

*St.
James*

*Episcopal Church
AMESBURY, MA*

*Parish
Profile*

The Reverend
John Satula,
Rector

Sunday Worship
Schedule

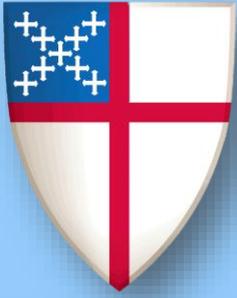
8 AM
Holy Eucharist
Rite I

10 AM
Holy Eucharist
Rite II, with Choir

*“St. James is a strong and loving
community that welcomes,
encourages and empowers all to
grow in Christ and to do God’s work
in the world.”*

*Mission Statement of St. James
Episcopal Church
Amesbury, MA*





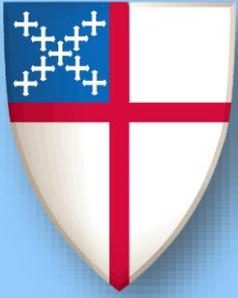
St.
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St. James Episcopal Church
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*At St. James we
make a little go a
long way. Despite
our small size, we
have a first class
youth program,
diverse ministries,
and a variety of
outreach programs.*

Our Rector

Dear St. James Family,

Thank you all so much for the tremendously warm welcome you have given me since my arrival in Amesbury, it has been a wonderful blessing! I would like to tell you a little about myself. I am fondly referred to as a cradle Episcopalian. I was born on St. Patrick's Day and grew up in Larchmont, New York, a suburb of NYC. Church has always been an important part of my life. I was very involved in the Church in which I attended growing up, St. John's, Larchmont. I was a member of the junior choir, an acolyte and participated in youth group.

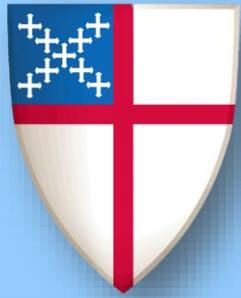
Since I was very young, I have always felt that God was possibly calling me to ordained ministry. This call became increasingly apparent to me during my senior year at Elmira College where I did my undergraduate studies. Although I majored in theatre and history at Elmira, I felt God was calling me to something else. I discussed my thoughts and feelings with Father Donald Matthews, the Rector of Grace Church, Elmira, the Church which I attended while in college and he offered me a position on his staff for a year to begin discerning God's call. I worked at Grace Church the following year after graduating college and I entered seminary in the fall of 2003.

After graduating Seminary and being Ordained, I worked as an Assistant Rector at several Parishes in the New England area and down south before accepting the call to become the 33rd Rector of St. James.

I am truly blessed to be your Rector and Parish Priest. I look forward to greeting you each week and all who walk through our doors. In the pages that follow, you will have the wonderful opportunity to learn about all the ministries, fellowship and different ways we embrace one another all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Father John Satula





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St. James and Episcopalians in Amesbury have a rich history. The Anglicans were here as early as 1711. The first St. James Episcopal Church was started in 1827, and our current building was erected in 1903.

History of St. James Parish

Anglicans worshipped in Amesbury as early as 1711. The first Church of England was built here in 1745.

The revolutionary war made affiliation with the Church of England unpopular. St. James was organized as an Episcopal church in 1827.



1745

The first building was erected on Main Street in 1836



1903

A new and larger building was constructed on the current site in 1845, but was destroyed by a fire in 1899.

The St. James Episcopal Church of today was built following the fire, and was consecrated in May 1903.

St. James Parish flourished in Amesbury in the early 20th century as Amesbury's sleigh and carriage manufacturing industry made the move to producing electric automobiles and later auto parts. Amesbury had grown to a population of 10,000 shortly after WWI.



At its peak, St. James had more than 200 active members in the 1950's and 1960's.

From 1986 to 2006, St. James was served by one rector.

In 1994, an after-school child care program for children ages 5 to 13 rented out the entire parish hall and all of the classroom space.

