

St. James Parish

Epistle



September 2023

Rector's Message

One of the traditions our Mission Teams to the Dominican Republic have had over the years is a Team t-shirt with a logo or theme. Our theme this year, right on the front of the shirt, along with our 150th logo, was (in Spanish) *St. James Parish. 150 years of fishing for people.* I was thinking of what St. James had seen over the last 150 years of ministry. The church bore witness, of course, to its men, and sometimes women, going off to two world wars and many smaller conflicts. St. James was around when the Stock Market crashed in 1929 and during the long years of the Depression. Think of the winter snows, summer storms, rain, hail, and battering our little church has taken. We have seen many rectors, many families come and go, and still, we are here.

September 30th will be a glorious day of crafts, music, food, and, we hope, fall sunshine to commemorate our 150th year. On October 1st we will host the Bishop, town and state dignitaries, guest musicians, and other attendees, as we celebrate in glory to God for all that God has given to this church community and her people over the last century and a half. After everyone leaves, all the trash is collected, and the dishes put away, what will be next for us at St. James? We still will have a few wonderful months to bask in our 150th year, but ... what then?

Jesus said, "Come follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Jesus still beckons to us from the shores of Galilee and calls us to follow Him, to listen to Him, and follow the footpaths of blessing, love, sacrifice, and illumination that He left for us when he ascended to heaven. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor, preacher, theologian, and martyr under the Nazis, wrote a book called *The Cost of Discipleship*. He wrote the book as he ran an underground seminary

which the Gestapo would eventually close down. He wrote, "The road to faith passes through obedience to the call of Jesus. Unless a definite step is demanded, the call vanishes into thin air, and if men imagine that they can follow Jesus without taking this step, they are deluding themselves ..." (p. 63). What step, as we embark on the next chapter in the life of our parish, might Christ be asking of us? To love each other more freely, without judgment, and without condition? Yes, I think so. To learn to listen with attentive love to even those who may feel they are our enemy, and with whom we may disagree? Absolutely, I think Jesus said as much.

Yet, our following of Jesus is not merely about our community, but about ourselves, our families, and the world in which we live. Being a disciple of Jesus means placing the will of our Lord above all other things. Understanding that is a blessing, really, an opportunity for us to live more fully into God's joy than we ever have before or maybe even dared to think possible. The way of Jesus is not easy, oh no, it is not. Yet, the disciples did not "disciple" on their own. They had brothers and sisters with them to follow Jesus and, without that, they would not have survived or kept the faith. Maybe our next steps are to find new ways to follow Jesus even as we re-discover the tried-and-true ways of scripture and the truth that God's holy word calls us to. I am very excited about the possibilities of and for St. James in the coming months and years. There is a world that needs us, a world that must hear these words of Jesus: "Follow me." Why should we follow? Jesus has the words to eternal life. Jesus shows the way to total and unconditional love. We all need that saving love which is both our future and our present.

In Christ, Fr. George+

Warden's Corner

I must say that this is my favorite time of the year with blue skies, warm temperatures, and a sense of casualness! A down-time for vacations, reconnecting with friends and family, relaxing and a time for reflection and rejuvenation

I had the opportunity to travel to Detroit a couple of months ago for one of my Women's Clubs and took Flat Jesus with me. While at the airport, I was looking for a sign of Detroit to take a picture with Flat Jesus, but was unable to find one.

Meanwhile, waiting for my luggage at the baggage carousel, it dawned on me that this was the perfect place to take the picture, as Jesus is always carrying all our baggage for us; what a thought, hope, and blessing! This was also an opportunity that opened a conversation with three of my travelling friends to explain why I had



Flat Jesus with me and to discuss my faith. Always trying to spread the "Good News!"

I hope that all of you are enjoying this time, whatever you may be doing and will be refreshed for the

upcoming fall activities. The Fall Fair, 150th Anniversary Celebration as well as Stewardship drive etc., are right around the corner when we return in September!

