

# St. James Parish

## Epistle



January 2023

### Rector's Message

*They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. [Isaiah 60:6]*

Epiphany and the season that follows it are about showing out the glory of God that has been born among us, God our Immanuel. And it is easy, during Epiphany, to focus on the glory that God brought into the world in Christ. Kings come from afar, the Magi of prophesy, to bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold for the King of heaven, incense to lift up a pleasing aroma to God in Christ's honor, and myrrh, for the heavenly King-come-to-earth's death and burial. Epiphany reminds us that the King of Heaven came among us and "humbled himself to death on a Cross." God has shown forth the path to salvation, the Light of all the world that will usher into that world a possibility of peace. Knowing that the Light of all the world has come into a world filled, so much of the time, with some type of pain or disappointment, gives me strength to rejoice and feel blessed. The Epiphany story tells us, too, that power and bad intentions (see Herod) only lead us down the pathway to darkness and ruin while the true and never-failing light leads us down byways of joy and purpose.



here, and we still don't know exactly what will happen or where we are headed. Do we desire only to preserve our building for prosperity, for us, with little thought to the future? Do we hope to channel the always accessible Light of the Living God in Christ and to share that hope with the world, no matter our numbers, regardless of what happens to our building? Make no mistake, we hold onto our sanctuary as a place of fuel, to strengthen, we pray, the vision of the Epiphany light for and in us! We come together as members of St. James Parish have for 150 years: to learn from each other, to hold each other up, and to serve a world in need. One hundred and fifty years is a long time to be around, as a church or any kind of institution; yet here we are. There is much to be done and many blessings to live into, as we begin the next 50 years. We will do well if we, like those wisemen of long ago, following the Morning Star of God toward that manger of light, come to that place bringing our gifts, all that we are, and then go, and follow Him.

In Christ,  
Fr. George+

We are heading into a year of celebration and joy, the year of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of St. James. When a handful of people decided to establish an Episcopal Church in Farmington 150 years ago, they had no idea what it would become, how long it would last, or what its future purpose would be. They planted our little parish in faith, hoping that it would grow and share the love of Christ with the world. One hundred and fifty years after our founding, St. James is still

## Warden's Corner

My three years on vestry, two as Co-Warden are coming to an end as I rotate off next month. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve the St James community. Although I will no longer be on Vestry, I will still serve on the Building and Grounds Committee and Ushering.

Over the years one thing that has come to my attention. Every December the Vestry deals with the annual budget to submit at our January Annual Meeting. This year, like years past, we always seem to have a good idea of what our expenses will be. That is the target number we look at and try to prepare a balanced budget. Sounds good in theory, but as of our last meeting, we do not have a complete picture of what our pledge income will be. We struggle to accurately balance the budget under these conditions, which is why our Stewardship campaign starts so early. Ideally all pledges would be in by early December. As of the December Vestry meeting there was still a pretty good gap between expenses and anticipated income. If we haven't received all the pledges, we cannot complete the budget and we start looking for ways to cut expenses. The Vestry asks that all who have not yet submitted a pledge please turn them in prior to our next scheduled Vestry meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> when we finalize the budget..

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

*Jim Wilkie, Vestry Co-Warden*

## Join us for worship on New Year's Day: Feast of the Holy Name



On **Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, at 10:15 a.m.** we will hold our traditional service of Holy Eucharist to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. We mark the beginning of a new year and the blessed name of Jesus. We return to two services (8 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.) on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Feast of the Epiphany celebration

On Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany!! Folks are invited to join us, between 5:30–6:15 in the parish hall for pizza, salad, a King's Cake, and maybe a game or two, especially for Epiphany.



Following dinner, we will have a celebratory, family friendly Eucharist, with the story of the Epiphany of our Lord, music, and more, all in the cozy Parish Hall. Please let us know (at [st.james.church@sbcglobal.net](mailto:st.james.church@sbcglobal.net)) if you or your family can join us, so we will make sure to have enough food

## 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, January 8<sup>th</sup>** (to allow the crew New Year's Day off!) for a wonderful time of food and fellowship!

