

St. James Parish

Epistle



September 2022

Rector's Message

We are embarking on a truly exciting program year that encompasses the remainder of 2022 and the first half of 2023. In January, 2023 we will begin our celebrations around the 150th Anniversary of the worshipping life of St. James Parish. We are focusing our program year on the Christian Imagination and will have some adult programming around imagination and Christ [see the article titled *Christian Imagination* later in this *Epistle*]. We hope that our imaginative conversations will be illuminating, fun, and stimulating in our continued growth as Christians. One hundred and fifty years ago, the founders of our community imagined an Anglican-Episcopal community in Farmington. The imaginative dream of the early movers and shakers of the little, nascent St. James mission [of Christ Church, Unionville] grew into our physical church, completed in 1898 and infused with the imaginative life of two brothers with the last name Mason. Henry and Charles created much of the woodcraft in our beautiful and warm little church sanctuary and we try to imagine what inspired them. Imagination is what fuels much of our life really, and our faith grows as we imagine who God is to us and who God might become, who we might become with God's help.

I am a lover of stained glass; it attracts and stirs my sense of God in a way few other things can. If you have ever been to the National Cathedral in Washington, St. Thomas or St. Bartholomew in New York City, or any cathedral in the United Kingdom, you have been exposed to the exquisite and quite ancient art of telling stories in stained glass. The stories that I speak of, captured in fragmented glass, may be of the parish in which that glass is situated or of scripture, saints, our Lord Jesus Christ and/or



combinations of any or all of the above. When I look at stained glass in the context of a particular church, I am nearly always moved by the presence of God in Christ. We have no stained glass at St. James, other than in the sanctuary lamp near the altar. We do have, however, the figured panels around the altar and the huge mural behind it, the rood screen between the lectern and pulpit, and the beautiful, inverted ship's hull construction of the beams and rafters above us in the sanctuary. Maybe you feel that art is not a conduit, not for you at least, to the Divine Presence, but I suspect that you are fooling yourself. We will see as the year goes on. The imagination fuels how we understand God and whether our imaginative musings of God are stirred by stained glass, architecture, music, religious art, poetry, or drama, we all tend to have a life of Christian Imagination. Paying more attention to that life is who and what we want to help discover, name, and explore over the course of the next year.

You all know that I love words and it is words that often stimulate my imaginative life with God. I often share on Facebook the sonnets of The Reverend Dr. Malcolm Guite who is an Anglican priest, educator, and a musician, as well as a poet. I wanted to share with you something of the Christian imaginative process, as part of this article, to give you a small, but potent taste of where our life this year may lead us. I must confess, I was not sure where to start. Finally, I remembered another Anglican priest and poet, whose works I am very fond of and with whom I share a Welsh history: R.S. Thomas. Thomas' imagination is stirred by Jesus' Crucifixion, as is mine. I will

[continued on next page]

[Rector's Message continued]

leave you with his poem *In a Country Church* which is evocative of much, but I will allow you to discover for yourselves, hoping that you may become as excited as I, as we anticipate a year of beauty ahead.

*To one kneeling down no word came,
Only the wind's song, saddening the lips
Of the grave saints, rigid in glass;
Or the dry whisper of unseen wings,
Bats not angels, in the high roof.*

*Was he balked by silence? He kneeled long
And saw love in a dark crown
Of thorns blazing, and a winter tree
Golden with fruit of a man's body.*

R.S. Thomas

from *Collected Poems: 1945-1990*, © 1993

In Christ, Fr. George+

Warden's Corner

I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer filled with family, fun, and laughter. As a new school year begins, it's difficult not to feel the shift that takes place around us. Whether we are students, have students or are educators, I think the feeling of "restart" is close to what we experience at the start of a new calendar year. If you have had a challenging summer, hopefully those challenges are subsiding, and you feel true hope for the months ahead. As students head back to the classroom and our own St James children begin a new church school year, I pray



you'll join me in thinking about how this new beginning can rejuvenate the way you think about our wonderful community of St James.

How can we refresh and start anew, while maintaining the character of who we are as a community? How can you learn more about opportunities for fellowship within our walls and how can you teach others about what they might find here?

