

St. James Parish

Epistle



March 2023

Rector's Message

Have mercy on me according to your loving-kindness ... Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Psalm 51:1a, 9

Psalm 51 reminds me of the necessarily difficult and yet shattering beauty of the Lenten season. Lent is the oft-maligned liturgical season “in the wilderness,” where we, as the Invitation to a Holy Lent (BCP, p. 264) states, observe a time of “self-examination and repentance; by fasting, and self-denial ...” Contemporary wisdom, so often in our 21st century world, seems to believe that examining our lives with an eye to potential change is not necessarily a good thing; God loves us just the way we are. The flip side are those who require us to change to fit their vision of what the world should be. Christian witness, since the beginning of the Jesus movement, has always held two realities: we are sinners AND we are God’s beloved with one not cancelling out the other. Jesus died for us “while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:8) which means God didn’t wait for us to get our act together but acknowledged that we still have work to do.

Psalm 51 is, for me, God’s wisdom as offered in Lent. The Psalmist writes of God’s great, surpassing compassion, mercy and goodness and also accepts a need for deeper truth and a fuller sense of God’s holiness. Lent teaches us that relationship with God, if tended like a garden, will bring an abundance to our lives, joy that God manages to foster within us on our journey even in times of suffering. God promises that He will supply the living water of life in Christ, sustenance for our spiritual lives even when our physical garden (our bodies or minds) is in a

period of drought. The Psalmist goes on to ask of God, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” Lent is, too, about renewal, God washing away the barnacles that we collect along the way which can, if left untended, become huge problems for our spiritual life and our relationships with others, including God. Repentance, which we talk a great deal about in the Church, is truly about (re)turning to the place we most firmly belong. Our willingness to examine our lives, how we are

missing the turns along the way that may lead us back to God so that, when those turns come up again (and they will) we can take them. Renewal is not always easy but it is not as hard as we sometimes make it, either. God’s light shines in the world. Lent can be a time of finding the light, praying for God’s wisdom to show us the way, and taking measure of what is most important to us, as it relates

to God’s Presence in our lives and, really, all of life. There are times, too, when things become so challenging, we call out to God, “Have mercy on me according to Your loving-kindness.” Trust me, when we cry for mercy, when we decide to turn toward God, our Lord and Savior will listen.

In Christ,
Fr. George+



Wardens' Corner

As I was thinking about my focus for this Warden's Corner, there was one word that stayed on my heart: Gratitude. My husband David and I are so very grateful to have found our way to the St. James family ... a family filled with talented, energetic people who come together to enrich themselves, their neighbors, and the community through a collection of talents, ideas and gifts. As evidenced by our Stewardship campaign and the fabulous turnout at our annual meeting, you are all so generous with your financial support, as well as the time and energy that you pour so freely into this community. There is only one reason we can celebrate and rejoice in our 150th year as a faith community and that is you, the people of St James, both past and present. This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity for our current body to shine. Your 150th committee, along with your Vestry, has been hard at work envisioning and preparing a variety of exciting events throughout 2023 to celebrate this milestone. In addition, this is a unique opportunity for us to take stock of where we are and where we want to be in the 150 years to come! So, in the months ahead I pray you will take some time to consider the various ministries that may call you to lend your unique gifts and talents, and that you'll dive in with all the same enthusiasm that has sustained us all these years. Most importantly, keep an eye out and mark your calendars for all the opportunities to serve and celebrate 150 years of St James! In the end, I'm not sure Gratitude is a big enough word! Looking forward to seeing you at a gathering soon.

Blessings,
Kim Faubert, Co-Warden

First Sunday Breakfast!