St. James' music program received a major gift and many small donations in 2002, which made it possible to install a two-manual, 20-stop Wissinger tracker-action organ which is the centerpiece of our music program.



In 2006, a new Priest-in-Charge came to St. James. Among her first decisions was to reclaim the space that had been rented to the after school program, and repurpose it for our new Christian Education program. This led to a parish-wide volunteer initiative to renovate our communal spaces.



2006

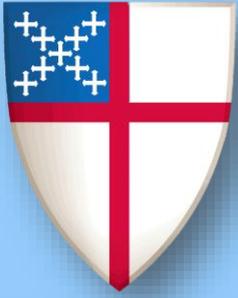
In the years that followed, our Priest-in-Charge provided the spark that resulted in a significant growth in membership and ministries, over \$100,000 in renovations, a remarkable youth program, and the adoption of many "best practices" which guide our efforts today.



2012



2014



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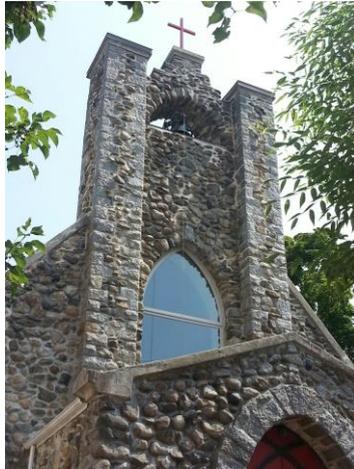
St. James Today

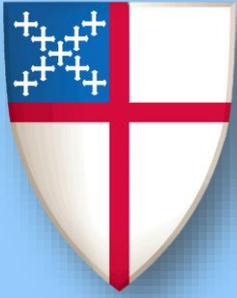
St. James, the “stone church in the heart of Amesbury”, is more than an attractive building or a group of friendly folks. The people of St. James gather to gain spiritual nourishment from the sacraments and liturgy, comfort from fellowship, and fulfillment from our outreach ministries.

Visitors first notice the inclusiveness of our parish, which welcomes and embraces all who walk through our doors. There is an authentic, genuine quality to St. James that draws people in. One recent visitor observed that he was moved by St. James’ worship style, “a combination of traditional liturgy and informality”.

A number of years ago, when our congregation was displaced by damage from a fire, we learned that St. James is not merely a place, but rather a community. The personal connections, experience of worshipping together, contributions to the wider world through outreach, and the spiritual development of our parishioners...these are the things that define St. James.

Today we seek to overcome a new challenge. St. James has accomplished a great deal over the past decade, and now we must meet the challenge to spread God’s word, expand our reach, increase our membership and ensure financial self-sufficiency for the long-term.





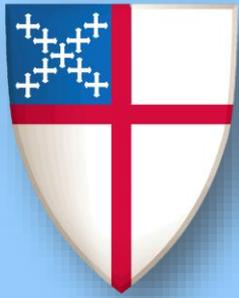
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Our Vision Statement and hope for all who come to St. James is that they will feel:

- A part of an extended family with “brothers and sisters” who care about you.
- Participate in the life of a community where your concerns make a difference.
- Discover companions with whom you can work to help bring to the world a greater measure of social, economic, and environmental justice.
- Increase your capacity for open and honest relationships with other people.
- Approach God directly, while growing and learning through traditional and alternative worship and prayer.
- Have the place to celebrate the joys of birth, marriage, family and success as well as to find support in the sorrows of death, divorce, and failure.
- Find your roots in the rituals and traditions of an Episcopalian-Anglican faith with a rich history.
- Grow in awareness of your personal values and potential as a human being.





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“Our hands, our feet, the contents of our pockets, our hearts and our minds – these are gifts God meant to be shared...we have learned that this sharing, this giving is our greatest strength and privilege.”