Kim Faubert
Vestry Co-Warden

Celebration Sunday, September 11th!!

All are welcome and encouraged to join us after the 10:15 service on Sunday, September 11th, as we celebrate the beginning of a new church program year and moving back to our traditional two services at 8 and 10:15 am. We will serve lunch in the parish hall.: hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, and drinks. There is a signup sheet in the narthex for anyone willing to bring a side dish or dessert to share. We are happy to prepare to-go boxes for folks not comfortable coming inside the parish hall, but who would still like to eat on the grounds of the church or to take lunch home.



Church School to Confirmation

Church school is of high importance in the community life of St. James, as we strive to nurture our youngest members in the hope and love of Jesus Christ and an awareness of how our faith gives us strength and different ways to engage the world. **Starting Sunday, September 11th our church school meets from 10 to about 10:45 a.m., gathering in the parish hall.** We currently have two classes: pre-K-4th grade and 5th-9th grade. We are using a *Weaving God's Promises* resource for each group, a curriculum that has a 3-year cycle, where we are currently in year 3, exploring how we speak and experience our faith out in the world. We have teachers who are very dedicated to our young people and their formation, but we always need more. Our older youth, in addition to formation on Sunday mornings, will have the opportunity to engage in service projects and social activities aimed at strengthening bonds between our young folks and encouraging them to be more engaged, through their faith, in the world. We will also have a Confirmation class this year for high school-aged youth who would like to learn more about their faith, scripture, and lay claim to their Baptismal promises for themselves.



[WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES](#)

For more information, please contact Fr. George or Joyce Bettencourt.

Music at St. James

As we at St. James prepare for the beginning of the program year, we anticipate the return of services filled with wonderful and varied music. Thank you to Rachel Abrams for graciously continuing to sing as our cantor throughout the summer. Although the services during the summer months do not have much music, having her there to lead the congregation and perform all of the offertory solos so masterfully was a really uplifting experience.

During most summers I take quite a few weeks of time off from St. James. Many of you already know some of what I do with music outside of the church, but I wanted to share my projects and important work I do which ultimately helps enrich our musical life at St. James because of my experience and connections.

This summer, and for many years now, I worked at an opera festival in Italy – Greve in Chianti – where I worked as an accompanist and vocal coach. A vocal coach is someone who helps singers learn music as accurately as possible, and helps them learn and refine languages, such as Italian, French, German, Russian, etc. Italy is



the birthplace of what we know as Western Opera, so there is a rich and proud tradition of

singing there that we don't find in other places of the world. We had the opportunity to work with many world-class artists, many of whom have performed in some of Italy's biggest opera houses, like *Teatro alla Scala* in Milan. While I go there to teach students, I always come away knowing more about Italian language and culture.

Some of my work takes me quite a distance from Farmington and Hartford. I am the assistant conductor and accompanist for the New Haven Chorale, which is one of the largest choirs in CT at nearly 110 members. I have been with them for 4 years now, performing in venues such as Woolsey Hall at Yale University. My experience in directing and accompanying such a large group made up of professionals and dedicated amateurs has honed my directing skills. Bringing the techniques I learned and "testing" them on our St. James choir members almost always reveals positive results. Next spring – May 7th – the Chorale will

again be performing at the magnificent Woolsey Hall, where the program will also feature my wife, Rebecca de Almeida, and me playing some solo piano music on their beautiful 9-foot concert grand piano.

Having this varied and demanding professional life has been challenging at times, but when I have the opportunity to bring it all together at St. James with such a wonderful and supportive community, I find that all my experiences complement each other. We all learn from everything we do and having a space to combine ideas and practices really puts into perspective the love we have for our passions, ourselves, and others.

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.

As you may know, Deacon Doug is inviting us to join him for sung Compline, Sunday at 9 pm, via the St. James Facebook page. It is a beautiful way to end the day; a way to help us "rest in peace". The prayer below, found at the end of this short service, entrusts us to God's care ...

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen

Book of Common Prayer p. 134

St. James Prayer Team ...

Praying together for you

Always available, always confidential

Pat Clark

Carol Kirkwood

Donna Paye

From the Deacon's Bench

The harvest is waiting for you.

