



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Feb 26, 2026)

St James, Oneonta, Albany

305 Main St, Oneonta, NY 13820, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 06/02/26.

whinrichs@albanydiocese.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
45	2	1	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$90504	\$68100	\$20000	
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
\$2404	\$104135	6	We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)		Other	1
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
over \$2000/year		Yes	Yes

Compensation includes cash stipend, fair rental value of renovated housing, utilities and SECA.

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

Two recent events, closely related in time, together truly showed the congregation the spirit of the Lord. The first was the funeral of an elderly, long time member of the congregation who had been active in the church and the community. While the church was filled with people, more importantly it was filled with the spirit of the Lord. Those in attendance all felt the comfort that God gives us in times of need. It was a fitting remembrance of the past. The second was the visit of our recently elected Bishop Jeremiah. As a part of his visit a confirmation was held and others participated in a renewal of their baptismal vows. Again the spirit of the Lord could be felt by the congregation. This time it manifested as a vision of the future. The bishop's words of encouragement and validation gave our St. James community a sense of shared mission, success and fulfillment.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

St. James is preparing for the Church of the future by actively listening. We are listening for the Spirit's guidance, longing to fulfill the place Jesus calls us to be. It is uncertain exactly what that looks like, but we are cultivating an expectation that we will discern what that is at the right time. For Lent, we prayed collectively every night at 9pm for the future of St. James, it's mission and it's people. Meanwhile, we work on practical things. Like restoring our physical facilities (a complete renovation is taking place on our rectory, preparing it for what's next) and getting up to speed with the present (for example, having a current and functional website).

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

Spiritually inspirational, effective preaching, connected / connecting to all, perceptive / receptive

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

At Saint James we offer regular services three times a week typically using Rite II . Our Sunday morning 8 AM service is pared down without music. Our 10 AM service has a choir, organist and hymns generally taken from the 1982 hymnal and occasionally the Celebration hymnal. We have on occasion experimented with Morning Prayer and Rite I on special holidays without particular success. We generally like and appreciate the rhythm and regularity of Rite II, with which we are most accustomed.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We practice incorporating others in ministry in a way that is collaborative of lay people and clergy. Most obviously, in the many aspects of service needed to activate a healthy and thriving Episcopal church. We have volunteers to usher, read, acolyte, run the altar guild, hospitality, missions, child and youth education, worship and religious life and to perform music. Our clergy has invited lay people to speak at our services, coordinated a 'pulpit exchange' and encouraged us to see ourselves as ambassadors of the church in whatever ways we are present for others. Our members are present in the community as board members and volunteers, business owners, teachers, health care providers, trades people, historians, artists, civil servants, musicians, members of the armed services and in many other ways! In all that we do, we try to use our unique, God-given gifts to minister to the needs of those we encounter and encourage one another similarly.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

At St. James, our care for one another is primarily expressed through our social engagement with one another. We are genuinely happy to see one another; lingering to pass the peace, talk at coffee hour and engage in events that foster togetherness. In getting to know one another, we have the opportunity to genuinely understand each other's differences, needs, joys and trials and to cultivate a healthy community. This might be as simple as listening, sending a birthday card or placing a phone call; to something more involved, like having a full blown fundraiser to replace furnishings after a home disaster. We understand that gestures both large and small can have a meaningful impact. St. James has also sought to meet our community's physical needs by updating our structures and technologies to facilitate as much access as possible. This has included streaming our worship services online and investing in an onsite defibrillator. We recognize the opportunity to continue growing our health and well being in the future.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Pastoral care for those beyond our worshipping community is an ongoing area of challenge in need. Like in many communities across America, the needs of the homeless, addicted and mentally ill are pervasive. As a prominent and visible church on the Main street of a small city, St. James is 'in the thick' of these issues, encountering it on a regular basis. We strategize regularly with community partners on how best to serve the needs of this vulnerable population. We often have un-housed people joining us for worship and/ or coffee hour. We do our best to facilitate conversation, understanding and when possible, 'a little extra' in the form of a ziploc baggie of food. Other examples of pastoral care include our outreach to local nursing homes and also our regular mission to the Dominican Republic. We recognize that the needs of the community and the world are vast and pray for guidance as to help to best use our resources to serve God's purposes.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

