

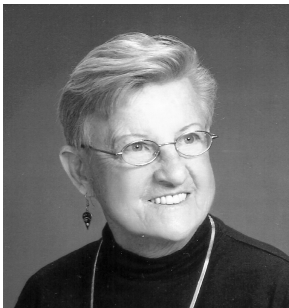
The St. James Connector

January 2012

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
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Ciaran Krueger, Director of Music
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Frances Davies Horton, resident of Bristol Village, Waverly Ohio, died Friday, December 9, 2011. She was 90 years old. She is survived by her brother, George E. Davies of Ashville, NC, her daughters Deborah H. Fenn (Peter) of Aurora, NY and Polly B. Horton (Donay Queenan) of NY, NY.

Born October 5, 1921, Frances grew up in Cranston, RI. She attended Baptist Institute in after high school and continued her religious education at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut. She received her director of religious education (DRE) degree in 1945. That same year, she married Roger P. Horton of New Haven, a Hartford seminarian and ordained clergy in the Congregational Church (United Church of Christ). They were married for 57 years.

Frances followed and worked along side her husband throughout his career, serving churches in Boscawen, NH, Portland, ME, Glenolden, PA and, for over 23 years, Hamburg, NY. In addition to her work in Christian education, Frances was active in a number of community outreach programs. In the Buffalo area, she contributed time and energy to the Council of Churches, Church Women United of Buffalo, the League of Women Voters, to and regional and state committees of the United Church of Christ.

The couple retired from St. James United Church of Christ in Hamburg in 1983 and moved to Bristol Village, a retirement community in Waverly, OH. They traveled extensively and enjoyed a life of service and activity. Frances volunteered in village and community outreach programs, was an active member of Orchard Hill United Church of Christ in nearby Chillicothe, swam or bowled daily, learned to weave, and worked to improve her golf game. Most of all, she enjoyed the company of many steadfast friends and neighbors, near and far.

A memorial service for Frances Horton will be held at Orchard Hill United Church of Christ, 105 Courtland Drive in Chillicothe, Ohio at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 27. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Heifer International or the Bristol Village Foundation.

CONFIRMATION:

Our 2012 Confirmation Class will begin with a meeting for all confirmands, mentors and the parents of our confirmands on Sunday, January 22, 2012 immediately following Sunday School.

Once again, each confirmand will have a mentor who will meet with their confirmand on a weekly basis to talk about issues of faith. Ninth graders and other interested students should contact either Pastor Looze or Rev. Matlack to let them know that they would like to be part of this year's class.

Upcoming Family Night

Come join us Wednesday., January 4th at 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Remember to check the bulletin board for a sign-up sheet and other information.

**Come One - Come All!!!
Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of our Congregation will be held on Sunday, February 12th following worship. Please join us and be a part of this important gathering! We anticipate that the Annual Reports will be ready the Sunday before the meeting to be picked up by members of the congregation.

Server's

The Server's Fellowship Group meets every 4th Tuesday in the Horton Lounge or at a local restaurant. All women of St. James are welcome to join us. The Dues are \$7.00 per year.

Officers for 2011 were:

President Joanne Roberts
Vice President Myra Ferguson
Secretary Kitty Sandoval/
Myra Ferguson
Treasurer Norma Monckton

The Servers held their Fall Soup Sale, Summer picnic and annual Christmas Party. Recipients of Servers donations were: Western Area Women, Pennies for People; a service cart and storage totes for the Church kitchen, Hurricane Irene Flood Relief; St. James Property Committee for the railing at the back entry door and for paving the Church parking lot.

Prayer shawls were knitted or crocheted for nursing home patients and family and friends of our congregation.

The dedication of the officers, hostesses and members are much appreciated. Sincere thanks to everyone.

Norman Monckton, Treasurer

**Board of Christian Education
Meeting**

Our meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 7 p.m. in Resource Room.

**Character Council Of
Hamburg**

December, 2011

Thriftiness vs Extravagance

To demonstrate thriftiness in my life, I will..

- Save more and spend less.
- Make good use of what I already have.
- Look for the best value.
- Budget my money, time and energy.
- Not confuse what I need with what I want.

January, 2012

Availability

To demonstrate availability in my life,, I will....

- Put others ahead of myself;
- Find a way to help, not a way to hide;
- Be ready when I am called;
- Be glad for the chance to serve;
- Check with the right person before I make commitments.

Sewing Mission

Women's Sewing Mission will NOT meet during January and February. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 13th at 9:30 a.m. in the Assembly Hall. For March and April we will meet for our sewing session but not stay for lunch. May will bring us back to our regular schedule with Nancy Banks providing dessert.

We are still in need of new members. Give us a try if you can. We also need sheets and 1" diameter buttons. Please leave donated sheets and buttons in the Church office.

DeGreening and Luncheon

The greens will be taken down on January 8th and the youth will be providing lunch. With many hands helping it takes a short time to put the decorations away. Please join us, enjoy the fellowship and a bite to eat. Please remember to sign-up on the bulletin board. The youth will accept a donations to help defray the cost of the National Youth Event 2012 in July.