During my chaplain training program at John Dempsey Hospital, one of my classmates kept encouraging me to get into a patient's pain. At first this made no sense to me. Isn't my job to make the patient feel better? Perhaps the pain would swallow us both if I didn't keep a safe distance. It took me several months to understand the truth of getting into the pain. Without empathy, you never really understand what another person is going through. Without that connection, you really cannot begin to help. Later in my training, I came to the realization that I needed to find patients where they were and lose my agenda. It really was about them, not me.

This understanding was helped along by the first patient who kicked me out of her room. To add insult to injury, she was an Episcopalian. "Go cheer up somebody else", she said. "And find my nurse, her name is Susan," she added as I made for the door. What had happened? We'd had a nice chat the day before, but today she was an impatient patient. She was tired of waiting for nurse Susan to take her on a walk and wasn't up to humoring this earnest chaplain in training. I left the room and slumped down in a chair at the nurse's station. Patty, one of my classmates, came upon me and caught my despondent mood. "Offer a little prayer and go see another patient right away," Patty recommended, just short of ordering. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, she might have added, quoting Luke's gospel.

I walked across the floor and entered a patient's room that I'd passed over for several days. Something about the room had put me off. The patient kept the room dark, with the curtain drawn around his bed. Generally, I took this as a sign he didn't want to be bothered. There's never enough time to visit all the patients, so you may choose to visit those who are more inviting. When I finally pushed myself through the door, he greeted me with a warm "hello". He'd been in a lot of pain, but his nurse had just gotten approval to give him more medication. This had taken her longer than she had wanted, forcing her to ignore some other patients. "What's the name of your nurse", I asked. "Susan," he replied.



Hmm, I thought that's an interesting connection. I got thrown out of one room for the same reason I had time to enter another. Over the next several days we talked for hours about his medical condition, his family, his faith and hopes for the future. Although I'd felt empathy for many patients, this was the first relationship where we spent enough time together for me to understand the nature of his pain and role his faith played in dealing with it.

Sometimes we may find it difficult to make this empathetic connection. Some crews who volunteer at soup kitchens make no effort to get to know their clientele. This doesn't all fall on the reluctance of the crew. I imagine that many folks just come for the meal and want to be left in peace. Relationships are possible but they take a lot of time and trust to develop. Sometimes this work might be frustrating and lacking any tangible reward. But, of course, there is the ultimate motivation to enter the harvest. As people of faith, we are commanded to do so. Jesus gave marching orders to his disciples. "Give without payment", he orders because they have paid nothing for all they have received. Jesus asks them to pray that God will find more laborers to send into the harvest.

Sometimes we get so bound up in our own concerns that we fail to see the overarching truth. We do this work because we love Jesus and seek to follow his commandments. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to look for him in those they serve. "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Say a little prayer and go forth because you love Jesus.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."

Doug Engwall, Deacon

Christian Imagination!

Why are you a Christian? If you were a convert to the Christian faith, what prompted you to embrace the Christian story? A few years ago, as most of you know, I went on sabbatical to England. My time in England was suffused with a sense of God's presence in Christ; it was, literally, everywhere I looked. Walking 110 miles of the Old Pilgrim's Way, just for instance, began with Tracey and I visiting Guildford Cathedral, one of the newest in England, commissioned in the early 1960's. By contrast, Ely Cathedral near Cambridge is 1,000 years old. Yet, my imagination was arrested in Guildford Cathedral by the art there, the unusual Baptismal font, just the feel of the place. I loved it! And Guildford was my least favorite Cathedral amongst the six or seven I visited while in England. Over and over again, my mind was stimulated and my heart filled by the beautiful images I saw in the



countryside, in the sunset, and yes, in the boundless cathedrals that stirred a strong sense of Christ's presence and an awareness that I belong completely and entirely to God.

Christian Imagination, how it can bring us closer and deeper into relationship with God in Christ, will be our theme for Adult Education for the 2022-23 program year.