I want to give a sincere "thank you" to the DR team for their extraordinary work of Mission and being wonderful Disciples. I'm sure their labor was well appreciated. The Backpack Drive was a huge success and the children's participation phenomenal!

Matthew 11:28,30 — "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy and My burden is light"

Blessings,
Anna Whilby
Vestry Co-Warden

Sunday, September 10th

We will return to two services on Sunday, September 10th, with Rite I (spoken only) at 8 am and Rite II with choir at 10:15. Church school classes will begin the following week, Sunday, September 17th, at 10 am.

Pizza Party!!

Each September we celebrate the beginning of a new program year. We decided, because of our big 150th weekend on September 30th & October 1st, not to have our usual Celebration Sunday picnic on the 10th.



However, this year we will have a Pizza Party instead! SUNDAY, September 10th, immediately following the 10:15 service,

folks are invited down to the parish hall for pizza and our usual goodies, a time of fun and community. Ms. B (Joyce Bettencourt) has something special planned for our children to kick off the new year, so please join us!!

Holy Eucharist

Since March of 2020 we have tried a lot of different ways of being community, particularly as it pertains to how we receive Holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Jesus. Beginning on September 10th, when we move back to our two service offerings on Sunday mornings (8 am Rite I and 10:15 am Rite II), we will come to the altar rail and stand or kneel, as each person chooses, to receive Communion. We will also go back to offering the Common Cup, meaning you will now be permitted, if you choose, to drink the Communion wine directly from the cup. Parishioners may also, as has been the case for most of our history, choose instead to "intinct" (dip) your wafer into the wine. If you are uncomfortable intincting in a chalice from which another person may have drunk, we will have a separate cup that you may drink from; you need only ask the priest or the chaliceist. If you have any questions about this practice, please speak to Fr. George.



Church School returns on the 17th

Here we are ... summer almost over and church school starting up once again! Hopefully it was a good summer for all. **Church school this year formally begins on Sunday, September 17th. We will all meet in the parish hall at 10 am and then break into our different classes.** Presently, lower grades are K-3 and upper grades are 4-6.

Our theme for church school this year is *Make a Difference Every Day*. Our curriculum is from the Virginia Theological Seminary. It contains different approaches to teaching for each level. It is a three-year program, the first being called



Shell. It is so named because the sacrament we focus on this year is Baptism.

The great goal this year is have to fun and to make the people of the Bible come alive for our young learners This is consistent with our belief that the Christian faith is nurtured through relationships. September's lessons are about Noah, Abraham and Sarah and Isaac and Rebekah. We are excited to use this program, especially with the upper grades. That part of the curriculum each week includes a newspaper article interviewing the person of the week. I can just imagine what Noah might have said about constructing the ark and getting all those animals into it!

We hope that as many of our children as possible will be able attend church school on a regular basis. This makes it easier for continuity and teacher preparation. However, please know that we understand the various activities that pull away from church time. We only ask that you try to do your best.

Faith & Fries!

We usually come together on the 4th Tuesday of every month at Puente American-Latino Pub at 81 South Main Street in Unionville. **We next gather on Tuesday, September 26th, from 7-8:30 pm.** You can come for dinner, have a drink or snack, whatever is comfortable for you. We will be exploring what do we believe? What tests our belief? We invite all to come as they are able and please, feel free to invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to the conversation! Call the church with questions or more information on *Faith & Fries!*



Prayer Team

From time to time, the Prayer Teams shares some of what has been helpful to us, in the hope that you might find it helpful too.

Most of us are very familiar with the part of our prayer book that we use each Sunday. Typically, we worship according to Rite 1 at the 8 o'clock service and Rite 2 at the 10:15 service. But what about the rest of the book? There is so much more in The Book of Common Prayer ... and it does occur to me that I could make better use of this wonderful resource in my daily prayer life.

