

St. James – St. George Episcopal Church

Jermyn, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania
The Diocese of Bethlehem

Parish Profile

2021

Mission Statement

To Love as Jesus Loves

Contact Information/Location

St. James – St. George Episcopal Church
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Jermyn, PA 18433

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The Church

Church Membership

According to its 2020 Parochial Report, St. James – St. George Episcopal Church has 90 Baptized members of which 39 are Communicants in Good Standing. 57% are female, while 43% are male. There are presently no children under the age of 15. 66% are ages 15 – 64 and 34% are 65+. Average Sunday attendance is 26. In 2020 there were 25 Pledging Units with a total of \$28,466 pledged.

Monetary Assets

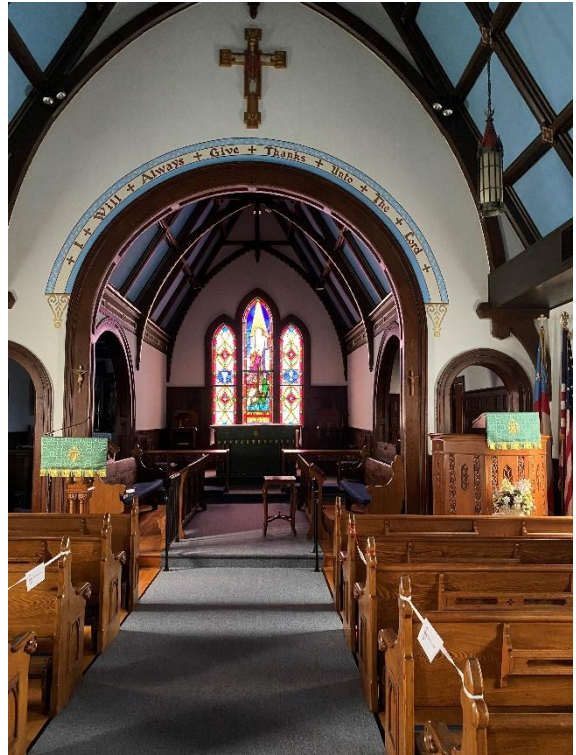
At the conclusion of 2020, the checking account had a balance of \$4,313.01, the Savings account had a balance of \$11,995.04, the Rector's Discretionary Fund had a balance of \$1,172.20 and the Diocesan Investment Trust had a balance of \$67,416.81. Total disbursements for the year were \$66,506.12, including \$19,448.64 as salary and benefits for Priest-in-Charge. To make up the difference between pledges and disbursements, several fund-raising activities are held throughout the year, most importantly the January Pasta Dinner (Christine McGeachie, Chairperson), the Summer Yard Sale (Gloria Lyons, Chairperson) and the Spring and Fall Roast Beef Dinners (Carol Propst, Chairperson).

Church Property

The Church is a wood and stucco building built in 1874.

It is located along the Lackawanna River at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Bridge Street.

Street parking is usually sufficient for attendees. The church can be entered from the front via a double flight of concrete stairs, from the side into the Undercroft via a handicap accessible cement ramp, or from the rear through the kitchen. Both stairs and elevator lead from the Undercroft to the Nave. The building is air-conditioned and adorned with Stained-glass windows. A single center isle leads from the nave, between the eleven pairs of pews



(approximate seating one hundred persons) to the altar. A Chapel stands to the left of the Altar. The organ (purchased in 1984) and Sacristy are to the right. There are three choir pews before the Altar and a Credence table on either side. The undercroft includes a kitchen equipped with two electric stoves, two refrigerators, two sinks, a microwave and a coffee maker. There is a restroom, a small office (equipped with a copier), two storage closets and Caines Hall that serves as Sunday School, meeting place and dining area. Dividers are used to partition off the open space when needed. A computer and printer are located in one corner.

Church Employees/Volunteers

In addition to a part time priest, St. James – St, George Episcopal Church employs an organist and a technology person who maintains the church web site and prepares the weekly Sunday Bulletins. Both the Treasurer and the Clerk of the Vestry serve in a volunteer capacity. There is no Sexton, rather members of the congregation volunteer to clean the church and care for the church yard. All church volunteers are

required to have both Child Abuse and Pennsylvania State Police clearances and to have completed the Safe Church online Training.