St. James Parish, as a community, will explore how art, poetry, drama, photography, music, and architecture can stimulate our imaginative instincts and, by the nature of their presentation or context, bring us directly into contact with Jesus Christ. We may



easily assume that set prayer, worship, and more obvious practices alone speak to us of God, but we are going on a journey that reminds us – from the beginning of the Christian movement – that artistic expression has been a conduit to knowing Jesus more fully and, perhaps, in a richer way

than we have previously imagined. Please let us know if you have an area of artistic expression that you would like us to explore; the whole year is not set in stone. We invite you to join us on our journey of discovery and, just maybe, we will find new forms of prayer than we could have ever dreamed that tap more powerfully into who we imagine Christ to be.

Church by the Pond

It has been a good while since we've made lunches and joined in worship with the homeless in Bushnell Park in the Church by the Pond ministry. **We have agreed to bring lunches on Saturday, September 24th, for Church by the Pond.** St. James Parish will provide healthy lunches with a sandwich, fruit, etc., bottled water, and will be available to help distribute the lunches. Our plan is to have folks donate ham, turkey, cheese, and bread, chips, and bottled water in the days leading up to September 24th. On the morning of the 24th, at 10 am, a group of volunteers will assemble in the kitchen to make the sandwiches and put the bag lunches together.

At 2 pm a group of St. James volunteers will meet at Bushnell Park to take part in a brief service of Holy Eucharist at which Fr. George will preside and deliver a short reflection. Following Holy Communion, our team of volunteers will line up to distribute the lunches made that morning to the waiting folks. Church by the Pond is a wonderful opportunity for us to serve our neighbors, as Christ commanded, in a small but powerful way and to engage needy folks personally in surroundings that are familiar to them. Please join us in making lunches and/or sharing them with the homeless on September 24th. For more information or questions, please contact Fr. George.



Ministries of St. James

Altar Guild

The work that our altar guild does is often unnoticed by the congregation because our work is done behind the scenes. However, the work that we do is based on a schedule and set of standard procedures derived from the traditions of the Episcopal Church and adapted to the wishes of our Rector. As a result, our members prepare the altar for the celebration of the Eucharist during the different seasons of the Church year, and for special services, including baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals.

Our membership is now at eight and currently includes Elizabeth Alligood McBride, Joyce Bettencourt, Nina Hayes, Barbara Hess, Mimi Hostetter, Janet Lapierre-Green, Gina Pines, and Donna Wilkie.

If you are a member of the congregation, love the liturgy and wish to preserve and enhance its beauty, please contact Fr. George or me to find out more about the Altar Guild or to arrange shadowing a current member, which can help gain a deeper insight into the work that we do.

Barbara Hess, Directress

Amberwoods (as part of Convalescent Home Ministry)

Amberwoods is a skilled nursing facility in Farmington. St. James has maintained an outreach ministry here for more than forty years. We meet from 10:30–11 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month. The program consists of prayer, music and a brief comment on the gospel. Volunteers distribute and collect the prayer booklets as well as add volume to the prayers and songs. There are always several residents from the memory care section. These residents especially warm our hearts as they smile and clap their hands. We are always conscious of COVID and do not conduct the service if there is COVID in the building.

If you feel that you might be able to help with this ministry, please contact Joyce Bettencourt. Your commitment would only be for three Sundays throughout the year.

Buildings & Grounds

B&G is a network responsible for maintaining and upgrading the physical plant, which includes our sanctuary, parish hall, library, offices and educational spaces, and our outdoor grounds,

(Memorial Garden, parking lot, and surrounding space) associated with St. James Parish. The Rectory, where our Rector resides, is part of Building and Grounds, as well. We work with Vestry in the search for vendors and to obtain quotes for repairs and upgrades. We also submit ideas and quotes to the vestry for approval of expenditures and, when possible, see if a solution can be handled by people within the parish. In addition, we maintain the Memorial Garden and plantings on the Church property which includes working with other parties for lawn care and major plantings. Any parishioner interested in joining this committee, in service to St. James, please contact George Roberts or Jim Wilkie. This Committee has been idle during 2+ years of COVID and need some folks willing to vision.