- Linda Davis Siess

Ministries at St. James

We encourage all members to take an active part in ministry, based on their individual calling and God-given skills and talents. The feeling of spirituality is palpable among our ministry volunteers, and derives from a sense of purpose that touches us all on a personal level. The diversity of ministries at St. James demonstrates the vibrancy of our church community. Our ministries include:

Altar Guild - St. James is blessed with a collection of exquisite vesture arrays which adorn our sanctuary, many designed and hand-stitched by a parishioner-fiber artist couple. Our green array (themed "The Earth is the Lord's") and our purple array used during seasons of Lent and Advent are revered for enhancing the symbolism of color in worship as well as the loving craftsmanship used in their creation.

Adult Formation Program for Epiphany - Epiphany is a Season when God in Christ is revealed to God's people. Participants explore how God is known to us in our own spiritual formation.

Blessing of the Animals – A highly attended service, including non-member walk-ins from within Amesbury. Recognizes that the affection and personal connection we experience in loving human relationships can also manifest as mutual loving affection in our relationships with God's creatures.

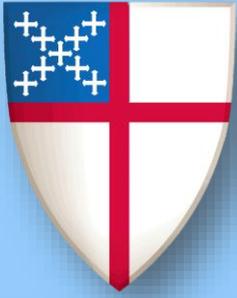


Communication Ministry – fosters connection and visibility within the greater community. Demonstrates our commitment to being visible and accessible in our community and is a valuable asset to our goal of growing church membership.

- Media- taping service for broadcast on local cable twice weekly
- Monthly newsletter sent to 200 subscribers on Constant Contact
- Website – “represents the soul and dedication of this church and this community.”
- Public relations – our administrator contacts local media with stories and schedules

Family-Friendly Sanctuary - St. James recognizes the range of needs of our children within the context of church attendance and provides a number of accommodations intended to meet those needs, both in worship and in our parish hall. Family Services are held the 1st Sunday of each month.

Greeting Card Ministry – acknowledgement of significant milestones, expressing warmth and appreciation of our fellow parishioners, marks birthdays and anniversaries, as well as opportunities to offer support, prayers, or sympathy.



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“Our goals and objectives remain high as we continue to stretch ourselves to fulfill God’s mission for our parish.”

- Cindy Janik and Joan Miller

Ministries at St. James, Cont.

Lay Eucharistic Ministry – pastoral visitation and administration of the sacrament of the Eucharist at a parishioner’s home, nursing facility, or other location.

Men’s Group – meets weekly to read aloud and discuss appointed selections in the Holy Bible and related sources to learn about circumstances of biblical events, their significance, and the people involved.

Potluck Partners - social gatherings rotated among parishioner homes for evening meal and fellowship. A wonderful way to know others and God more deeply.

Visual Arts ministry– A celebration of how the artist perceives and expresses the presence of God in all of life and nature. A changing display of fine art and photography located in the church hall for all to enjoy.

Women of Faith – a biweekly study of how God speaks to us in daily life.

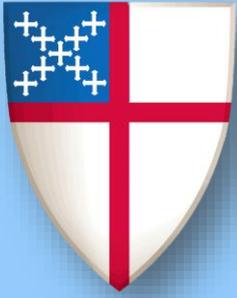


Lenten and Holy Week Worship

- Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner.
- “Ashes to Go” –Ash Wednesday imposition of ashes on the sidewalk in front of the church enhances accessibility to symbolic initiation of the Holy Season of Lent within the demands of the work-week. The traditional liturgy is held in the evening.
- Lenten Wednesday Night Suppers with Lower Merrimack Valley Deanery – to partake in a light meal, discussion and worship.
- Lenten Forum Sunday Soup – we gather as a community for soup and discussion on different topics.
- Maundy Thursday Night Watch in our meditation chapel, with continuous prayerful presence of parishioners throughout the night.
- Collaboration on Easter Vigil service with Lower Merrimac Valley Deanery.



