



ANNUAL MEETING

In addition to nominations by the Nominating Committee, nominations may be made by written petition of fifteen (15) "members in good standing"* as defined by St. James' By-Laws (see below) The petition must also be signed by the Nominee. Nominations by petition shall be submitted to the Chair of the Nominating Committee (Doug Smith) at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Annual Meeting, but not more than thirty (30) days prior. (Accordingly, the dates for submitting nominations by petition for 2025 are January 12-20.)

**Definition of Members in Good Standing: Any member of the congregation above the age of eighteen (18) years provided that such person shall be a stated worshiper in the Church, that such person should be an active Communicant of this Parish (receives Communion at least three times per year), and that such person shall contribute to the support of this Parish (with time, talent and treasure).*

St. James' Annual Meeting The St. James' Episcopal Church will hold its 209th Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2025-Time 11 a.m. Parish Hall

There will be only **one worship service at 10 a.m.** with the Annual Meeting directly following in the Parish Hall.

Brunch available during meeting.

Voting for Vestry Candidates Begins at 11 a.m.

The State of the Parish and the 2025 Budget will be presented.

Warden and Vestry positions will be voted upon.

The 2025 Vestry Slate being presented is:

Jr Warden - John Devins

Members -

1 year term John Buterbaugh

3 year term David O'Neill

3 year term Kris Perkins

3 year term Kathy Plouffe

Vestry Slate Biographies

John Devins

I am excited to be considered for junior warden on St. James' Vestry. My wife Stephanie and I joined St James in 2017. I continue to be thankful to be a part of such a wonderful, loving faith community.

At St. James', I have served one year on Vestry, was a member of the Stewardship committee, as well as served as an usher, assisted with lawn mowing, and helped the "unofficial" table wranglers team which prepares the parish hall for events. Stephanie and I moved to Skaneateles in 1988, and had 3 children attend Skaneateles schools. We are blessed with 7 grandkids. Upon graduation from St. John's University, College of Pharmacy, I worked in a variety of sales and marketing positions for Eli Lilly and Company. It would be an honor to continue to serve on St. James' Vestry as we continue on our exciting path forward!

John Buterbaugh

It was around 20 years ago when I started attending St. James'. In high school, I attended the diocesan youth programs called New Beginnings and Happening. These were excellent ways not only for me to deepen my faith but to build connections with other Episcopalians of the same age. Since then, I have witnessed a congregation that has remained steeped in values of inclusion and community even amidst great change. A few years ago, I joined the Young Adult Service Corps, a program that gives Episcopalians ages 21-35 the opportunities to explore their next steps personally and professionally in an international placement. I felt God working as so many of you at St. James helped fully fund my mission even when I didn't think it was possible. I was able to work as an intern at a not-for-profit organization in Colombo, Sri Lanka, that specialized in child protection. I was grateful that I could express my passion for graphic design, build empathy for those in developing countries, and develop an English-language curriculum relevant to Sri Lankan culture. Currently, I am a data and social media manager for the Episcopal Parish Network, the Global Mission Advocate for the Diocese of Central New York, the bass guitarist for the contemporary service, and a Spanish interpreter for Guatemalan families at our local food pantry. Ultimately, I believe

God's purpose for me is to look out for those on the margins (especially in global outreach) and, in a simple way, show those people that they matter.

David O'Neill

Hello, my name is David O'Neill and I want to thank St James for the opportunity to serve on the Vestry. My wife, Helen, and I are looking forward to celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary this coming July. We have been blessed with two amazing daughters and four equally amazing granddaughters (With 7 ladies in my life, it is not a surprise I believe in strong and independent women). At a difficult time in my life the people of St James' were there for me and my family and they continue to be there whenever I need support. Through my association with the Mission of Miracle, my wife and I started attending services at St James and quickly felt at home. I travelled to El Salvador for the Mission as a team member and eventually became part of the planning committee for a total of 11 Missions with two extra trips to bring down supplies. When St James' setup a Spanish service for the local migrant workers I got to know more of the people at St James. More recently, I have helped with the setup of the Outdoor Lakeside Service and was part of the team that maintained the lawn for the church and rectory. I am truly thankful for the community that is St James' and for the friendships that have come from it. Since joining St James my faith is continually growing stronger. I am inspired by what I hear and see at St James' and by the people of St James'. A quote from one of my favorite musicals comes to mind when I am at St James. "To love another person is to see the face of God."

Kris Perkins

My name is Martha Kristie Perkins, but to many, I am known as Kris. I was born in Auburn Memorial Hospital, lived in Sennett, and went to Weedsport to school, where my parents were both teachers. We attended St. John's Episcopal Church in Auburn, NY, the church in which I was baptized, confirmed and married. Service to the church was important to our family; my dad was on the Vestry and served as Warden, my mom taught Sunday school, and my older brother was an acolyte. I attended youth group with the youth from St. Peters, Church, down farther on Genesee Street, When I attended Keuka College, I sang 2nd Alto in the Chapel Choir, and also attended the folk mass service at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Penn Yan. In 1972, when Dick and I were married, I began attending St. James in Skaneateles. Throughout the years, I taught Sunday school, sang alto in the choir for many years, played in the bell choir, was a member of the Altar Guild, as well as being co-chair of the Altar Guild for five years. I am presently a lector, chalice bearer, acolyte and usher, and used to schedule servers in those areas. In addition, I serve meals at Sts. Peter and John once a month if possible. While teaching in Skaneateles for 31 years, I was a member of a variety of committees, helping to make decisions to continue our district's progression in a positive and innovative direction. At the end of Robert's ministry at St. James' and while John Keydel was the interim priest, I served on the Vestry at St. James'. After Becky was called to St. James', I was clerk of the Vestry for a few years. I always felt honored to represent the parishioners, giving input into decisions that were made on behalf of them. As a Vestry member, my goal will be to help St. James' move in a positive and innovative direction, and continue as a spiritual leader in the community.

Kathy Ploufe

I am a happily retired elementary school teacher with 40 years of experience teaching in the Adirondack Mountains in a town called Moriah. I now enjoy life back in my beloved hometown of Skaneateles. I am a proud mother and grandmother and am passionate about nature, history, and travel. The joy of returning to the church I was baptized and confirmed in has been such a gift. I value the traditions and life long memories that I experienced at St. James'. My spiritual journey has escalated since my return to St. James! I served previously as a vestry member of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Elizabethtown, NY which I found very enlightening and rewarding. In summary, I would like to highlight that St. James feels like family to me and I am enthusiastic about continuing on my soulful quest.