Church School

Our church school meets on Sundays from 10–about 10:45 a.m. We are using the program, *Weaving God's Promises*. The focus of the program is to foster the spiritual formation of our children and youth in Christ's love and mercy and to teach the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation. We are entering year three of this excellent program, *Weaving God's Beloved Community*. We will focus on how we are called by God to live as One Body in Christ, loving our neighbors as ourselves. Emphasis will be on our holy calling to care for others and the gospel values of welcome, inclusion, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, justice and liberation.

Please prayerfully consider being a teacher or a helper for church school. It is really lots of fun to spend time with our children. You need not be young or a parent to teach! We are all called to bring our children to God. The lessons are self-explanatory, offer directed guidance and provide ideas and activities for every lesson. Please contact the church office if you would be able to help.

Flower Ministry

Every Sunday the Altar Guild removes the flowers from the altar following the second service, places the arrangements in portable containers, and leaves them for the Altar Flower Delivery Ministry. A volunteer from this Ministry then takes the arrangements to parishioners who are shut-in, recuperating from an illness, injury or surgery, celebrating one of life's milestones, in need of cheering up, or just to thank someone for their

thoughtfulness. It really is a blessing to see how this small act can brighten someone's day. I invite you to please join the Altar Flower Delivery Ministry and see how this small act can not only bless your fellow parishioners but bring a blessing to you too. This is not a huge commitment; you will be asked to deliver flowers only a few times a year. If you are interested in joining the Altar Flower Delivery Ministry, please contact Joyce Bettencourt.

Lay Leaders

Lay Eucharistic assistants, specifically Lectors, Chalice Bearers, Acolytes and Crucifers, are lay people who assist and participate in worship services. As the fall approaches, and COVID seems to be abating, it is hoped that the former assistants along with perhaps some new recruits can return to assisting Father George on the Altar.

The Lectors, or at least a small and faithful number have been reading the lessons through most of the past two years, but the other positions have not been filled, except for Chloe Roberts who has been the Crucifer since the church reopened. We hope that there will be some parish members who are willing to serve in these roles, especially Lectors and Acolytes.

The lectors read the lessons. At the 8 a.m. service lead they also lead the Psalm. Sometimes these people are volunteers, but more often they are invited to read the lessons at the service they regularly attend. In the recent past some of our youth have been Lectors and we would very much like to have them participating again. If you are interested, speak to Father George or to me. A very short training session is required for Lectors.

Acolytes come from the youth of the Parish. Any boy or girl who is in fourth grade or above is welcome to become a part of this ministry. A training session is required; it is usually held in the fall, or as needed throughout the year. After the training session, the youth can begin to serve on the altar; it is that simple. Crucifers are young people who continue to acolyte and have the privilege of carrying the cross. At times, some young people who have shown both the interest and the dedication have become Chalice Bearers. Again, if you are interested contact either Father George or me (Mimi Hostetter).

Men's Breakfast

The Men's breakfast is a long-standing tradition of what was once the St. Andrew's Guild, a group of men who engaged in ministry at St. James and beyond. Currently, the Men's Group makes breakfast for the parish community on the first Sunday of every month. The breakfasts are a time when every member of the parish can come together, between the 8 am and 10:15 am services, and enjoy pancakes (and occasionally French toast), bacon, eggs, and coffee/juice, and good fellowship. The Men's Breakfast has been suspended since April 2020 due to COVID. We are planning to bring the Men's Breakfast back on Sunday, October 2nd. Men of our congregation, we hope you will join the effort on Sunday mornings, when our breakfast makers usually arrive early to begin preparation, with serving beginning at the conclusion of the 8 am service, right around 9 am. Breakfast is served until around 9:45, when clean up needs to begin in anticipation of church school beginning at 10 and the second worship service at 10:15 am. Please join – as a breakfast preparer or breakfast eater – as we restart this wonderful parish tradition of fellowship. Contact Fr. George if you are interested.