## Winter Poetry Reading

We will begin celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by holding a night of poetry on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. All are invited to bring in a poem to read, perform, or just share. You can highlight your own work, the poems of your favorite poet, or sing a piece if you like. We invite folks to come as they are for a night of casual community as we kick off a year of celebrating 150 years in the life of St. James Parish. New poems written about St. James are surely welcome, too 😊. Everyone is asked to bring a heavy hors d'oeuvres to share. Drinks and dessert will be provided. (Snow date is January 21<sup>st</sup>)



## From the Deacon's bench

*Planning for real change this year.*

I love my big, blue barrel. That's the name I've given the recycling container my town delivered to me several years ago. Before that we had to put out on the curb small bins full of newspapers and buckets full of recyclable plastic, metal and glass. On our nightly walks, my dogs and I did enjoy examining these bins and buckets. My dogs checked out all the great smells and I got to check out my neighbor's alcohol consumption. "Wow, big party last week at the Smiths. Why wasn't I invited?" The big blue barrels do make our private consumptions a bit more private. But that's not the reason I love my big, blue barrel. I love it because it has helped me to realize how much stuff I used to throw away as garbage. Now my blue (recycling) and brown (garbage) barrels sit side by side in my driveway and I consider each item before it gets tossed. I know to separate the inside cereal bag from the outside box. The bag goes in the brown barrel and the box goes in the blue. I'm amazed at how fast the blue barrel fills up with stuff that can be recycled and I'm happy to my small part for this big blue planet.

But for all those things we are happy to toss away, replace or renew, there is one familiar thing

we are absolutely loathe to part with - our own old habits, behaviors, and attitudes. We recycle and retool and return to the same old reactions, attitudes and practices throughout our lives as if each one was made of the most precious resources available. Unfortunately, if the truth be told, a large percentage of our most beloved old rags should have been banished to the trash heap decades ago.

How many of us started diets as a "New Year's Resolution"? How many of us are keeping them today? Eating healthy foods in sensible portions would be a new behavior for almost all of us. But the old habits of midnight snacks, chips and ice cream, extra gravy and second helpings are so ingrained in our daily eating regimes that our new, healthier commitments are quickly choked out.

There is an old saying that suggests if you want to dig a new hole, you don't dig the same hole deeper! Yet that is the technique many of us are trying to use to turn our lives around, to get our relationships back on track. If you are losing

touch with your spouse or your children because your work schedule is so busy - don't think scheduling more family busy-ness together is the answer. Don't stop smoking just to start compulsively overeating. If you turn off the TV just to get lost in trashy novels, you are still a couch potato.

- If you want to be healthy, ... stop doing those things that harm you.
- If you want harmony in your life, ... stop doing those things that cause discord.
- If you want peace in the world, ... stop doing those things that lead to war.
- If you want a closer relationship with your children, ... stop doing those things and saying those things that build up walls between you.
- If you want to live in a close-knit, caring community, ... stop hiding behind your front door.
- If you want a spiritual life that fills you up, ... stop pouring all your energies everywhere but toward God.



It is possible just to stop bad, destructive behavior. But it is not easy. The cornerstone of Alcoholics Anonymous has long been that alcoholics must practice complete abstinence if they are to control their addiction.

Yet it takes a tremendous amount of energy to renew that dedication to stop doing that destructive behavior each and every day. That is why AA and other "12-step" programs rely heavily on creating supportive communities of their peers - others who have "stopped it" and will stand by each other on those inevitable bad days. This is what Jesus calls the church to do as a community of faith dedicated to living an internalized righteousness.

You can have a new marriage ... a new body ... a new attitude ... a new spirit ... a new career ... a new community ... a new world - but only by stopping the old destructive, hurtful behaviors you've doggedly held on to for so many years.

The changes we want to come about in our lives will not happen just by wishing them to be so. We must cut ourselves off from our old attitudes and throw them away.

For good. For God.

*Doug Engwall, Deacon*

## Celebrate our Sesquicentennial Year!

The year of 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. Two English immigrant brothers, Henry and Charles Mason, along with other parishioners, including Mr. Whitman, dreamed of a worshipping sanctuary for Episcopalians in Farmington. Christ Church, Unionville set up the mission community of St. James in 1873, with the priest from Christ Church making the journey over to Farmington for worship usually once a week, and offering Communion once a month. The growing community of St. James decided that they needed their own space and the cornerstone for the new building was laid in 1898. In June 1902, St. James Parish was approved as its own freestanding parish and its first full-time priest was called.

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 the 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. We hope to hold, as part of several events, fundraisers for our building and the future needs of the parish. Your Vestry and 150<sup>th</sup> 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!

The following are events we hope to undertake during 2023. Some events are very far along in the planning stages and others are still very much in flux. Thank you for your participation, energy, hands, and feet to help, and for your patience, as the year of our 150<sup>th</sup> falls into place.

**On January 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m., we will hold a Winter Poetry Reading evening.** All are invited to bring a 'heavy' appetizer to share and come read and/or listen to your favorite poets, sonnets, your own

poetry, or sing pieces of poetry that you or others have set to music. This promises to be a fun and engaging evening!