Find delicious food and fellowship at the First Sunday Breakfasts cooked by a great crew of men of the parish, led by John McBride: pancakes, waffles, sausage, bacon, eggs, breads, juice and coffee as good as Mom made. The menu may change from one month to the next. **Join us Sunday, March 5th for a wonderful time of food and fellowship!**



Discovering John's Gospel in Lent

During the Wednesdays of Lent at the church, beginning March 1st and spanning March 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th, folks are invited to explore the dramatic elements in the Gospel according to



John, how we make the text come alive. Fr. George, who holds an MFA in Acting, will lead a dynamic study, in performance and word, on John's often ill-understood message. We will begin each evening at 5:30 pm with a light supper of soup and salad and from 6-7:15 engage a variety of John's texts, among them his account of the crucifixion. Sign up is available at <https://bit.ly/StJamesJohn>. All are invited!

Church School update

We've begun the New Testament with the birth of Jesus, His circumcision, naming and dedication in the temple and His being lost then found in the temple teaching the elders. "Why were you looking for Me? Didn't you know that I would be in My Father's house ... that I would be about My Father's business?" His ministry of compassion begins with forgiving the sinful woman who washes His feet with her tears. Our children will learn how Jesus responds to people in their hurt and pain. Even in the middle of a huge crowd, He will turn His whole attention to one in great need who humbly comes to Him for help.

Church School begins prior to services at 10 o'clock with music and fellowship. Grades K-3 meet in the parish hall while grades 4-8 meet in the upstairs classroom. Each group has the same lesson which is presented in a manner appropriate for that age.



From the Deacon's bench

To everything there is a season.

I've been reflecting on this passage from Ecclesiastes when considering the next phase of my ministry as a deacon. What is the season of deacon? The diocese generally limits the term of deacon within a parish to three years. It's hard to accept that we have entered that third year of our time together. In some ways, I feel like we are just getting to know each other. Yet the diocese believes that the bond of our relationship would only grow more difficult to break should our time together exceed three years. Father George and I have been discussing a possible future which would allow our connection to continue as a member of the congregation which was my hope when I began my service to St. James Parish.

It has also become clear that the next season of my life should include spending more time with our children and grandchildren would live in Northern Virginia (Reston) and Western Maryland (Frederick). My wife and I are blessed by two grandchildren by our daughter Beth and Craig, her husband, living in Reston, VA. Their daughter Evelyn is 9 and her brother Aiden is 7. My wife and I want to participate in their precious lives as they grow up. These are years that cannot be reset on the calendar of time. We so much enjoyed being present for our children as they participated in school activities. We look forward to similar experiences with Evelyn and Aiden in the coming years. Our son David and Brooke, his wife, live in Frederick, MD, about an hour distant from Reston. They also hope to start a family.

Our children have expressed a strong desire for us to move closer to them. Currently Karen and I manage to support each other in sickness and in health but Beth and David would like to be more available to offer support. During our Christmas visit to Virginia, we located a garden apartment in Reston that would allow us to spend part of the year living near our son and daughter. We will continue to reside part of the year in our Bristol home, allowing us to stay involved in the communities we hold dear in Connecticut. For me, the most important connection is with St. James Parish. My plan is to be with you during Lent,

Easter, Advent, and Christmas as well as the summer months. Father George has offered to let me preach from time to time and I hope to stay involved with the children's music program. We trust the Holy Spirit will guide us as we go forward with this endeavor. Your prayers and responses are most welcome.

Here's our plan for the rest of this calendar year. Karen and I will move down to our new apartment in Reston after Easter services with you, returning to spend summer in Connecticut. During this coming Christmas season at St. James, Father George and I feel it would be best for me to end my service as your deacon and to be welcomed as a member of the congregation. It's wonderful that in many other languages their parting phrases really mean "until we see each other again" rather than "goodbye". When it comes, should our farewell always be "God be with you 'til we meet again".

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Doug Engwall, Deacon



Lake Anne Plaza in Reston, VA

Prayer Team

A Prayer for Lenten grace —

Loving God,

During this season of Lent, bring me closer to you. Prepare a place in my home and my heart for silence and solitude, that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life. Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul; and remind me of the grace of simplicity. Enlarge my heart, that I may give to those in need; and in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity. May this Lent be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love, and my faith in you.

Daily Prayer

St. James Prayer Team ...