Music Ministry

If you have not considered singing in our choir, I would encourage you to drop by a rehearsal – 7 pm on Wednesdays (occasionally moved to another night because of conflicts) - this way you can have a look at an important part of the process of learning and preparing our music. The challenges many of us associate with learning music are dealt with in the rehearsal space - pitch, rhythms, diction, being musical, etc. So, while it can be an intimidating thought, there are many "tricks" and techniques which can help us all be better musicians. Come to a few rehearsals with no pressure and see if that process works for you - and if you're feeling brave, join us on a Sunday morning. If you're not ready to stand in front for the offertory, you are more than welcome to join us in the part-singing of hymns. If you've thought about choir, but aren't sure, please feel welcome to ask any questions of our choir members or talk with me (Blake Hansen)!

Outreach

Outreach is an area of ministry that is so very important but has been a bit in flux since the "retirement" of our last Chair. Outreach's intent is to share the love of Christ, through service and

support, throughout the local area, region, and the world. In year's past St. James Parish has provided material support to Gifts of Love by collecting peanut butter and jelly that are then put in school children's backpacks, so the children will have something nutritious to eat for lunch. We have gathered money and/or gifts for children at the Friendship Service Center and in the town, helped in the Youth Place Program at St. Monica's in Hartford, raised money for the Friendship Service Center through the Foodshare Walk against Hunger, given financial support to the American Friends for hospital care and education in the Middle East, and much more. We have supported Operation Fuel, Grace Academy, and Church by the Pond with resources and, in the latter, with our ongoing participation in making and distributing lunches to the unhoused in Hartford. We need folks who are willing to exert energy and, perhaps, leadership in our Outreach and Mission ministry. We are planning, in the summer of 2023, to return a mission team to the Dominican Republic to begin building a church in the tiny community of Catalina. Please contact Fr. George if you would like to start a project or join the ongoing efforts of Outreach.

Prayer Team

The current members of the Prayer Team are Pat Clark, Carol Kirkwood, and Donna Paye. We are so grateful for their faithfulness to this ministry. We also give thanks for our Rector George Roberts, and for his unwavering support always. The team prays daily for those in need and those requesting prayer. The team seeks to further understand the potential scope of its healing ministry within the St. James community, as we discern the leading of the Holy Spirit. The team meets together every 6 weeks or so, for reflection on scripture, related readings, or inspirational materials.

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.

Faith & Fries!

We now gather on the 4th Tuesday of every month at **Five Corners Bistro & Craft Bar**, 354 Colt Hwy (Rt. 6) in Farmington. **We next convene on**



Tuesday, September 27th, 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!*

Celebrating September birthdays!

Sarah Alligood
Graham Healy
Brenden Wahl
Joy Reeve
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
Brad Ives



Ben Roach
Bob Bogino

St James' 4th Annual Fall Fair

Saturday, October 22nd, 9 am to 4 pm

After a 2-year hiatus, plans for the 4th annual **St. James Fall Fair** are underway! The event will include a Craft Fair with artisans, crafters and vendors exhibiting their wares, a Baked Goods Table showcasing *delectables* from our own talented bakers, a Raffle Table of awesome items, and a Luncheon/ Cafe, where shoppers can "grab a coffee," "just a bite," or make a selection from our luncheon menu. We also plan to offer colorful Mums for sale, It's shaping up to be a really fun day!

We will have craft booths on the patio and lawn, in addition to our inside booths. Our hope is that the entire parish will enjoy this October event, and that the surrounding community will enjoy being welcomed into our parish home. The proceeds benefit St. James Outreach ministries.

Leadership is in place for the following key areas: **Crafter Liaison:** Dee Vincenzo, **Building Set-Up:** John McBride, **Kitchen/Cafe:** Ev Lyons, **Raffle:** Tracey Roberts; **Bake Sale:** Dona Waugh, **Publicity:** Donna Paye, **Mums:** Elizabeth McBride; and **Clean-Up:** Chandler Howard.

But with the Fair 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 kitchen/cafe, baking, working at the bake sale table, selling mums, donating items for our raffle or cafe, or putting things back in place afterwards, we all have a part to play! Please take a moment, consider what you can do to help, and then approach one of the area leaders with your offer to assist them. We'd really appreciate it! You can also contact Donna Paye directly at 860-673-0097, if you have questions about the Fair.

The building will be open Thursday, October 20th, 9 am–2 pm, & Friday, October 21st, 4–7 pm for delivery of baked goods.