Christian Education and Youth Programs



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*Our youth programs
and the reinvention
of our Christian
Education program
have been at the very
core of St. James'
revitalization since
2006.*

Our youth programs and the renewal of our Christian Education program have been at the very core of St. James' revitalization since 2006. Infants and toddlers are cared for each Sunday in our attractive nursery room just off Chandler Hall by dedicated, paid staff, allowing parents of young children to enjoy the worship service.

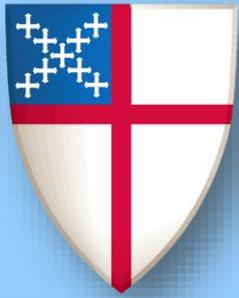
Our children in Pre-K through 3rd grade are welcomed into our Godly Play classrooms. This creative and imaginative approach, based on Montessori principles, teaches children the art of using Christian language – parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical-action as a means of knowing God and giving meaning to their lives. Godly Play respects the innate spirituality of children and encourages curiosity and imagination in experiencing the mystery and joy of God. An important aspect of this method of Christian formation is the Godly Play classroom – a place created especially for children. St. James is fortunate to have two wonderfully equipped Godly Play classrooms, filled with beautiful multisensory materials that help bring the stories to life. Our children will continue to benefit from this investment for years to come.



Our children in 5th through 8th grade participate in a unique pre-confirmation program that combines expanded Godly Play lessons, Bible study and training for parish ministries. Recently this group has implemented Eucharistic visits to seniors, studied and created contemporary versions of the “Stations of the Cross”, and had discussions based on the movie “The Life of Pi”.

Our youth group programming at St. James is a combination of fellowship and outreach. Opportunities for fellowship include game nights, talent shows, movies, bowling, trips to a corn maze and a Christmas Party. Recently the Youth Group has made trips into NYC to visit the Cathedral Church at St. John the Divine and visited Fr. John's home parish. It is in the dedication to outreach activities that St. James really shines. This past year our youth participated in the Jeanne Geiger Walk Against Violence, the collection of pet toys for a local animal shelter, Easter baskets and children's snack bags for Our Neighbor's Table, the community Santa Parade, B-Safe program, visits to seniors, and our craft fair, of which 100% of the proceeds are donated to outreach programs.





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Children and youth are integral to Parish life at St. James. Our young people participate in the worship service and outreach ministries of our parish and are respected for who they are and where they are in their journey of faith.

Christian Education and Youth Programs, Cont.

Our high school young adults are regularly involved in our worship through their service as lectors, acolytes and chalice bearers, and they spearhead many of the outreach programs. A youth delegate serves on the vestry. Our high school youth participate in the Diocesan Youth Council and the Youth Leadership Academy, run by the Diocese

It is rewarding to look out on any given Sunday and experience the continued presence of young adults who have grown up here. They participate in worship, serve in hospitality, child care and outreach, and mentor youth in our programs.

The youth of St. James benefit from a strong relationship with the Barbara C. Harris (BCH) Camp in Greenfield, NH. For a small parish this connection is vital and serves as a direct extension of our program. Youth members participate in summer camp weeks and pre-confirmation and high school retreats run through the diocesan Office of Youth Ministries. Our youth proclaim that their experiences at BCH Camp are among their most memorable.



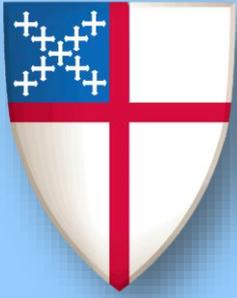
Youth Games & Fellowship



Acolyting



Social Media Awareness



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Outreach

The Outreach Ministry at St. James strives to make God known to others by opening our doors and ourselves in God's name. Last year, St. James provided nearly \$10,000 for outreach in the local community and matched that with more than \$10,000 in fundraising for local charities and parish-sponsored teams. All of the outreach programs are sustained by volunteers from the church and the wider community. Some of our events include Relay for Life and weekly collections of food/supplies and regular sponsorship of meals at *Our Neighbors' Table*, which provides meal and food pantry services to the greater Amesbury area.