Praying together for you

Always available, always confidential

Pat Clark

Carol Kirkwood

Donna Paye

Easter Memorial Fund

God conquered death on Easter. Christ's rising from the tomb makes all the difference in the world because it trumpets the Good News that we matter, that we will always matter, that God is with us in life and in death. Easter is, then, a particularly appropriate time to remember loved ones who have died by giving flowers in their memory. Any contribution is welcome, a gift of **\$35** or more is asked to cover the expense of the Easter flowers. **Names of memorials and gifts received by Monday, April 3rd will be listed in the Easter bulletins**, and we will pray for those remembered throughout the Paschal season. Please use the form below to designate your gift. Make checks payable to *St. James Parish* marked "Easter Flowers". Thank you for your generosity.

Please print the information as you want it listed.

In memory of _____

OR

In thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____

Outreach Corner

****SAVE THE DATE** for Foodshare Walk Against Hunger** , Saturday May 20th, 8 am–noon, Dunkin Donuts Park, Hartford, CT. St James will have a team, *The St James Heelers*, walking in this great event. Everyone can participate — by walking or contributing! The goal is to raise money for Foodshare and help combat hunger in our community.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

St James has a few Outreach Programs in need of volunteer "coordinators". These activities would not require much of your time, and are vital to our mission "to reach out to those in need as a caring community". The programs in need of Coordinators are:



*Farmington Food Pantry

We work with Farmington Social Services to provide food and live produce for Farmington families. St James collects food for this in January and June of each year. A Coordinator would monitor the donation bins and take the donated items to the food pantry.

*Picnic in the Park/Church on the Green

Twice per year we make sandwiches/sack lunches at the church and bring them to Bushnell Park in Hartford. There is a short Eucharist service, and then lunches are distributed to homeless and other needy people. A Coordinator would facilitate signup for the needed items, assist volunteers with the making of the sack lunches as well as distribution at the park.

*Thanksgiving Baskets

Each year, in coordination with Farmington's Social Services, St James makes several "baskets" of food containing complete Thanksgiving dinners. The Coordinator would work with parish office to facilitate signup for the needed items, organize the filling of the bags on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, and then delivering them to the receiving facility in Farmington.

If you are interested in one of these Outreach opportunities, please speak to Father George or to Kathy Bullard.

Celebrate our Sesquicentennial Year!

2023 ushers in a very special time in the life of our worshipping community: we commemorate 150 years of continuous worship as the community of St. James (from 1873) and nearly 125 years in our church building. St. James has been through many changes over its century and a half of existence and, like most churches in New England in 2023, we see more change in our future. Our hope is that we can energize our membership with different varieties of events over the course of 2023 and draw much positive and generous outside attention toward St. James, too. We invite all our members to engage in as many events over the course of the year as you possibly can. Your Vestry and 150th Planning Team invite your neighbors and friends to all our events over the course of our Sesquicentennial year. Let's get excited as we celebrate the first 150 years of our beloved St. James Parish!

Thank you for your participation, energy, hands, and feet to help, and for your patience, as the events of our 150th celebration fall into place.

Saturday, March 11th, is our art show and auction. Paintings, sculpture, liturgical, quilts, needlework and more will be on display, with some pieces available for sale. Proceeds will be shared with the artists and will support our outreach programs. Admission is free and includes art, classical music, hors d'oeuvres and beverages to celebrate our founding in 1873. Artists include James Britton, Grier Torrence, Betsy Bailey, Donald Moss, Cleve Grey, Jeff Dugan, Neil Clark, Linda Reynolds, Andrea Harris, Kathy Bullard, and others. Celebrity Gerry Franklin will auction several of the pieces. The show will take place in the parish hall from 7 to 9:30 pm. Thank you for your support!

On Sunday, April 23rd at 6:30 p.m., Anna Swinbourne, Executive Director of Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, will offer a presentation on the breathtaking Isenheim Altarpiece. The program Anna will present will be part of our 150th Anniversary celebrations, but also our program year focus, the Christian Imagination.