For example, on page 814 we find a section called Prayers and Thanksgivings. I have decided to add prayer #3 to my prayers because it really spoke to me about so much that is happening in today's world. We've shared it below; perhaps it will speak to you, or you may find another one that does.

For the Human Family:

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. James Prayer Team ...

Praying together for you

Always available, always confidential

Pat Clark
Carol Kirkwood
Donna Paye

Christian Discipleship

“Who we are and what we are doing is defined by our relationship to God through Christ.”

The Rt. Reverend Rowan Williams,
Being Disciples

Yes, it would be nice to have more people at St. James to share the financial and material work of ministry, wouldn't it? We need more people in our congregation in order to sustain it, for it to survive. We say this often enough and think it even more in the 21st century Church. But is “more help” truly why we want more people? If our final answer is yes, then I fear we are in for a rocky future. If our desire, rather, is to be formed as disciples of Christ and grow that desire to share the good news of Jesus, shaping other disciples, then we might be onto something. How we answer the questions of discipleship and our identity as people of God will help us to formulate our response to any and all challenges we face: material, spiritual, and financial.

Over the next several years, my hope is that we can engage in broader and deeper conversation around our individual and collective call as followers of Jesus. One part of our discipleship journey will be to hear from – and perhaps engage with – our Discipleship Team who are nearing the end of their initial program of study and conversation. We, as a team, have been gathering since March of 2020 and there is much collective wisdom to share. Discipleship, like any discipline, takes time and intentionality.

Rowan Williams claims that there are several areas we need explore if we are going to become intentionally and spiritually equipped disciples of Jesus. First, he says we must “deepen our attentiveness to the Bible.” Scripture is still, and shall always be, an essential part of our learning and journey if we are to be more faithful disciples of Jesus. “Developing a deeper level of attentiveness to all persons, places, and things,”

ROOTED IN JESUS



is the second area of focus Williams recommends. We need to become more skilled at seeing the world, and the people in it, through the lens of God in Christ. Finally, Williams tells us that we must “keep

company with those that Jesus keeps company with,” which means finding our place among the “least of these” in the world.

Discipleship is a word we throw around in the Church a good bit, but to be a disciple actually takes effort, focus, prayerfulness, openness, and a desire to more fully love and please God. Discipleship is not about perfection or trying to do everything, but it is a state of mind, body, and spirit. We hope to give some ideas along the way and facilitate some conversation around how we can all be more perfectly Jesus's disciples, His followers further down the road toward God's will for us. God's will, ultimately, is our salvation, our union with Him, and a holy life.

In Christ, whom we follow,
Fr. George+

Music at St. James

Our music ministry at St. James has been, to use an appropriate idiom, “pulling out all the stops,” in preparation for the 150th celebration of our community. I believe for the first time in its history, St. James is commissioning a choral work, which will be presented at the October 1st service. I asked my



friend and colleague, Ellen Gilson Voth, if she would be interested in writing a composition that encapsulates the essence of our community, mission, and history, and she was more than delighted to take on the project. She has roots in the Farmington community; she is the director of the Farmington Chorale, and her original music has been recognized at the national level. I really thought having a piece of music which marks this important occasion would be a great way to contribute something to posterity – it will live on as a piece of art that reflects upon the past, celebrates the present, and looks forward to the future. The choir and I are looking forward to presenting this work and celebrating St. James through music!

150th Celebration Weekend

Saturday, September 30th, 9 am–7 pm & Sunday, October 1st, 10:15 am Worship

Our 150th year anniversary festivities continue Saturday, September 30th with an enhanced version of our popular craft fair, complete with live music!

