you will join us for worship on this very special day as they're received

Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications for the St. James Scholarship Fund are available in the rack outside the office door.

This scholarship is awarded to members of St. James who are continuing their education past high school. Students are eligible for a maximum of four years.

Applications must be filled out and returned to the church office by June 1st in order to be considered.

Benefit Concert

May 15th at 4 p.m.

Come and enjoy music from our choirs, St. Mathews choir, Faith, Boston choir and The New Way U.C.C. church in Buffalo.

This benefit concert is for "The New Way U.C.C. Church" a Hispanic congregation within Pilgrims-St. Luke UCC.

They are a Christ-centered congregation that embraces inclusiveness and compassion without prejudice and/or discrimination. A free will offering will be taken and refreshments will be served afterward.

Blanket Sunday

Blanket Sunday, May 15th, is a special mission opportunity to assist people in need around the world. All contributions provide help to those faced with an emergency. Church World Service creates a rainbow of help and hope through the Blankets Program not only in foreign countries but also in the United States.

Look for the display and please support this program through your prayers and your generous donations.

Congratulations to Abby!

There will be a get together sponsored by the Church and Ministry committee in celebration of Abby Reichard completing her Masters of Divinity at Christian Theological Seminary.

As of June 15, Abby will be starting as Director of Christian Education at McMannen Methodist church in Durham, North Carolina.

So many people over the years have had a part in her spiritual journey. Her parents, Dave and Maryann, would like to express their thanks for your encouragement and support.

You're invited to meet with Abby on **Tuesday, May 3 from 5:00 to 7:00.** Stop by the lounge for refreshments.

Food Pantry

May 1 Pancake mixes/bisquick
May 8 Pasta/pasta dinner mixes
May 15 Canned / Dry soups
May 22 Peanut butter/meat products/canned fish
May 29 Canned juice/juice mixes

CIA
Work Weekend 2011
Friday and Saturday
May 20th and 21st
8:30 to 4:30

This years project will take place at Paradise Opportunities 144 Mills (corner of Mills and Stanislaus; one block East of Fillmore & one block South of Sycamore).

Paradise Opportunities opened in 1993 on Mills Street in the rectory of Transfiguration R.C. Church. Since that time, they have given almost 1000 women, most of who are mothers whose children have been removed from their care when they went to jail for drug-related offenses, a new start in life. Paradise Supportive Living Apartments are provided for women who have successfully completed the structured, family-style program of Paradise House and are ready to assume responsibility for housing keeping and child-care while remaining drug-free.

We will have skilled and unskilled jobs. Painting, siding, cleaning, and yard work. If you have a job you like to do let me know and I will try to find a place where we can use it. Please mark your calendar and invite a friend.

Peace, Russell Rich

WYNCIC Annual Spring Meeting

Sunday, May 1st at Fox Run in Orchard Park is our annual spring meeting and it would be a good time to have lunch, go to the meeting, tour and worship with Fox Run residents. There will be presentations by The United Church Home Society, Fox Run Tours, Plymouth Crossroads, and our Department of Local Ministries.

The cost is \$8.00 and registration beings at 1:00 p.m. with lunch. Please let the office know if you can attend so they can make reservations. The meeting will wrap up by 5 p.m.

Servers

The servers will host their annual Tea on Tuesday, May 24th at 1 p.m. in the Horton Lounge. The guest speaker will be Rosemarie Tew with a presentation of her trip to the Holy Land to include a DVD.

All women of St. James are welcome to attend and bring a friend. A sign up sheet will be posted.

Would you like to join Servers? We were organized in 1915 by Rose Knack and we presently have 22 active members. Dues are \$7.00 per year. Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of the month from 1 - 3 p.m. We hold an annual Fall Soup Sale in October as a fund raiser. We also host and bake for memorial services at St. James. Meeting attendance and participation are at your convenience. If you are interested, contact Joanne Roberts at 648-6382.

Sewing Mission

Our next meeting will be May 10th. We meet downstairs in the Assembly Hall at 9:30 a.m. Bring a sandwich and dessert will be provided. Anyone interested is welcome to join us.

CELEBRATE!!!

Bea Young is 90 years young!!!

To celebrate Bea's birthday, there will be an open house at the Hamburg Legion Hall on Sunday, May 15th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

All are welcome to join Bea and celebrate.

Youth Board Meeting

Our meeting will be Tuesday, May 31st at 6:15 p.m. in the Resource Room. *Please call the church office if you cannot attend the meeting.*

Rummage Sale

This year's Rummage sale was a great success! We raised over \$1500.00.

Thank you to all who helped in every area, from the donations, set up, kitchen, floor work, clean up, and all who baked. The kids and adults who helped were just great! St. James is truly blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers.

Patty Jensen

Narnia Exhibit at The Buffalo Museum of Science

The CE department has arranged to attend a self-guided exhibit of Narnia at the Buffalo Museum of Science on Friday, May 6th. The cost is \$7.00 per person and our reservation time is set for 6 p.m. If you would like to attend please sign up and pay Karen Reinagel your admission fee.