During Eastertide our choir and guest musicians will offer a celebratory and joyous Choral Evensong, in commemoration of the Resurrection of our Lord. A reception will follow.

September 30th. We hope to hold a Block Party using our lawn and the Green between First Church and the Barney Library with live music at both venues, food trucks, games and other activities, and several fundraisers for St. James.

October 1st. We will have *Founders' Day* celebrating 150 years in the life of St. James.

Sunday, December 17th. We hope to have an Ecumenical Christmas Walk to involve St. James, the Church of Saint Patrick, and First Church of Christ.



Faith & Fries

We usually 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, March 28th, from 7–8:30 pm.** You can come for dinner, have a drink or snack, whatever is comfortable for you. 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 March Birthdays

Pierce Connolly
Rowan Connolly
Mitch Guglielmo
Lila Manton
Jane Inrig
Drew Alligood
Jerry Hess
Paul Ingram

David Paye
Nick Baldwin
Bruce Baldwin
Marisol Pereira
Anna Lapointe
Ev Lyons
Ella Ososki
Elizabeth McBride
Katherine Watkin



Important dates of Lent

Wednesday, February 22nd, Ash Wednesday,
February 26th, First Sunday in Lent, The
Great Litany,
April 2nd, Palm Sunday, Procession of Palms,
Wednesday, April 5th, 7 pm, Tenebrae
April 6th, 7 pm Maundy Thursday
April 7th, 11:30 am, Good Friday
Contemplative Service; 7 pm, Veneration
of the Cross
Saturday, April 8th, 7:30 pm The Great Vigil
of Easter,
Easter, April 9th, Resurrection Sunday

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, April 29th

St. James Clean up day! On Saturday, April 29th, beginning at 9 am and going until 4 pm, we will hold a day of “deep” cleaning for our physical plant and need as many hands as we can muster! Lunch will be provided and snacks and drinks available throughout the day. We will tackle, God willing, the kitchen, the storage space in the parish hall, the closets throughout the building, the under space and attics, and the verger’s closet, etc. in the church building itself. Over time, clutter accumulates, and we have a lot of clutter right now. Come, join what promises to be a great day of community building and, dare I say, fun 😊. People are encouraged now to make their way through the building and put a sticky note and your name/ministry team on that item if you wish for it to be saved. We are going to rent a dumpster for the day and much debris and clutter will go into it by day’s end. The week before, God willing, we will take out what we plan to save in the kitchen and other important spaces and folks can go in that week and see if there are things that they want. There will be items we will donate to charity, as well. The alternate date, in the event of weather, will be Saturday, May 5.



Minutes of the Vestry of St. James: January 13, 2022

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

Meeting called to order 12:00pm

Minutes of December 15, 2022

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

Discussion: Corrections noted to make to 12/15/2022 minutes

- Change Building and Grounds *plans* to meet quarterly - in place of *has been* meeting.
- Correction to discussion to change next Vestry meeting date reads January 4, 2023 – should read January 15, 2023.

Motion made by Bob to accept minutes as amended, second by Bonnie.

Unanimous vote to accept the minutes as amended.

Ministry Reports

Finance/Treasurer's report – December 2023

Summary of Report by EJ Ososki

- Our pledges greatly surpassed our budget by nearly \$40K. Nearly every aspect of our income exceeded expectations. We finished the year with total income greater than \$50k ahead of our budget.
- On the expense side, we unsurprisingly exceeded the budget due to insurance, heating oil, repairs, and snow/lawn care. Expenses exceeded plan by about \$10K.
- Overall, we did very well. Deficit ended up about \$9K instead of the budgeted \$49K.

Motion made by Bob to accept the December financial report as submitted with a second by Foster.

Unanimous vote to accept the December financial report as submitted.

Outreach

- Fr George met with Mimi Hostetter, Kathy Bullard, and Susan Rubin who are taking on leadership roles within the Outreach committee. They are looking at, and figuring out who has been assigned to what tasks in the past and reviewing what assignments are involved in Outreach.