- From 9 am to 4 pm craft vendors will be set up inside, on the patio, and on the upper lawn offering a variety of products for you, your family, & gift giving.
- Activities for children will be available throughout the day, including crafts and face painting. We will also have children's activities featuring music, art, & storytelling at 11 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm in the church sanctuary.
- Don't miss the commemorative ornaments and shelf sitters of our church that will be sold at our St. James booth, benefiting our Legacy/Building Fund.
- Hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and hotdogs will be prepared by our talented chefs, accompanied by beverages.
- Stop at our bake sale for dessert, enjoy a craft beer from Almost Famous Brewing Company, then take a seat under our tent to enjoy a variety of music beginning at 11 am, culminating with a performance by Connecticut Virtuosi at 6 pm.
- All proceeds from the Craft Fair, the sale of food, & the bake sale go toward our mission & outreach efforts throughout the year.



On Sunday, October 1st we celebrate 150 years in the continuing life of the St. James Parish community with a single worship service at 10:15 am. Connecticut's Bishop Diocesan Jeff Mello leads our Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A commissioned piece of music for voice and organ, created by local composer Ellen Voth, debuts during the service. Guest musicians and singers amplify our wonderful choir, along with students from Miss Porter's School, to praise God in a truly imaginative way. Following our 10:15 worship, everyone is invited to the parish hall for a special coffee hour/brunch with the Bishop and other visiting folks from the Town of Farmington, and the State Legislature, including Mike Demicco, and old friends we don't see very often. Join us in celebrating 150 years of fishing for people at St. James.

With the 150th Celebration Weekend fast approaching, we need your assistance. There is much to do! Whether it's helping crafters unload their items Friday night, lending a hand in the food booth, setting up for our musicians, baking, working at the bake sale or commemoratives table, or putting things back in place afterwards, we all have a part to play! On Sunday morning we have an informal brunch planned to follow the single 10:15 am worship service. Bishop Diocesan Jeff Mello will celebrate with us that morning. We need help setting up /organizing the food as it comes in, overseeing the serving, and then with cleanup as well.

Please take a moment, consider what you can do to help, and then sign up online to volunteer at <https://bit.ly/StJames150> ! There are paper versions of these signups on the parish hall ramp bulletin board or in the narthex, too. If you already have an assignment (working the bake sale, cooking with Ev , helping Dianne with children's activities, etc.), please do not sign up again!

- Volunteer to participate during the weekend
- Bake something for the Bake Sale. The building will be open Thursday. September 28th, 9 am–2 pm, & Friday. September 29th, 4–7 pm for delivery of baked goods.
- Provide some brunch-goodies for Sunday's post-worship gathering
- Donate selected pantry items to help defray our food cost. Stop & Shop gift cards of \$5–\$10 would also be appreciated to help defray costs of perishables. S&S cards should be handed directly to Donna Paye or left with the parish office rather than placed in the narthex donation box. For food items, please donate *only* specified items.

Please contact Bonnie Sudell or Linda Mason if you have questions about the Weekend.

THANK YOU!

St. James Parish

3 Mountain Road in Farmington, CT 06032

860 677-1564

www.stjamesfarmington.org

Church School Registration 2023-2024

Student Information

Family Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Child's Full Name	Nickname	Grade	Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Baptized
				Yes No
				Yes No
				Yes No
				Yes No
				Yes No

Parent Information

Parent Name	Email Address & Cell Phone Number
Parent Name	Email Address & Cell Phone Number

Medical problems, allergies, special needs, food problems? Other info we should know?

Next page please

Our Church School is a cooperative endeavor, a privilege and responsibility we all share. **It is anticipated that all DADS/MOMS/GRANDPARENTS will assist in the church school classrooms either as a classroom teacher or a parent helper.** It's a big help to St. James, a wonderful message to send to the children and a way to better understand our Christian Education program.

I would enjoy sharing my time:

___ As a classroom teacher (please indicate preferred classroom)

PreK-Kindergarten

Grades 1-2

Grade 3-5

___ As a parent helper (assigned to a classroom or as a hall monitor)

Please circle the months that you are available to teach/assist:

September

February

October

March

November

April

December

May

January

Being a lead teacher does not require you to teach every Sunday in the session. There will be substitute teachers available for the days that you cannot teach. However, we ask that you teach most of the Sundays in the session so the children have stability and consistency in their learning. Also, as a lead teacher you never have to prepare for the class on your own. Assistance is provided for planning lessons and crafts each week.