**On January 29, we will hold our Annual Meeting.** Before the meeting, at our 10:15 am service, we will have a reprise of the narrative drama Festival of Lights, created by The Rev. Bill Eakins some 12 years ago. The Festival of Lights will recount our founding and the history of the church up to the present day. Readings and characterizations will all come from St. James members.

**Saturday, March 11, we will hold an art exposition and bidding auction** in the parish hall. The artwork, some for sale and other pieces for exhibition only, will be set up in our hall. Hors d'oeuvres will be served, and music will be provided. Come for a relaxing evening to view and purchase art focusing on St. James and/or by St. James artists. All money raised will go toward our building fund for capital repairs and maintenance. Please hold the date and tell anyone that you feel might enjoy an evening of art, good food, and wine, and helping St. James move forward into its bright future.



**In the late winter or early spring, Anna Swinbourne, Executive Director of Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, will offer a presentation on the breathtaking Isenheim Altarpiece.** The Altarpiece was painted by German artist Matthias Grünewald between 1512 and 1516. The Altarpiece is an important example of religious art that was created in panels that are now displayed in the Unterlinden Museum at Colmar. Many of the Isenheim Altarpiece's panels will be familiar to you, such as Grünewald's depictions of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, each a stunning work of art in its own right. The program Anna will present will be part of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, but also our program year focus, the Christian Imagination. More information will come as we settle on a date.

**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 and more information on the music will be shared as we draw closer.

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**September 30<sup>th</sup>.** We hope to hold a **Block Party** using our lawn and the Green between First Church and the Barney Library. From 11 am–7 pm there will be live music at both venues, food trucks, games and other activities, and several fundraisers for St. James (one will be the sale of commemorative Christmas ornaments). Please put this date on your calendar, as we will need many volunteer hands to make this event work. We are still in the planning and permitting phase, but something celebratory and fun will take place on this date. Save it please!

**October 1<sup>st</sup>.** We will have *Founders' Day* celebrating the **150 years in the life of St. James.** One of our bishops will be in attendance along with members of the Town Council, our State Representatives, and as many folks as we can possibly bring back from near and far who have been a part of St. James Parish. We hope to unveil an original piece of music at this event, along with guest musicians and singers, our choir, and much, much more!

**December 16<sup>th</sup>.** We hope to have an **Ecumenical Christmas Walk** to involve St. James, the Church of Saint Patrick, and First Church of Christ, Congregational. We will begin our walk at St. Patrick, walking and caroling to First Church, and then concluding with a reception at St. James. Each church will share something with the group of participants, maybe music, bells, history, and goodies for Christmas. Save the date!

### Faith & Fries in the new year!

We usually gather on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at **Five Corners Bistro & Craft Bar**, 354 Colt Hwy (Rt. 6) in Farmington.

**We next convene on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 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!*).



### Church School update

In January, Church School moves forward from the Old Testament lessons of creation, the events leading up to the covenant God made with His people to always take care of them and how God's people broke their promises by worshipping other gods.

We now begin 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.



Happy New Year to all!

### Angel Giving Tree THANK YOU!

The spirit of caring and of generosity was, again, so evident at Saint James this Advent. This parish fulfilled the Christmas wishes of children and adults at the Friendship Service Center and through Farmington Community Services with love and selfless giving. It was evident that you made purchases with loving hearts. Two very full cars made deliveries to the two grateful organizations. The gifts were received with delight by their representatives. **The St. James 2022 Angel Tree project was a huge success, and your co-chairs send a hearty thank you and a wish for a happy and healthy New Year!**

*Dona Waugh & Linda Larkin*

## Annual Meeting–January 29<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 a.m.

An Annual Meeting is something that every Episcopal parish in the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA (ECUSA, the Episcopal Church) is required to conduct each year, via the Constitution and Canons of ECUSA. Annual Meetings do not sound like a lot of fun, I know, but they are vital to St. James Parish capably and responsibly managing our fiscal and common life together. Article III and IV of our bylaws, revised in 2013 (with a few important amendments since), require that we have at least ¼ of our voting membership in attendance to have a “quorum.”



Our quorum is the minimum number of members necessary for valid voting to take place.

**On Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our Annual Meeting, immediately following the 10:15 service.** We plan to hold this in the parish hall and invite everyone to bring food to share (an entrée, a side, or dessert) and we will eat potluck style. We will vote on the budget, elect new Vestry members, and report on the overall state of things at St. James Parish. We will offer a Zoom option to join the meeting, for those who are not yet comfortable gathering in the parish hall. **During the 10:15 service, we will have a special treat, as we will hold a *Festival of Lights*, a narrative play about the life of St. James!** Join us for worship and then the Meeting. Thank you for all that you do to be Christ’s light in and from this place.

