

Our Week at St. James'

Sundays:

9:00 a Worship Church
Coffee Fellowship after service Tuttle Hall

Mondays:

10:00a - 2:30p Living Resources Tuttle Hall

Tuesdays:

10:00a - 2:30p Living Resources Tuttle Hall
4:00 - 5:30 pm Knit Wits Tuttle Hall

Wednesdays:

2:30 - 4:30 Elementary After School Tuttle Hall
7:00-8:00p 2nd Wed., AA District Mtg. Tuttle Hall

Saturdays:

10:00a - 1:00p Grace Communion International Tuttle Hall
7:00 - 8:00pm AA Tuttle Hall

Check the website and FaceBook pages
for additional events and services

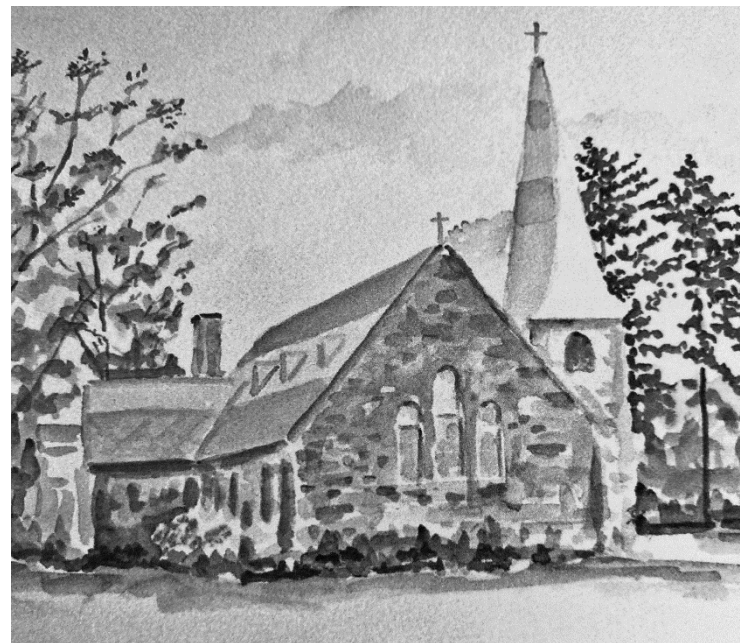
St James' Staff

Parish Priest
Deacon
Parish Secretary

The Rev. Laura J. Miller
The Rev. Dcn. Barb Mitchell
Michele C. Molldrem-Hotko

171st Annual Meeting

February 9, 2025



St. James' Episcopal Church

172 Ottawa Street, Lake George, NY

www.stjameslg.com

518-668-2001

The Rev. Laura J. Miller, Parish Priest rector.stjameslg@gmail.com
The Rev. Dcn. Barb Mitchell, Deacon deacon.stjameslg@gmail.com
Mrs. Michele Molldrem-Hotko, Secretary office.stjameslg@gmail.com

St. James Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting
February 9, 2025

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Call to order
Appointment of Clerk
3. Brunch
4. Please read attached reports
Parish Priest: The Rev. Laura J. Miller
Deacon: The Rev. Dcn. Barbara Mitchell
Warden: Barbara A. Mitchell
Search Committee Report
Mission and Outreach, DOK, Knit Wits
Community events and committee reports
Property Stewardship: Bonnie Magno
Investment Status Report: Bob Glandon
Parish Secretary: Michele Molldrem-Hotko
Treasurer: Barbara A. Mitchell
5. Closing Prayer and Adjournment of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report, Barbara A. Mitchell

Year End Financial Report for 2024

Income	2024 Actual	2024 Budget
Contributions	58,185.00	49,833.00
Other income	16,265.28	19,600.00
Total Income	74,450.28	69,433.00
Expenses	2024 Actual	2024 Budget
Personnel	21,888.34	27,900.00
Operating	50,174.19	62,197.00
Total Expense	72,062.53	90,097.00
Total Profit/Loss	2,387.75	(20,664.00)

Accepted 2024 Budget

Income	2025 Budget
Contributions	49,663
Other Income	20,300
Total Income	69,933
Expenses	2025 Budget
Personnel	36,508
Church Property Expenses	23,200
Rectory Property Expenses	7,200
Office Expenses	3,175
General Expenses	24,587
Parish Life	3,600
Diocesan Assessment	7,200
Total Expense	98,270
<i>Deficit 2024</i>	<i>(28,337)</i>

Parish Priest's Report, The Rev. Laura Miller

Whoever said the Holy Bible is no longer relevant to us today, was sadly mistaken. Two weeks ago in our Epistle was a fantastic reading from St. Paul to the Corinthians that reminds me about all of us. "Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."