Permission to publish photos: Photos of the children and youth are sometimes posted on the church website, Facebook page or sent to local media outlets. The children and youth are NOT identified in the photos. Please check the following and sign below.

I give permission for photos of my child(ren) to be posted on the St. James website, Facebook page and to be sent to local media outlets (*The Patch, Courant, etc.*). **yes** ___ **no** ___

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Minutes of the Vestry of St. James June 15, 2022

Present: Fr. George Roberts, EJ Ososki, Carol Kirkwood, Kim Faubert, Anna Whilby, Maina Rice via Zoom, Bob Sudell, Bonnie Sudell, Skip Mason

Absent: Kim Pereira, Kathy Bullard, Mary Lansing

Minutes of May 15, 2023

Bob moved to accept the 05/15/2023 minutes as presented. Seconded by Skip.

No Discussion

Unanimous vote to accept the minutes as presented.

Ministry Reports

Finance/Treasurer's Report – May 2023

Summary of Report by EJ Ososki

- We are in good shape overall. Our overall income is about \$8k ahead of plan. Expenses are also running favorable to plan being over \$8k less than our budget.

Motion made by Bob to accept the May financial report as submitted with a second by Kim F. Unanimous vote to accept the May financial report.

150th Report

- Kim and Dave Faubert will provide and send out Save the Date cards
- Invites will go out in August.
- Letters will also go out asking for donations in honor of the 150th.
- Dee Vincenzo is working on getting crafters for the Fair on September 30th.
- Working on getting band(s) – music
- Ornament commemorating the 150th will be ordered – 200 will be available and will be sold for \$15 each with the option to order more if needed. Mantle ornament also available for \$20.

Merger Report – St James / St Mark's

- Letters from both parishes have been sent to the bishops as is protocol. The letters state we would like to further the conversation of a merger with St Mark's and vice versa. The bishops have responded favorably to proceed with conversations.
- Meetings will begin in the Fall, may work in task groups – Bishop Laura will provide guidance on process.

St James Building & Grounds update

- Custom Grounds of Bristol came out to look at landscape around church property.
- To start, trimming and pruning is needed. Locust tree in memorial garden not in good shape; arborist will be out to look. Invasive plants need to be removed The rhododendron and mountain laurel near the sacristy are not doing well. Consider redoing the area to create meditation area.

New Business

Stewardship 2023

- This year will use 150th anniversary and fishing for people as theme.
- Anyone from Vestry can help with the Stewardship committee.
- Meeting to take place in summer to discuss logistics, goals, and timelines.
- 150th donations will go to Building and Grounds for task list and capital improvements.

Discipleship

- Review of Scott Gunn's Executive Director of Moving Forward article of Discipleship or Bust: The Church in 2050 - Adult Education theme for 2023/2024 will be Discipleship.
- In the future – Churches will certainly look different – “A church that is transforming lives by making disciples. What does discipleship mean to us – unlearn that talking about religion is a private matter, but that Faith is a communal matter.
- Being a beacon/lighthouse – accepting of all – have flexibility. Open to everyone wherever they are on their spiritual journey.
- Consider updating our mission statement to reflect discipleship.
- “Church is the place where sacraments are administered, where the word is proclaimed, where people are steeped in prayer and where we focus on meeting Jesus Christ.”
- We need to look at what we offer – who is our community. In Farmington Valley the median age is adults in their 50's. Build excitement of who we are: Christian - Episcopalian – Disciples of Jesus. Need to have conversations of who Jesus is to us. Need to be brave – work from sacraments, prayer, and being a church. Discuss how to start conversations – share the vibrancy

which was reflected in the new video recently done with some parishioners.

- Start at Welcoming – Place of Refuge – Be a Light – Lift People Up – Study and Prayer. Requires us to give up some time. Not about sustaining ourselves, but sharing our struggles and vision.