Vestry

The Vestry of St. James - St. George Episcopal Church consists of five members elected for staggered three-year terms. The Senior and Junior Wardens are elected yearly from the Vestry membership. The Vestry meets monthly to carry out the business of the Church. 2021 members of the vestry are Ron Fowler (Senior Warden), Don McGeachie (Junior Warden), Janice Black, Ray Poggensee, and Wayne Evans. Christine McGeachie is Clerk of the Vestry. Jane Evans is Treasurer.

Church Volunteer Organizations

1. The Altar Guild prepares the altar for each service and keeps all ceremonial objects clean and polished. The four church members serving on the Altar Guild are Carol Brownstein, Christine McGeachie, Gloria Lyons, and Jane Slebodnik.
2. Chalice Bearers receive the elements of bread and wine at the altar and help administer the chalice during the Eucharist. Scott Carey, Ron Fowler, Walter Kulasinsky, and Don McGeachie are licensed Chalice Bearers.
3. Cleaning Crews are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the church on a weekly basis. There are seven members on this committee: Scott Carey, Bryan Deliman, Gloria Lyons, Martha Mangan, Ray Poggensee Carol Propst, and Jane Slebodnik.
4. Community Outreach is vitally important. Annual donations are made to St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen (Souper Bowl Sunday) and to the Breadbasket of NEPA. In addition, 2% of annual pledges is donated to various local organizations as suggested by members of the congregation and as voted upon by the vestry. Thanksgiving Dinners are provided to ten local families. Christmas gifts are purchased by members of the congregation for underprivileged local children. New socks

are collected and distributed to both adults and children each winter. The monthly Food Pantry is organized and run by Ron Fowler, with the help of Elaine Malsch. Food is provided for by the Friends of the Poor, and approximately sixty families from the surrounding communities are served.



5. Lay Worship Leaders are authorized by the bishop to lead certain services, to preach and to carry out pastoral and teaching functions. In particular, they conduct Morning Prayer services on Sundays when a priest is not available. Scott Carey and Christine McGeachie are licensed Lay Worship Leaders.
6. Lay Readers are assigned to read the Old and New Testament lessons and to lead the congregation in the Prayers of the People. At present, there are eight readers including: Scott Carey, Heather Evans, Gloria Lyons, Walter Kulasinsky Don McGeachie, Ray Poggensee, Ann Marie Rosencrans, and Christine McGeachie.
7. The Music Ministry is the responsibility of Christine McGeachie. It is her duty to select the hymns to be sung at each service and to arrange practices, as needed. Darla Sherman is organist. Denise Searfoss often accompanies her on the violin. Christiane McGeachie (Soprano/Alto), Ray Poggensee (tenor) and Carol Prost (Soprano) are members of the choir.
8. Scheduling of the various individuals who are needed each week to facilitate the service and maintain the Building and Grounds is the job of Gloria Lyons.
9. The Stewardship Committee is chaired by Christine McGeachie. Monetary contributions are important, but so are the time and talents of the members of this congregation.

10. Two Ushers are assigned each week. Their job is to greet people as they enter the church, to ensure the orderly movement to the communion rail during the Eucharist and to act as assistant Treasures to record, count and deposit the weekly offering. At present there are seven ushers: Helen Caines, Ron Fowler, Walter Kulasinsky, Gloria Lyons, Elaine Malsch, Martha Mangan, Ray Poggensee and Jane Slebodnik.

Service Schedule

Holy Eucharist is held Sunday at 10:00 am. In absence of a priest or deacon, Morning Prayer is conducted by either Scott Carey or Christine McGeachie. Most services are Eucharistic Prayer IIA, although for some feast days and seasons, Rite I is used. Additional services are held on each Wednesday during Lent, and for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Christmas Eve.

