

Leadership, Programs, Organizations

Former Rector: The Rev'd Michael E. Hartney (pictured at right) retired on April 30, 2016. We are pleased to know that Father Michael and his wife, Susan, a gifted soprano and our former choir director, plan to continue living in Watkins Glen in retirement. However, church rules will require them to worship elsewhere for a period of time.

Interim Priest: The Rev'd Sandra Curtis (retired) lives in Hammondsport. Mother Sandy is serving as interim priest until will find Father Michael's successor.

Websites: www.saintjameswg.org,
episcopalschuyler.org

| | Term Ending |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Wardens: | |
| Nicholas J. Dugo | 2018 |
| Kathleen W. LaMoreaux | 2017 |

Vestry:

| | |
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| Term Ending 2019: | Elizabeth Ferri, Peter Mantius, Amy Planty |
| Term 2018: | Alice Garey, Rita Tague-Carmony, Vernon Webster |
| Term 2017: | George Mahler, Dale Van Wormer, Thomas Planty |

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Organists: Richard Prochazka, Beth Palmer Vann
Choir Director: Susan Hartney
Treasurer: John Terry
Financial Secretary: Eleanor Latin
Clerk of the Vestry: Alice Garey
President of the Women of St. James: Elizabeth Ferri

St. James' holds regular worship services, including the Eucharist, which are open to all, at 10:45 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Our Sister Church One important responsibility of the rector at St. James' is to also conduct weekly worship services at 8:45 a.m. Sundays at our sister church, Saint John's Catharine in the town of Odessa. Saint John's (shown at left) is located at 4938 County Route 14 in Catharine. Father Michael also led a daily prayer for both congregations at 9 a.m. each Monday through Thursday at either church. His practice was to offer Eucharist there after prayer on Wednesdays, and to hold Bible Study following prayer on Thursday mornings.

Joint Services, Monthly The two congregations regularly hold joint services — typically once a month, at 10 a.m. Sunday, either at St. James' in Watkins Glen or at Saint John's in Catharine. During summer months, the two churches celebrate joint worship in Catharine, followed by barbecue in a tent (right) pitched in the church's lovely country setting.

St. Paul's Mission The Episcopal Parishes of Schuyler County also includes the Saint Paul's Mission in

Montour Falls (shown below), which is located at 108 Genesee St. The building functions as a community outreach center and is used by the Girls Scouts, Brownies and Montour Public Library, among others.

The Tower Fund For the past several years, St. James' has been conducting a building and restoration project to preserve the church's main tower and conduct other crucial repair work on the interior and exterior of the sanctuary building. The immediate challenge is to raise \$150,000 for the first phase of the project. Ultimately, we will need to raise \$500,000 to complete the entire restoration. So far we have paid for engineering assessments and safety essentials.

In November, Mother Sandy spearheaded a successful bazaar that raised \$2,870, 90% of which was earmarked for the Tower Fund. The building fund's balance on Dec. 31, 2015 stood at \$45,133.65.

Who We Are and What We Do

While St. James' church is best known in Watkins Glen for its main building — the center of our worship — it is also known for its outreach to the community we serve through activities at the Mann Parish House.

The Thrift Shop The Thrift Shop is a key feature of that ministry. It has provided quality used clothing for nominal prices since 1974. Many in Schuyler County live in poverty, and they struggle daily to obtain life's necessities of food, clothing and shelter for their families. The Thrift Shop meets one of those needs directly.

Typically, more than 25 customers visit the shop every Thursday and Saturday (10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Parish House). Customers pay only \$2 for a shopping bag full of clothes they pick from a wide selection. Volunteers (shown at left) sometimes waive the regular \$2 charge.

Local citizens are the major source of donations. The Humane Society's high-end clothing boutique regularly passes on items it can't use. What we can't sell is donated to the Salvation Army. The community spirit of charity is contagious. Even the local Wal-Mart store once donated 40 boxes of overstocked new clothing. The Thrift Shop operation seems to be a "fish and loaves" phenomenon. Supplies never run low.

Christmas Baskets Each December, the Parish House is also the gathering point for 200 to 250 Christmas baskets that are donated to needy local families. Our parish also supports the "Labor of Love Outreach" program, with cash donations, food gathering and other volunteer work. Outreach also includes services to recognize local firefighters and emergency personnel, teachers and the Humane Society. We recently sponsored a "Blessing of the Animals" (right).

Community Use Many other organizations regularly use the Parish House for their regular meetings. Those groups have included the Lions Club, Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Girl Scouts. The Boy Scouts have used the building to prepare meals and hold fund-raising dinners. We have provided meeting space for other temporarily displaced congregations, including Presbyterians, Nazarenes and Assembly of God. St. James' is also visible in the community by its support for Habitat for Humanity, Community Dispute Resolution Center, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Ordination Plans Two individuals from EPSC have started to explore a path to ordination: one towards the Priesthood and another to the Diaconate. As a result, two separate Discernment Committees have been formed to assist the aspirants in their quests. Dale Van Wormer (right), a member of the St. James' Vestry, is actively pursuing ordination as an Episcopal priest. Sue Baldwin, clerk of the Vestry at Saint John's, is pursuing the Diaconate.

Music Series One of Father Michael's signature accomplishments was the establishment of a musical performance series at St. James' that had flourished and expanded over several years. The series was first based around performances by members of the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, which have typically performed twice each summer at St. James'. In recent years, fiddle and dulcimer virtuoso Ken Kolodner (right) has become a regular with groups that have often included his talented son, a former Ithaca College student. Other choral groups have added diversity to the programs that have depended on local financial contributions as well as the now-suspended state funding. Although the program will be cut back in 2016, we are hopeful that with guidance from our new rector it can be restored and even expanded in future years.