Some of our Relay for Life walkers

- The Walk Against Domestic Violence to benefit the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center.
- Game Night for our youth and friends.
- Seasonal collections for The Pettengill House ("Operation Backpack" in the fall and winter clothing at Christmas time), MSPCA, and Toys for Tots.

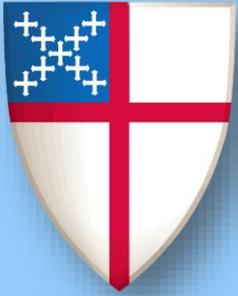


Walk Against Domestic Violence



Craft Fair

- Christmas Craft Fair – In association with the *Annual Village of Church Fairs*, St. James has hosted an annual craft fair that engages the time and talents of dozens of parishioners. Crafters meet throughout the year enjoying inter-generational fellowship.



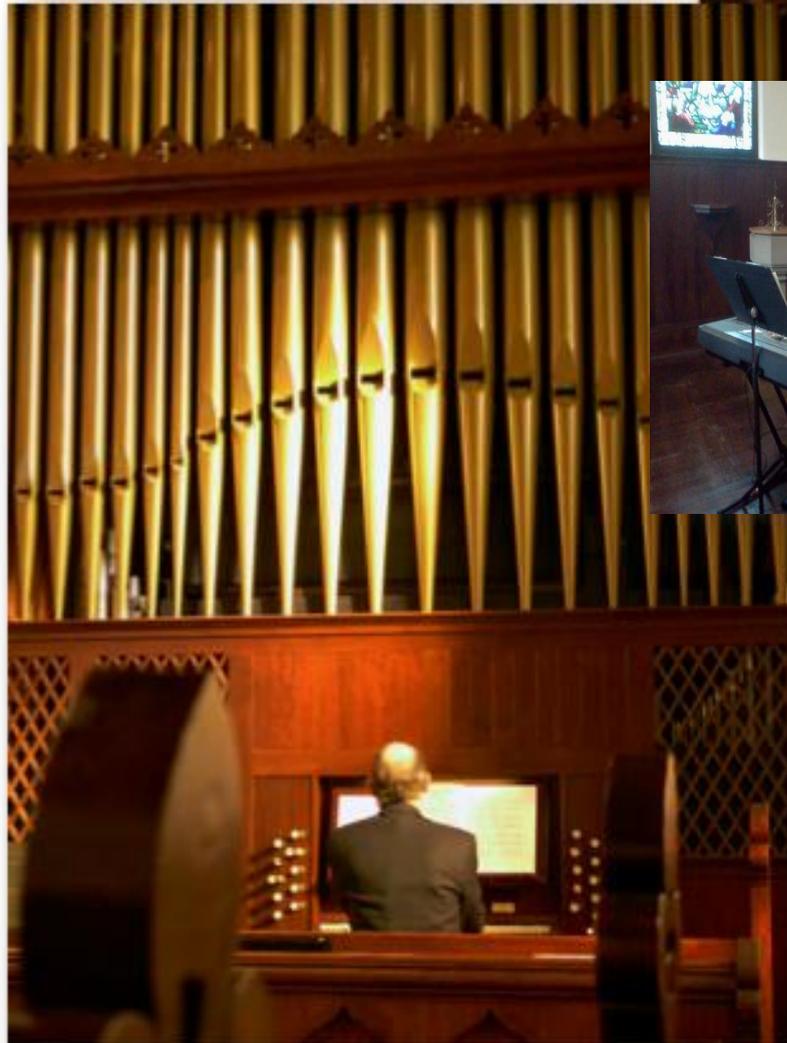
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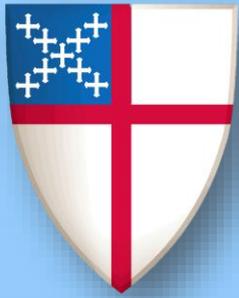
*Parish
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*Right:
St. James' music
director / organist,
Matt Siess playing
our two-manual, 20-
stop Wissinger
tracker-action organ.*

Music

From September through May, the choir sings at the 10:00 a.m. service, joined by the congregation on hymns, service music, and occasionally, chanted psalms. Each week, the choir prepares an anthem and special music for communion. The musical selections are drawn from the best of the Anglican tradition. A variety of musicians and singers round out our musical program, and we welcome all interested performers to participate in keeping this rich tradition alive.