Church History

Episcopal worship began in Reymer's Hall, Jermyn, in the fall of 1871, and a year later St. James Mission was received by the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Land in Jermyn was donated by the Northern Coal and Iron Company, and the present building was consecrated on September 23, 1874. St. George's Mission found its inception from a group of Episcopalians who met in a private residence in Olyphant during the early months of 1895. A church was built on property acquired in 1908. Both missions existed independently until September, 1967, when the Reverend Stephen G, Williamson, III, Vicar of St. James Episcopal Church was asked to take on the added responsibilities of St. George Episcopal Church. He resigned in September, 1970, and several months later Bishop Warnicki proposed the formation of a shared ministry with Christ Church (Forest City), Trinity Church (Carbondale) and St. James Chapel (Dundaff) under the leadership of the Reverend Nicholas Albanese. Reverend Albanese accepted another call in 1978, and the Reverend Stephen Matylewicz, a non-stipendiary priest, cared for the needs of the church

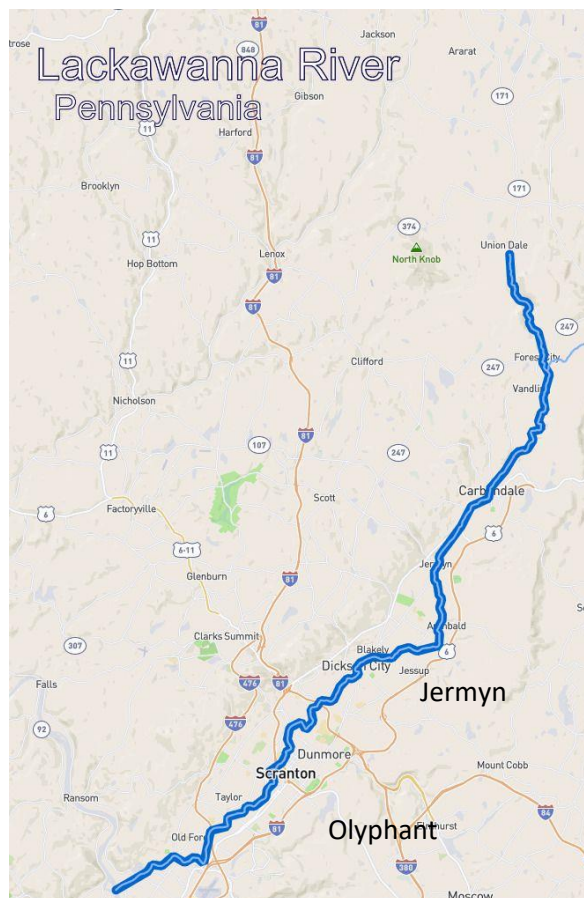
until the Reverend John J. Lloyd was installed as Rector in April, 1980. This merger, first under the name North Lackawanna Valley Parish, and then Lackawanna Episcopal Ministry, lasted until September 4, 1983, when the churches were again realigned and St. James – St. George Parish came into existence. On July 1, 1984, the Reverend Leslie E. Evans was called to be its first rector. St. George Episcopal Church was sold and, on February 28, 1990, the two churches were united under one roof as the newly formed St. James – St. George Episcopal Church.

The Community

The congregation of St. James – St. George Episcopal Church is composed of residents of Lackawanna County, including the town of Jermyn and the surrounding towns of Carbondale, Mayfield, Eynon, Jessup, Peckville, Olyphant, Throop, Dickson City and Scranton. The church is situated along the Lackawanna River across from the Veterans Memorial park and gazebo, in Jermyn, PA.

Demographics

As of the 2020 census, there were 215,896 people living in Lackawanna County. 90.4% were White, 4.2% were Black or African American, 3.1% Asian and 2.3% of some other race. In addition, 8.4% were Hispanic or Latino (of any race). 20.1% identified as of Italian, 19.9% Irish, 13.0% Polish and 11.4% German ancestry. 51.8% identified as female. 48.6% Male. 25.8% were under the age of 18, while 20.3% were 65 years of age or older.



Occupations

Resident of Lackawanna County are employed in some of the following field: Education Services, Health Care and Social Services (27.5%), Retail Trade (12%), Manufacturing (11%), Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodations and Food Services (8%), Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities (6%), Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental and Leasing (6%), Construction (6%), Public Administration (5%), Wholesale Trade (3%), and Information (1%). According to the 2020 census, the median household income was \$52,821.00. Average travel time to place of employment was 21.7 minutes. 6.7% were unemployed.