This reading reminds me that none of us are in this alone. If one hurts, the others should hurt as well. If one is happy, then we should all be happy. Some think it is only the priest or the deacon that is "in ministry". That is not correct. We are ALL in ministry as one In Christ. I thank all of you for welcoming my husband and I so graciously to join you in this ministry at St. James. We feel very blessed to be here.

It's been a fast 13 Sundays so far. We've moved into the rectory and tried to make it more of a home where everyone in the parish is welcome. You've been patient with me as I've been working to relax more into doing a Rite II service, "live on Facebook" and wearing a mic. (It's not easy for this *old dog* to learn new tricks.) Your patience has been appreciated.

This new year, I am reaching out to the elementary school and offering an After School Program with the help of our members and the youth ministry staff at Christ the King Center. I am also looking forward to offering Healing Services in the near future. There are several more ideas that I will offer to the Vestry members first, as we progress and grow together for Christ's glory.

I also encourage anyone to come up with ideas they feel would be helpful to further God's Kingdom in the world today. It may sound daunting at first but a simple idea can mean so much to others. It might be something you would like to see happening for yourself or your family. Chances are, if you need something, then there is more people who would need it also.

Looking into the future, I would encourage us all to think how to share more of ourselves as Christ's ministers in the world. This is not just for the priest, deacon or vestry members. As St. Paul reminded us in First Corinthians, we are "ALL members of the body" and "we were all made to drink of one Spirit." It has been proven that 86% of new people who come to church are there because a friend invited them. If each person invited a friend who then became a member of the body, the church would instantly double. Please think of someone who needs Christ in their lives and share a piece of yourself with them.

As encouragement, there is a beautiful prayer in the Book of Common Prayer at the top of page 101, that can be said during Morning Prayer:

"Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you: for the honor of your Name. *Amen*"

May we all be given a burning desire to reach out to someone who does not yet know the love, mercy and grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Deacon's report, The Rev. Dcn. Barb Mitchell

Pastoral Care:

We have a group of women that send out cards every week to our homebound. I make visits to visit and bring communion to several of our homebound. I also do a Eucharist service twice a month at the Home of the Good Shepherd in Wilton.

Tuesday Night Study:

We met on Tuesday Night to watch the video series "The Chosen" Season 4 and have a discussion after. Soup and bread for dinner have been included. We are waiting for Season 5 to be released this spring. We will have a study for Lent with Mother Laura.

Serving St Mary's

When I was assigned to St Mary's Fr Lou was Priest there, however he had to take leave in July. I have promised them I will supply on the first Sunday of the month. I would serve the second Sunday at St James. Then when we welcomed Mother Laura my schedule changed.

Serving both churches has been a challenge. Not only supplying but getting involved with their church activities, such as Vestry, Community Dinners, Bible Study.

St James' duties also include:

Assisting with Altar work and preparing for Major Feasts Days'
Keeping the St James' outdoor sign updated.

Attending Vestry meetings.

Helping with many of our activities, parking and garden work.

On a personal note:

I look forward to serving you and the community of Lake George in the future. I look forward to assisting Mother Laura as we serve the Lord and spread the Good News. I have been so blessed to be part of this family here at St James. Thank you for your support and your love.

Warden's Report, Barbara A. Mitchell (The Original)

2024 began with Bishop Jeremiah Williamson bringing new energy of hope, faith and healing to our Albany Diocese and hope of new life within our parish.