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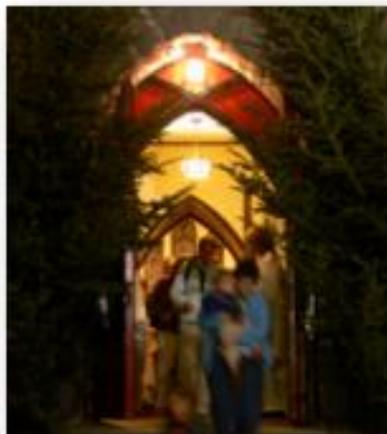
*The holy spirit can
be felt at St. James
every day of the
week.*

Parish Life and Pastoral Care

Many of the terms which define family can also describe parish life at St. James. We are a connected, multigenerational congregation who genuinely enjoy our life together, both spiritually and in fellowship. A moment in the life of our family might be captured in the experience of coffee hour, which is a time of bustling activity - children playing together, adults sharing conversation. Many linger in conversation, sharing a lovingly prepared assortment of refreshments, truly a shared small meal, feeding body and soul.

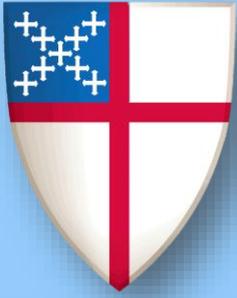


The pulse of St. James thrums in the ongoing weekly activities which are the life of the church - gatherings of ministry groups, youth activities, vestry meetings, administrative management during office hours. There is something for everyone at St. James and nearly every parishioner is involved in sharing their time, talents and treasures. What binds us all together is a palpable presence of the Holy Spirit, whether we are working as God's servants under His roof or in the world, seeking with all our hearts to answer God's call.



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*“Pledges of time,
talent and treasure
are simply tools we
use to advance God’s
ministry in Amesbury
and beyond.”*

Stewardship

In 2012, the Stewardship Committee presented to the congregation the following challenge from 2 Samuel: “I will not offer to the Lord my God that which costs me nothing”. That year, on average, our active members increased their giving by 30%, filling the void left by several families who relocated out of state.

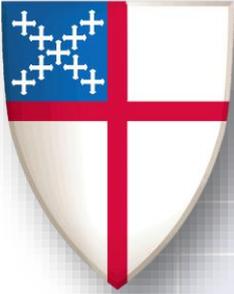
In 2013, as the parish prepared for the search process, our appreciative inquiry made it clear that more than anything, our members want St. James to grow in both numbers and in its impact on our community. With that, we were able to attract 10 new pledging families. Stewardship is, or should be, a daily spiritual discipline shaping how we all invest our God-given time and talents to help us do God’s work on earth, here and now.

In 2015, the Stewardship Committee offered the congregation an opportunity to pledge a three year commitment that enables us to budget and plan for the future as we shape our ministries.



St. James has consistently operated in the black. In 2011, St. James spent nearly \$100,000 on building improvements. With an annual operating budget of ~\$145,000, St. James is well capitalized with over \$100,000 of investment assets as a backstop to the current year’s working capital.





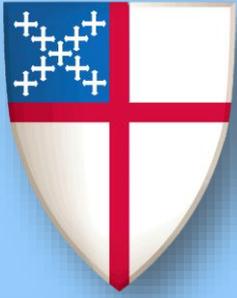
In Recognition of St. James' Rectors

RECTORS AND PERIODS OF SERVICES

St. James Episcopal Church * 120 Main Street * Amesbury, MA 01913

On February 18, 1846 the parish was legally incorporated, a constitution was adopted and parish officials elected.