Religious Opportunities

The Greater Scranton Metropolitan Area lays claim to over 175 churches and synagogues representing virtually every denomination. The towns associated with this Church play host to more than fifty of these churches, some of which represent the religions of Catholic (Roman, Byzantine, and Ukrainian Rites), Methodist, Primitive Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal, Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Assembly of God and Lutheran. With this in mind, St. James - St. George Episcopal Church works closely with the local Mid Valley Ministerium.

Education

The local area is divided into four public School districts: Lakeland (Mayfield, Jermyn, Scott Township), Mid Valley (Dickson City, Olyphant and Throop), Valley View (Archbald, Eynon, Peckville, Jessup, Blakely) and Carbondale. In addition, there are several parochial, charter and private schools. Various institutions of higher learning are located in the immediate area, including the University of Scranton, Marywood University, Penn State Scranton, Keystone College, Clark Summit University, Johnson College, Lackawanna College and Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine. 92.0% of areas residents 25

years and older are high school graduates, 23.5% hold Bachelor's degrees or higher and 9.3% hold Graduate or professional degrees

Recreational Activities

1. For the outdoor enthusiast, there are a multitude of opportunities for hiking, picnicking, swimming and boating, as well as organized sports such as softball, baseball, soccer, basketball, tennis and golf at such locations as Aylesworth Park, Condella Park, Mellow Park, Merli-Sarnoski Park, and the Lackawanna State Park. The Lackawanna River Heritage Trail is always popular for walkers and bicyclers. In summer the Montage Mountain Water Slide attracts visitors, and in winter skiing and snowboarding can be found at both Montage and Elk Mountains.
2. For the railroad enthusiast or history buff, both Steamtown National Park and the Anthracite Museum Complex, with its Scranton Iron furnaces, the Lackawanna Coal Mine and the Everhart Museum, are located in Scranton.
3. For the art enthusiast, the University of Scranton and Marywood University both have beautiful art galleries.
4. For the cultural enthusiast, Lackawanna County offers a variety of opportunities including the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, the Choral Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania and the Scranton Cultural Center which provides a summer camp for youth, outside concerts and hosts the Scranton Broadway Theater.
5. For the sport enthusiast the Lackawanna County Stadium is home to the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders (the AA baseball affiliate of the New York Yankees) and the Mohegan Sun Area at Casey Plaza is home to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (the AHL affiliate of the Pittsburgh Penguins).

Shopping

Two main malls (Viewmont Mall and Steamtown Mall) make shopping easy. These include such businesses as Boscov's, Walmart (and Sam's Club), Staples, Dick's, Best Buy, Lowe's and a multitude of other well know businesses. There are also a variety of smaller strip malls, and a Dollar General, of course.

Health Services

There are several hospitals in the surrounding communities, including Commonwealth Health Regional Hospital, Commonwealth Health Moses Taylor Hospital and Geisinger Community Medical Center, each with its own areas of specialty. In addition, many home health agencies answer to the challenges presented in health care today. An excellent rehabilitation center, Allied Services, serves the needs of many, both in and out of this region.

Media

The region is served by radio stations on both AM and FM frequencies. They cover a variety of entertainment from talk radio to big band, polka, easy listening and rock. There are three local TV stations and one PBS station, as well as cable TV. Internet is also readily available.

Travel

Residents have easy access to Route 6, the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Interstates 80, 81, 84, and 380. The area is served by the COLT bus system which links Carbondale (to the north) and Scranton (to the south). An established bus stop is located directly in front of the church. The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport is located to the south in Avoca.

The Priest we seek needs to . . .

1. Be a spiritual guide, more than a business participant in vestry affairs.
 - a. Delivers interesting/entertaining sermons that link the Gospel with modern times.
 - b. Models sermons through actions.
 - c. Takes congregation need/wants into consideration before making major decisions.
2. Have the ability to collaborate and work well with others.
3. Envision ways to reach out to the larger community.
4. Be progressive and interested in developing programs to attract new members.
5. Be “well-rounded”.
 - a. Interested or participating in activities such as sports, music, theater, etc.
 - b. Communication and computer skills would be a plus!
6. Be willing to work part time, and perhaps, to partner with other congregations.

People make a church, not the building. We strive to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, who calls us to love God and one another. Our welcoming, eclectic, and inclusive community comes together from around the Lackawanna Valley. Through worship, caring, and service, we strive to welcome all people, just as God created them.