St. James has a welcoming attitude of inclusivity generally speaking, but is particularly at ease with other Christian denominations within the local church community and also beyond. For many years we have hosted the Orthodox Church of America in the basement of our space. With them, we have come together for a special coffee hour, Sunday school, various fundraisers and special events. We have also welcomed people of many backgrounds to join us in our missions to the Dominican Republic. In fact, many of our trips to the DR have included at least as many people from outside our parish as from within! We support other local churches financially by underwriting their efforts: Jail Ministries, Shoe boxes for Christmas, Habitat for Humanity and the Warming Station to name a few. And this past year, we resumed hosting the deanery convention and also resurrected a long dormant tradition of hosting an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. St. James looks to grow it's presence and leadership opportunities within the diocese and for the Church at large!

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

The last five years have not been times of initiating new ministry at St. James. With changing parish leadership, diocesan transition, and declining numbers, we have struggled with this. Many of our efforts have been in discerning which of our existing ministries are still where we should be putting our efforts and which things are better served by 'handing over the reins' to others. Notably, we handed over our feeding ministry to an independent 501c3 in 2024, which was an unhappy but necessary decision at that time. St. James has sought to balance the stewardship of our material resources with our limited human resources. We welcome spirit lead guidance for new initiatives as we head into a new season both for our local church and in the church as a whole.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

St. James is striving to develop a healthier relationship toward stewardship. We are using our property resources to partner with other organizations in outreach. This includes gifting the use of one of our buildings to a local recovery treatment program, the use of open land to the local Audubon Society, and the use of another building to a community feeding program. Financial stewardship more complicated. The church is blessed with a significant endowment . Those who are long-standing parishioners another hurdle is that a former rector embezzled funds from the church. He did serve time for a portion of the offense, but many members were left wary and hurt, the memory of it still traumatic for some. Some also assume that the endowment will take care of everything. These issues complicate our perception of what it means to give, our trust in the motives of others, and how we are each called to be active stewards of our gifts. We are working to both acknowledge and heal the past, take stock of the present, and grow as active stewards. We are now undertaking a stewardship campaign - the first in many years. We are better learning how to share our time, talent, and treasure.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

We recognize the conflict happens in every organization, and in every family. In our community, sometimes that has meant the individual members have felt the need to 'take a break'. For some, this has meant not attending church at all for a season. For others, that has inspired a search for connection at other parishes and even within other denominations. What is remarkable is that, overwhelmingly, we eventually come back. There is a tie that binds us to one another, and that calls us 'home'. Also overwhelmingly, the members of Saint James stand ever ready to receive back their members with open arms. Not with judgment, but with a quiet sort of joy that is ready to hear about the spiritual journey each other has been on in one another's absence, but also that ready to begin working together again.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

One recollection of change happening within the church was from general convention during the debates around same-sex marriage. Our representative recalls that there was screaming and yelling from some, but that eventually a paper ballot was decided on as the way to vote. She recalls that delegates even took a meal during the counting of the vote, so as to also diffuse the tension surrounding the debate. At St. James, we know how uncomfortable change can be, but seek to find civil ways of doing so. When things go well, it has generally been because of a willingness to communicate and be flexible. Ultimately, we find the spirit opens a path forward if we are committed to finding that path. Flexibility, communication and commitment are the characteristics of positive experiences of change for us.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Richard Frye	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1960-10	1992-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Mark Cole	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1993-01	2000-08

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Kenneth Hunter	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2003-11	2024-04

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
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Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
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Worshipping Community Web site: <http://stjamesoneonta.org>

Media Links:

Online References:

YouTube: St. James' Episcopal Church Oneonta

Facebook: St. James Church, Oneonta

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop: 518-692-3350

**The Rt. Rev. Jeremiah
Williamson**

Diocesan Transition Minister 5185314537

The Rev. William Hinrichs

Current Warden/Board Chair 607-267-8206 skbinney@gmail.com

Susan Binney

Previous Warden/Board Chair 607-434-5070 brenner.douglas212@gmail.com

Douglas Brenner

Search Chair 607-434-1343 woodonia@verizon.net

Christopher Wood

Parish/Institution 646-226-0656 mrmountain176@gmail.com

Fr. Paul E.C. Hamilton

Local Community Leader 607-432-6450 mayor@oneonta.ny.us

Mark Drnek