	Name	Start Date	End Date
1	Rev. Joseph H. Price	July 1833	November 3, 1833
2	Rev. Henry M. Davis	April 1836	October 1, 1837
3	Rev. Charles Coffin Taylor	October 1837	July 23, 1840
4	Rev. Silas Blaisdale	April 4, 1841	September 21, 1844
5	Rev. D. Gordon Estes	October 27, 1844	Easter Tuesday 1850
6	Rev. William William	June 2, 1850	June 21, 1852
7	Rev. Benjamin Austin	October 24, 1852	November 5, 1854
8	Rev. Robert F. Chase	April 15, 1855	April 5, 1858
9	Rev. D. Gordon Estes	April 11, 1858	May 4, 1872
10	Rev. Samuel F. Spear	October 6, 1872	July 1, 1877
11	Rev. Arthur W. Chapman	June 1, 1881	October 1, 1833
12	Rev. Langdon L. Ward*	June 1844	July 10, 1885
*Note: As layreader (April 1884, Ordained to Diaconate in June 1844, resigned on July 10, 1885)			
13	Rev. Henry Wood	July 10, 1885	December 31, 1891
14	Rev. Henry F. Hill D.D.	October 1, 1889	November 30, 1891
15	Rev. Frederick C. Cownor	December 3, 1891	February 15, 1893
16	Rev. George William Griffith	July 23, 1893	November 11, 1895
17	Rev. Charles N. Morris	April 23, 1896	April 27, 1897
18	Rev. Robert LeBlanc Lynch	October 2, 1898	May 17, 1908
19	Rev. Arthur F. Fenderson	January 18, 1909	April 9, 1911
20	Rev. Louis Augustus Parson	March 17, 1912	February 2, 1914
21	Rev. Frank Melvin Rathbono	March, 1914	March 31, 1918
22	Rev. Robert LeBlanc Lynch	September 15, 1918	June 30, 1927
23	Rev. Richard Perters	October 16, 1927	October 15, 1933
24	Rev. Guy Wilbur Miner	February 18, 1934	December 1, 1940
25	Rev. Charles Tabor Hall	April 20, 1941	6/30/1952 (Died 3/26/61)
26	Rev. Warren H. McKenna	October, 1952	February, 1956
27	Rev. Robert Etzel	June 1, 1956	April 30, 1961
28	Rev. Ronald P. Prinn	June 18, 1961	July 1, 1966
29	Rev. Gerald Van Fleet	October 1, 1966	1975
30	Rev. Richard H. Martin	1975	1985
31	Rev. Michael O. Shirley	November, 1986	October, 2006
32	Rev. Susan Esco Chandler	November 1, 2006	November 4, 2012
33	Rev. John Satula	December 21, 2014	Current