At this time, we especially need donations of the following:

1. **Raffle Items:** please contact Tracey Roberts for ideas, and to let her know what you are donating. These should be new, unused items, and we reserve the right to edit items. Tracey needs to do some advance work on the raffle items, so let her know what you intend to donate. She needs to receive your item at church by Sunday, October 2nd.

2. **Supplies for the Luncheon/Cafe:** donations of selected pantry items will greatly help defray our food cost: Canned tomato soup, pickle spears, individual bags of potato chips, soda in cans, and bottled water. Also, Stop & Shop cards of \$5 or \$10 would be greatly appreciated to help defray costs of perishables. **A list of needed quantities and a collection box will be in the narthex at church by Sunday, September 11th.** For food items, please donate **only** specified items. You can contact Ev Lyons with any questions.

3. **Baked Goods:** to be sold at the Bake Sale Table. bars, cookies, breads, cakes, pies, fudge, snacks, etc., etc.! **In 2019 our fantastic bake sale made a huge profit!** Please contact Dona Waugh to let her know what you are baking.



THANK YOU!

Anti-racism training opportunities

VISIONS Inc. is offering a day and a half workshop

for those within the Episcopal Church of Connecticut community who are interested in expanding ideas and creating community around concepts of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice. VISIONS multicultural organizational development process incorporates a variety of approaches and techniques that address what people think, what they do, and how they feel about cultural differences and changes.

Our workshops and training sessions allow for difficult and intensive work within a model that helps participants feel encouraged to stay invested and engaged throughout. Each workshop combines personal and group experiential learning, conceptual theory, and opportunities to practice new approaches. Some highlights from the workshop offered are:

- Identify previous unconscious biases and misinformation in yourself, in others, and in organizations.
 - Communicate more effectively across difference and through difficult conversations.
 - Recognize personal, interpersonal, institutional, and cultural barriers to inclusion.
 - Understand the ongoing personal effects of historical and contemporary exclusion and oppression. For example, the effects of sexism on people of all gender identities and expressions, including cis-gendered men and cis-gendered women.
- September 14 & 15
 - September 16 & 17
 - September 19 & 20
 - September 27 & 28

Registration is available at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/visions-inc-workshops-916229>

Kaleidoscope Institute is offering two 4-session cohorts in October & December for those in ECCT seeking to embrace and enact the vision of Becoming Beloved Community.

- October 22, 23, 29 & 30
- December 3, 4, 10 & 11

ABOUT THE TRAINING:

This course is designed to help us embrace and enact the vision of Becoming Beloved Community – an ongoing and lifelong journey, as well as

satisfy the Canonical requirements for all lay and ordained leaders to participate in anti-racism training. It includes opportunities for personal and group reflection.

Competencies explored: Cultural awareness, Truth telling, Intercultural competency, Power and privilege, Repairing the breach.

There will be 4 Zoom workshops over 2 weekends, and some materials to read, watch and reflect on before and between sessions. Sessions run 2.5 hours each. Participants will be invited to complete the online Intercultural Development Inventory®.

Registration is available at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/kaleidoscope-institute-becoming-beloved-community-916409>

Minutes of the Vestry of St. James June 16, 2022

Present via Zoom: Fr. George Roberts, EJ Ososki, Carol Kirkwood, Jim Wilkie, Kim Faubert, Tom Nelson, Foster White, Maina Rice, Anna Whilby, Bob Sudell, Bonnie Sudell.

Absent: Kathy Bullard

Meeting called to order 7:04pm

Minutes of May 19, 2022, Vestry Meeting

Bob moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Jim.

Unanimous vote to accept the minutes.

Ministry Reports

Finance/Treasurer's report – May 2022

Summary of Report by EJ Ososki

- Income side looks good. We are ahead on pledges and special gifts. On the expense side, we are about \$3,600 unfavorable to budget. Driven by heating oil & snow removal. Overall total income vs expenses are at \$8,300 favorable to the budget.

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

Unanimous vote to accept the May financial report as submitted.

Clean Up Day and Garden report presented by Jim Wilkie

- Clean Up Day held on June 4th. Good group of parishioners helped. Many thanks to those who

were a part of the day! Jim reported it went very well: memorial garden weeded and areas around side and front of the church spruced up.