Through the year we had spiritual leadership with Mtr. Sally and Deacon Barb, for which we are truly thankful. At the half way point in the year, the Search Committee completed our application (thank you Kitty and Kit) and a candidate was presented. The rest is history...WELCOME MTR. LAURA!! Mtr. Laura will offer new spiritual guidance and faithful energy as we enter our next chapter of St James' journey.

Reading all the reports of our St James parish community, we can be thankful and proud of the generosity of our congregation in our efforts to meet the needs of our community and our parish.

Thanks to our faithful vestry members and Search Committee for their due diligence, faith and dedication in leading our parish during these challenging time with hope & faith.

I look forward to a new year of great faith and parish growth with our new Rector Mtr. Laura's guidance.

May God Bless us with Peace, Strength, great Faith and Love.

Thank you for letting me serve you as Warden.

Search Committee Report

The search committee has called Mother Laura Miller and her husband Larry to lead St James in the next chapter of our faith journey. She is already bringing new energy to our community.

I wish to thank the Search committee for their years of support & talents and faithful dedication that the right time and person will come to use. Throughout the time of the search process, we give thanks for Mtr. Sally and Deacon Barb for their presence and guidance.

Mission, Outreach, Daughters of the King, Knit Wits

- The DoK is helping Deacon Barb by sending letters, making calls, and visiting our home-bound members.
- The DoK has "adopted" Countryside Adult Home in Warrensburg. We continue to celebrate holidays by sending small gift bags for each resident.
- In May, the DoK hosted a National Day of Prayer service.
- The Lake George Music Festival continues to use our Parish Hall as their central meeting place during the Festival, though their offices have moved to Ft. William Henry.
- Our Christmas Shoebox collection was a success! The Parish collected items all through the year and on November 17th we packed up the boxes. This year we concentrated on really quality "wow" gifts. We sent 23 shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan's Purse.
- We assisted one local family through our Christmas Family program with the elementary school. We purchased gifts for the children as well as ingredients to make a holiday meal.
- We continue to collect dry-goods and money for the Food Pantry. Most of our nickel-back bottle collection is used to send items to the food pantry through the regional food bank where each \$1 collected purchases \$10 worth of goods for our local pantry.
- Our knitting and crochet ministry, The Knit Wits, meets each Tuesday in the Parish Hall. We have made hats and scarves for the Code Blue Shelter, prayer shawls for Healing a Woman's Soul and for Glens Falls Hospital, and afghans and prayer squares for Glens Falls Hospital. We welcome any new members who would like to socially knit or crochet for social concerns.

Thank you to all who participated in these events this year. We look forward to working with you on our many upcoming events.

Community Dinners, Kitty Lobban

Sacred Heart Catholic church hosts monthly dinners for the community October through May each year. These dinners are now being hosted by local restaurants. Members of St. James' Church, with members of the other three churches in Lake George, work to prepare, serve, and clean-up for the monthly dinners. We also provide homemade baked goods for the dinners.

Parking Ministry, Kitty Lobban

As in other years, we have used our location and property as resources for funds. Seasonal rentals by local business people brought in \$2,700. The two largest seasonal events, Americade and the Adirondack Nationals, were very successful, as were the Thursday night fireworks and Oktoberfest. The total for parking events for the season was \$11, 981.

This was possible through the generous support of the congregation who assisted in baking and selling homemade baked goods as well as parking cars.

Lunch & Learn Lecture Series, Kit Huggard

In 2024 we held seven Lunch and Learn programs. The monthly programs offer a free lunch of soup, rolls and dessert and a speaker on topics involving local interests. The programs are open to the public and promoted by flyers and to the other churches in the area and by e-mail blasts. The 2024 programs were:

- 1/24/24 Kendra Shieber, To the Himalayas with Love
- 2/14/24 Nan Scinta, Pat Vaughn, Mary Earhoring: Ordinary Equality
- 3/21/24 Peter Benoit, Adventures in the South Pole
- 4/18/24 Linda Tipke, Healthy Belly=Healthy Brain
- 5/16/24 Mtr. Sally Heiligman, Anger, Forgiveness & Reconciliation
- 10/24/24 Mark Frost, The Birth of the Chronicle
- 11/17/24 Bryan Kirk and Holly Patterson, Skinner Organ Benefit Concert

Lunch and Learn has been a successful effort to reach out to the community. The total attendance in 2024 was approximately 200.

