

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
405 EAST MAIN STREET
BATAVIA, NEW YORK**

FEBRUARY 2018



My dear friends,

Two weeks ago we had our 202nd Annual Meeting. That's a lot of annual meetings! I can't help reflecting on the changes, both inside the church and out in the world, that these meetings must have witnessed. As the years go by so much changes, but the essentials stay the same. Our essentials: St. James is here in Batavia. We are here to worship, spread the Gospel and care for the world. 1815 or 2018 that remains true. As we discussed at our meeting, 2018 brings new challenges and new opportunities in our ministry. In my address to St. James, I focused on the areas of Worship, Outreach, and Finances. We start in worship and are strengthened to go out into the world with loving hearts and helping hands. These two are (and should be) our primary focus.

As spiritual people, as Christians, we cannot ignore the reality of what it takes to fund and support our mission. Our projected budget for 2018 is based on the willingness of all of St. James to step forward and join in new fundraising efforts and to consider raising their pledge. Our budget is not lavish; it merely reflects our programs, staff and the demand to care for our 108 year-old building. Can you help? Consider two things:

- Will you join in new fundraising efforts? I am forming a new fundraising team for this purpose. If you are interested, please let me know.
- Will you look at your pledge with prayerful intent? Have you raised it over the years? Can you raise it now? For each person and family this will be a financial question as well as a spiritual one. Our spiritual growth includes how we manage our finances, as individuals, as families and as a parish church. Look at how the costs that you pay have risen, and remember that the church is not exception to the rising cost of living.

I am excited about all of the opportunities that 2018 promises. I know that it will be a year of growth, exploration and success. 203 years of worship and service in Batavia is quite a legacy! And as our warden Russ Dvoroznak said when the Bishop asked for three words to describe our parish, we are "Not Stopping Now!"

Your sister in Christ,
Mother Bonnie+