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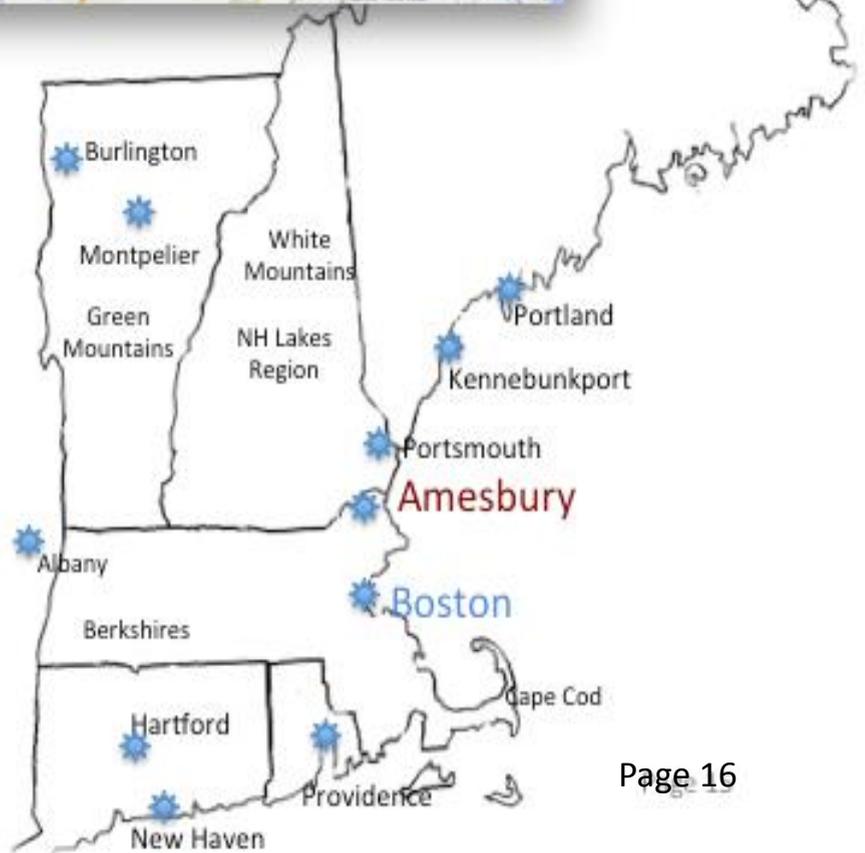
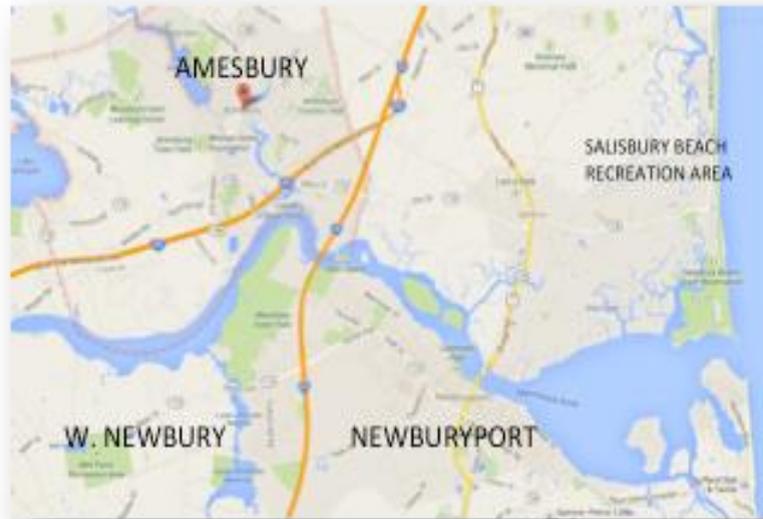
Parish Profile

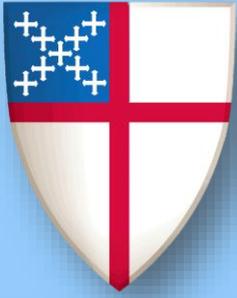
Amesbury is nearly at the center of New England. 10 Minutes from Salisbury Beach, 45 minutes from Boston's theater district and Fenway Park, 90 minutes from "Big Mountain" skiing, an hour from Portland, ME or Manchester, NH, and 2 hours from Cape Cod or the Berkshires.

About Amesbury

Settled in 1645, Amesbury is the quintessential New England community, from its roots as a shipbuilding town to its industrial revolution-era mill buildings which first served the textile industry, and later carriage making and early automobile manufacturing. Amesbury has a thriving downtown, centered on the Powwow river and the revitalized lower millyard (Heritage Park), just a short walk from St. James church on Main Street.

Located at the intersection of I-495 and I-95, Amesbury is in part a bedroom community to the many high tech firms around Boston, but maintains a more economically diverse character than the wealthier community of Newburyport, just across the Merrimac river.





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Useful Links:

St. James Website: <http://www.stjamesamesbury.org>

Town of Amesbury Visitor Links: <http://www.amesburyma.gov/visitors.cfm>

Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.amesburychamber.com>

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amesbury,_Massachusetts

Contact Us at:

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