Lunch and Learn has truly been an effort by the whole congregation. Nearly every member has helped by organizing, helping provide lunches, setting up, serving, cleaning up, promoting speakers, attending and bringing neighbors and friends.

Fellowship report, Bonnie Magno

A huge THANK YOU to all of those who have been contributing to our Coffee Fellowships after our Sunday services. A special thanks goes to Kit Huggard for her weekly baked goods contribution.

Meet-Greet-Eat, Kitty Lobban

For eight years, we have hosted refreshments and meals for the J-1 International student workers who come to Lake George in the summer to work. We wanted to provide a setting where we could get to know each other and they could meet others from their homeland and other countries also. We learned that a consistent day and time and a nice meal brings in the students. They take care of the publicity through social media.

We started the dinners the week following the Village Orientation and hosted dinners for seven consecutive weeks, from June 18 through July 30. The menus followed a theme each week, such as All American, Italian, Southern BBQ, Tex-Mex, and we concluded with a Birthday Celebration, complete with cake and ice cream. All of the food was donated by our generous congregation and helpers from other churches.

Similar to the previous year, we had guests from Kazakhstan, Colombia, Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, Romania, China, Uzbekistan, Thailand and Slovakia. Our numbers increased greatly over past year; we hosted between 60-80 students each week. We did not need to plan a program; they just wanted to talk with each other and to talk with us. Both volunteers and students were enthusiastic about the positive experiences and interactions.

Property Stewardship, Bonnie Magno

In both January and October the heat went off in the church. Parts were needed and repairs were made by John Polunci. The flat roof portion of Tuttle hall was cleaned of tree debris. Gary Hotko did a variety of plumbing and electrical repairs in the church and Tuttle Hall throughout the year. Gary installed dusk to dawn lighting in the parking lot. This has been a huge help when we park cars in the evenings.

Bids were received for resealing and repainting the lines of the parking lot. The Vestry decided the costs were prohibitive at this time. Steve and Kitty Lobban did the repainting of the lines. Thank you both!

Rectory: Garage door openers were put in working order by Gary Hotko. In October the Rectory was thoroughly cleaned by church volunteers prior to Mtr. Laura's visit. Thank you all! The roof, siding and gutters were pressure cleaned by Barringer. Gary Hotko installed some lighting in stairwells and also installed hand rails in all stairs where there was no railing. Mtr. Laura and Larry repainted the entire interior of the rectory. It looks great!

The organ was tuned prior to the November concert. Proceeds from that concert paid for that!

We are still in need of a mason to make repairs to the stairs in both Tuttle Hall and the Church as well as filling in the hairline cracks in the exterior walls. The wood on the church and Tuttle Hall needs some repairing\replacing and repainting,

Many thanks to all who donated and pitched in on the work!

2024 investment status, Bob Glandon, Finance committee

Our financial investments during 2024 grew less than the general market. Using the S&P 500 index as a comparison of the general market we saw the market increase by 24% for the year. But our investments are more conservative than these general markets and not as volatile.

We started 2024 with \$178,223 in our account and ended the year at \$182,079. This represents a gain of 2.2% for the year (vs 8.7% in 2023). There have been no withdrawals in the last four years as our church expenses have been covered by regular income.

Our history of these investments since we moved accounts in November 2016 was an overall annual rate of return of 3.6% at the end of 2023 and has now dipped to 3.4% as of the end of 2023.

Parish Secretary's Report

Services in 2024
45 Sunday Eucharists
8 Sunday Daily Offices
15 Weekday Eucharists
6 Daily Offices
38 Lay Eucharistic Services/Holy Communion
0 Marriage
2 Burials
2 other services including: Stations of the Cross National Day of Prayer
Average Sunday Attendance: 16

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting

With attendance both in person and on ZOOM, the meeting opened at 10:19 AM with a prayer offered by The Rev. Sally Heiligman.