Newcomers Gathering

- Will be held Sunday October 22nd 4 pm – 5:30 pm. Those who have joined us in the past 5 years will be invited. Anyone can attend and we will serve heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

Rector's and Warden's Thoughts

- Next Vestry meeting is Thursday, September 21st, at 7pm

Bob made a motion to adjourn. Skip seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn. Adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol

Carol Kirkwood, *Clerk*

Your photo in print or on our website?

St. James Parish uses candid photos of various church activities on our website and in publications (like this Epistle). If you prefer that your photo NOT be displayed, please contact the parish office; we maintain a list of members whose likeness is not to be shared.

Save the Date: October 4th *Blessing of the Animals*

On Wednesday, October 4th at 5 pm, we invite folks to gather on the front lawn of St. James Parish, where we will hold, as part of our Evening



Prayer service, our annual *Blessing of the Animals* in honor of Francis and as our own blessing of the created

world God has given to us. Bring your furry friend (or scaly, or whatever, as long as it is not venomous or aggressive) for a blessing! See you then!!

Introducing our new Nurse Supervisor

On Sunday, September 17th, Kim McLaurin will begin her time with us in the nursery, caring for our youngest church members. Kim offers the following as an introduction:

Hi, I'm Kim and I was born and raised on Farmington, graduating from FHS in 2002. My husband is also a FHS graduate, and we are now raising our 2 children together here in town. We have a 13-year-old daughter, Makayla, who attends IAR Middle School and an 8-year-old son, Jamison, who attends Noah Wallace School. I graduated from Tunxis Community College in 2002 with an Associates in Early Childhood and then from Charter Ok State College with a Bachelors in Child Studies. Since 2003 I have worked with children of all ages, but mostly with ages 6 weeks to 3-years-old. In 2020 I started as a paraprofessional working with 3rd and 4th graders in the Southington schools. I do miss working with the little ones so am super excited to join you here in the nursery. In my free time I enjoy bike rides with my family on the different trails in and out of town. I also have a strong passion for coffee so I have a side business of selling coffee and tea. I look forward to meeting everyone and playing with the children who come to the nursery.

Celebrating September birthdays!

Sarah Alligood
Graham Healy
Brenden Wahl
Brad Ives
Joseph Ososki
Jordan Howe
Jay Hostetter
Charlotte Vacca
Seth Howe
Mason Lucas
Judy Drake
Elle Lansing
Pat Clark
Noah Howe

Mia Grieco
Jane Begin
Ben Thomas



Ben Roach
Bob Bogino

St. James Parish

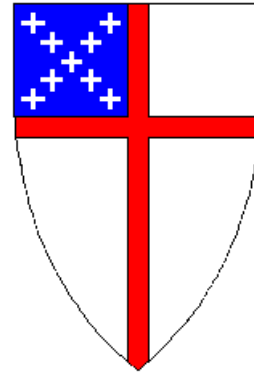
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Website: www.stjamesfarmington.org



MISSION STATEMENT:

*We welcome all to worship and nurture spiritual growth through faith, grace and reason.
We reach out to those in need as a caring community
and live Christ's teaching to love one another.*

STAFF

The Rev. George C. Roberts	<i>Rector</i>
The Rev. Douglas Engwall	<i>Deacon</i>
Blake Hansen	<i>Director of Music</i>
Susan Deming	<i>Parish Administrator</i>
Anthony Nauss	<i>Sexton</i>

OFFICERS

Kim Faubert & Anna Whilby, *Wardens*
EJ Ososki, *Treasurer*
Jerry Hess, *Asst. Treasurer*
Carol Kirkwood, *Parish Clerk*

2023

Kim Faubert
Maina Rice
Anna Whilby

VESTRY 2024

Kathy Bullard
Bonnie Sudell
Robert Sudell

2025

Mary Lansing
Skip Mason
Kim Pereira

St. James Parish

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