Audiovisual

- Wassmann Audio Video company has been selected to upgrade and improve our camera / audio system. Have signed agreement and date for installation to be scheduled. All costs for this project are being covered by a gracious and generous Donors. Thank you from all of us at St James.

150th Anniversary - 2023

- Looking at having 150th events on weekend of 9/30/23-10/1/2023. Some possibilities are Food Trucks & Music or BBQ Pig Roast & Music. Also, considering a fund raiser event to be included or a community event among the Farmington community.
- On Sunday October 1, 2023, a celebration at Sunday service with invitations to town leaders, past clergy and staff, bishop, etc.
- Fr George is meeting with a student from Miss Porter's who would intern as part of their graphic design class. She would help in designing a 150th St James logo and help with publicity of 150th events through social media, website. There would be no cost to the parish.
- Will be looking at presenting the history of St. James which will include a "play" written by Rev. Bill Eakins (a past interim clergy before Fr. George came to St James)
- Other events being strongly considered are to have a Christmas Walk to include St. Patrick's and First Church, selling a commemorative Christmas ornament. Maina had an idea at Halloween could have a party and wear costume of your favorite era. Other ideas a speaker from Stanley Whitman to speak on history of Farmington. A fundraiser suggested for early 2023 is to hold dance with a silent auction.
- Considerations for getting funds to carry out the events include seeking out sponsors among the community including local businesses, neighbors, community etc.
- In Sept 2022 need to solidify events and budget for the 150th. All of Vestry will need to help with events.

New Business

Stewardship 2022

- Stewardship team will meet over the summer. A few more people would be very welcomed on the team. Annual appeal starts early November

and ends early Advent. Continue again with Stewardship tree / Words of Gratitude

Welcoming Presence at St James

- Continue discussions on how to be more welcoming How to reach out more
- Kim willing to send out Welcoming cards – would need contact info
- Anyone willing to help or contribute ideas see Fr. George. Kim or Jim
- Asking in church if anyone is visiting for the first time and acknowledging them is comfortable for some and uncomfortable for others so it becomes a bit tricky – need to find the balance
- Put information cards back out in the pews – revise as needed
- Have a Welcome team / Welcome bag, maybe a St James mug
- Anna and Kim willing to work on putting Welcome ideas into Action

Capital Campaign

- Think about whether we tie in a capital campaign with the 150th in 2023 or separate it out to after 2023

Miscellaneous- What is the church? What are we here for? Where is our energy/yearning?

- Fr George suggested looking into these links on the web – Premier Unbelievable website out of UK. Following links suggested

<https://www.premierunbelievable.com/unbelievable/important-announcement-the-big-conversation-is-coming/11425.article>

<https://www.premierunbelievable.com/unbelievable/rowan-williams-and-paul-kingsnorth-conversion-culture-and-the-cross-are-we-ready-to-believe-in-god-again/13187.article>

Old Business

Building and Grounds

- Repair to siding at back of church is going well. Wood under the siding was in decent shape so no additional repairs needed there.
- The median in the back parking lot has been leveled and grass planted – looks good

Bonnie made a motion to adjourn. Foster seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

Adjourned at 8:59pm

Respectfully submitted

Carol

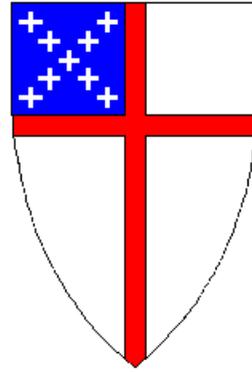
Carol Kirkwood, Clerk

St. James Parish

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Phone: 860-677-1564
Fax: 860-677-8219

Email: st.james.church@sbcglobal.net
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>
Laura Vacca	<i>Nursery Supervisor</i>

OFFICERS

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

2022

Thomas Nelson
Foster White
James Wilkie

VESTRY 2023

Kim Faubert
Maina Rice
Anna Whilby

2024

Kathy Bullard
Bonnie Sudell
Robert Sudell

St. James Parish

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FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06032

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