Drivers are needed to help transport those who sign up. Please let Karen know if you are willing to drive and how many people you can take in your vehicle.

We will be leaving St. James at 5 p.m. since the museum recommends we arrive 15 minutes before our time slot. If you have any questions please speak to Karen.

All children attending this event must have Blue Permission Forms on file with the CE department

Christian Ed Meeting Date

The Board of Christian Education Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 3rd at 7p.m. in the Resource Room. Please call if you cannot attend.

Wednesday Family Night

Our final family night until September will take place on May 4th I hope everyone has a safe and healthy summer season. I am looking forward to September with pizza and time together eating, laughing and hanging out.

A special thanks to everyone that helps with this event, whether you bake, set-up, clean-up or attend, we always have a good time.

Peace, Karen Reinagel

Dunkirk Work Weekend

The WAY (Western Area Youth) Work Weekend is scheduled for May 20-21. If you are interested in attending and helping get the camp spruced up for the beginning of the season speak to Karen and she will get more information for you. Cost for this event is \$20.00 for each youth and St. James Youth Fund pays for \$10.00 of the cost, and \$10.00 for Advisors. Forms are available at the Youth Bulletin Board or outside the CE office. Deadline to register is May 14th, which means Karen must have your money & registration by May 9th.

Paula Pfister CE Scholarships

Graduating High School Seniors, who have served in the Christian Education program at St. James during their high school years, including their senior year, are eligible to apply for the Paula Pfister Christian Education Scholarship. Applications have been mailed out to those who qualify and must be completed and submitted for approval **by June 1st**. The Board of Christian Education will meet on Tuesday, June 7th to review scholarship applications so make sure you get your application in before we meet.

Dunkirk Conference Center - Summer Camping - Theme for 2011 "Got Spirit"

It's not too late to register for camp at Dunkirk Conference Center. You will have to pay a little more but it is worth it! You will still be eligible for the St. James Camp Scholarship based on ½ off the Early Bird Rate. Get a registration form at the CE bulletin board area or from the CE office on the 2nd floor, fill it out, hand in your registration form and your \$75.00 deposit (please make check payable to Dunkirk Conference Center) and Karen Reinagel will do the rest.

The Board of Christian Education and the Legacy Committee offer one-half off registration based on the Early Bird Rate. Children entering 1st grade in the fall of 2011 are eligible to register as first time campers. Camps are offered for children and youth through post high, a women's weekend, family camps, an adult music camp. If you have questions, stop in or call the church office. See CE bulletin Board Display for information on camp dates or speak to Karen.

Dunkirk Day/Church Worship and Picnic

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 12th to attend our annual church picnic and worship service at the conference center grounds. The service will begin at 11:00 a.m. with the picnic to follow. Please join us as we complete our church school program and begin our summer schedule. Check next month's newsletter for last minute details and be sure to sign-up on the bulletin to attend. Directions will be available near the church office and near the bulletin board.

C E Staff Appreciation Luncheon and Baccalaureate Sunday

This year we have decided to combine our two events. The date will be Sunday, June 5th following worship downstairs in the Assembly Hall and outside weather permitting.

Place settings are provided for this event and everyone is invited to attend! We have planned a Menu of Grilled Chicken, rolls Salads provided by the Board of Christian Education and anyone else who would care to make a salad to share. Desserts will be provided by the Church Council. Beverages will be provided. If you are a member of the CE staff or a Graduate you are invited to attend this event in your honor. Be sure to set the date aside and attend! Please remember to Sign-up.

This is the day set aside to honor our Christian Education Staff and Graduates. Everyone is welcome to attend this special occasion. Ciaran Krueger our Music director is planning musical entertainment for the luncheon. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and space to indicate what you would like to bring. If you are interested in helping to honor those involved with our CE program or our Graduates please check the would like to help column on the sign-up sheet. We can always use a hand setting-up, cleaning-up, putting the food out, making coffee, drinks or grilling chicken. It's a nice way to get involved and help honor the people who have volunteered their time and talent to nurture our children and help guide them on their lifelong faith journey and our graduates.

Thanks

We appreciate your support in our can and bottle drive, candy bars sales, clothing shed & our newest fundraiser Dimes for Dunkirk.

CROP WALK

The date for our annual spring Crop Walk has been changed to Sunday, May 22nd during class.

Be on the look out for children looking for pledges for CROP! Please support us in this worthwhile event to help fight hunger.

Christian Education Staff Reviews and Help Wanted Season

It is the time of year when the Board of Christian Education is calling our CE staff and asking if they would like to return in the Fall to teach, sub, assist, work in child care, be an office assistant or volunteer for something they might have an interest in. Be on the look out for Board of CE members who are looking for you.....to talk to you and get your valuable input about our CE program at St. James. If you haven't taught before or worked within our CE program this is a good time to consider joining us and helping to work with wonderful families, great children. Interested? Talk to a Board of CE member or Karen Reinagel.