[continued on next page]

- Other parishioners can pick up some of those assignments – many are a 1 or 2 time only task within the year and/or simple tasks, i.e., take food over to food pantry.

New Business

2023 Budget

Foster made a motion that the budget proposed for 2023 be approved and accepted. Seconded by Kim.

Discussion / Questions

- EJ and Fr George explained funds that are in assets and Invested Funds/Securities. Investment Committee under the leadership of Jerry Hess oversees invested funds and maximizes our monies in investments.
- Important to let parishioners know in the Annual Meeting how much their pledges mean. Very grateful that people have given and increased giving.
- Last year we were in a place of having to make staff cuts. Now, if this level of giving continues, in future could think of possibly compensating a Coordinator of Religious Education- Church School- Youth Ministry.
- Past few years' goal has been not to use more than 5% of invested funds to cover any deficits. In past that percentage was much higher. This year's budget the best we have had in many years. Our ultimate goal is not to have any deficit.
- Many thanks go to Jerry Hess for the years of hard work and time he has put into investing and accounting tasks for St James Parish.

Unanimous vote to approve and accept the 2023 budget as proposed.

Old Business

Building and Grounds

Motion made by Bob to allocate \$644 for a new dishwasher. Seconded by Foster

Discussion

- Installation taken care of at no further cost.
- Unanimous vote to allocate \$644 for purchase of new dishwasher

Anti-Racism Training

- Required training for Vestry members. At this time tabling which training we will do as the online 1-day anti-racism training with Absalom Jones Institute in Atlanta limits to 9 from the same parish can be in a training at one time to allow for more

diversity per class. Will be looking for other options.

- Safe Church also required of all Vestry members.

150th Anniversary - Commissioning of Music Composition

- Commissioning a piece of music for the 150th with cost in \$1500-\$2500 range. Would be arranged for 4 singing parts and organ with possibility of another instrument.
 - Consider using music fund which has approximately \$3400 in it from donations at concert series held 9 years ago.
- Motion made by Bob to allocate money from the music fund towards commissioning a piece of music for the 150th anniversary. Seconded by Foster.

Discussion

- Music piece gets used beyond the 150th – performed over and over and is ours forever. Choir is very enthusiastic about it. Music is a significant part of St James, along with being part of celebrations.
 - Cons – Spending money after increase of asking for money for budget
 - Pros – Have only 1 chance to commission such a piece
- Majority (1 opposed) voted in favor of approving the motion to use music fund for commissioning a music piece for the 150th anniversary.

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

Adjourned at 1:51pm

Respectfully Submitted

Carol

Carol Kirkwood, Clerk

Your picture in a brochure or on our website?

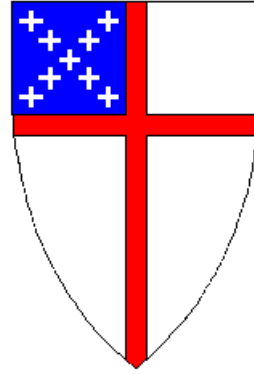
St. James Parish uses candid photos of various church activities on our website and in publications (like this *Epistle*). If you prefer that your photo NOT be displayed, please contact the parish office; we maintain a list of members whose likeness is not to be shared.

St. James Parish

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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		OFFICERS		
The Rev. George C. Roberts	<i>Rector</i>	Kim Faubert & Anna Whilby, <i>Wardens</i>		
The Rev. Douglas Engwall	<i>Deacon</i>	EJ Ososki, <i>Treasurer</i>		
Blake Hansen	<i>Director of Music</i>	Jerry Hess, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i>		
Susan Deming	<i>Parish Administrator</i>	Carol Kirkwood, <i>Parish Clerk</i>		
Anthony Nauss	<i>Sexton</i>			
Laura Vacca	<i>Nursery Supervisor</i>			
		2023	VESTRY	2025
		Kim Faubert	2024	Mary Lansing
		Maina Rice	Kathy Bullard	Skip Mason
		Anna Whilby	Bonnie Sudell	Kim Pereira
			Robert Sudell	

St. James Parish

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