**Scherrensthnitte
January 22, 2012**

After church and coffee hour Dave Reichard will teach a class in the art of "scherrensthnitte" papercutting. Dave belongs to the Guild of American Papercutters. He demonstrated and taught cutting at our Advent workshop and has graciously volunteered to have a class after church in January, when he will teach a heart for the upcoming Valentine's Day. Bring scissors, sign up and join us.

Thank You!!

Thank you to Ruth Rathman for the beautiful tree in our sanctuary this year. Ruth has been providing St. James with our tree for the past 28 years in memory of her husband, "Buddy". The tree comes from Dan and Barb Newcomb's farm. Because of the new law that public buildings can no longer have live trees, this year's tree is the last of the fresh trees in our sanctuary. Thank you Ruth for your generosity over the years.

Open House

Instead of "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday", the Casting Your Nets/Evangelism/Long Range Planning Committees are having an "Open House" on January 29th after church. Let us all take the time to invite a family member, friend and/or a neighbor. Give them a tour of the church building and invite them for coffee hour afterwards.

**Stuffed Animals to Love
During Church**

Don't forget we have snugly animals located in the rear of the sanctuary for children to hold and love during the church service and we also have activity bags for the children to use. Please return items to the baskets following worship.

Children & Youth Offering Envelopes

Rev. Matlack will be sharing a special children's sermon on the importance of church offerings sometime during the month of January. He will have boxes of offering envelopes available for the children if they would like to take some home. In addition, boxes of children's and youth offering envelopes will be on the tables at the rear of the sanctuary. Having your child put an offering in an envelope each Sunday is a wonderful way to involve them in the weekly ritual of making an offering. The envelopes are provided for those who wish to use them. All money placed in the envelopes goes toward our church school program.

Souper Bowl of Caring

February 5, 2012 is the day of the Super Bowl or at St. James The Souper Bowl of Caring! Help the children of the church school program as they battle hunger. Every dollar you drop into a soup pot will help people in need feel the power of God's Love. This program began 19 years ago on Super Bowl Sunday when a group of inspired young people decided they wanted to do something to help fight hunger. They created the SOUPER BOWL DAY OF CARING and since it went nationwide in 1993, more than \$25 million has been raised for people in need. On Sunday, February 6, 2011 our church school classes will decorate soup kettles and be walking throughout the building following worship looking for people to donate to their kettles and their cause. Don't forget to stop at the CE bulletin Bd. Display and vote for the charity you would like to see receive our donation this year. If you have any question regarding this event please speak to Karen Reinagel, Vicky Loretto or Jen Mumm.

Don't Forget, St. James Permanent Youth and Church School Registration and Permission Forms need to be completed for youth to participate in activities. See the Youth Board or talk to Karen if you haven't completed a form

Western New York Area Churches in Covenant Winter Meeting

Our Winter meeting will be held February 25, 2012 at St. Matthew's UCC, 5289 McKinley Parkway from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please let Alva know if you can join us so that she can make a reservation for you.

Dunkirk Camping Information

Dunkirk is offering a camp for grades 2nd - 8th called Winter Adventure Weekend. There is only space for 21 children to attend, so register ASAP. Information and registration forms can be found on the Bulletin Board. The cost is \$100.00 per person. Please see Karen Reinagel if you have questions.

Planning began for the 2012 season at the end of last year's season. Remember the super early bird deadline is March 15th and in order to get the checks and information to Dunkirk on time the St. James deadline is Sunday, March 4th). Keep that in mind and be on the look out for the Dunkirk Camp Display on the CE Bulletin Area as well as the bin outside the CE Office on the 2nd floor. That is where you will find information and the forms you need to sign up to attend camp.

Youth Fund Raising

Don't forget the many fund raising activities sponsored by our Youth.

Western Area Youth (WAY)

Winter Retreat

January 27th-29th

This year's retreat will be at St. Peter's UCC, 1475 Orchard Park Rd., West Seneca, NY 14224. Registration deadline to hand in forms to St. James CE Office is January 15th.

START: Friday evening at 7p.m.
FINISH: Sunday pick up is 11:15 a.m. after church

Cost: \$10 for St. James Sr. High Youth and \$20.00 for friends.

Bring: Sleeping bag, pillow, conservative bed wear, towel, washcloth, soap, toothpaste, etc. Good clothes for church service.

Bring A NAME TAG!

Bring a snack to share.

FORMS: All registration and Covenant Forms must be filled out completely, especially the **ADVISORS** and the Medical portion must be filled out by Everyone.

CHECKS: Are to be made out to Western Area Youth. An entertaining, exciting and energetic weekend is being planned for you in January.

Sledding at Chestnut Ridge

Everyone is invited, weather permitting, on a Saturday in January from noon to 3 p.m. Date TBA.

The youth are inviting everyone to go sledding at Chestnut Ridge. Watch the bulletin for more information and don't forget to be on the look out for a sign-up sheet after the 1st of the year. FYI....I hope the toboggan run will be open this year - THINK SNOW! Everyone that attended this event last year had a great time.