Thank You

A special Thank you to everyone the helped with the; Rummage Sale, Lasertron, Paula Pfister Dessert Auction, Easter Sunday Events such as the Egg Hunt & Enrichment Time.

Peace, Karen Reinagel

REGISTRY

Baptism:

Sophia Violet Lemke

Born: August 24, 2010

Baptized: March 27, 2011

Parents: Jennifer Urban
and James Patchett

Deaths:

Jeanne Draudt

Born: October 15, 1925

Died: April 7, 2011

Service: April 12, 2011

Summer Church School & Childcare

Beginning Sunday, June 19th until Sunday, August 28th we will be holding our Summer Church School Program for children thru Grade 6. We strive to bring a quality program to the children that enter our doors during the summer months. We are inviting church members to help provide the best program we can offer. If you are someone that enjoys spending time with children please consider donating a Sunday or two to our Summer Church School program. Contact Karen Reinagel, Director of Christian Education for more information on ways you can help. Karen can be reached at the office most afternoons at 649-6171 or at home 648-1092 or by emails at karen@saintjamesucc.com or karenreinagel@gmail.com or sign-up on the bulletin board. People are needed to serve as leaders on Sunday mornings, assistants, childcare workers, people to serve refreshments, as well as donate juice, iced tea, lemonade, cookies, and other snacks. It would be nice to have 2 or 3 people for each Sunday morning.

Often during the summer months people seem to take a break from attending church on a regular basis. I don't know why.....we are still here and what better time to take a moment out of your schedule to attend a service and thank the Lord for all the sunshine we are enjoying.

Volunteering to be part of this program is a nice way to get to know the children in our congregation. We have really neat kids and they sure are easy to love. Spending time with them sure can put a smile on your face! Don't worry if you don't have any idea's, Karen will provide all the supplies.

Bison Game & Family Night

Plans are underway to attend a Bison's Game early to mid summer. A date and details are not worked out yet, but please keep your eyes open for more info. In the weekly bulletin. If you are interested in this event please sign up on the bulletin board.

VBS

VBS Plans are underway. This year our Vacation Bible School will be held at St. James from Monday, August 1st - Thursday, August 4th. Our three churches, St. James, St. Matthews and Hamburg Presbyterian are planning a VBS program with a theme called "Helping Hands for Haiti". We are looking for volunteers to help with the planning, to lead or assist in classes on woodworking, music, snack/foods, animals, weaving, etc. We also need volunteers to help with the closing event on Thursday evening from 6 p.m. for dinner until all is cleaned up. If you are interested in volunteering please speak to Karen Reinagel. Registration for VBS is FREE we will be having a free will offering during the event. The next *VBS planning meeting is set for Tuesday, May 10th*, anyone interested in helping please join us in the Resource Room.

Burgerfest Youth Fund- Raising Event, July 16th

Plans are underway for the Youth to host a variety of events during the Burgerfest. We are planning to have larger Theme Baskets, with donations such as gift cards, lottery tickets, bottles of wine, etc. We will also sell some of the same items such as popcorn, birch beer, theme basket raffle, 50/50 split tickets to name a few of the items. Please have all donations turned in by Sunday, July 3rd. Look for more information in June's newsletter.



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



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Organization
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Permit # 121**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Double-Dipped: Excerpt from [Acts 2:37-42](#) "Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.'...So those who welcomed his message were baptized...."

Reflection by Quinn G. Caldwell Associate Minister of Old South Church in Boston, Massachusetts

My parents wanted us to make our own decisions about whether to be baptized. As a young adult, I took the plunge. Years later, my grandmother made a confession. It turns out that she, convinced that my parents were putting her grandchildren's wee souls in danger of perdition by not baptizing us as babies, had baptized each one of us over her kitchen sink a few days after our births.

I was full of chagrin at all the rules that had been broken. One: I was baptized not just in private, away from a congregation, but in secret. Two: It happened without the consent or knowledge of those responsible for me. Three: it was done based on a belief that neither my parents nor I hold. Four: Worst of all, I've been double-dipped.

Looked at this way, it could not have gone more wrong. Looked at another way, though, it really couldn't have been more right: One: My parents thought carefully about their children's baptism, and made a decision that had integrity. Two: My grandmother did what she did for love of grandchildren she believed to be in extremis. Three: Knowing my grandmother, I guarantee you that no font has ever witnessed a baptism sweeter (or crazier) than the ones witnessed by Grandma Stell's kitchen sink. Four: In the fullness of time, having been loved and raised by these people who took baptism so seriously, I came to ask for it on my own, which means that something worked.

So, yeah, I've been baptized all wrong and way too much. But I've learned that God cares way less about rules than I do, and that there can never be too much love poured out on the world.

Prayer: God, pour your love into the world and let it overwhelm us all! Amen.