Motion: To appoint Michele Molldrem-Hotko as clerk for the annual meeting.

Motion: Kit Huggard, 2nd: Elaine Hersey, Vote: unanimous
Barbara Mitchell, Warden, gave thanks to all who brought goodies for the brunch.

Rector's Report: See the booklet. Mtr. Sally noted that it was almost exactly three years ago that she first came to St. James', wondering, "why am I driving this far?" She said "God put me in the right place and thank all of you for being who you are!"

Deacon's Report: See the booklet. Barbara Mitchell reminded us that Dcn. Barb is on a three-month leave-of-absence.

Warden's report: See the booklet. Barbara Mitchell gave thanks for Mtr. Sally and Dcn. Barb and noted how hopeful she is with the wonderful news of Bishop Elect Jeremiah coming to the diocese.

Search committee report: See the report in the booklet. Kit Huggard reported we will get the application in very soon. The Bishop is already visiting parishes who have their applications in. Kit Huggard, Kitty Lobban, and Barbara Mitchell are working ton updating the application and we hope to have it submitted within a month. Nationwide, churches are finding new ways to put priests in the pulpit.

Mission and Outreach, Daughters of the King, Knit Wits: See the report in the booklet. Michele Hotko reminded everyone they can attend any Knit Wits meeting or can donate knit or crochet items to be donated.

Lunch & Learn: See the booklet. Barbara Mitchell and Kit Huggard thanked all the volunteers.

Fellowship report: See the booklet.

Community reports are in the booklet.

- *Meet, Greet, and Eat* - Kitty noted the students really appreciated the program and we will do the same in 2024. We will invite the new Bishop to attend one of these evenings. Mtr. Sally said she received a beautiful Christmas e-mail from a young Albanian man that she met. This young man is Muslim, but extended Christmas wishes to her.
- *Parking Ministry* - Kitty said that the money from parking is soft money, because it is weather dependent. Scott Cudney

mentioned the numbers were really impressive considering what we were up against last summer with the weather.

- *Community Dinners* - Kitty noted this is a nice collaboration with all the churches in Lake George.
- *Our Organ* - Bryan Kirk has interest in keeping our historic organ in good condition. On April 28, 2024, he will do another organ concert in conjunction with Holly Patterson, an oboist.

Property Report is in the booklet. Bonnie Magno reported air conditioning was placed in the church, and recently when the heat failed, we were able to keep the church above freezing by utilizing the heat pump in the AC system.

Minutes from last annual meeting are in the booklet.

Motion: To accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Bonnie Magno, 2nd: Betsy Birchenough, Vote: unanimous

Parish Secretary's report: see the booklet.

Treasures report: see the booklet. Barbara noted that the organist was put into the budget this year, but only ½ of his salary. We will depend on donations or undesignated funds to pay the rest of his salary.

Finance committee: report is in the booklet.

Barbara Mitchell said thanks again for everyone's dedication to St. James' and for meeting the needs of the congregation and the community. The Lord's presence has been with us.

Betsy Birchenough reported she had talked to the Livingstons - they are doing well and watch our FaceBook Live services frequently. Joe and Karen, visitors to our service, said we are always so welcoming. They feel like St. James' is a second home to them when they come North.

Mtr. Sally said you all do so much, everybody has a role. She thanked Michele Hotko for all she does in the background.

The meeting ended with prayer offered by Mtr. Sally at 10:52 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Michele C. Mollárem Hotko, Clerk

Treasurer's Report, Barbara A. Mitchell

WOW! Once again, two years in a row we ended with a positive budget. At the year-end we had \$2,387.75, all due to our Parishioners' & friends of St James' hard work and generosity.

We have used our Memorial and Repair & Restore funds to accomplish repair & upkeep of our properties and to pay an organist.

In our new budget there is an increase in our Church Insurance and a delightful & blessed addition of a part-time Rector (Priest in Charge) Mother Laura Miller.

Betsy Birchenough has requested that any memorial made in Bob Birchenough's name be used towards musicians and to keep our organ in good running condition. If you choose to make a donation, you can send a check to St. James' with Bob Birchenough in the memo section.