"12 Hours after Christmas" -
Date TBA 9am - 9pm. Sign up on the Youth Board so we can plan this event for Middle and Senior. High Youth. Plan to have fun! Bring a \$5 gift to exchange, warm clothing for playing in the snow, boots, gloves, etc. In other words come prepared!!!! This event leaves from church at 9am, goes to the Newcomb's, and we return to church at 9 pm.

REGISTRY

Death:

Jack Noel

Born May 26, 194

Died November 30, 2011

Service December 10, 2011

Baptisms:

Keria Ann McKee

Born August 22, 2007

Baptized November 27, 2011

Megan Elizabeth McKee

Born April 29, 2010

Baptized November 27, 2011

Parents: Heather and Scott
McKee

FOOD PANTRY

Jan 1 Paper Products

Jan 8 Jello & Pudding

Jan 15 Cereal/breakfast foods

Jan 22 Spaghetti Sauce,

Canned Stew/Pasta

Jan 29 Pancake mix, Bisquick

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Poinsettia Sunday. Thanks to Bea for taking orders, to those who arranged the sanctuary so beautifully, to those who delivered plants to our sick and shut-ins and to all those folks who support the sale of Poinsettias every year.

THANK YOU

Angel/Mitten Tree I am pleased to report that we did indeed complete our goal of "NO TAG LEFT BEHIND"! Thank you to Cher Hall for taking the remaining tags and shopping to fulfill each request. What a wonderful feeling to know that each child will receive a gift this holiday season! I appreciate all the gifts that were handed in and all the financial contributions that were made to help with this worthwhile cause. GREAT JOB!!!!!!

When I looked at all the gifts under the tree in the lounge this year, it warmed my heart to think so many of you took the time and energy to make this Christmas season special to someone in need. Thank you for participating in this great tradition at St. James. HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Operation Christmas Shoe Box

The youth dropped off **29** Shoe boxes to the drop off site in Springville. Great job getting those shoe boxes filled with goodies.

Operation Christmas Sock

Thank you to everyone who donated to this event. The youth stuffed 35 socks and dropped them off to the City Mission to be distributed. We could not have done this event without your support. THANK YOU!

Harold Cobb Thank you for stopping by each day and checking on the St. Pauly's Shed for clothing donations and moving them to the end of the shed. We appreciate your time, effort and dedication to helping our Youth program.

Gay Lynn & Gary Nelson for ringing the bell at St. James for Hamburg Holiday's Star Lighting on the water tower for the 2011 holiday season.

Christmas Pageant A special thank you for everyone that helped with the 2011 Christmas Pageant. The pageant is a large undertaking and many people contribute to putting the finished project together. When people tell me how great the pageant turned out, I often wonder if they realize how many people help with the pageant. All of the following people helped by doing multiple jobs such as fitting costumes, helping with the dress rehearsal and party, helping on the day of the pageant, video taping, putting costumes away, putting tables and risers up and down, moving the altar and moving it back again. I hope I didn't leave anyone out but if I did please let me now so I can personally thank you; Robin Lindstrom, Gay Nelson, Margaret Stuhr, Patty Jensen, Veronica Pigeon, Don Pfister, Horst Kirsten, Nick Reinagel, Philip & Jenny Reinagel, Jen & David Mumm, Lisa Lowry, Dawn Berlin, Cher Hall, Rev. Bob Matlack, Pastor Alva Looze, Ciaran Krueger, Jonathan Rizzo and the Chancel Choir and all the parents who shared their children so they could help share the pageant with our congregation.

The Property Committee for having a railing installed at the parking lot entrance of church.

A special thank you to *Don Pfister* and *Horst Kirsten* for all the hours of volunteer service they give to St. James.

To the Youth for donating \$500 to the major property fund to help with the cost of the roof/chimney repairs.



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



Non - Profit
Organization
Auto U.S.
Postage Paid
Hamburg, NY
Permit # 121

Who Am I?

Psalm 148:2 "Praise him, all his angels; praise him all his host. Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all you shining stars!"

Reflection by Anthony B. Robinson, United Church of Christ minister, is a speaker, teacher and writer.

Martin Luther described sin as life curved in upon itself. The theme of today's psalm, praise, is pretty much the opposite of that. Praise is life opened out, expansive, a jubilant response to a gracious and astonishing God. What's especially wonderful about this psalm of praise is that it includes all creation in the great chorus. Perhaps this is part of the reason that many of the manger scenes we see at this time of year aren't limited to human beings alone. They include sheep and goats, a donkey or a cow. They unfold beneath the starry sky and sheltering trees. Sometimes it can seem that all creation is somehow caught up and united in praise of God.

Such experiences tell us something about who we truly are. At one time or another, most of us wonder what life is really about and why we are here. We may think of ourselves as producers or professionals, as family members or citizens. All of these are important and have their place. But most of all we are, I think, worshipers. Whether kneeling at some manger, shouting praise unto the highest heavens, murmuring our gratitude before mystery, we are worshippers. And the reason for our praise? While we were yet sinners, Christ has come for us; while we were yet far off, Christ has come to us.

Prayer: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord." And for this we praise you this day and all our days. Amen.