## Sunday Adult Bible Study

We resume our exploration of the Book of Deuteronomy on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Join our lively group for conversation, discovery, close listening to one another and to God’s Holy Word. A study guide is \$10, but no worries if that is a hardship for you. As always, all are welcome! Sundays at 12:15 pm we use the Zoom link at: <https://zoom.us/join> . Please note the meeting ID and passcode: Meeting ID: 810 0898 0546; Passcode: 062552.

## Winter Preaching Break

I will take a brief preaching sabbatical for the months of January and February. Cold, snowy, slippery mornings make it difficult to predict my attendance at the early service. Thank you for your understanding.

*Deacon Doug*

## Looking beyond ourselves: Farmington Food Pantry month!

Each year the St. James family commits to providing non-perishable food items and a monetary donation to the Farmington Food Pantry in the months of January and June. The Farmington Food Pantry and the 215+ local families that it currently serves depend greatly on these donations. All clients are pre-qualified through Farmington Social Services. Each month the pantry provides families with 7,000+ pounds of non-perishable items.

Food and monetary contributions may, of course, be made any time of the year! If you wish to make a monetary contribution, write the check out to *St. James* with *Farmington Food Pantry* in the note section. **The**



**Pantry has requested that we focus our donations on BREAKFAST items: pancake mix, syrup, cereals, oatmeal, grits, muffin mixes.** Please bring your donations to the narthex to place in the box labeled *Farmington Food Pantry*. Please be generous and thank you in advance!

## Emergency Closing Info

In the event of an emergency, most often weather-related, parish closing information will be available on WTIC-AM 1080 radio and on



WFSB-3 and WVIT-30 television stations. Whenever possible, a notice (e-flash) will be sent and the website updated as well.

## Introducing the candidates for Vestry

At our Annual Meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> 3 people will complete their 3-year terms on Vestry, Tom Nelson, Foster White, and Jim Wilkie; 3 other people will be voted on to serve their own 3-year terms. Following are brief bios to introduce you to the candidates, if you do not already know them



**MARY LANSING:** I am a lifelong St. James parishioner, having been baptized, confirmed and married here. As a young person I sang in the children's choir for over five years, directed the Christmas pageant for two years and served more recently as Vestry

Clerk for two years. I am committed to maintaining and improving our church. I enjoy working with others to keep St. James vital to our Farmington community as we reach our sesquicentennial.



**SKIP MASON:** I have been a member of St. James since birth, except for a 10-year absence while living in New Jersey after college. I was in the boys' choir, an acolyte, crucifer, and joined

the adult choir in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Since moving back home I've been in the choir, building and grounds committee, church school superintendent, and most recently on the sesquicentennial committee. Although my great-great-grandfather was a founder of the parish and his son, my great-grandfather, designed and built the sanctuary, this will be my first time on Vestry. I look forward to helping move the church forward towards our future.



**KIM PEREIRA:** Kim has been a member of St. James since 2015 and attends regularly with her two children, Marisol (12) and Gideon (8). She came to St. James because of the church school program, as she grew up attending her

local Episcopal church in Ridgewood, NJ, but she has found that there is so much more to St. James than a great children's' program. Through the years, Kim has served as a lector, an occasional church school teacher, and co-chair of

the stewardship committee. Most recently, Kim completed a three-year term on the vestry, two of those years as co-warden during the COVID/Zoom years. She is thrilled to return to vestry after a one-year hiatus. Kim is a lifelong educator and recently started her own business called ADHD Coach CT, where she works with adults with ADHD and parents of children with ADHD. In her "free" time, Kim loves reading, musical theater, traveling, taking long walks and hanging out with her amazing children.

## Prayer Team

From time to time, The Prayer Team shares something of what has been helpful to us, in the hope that you may find it helpful, too ...

The following is a poem by the late writer and Connecticut resident Madeleine L'Engle, perhaps best known for *The Wrinkle in Time*. She was a faithful Christian, and cradle Episcopalian.

### WORD

I, who lives by words, am wordless when  
I try my words in prayer, all language turns  
To silence. Prayer will take my words and then  
Reveal their emptiness. The stilled voice learns  
To hold its peace, to listen with the heart  
To silence that is joy, is adoration.

The self is shattered, all words torn apart  
In this strange patterned time of contemplation  
That in time, breaks time, breaks words,  
breaks me,  
And then, in silence, leaves me healed  
and mended.

I leave, returned to language, for I see  
Through words, even when all words are ended.

I, who live by words, am wordless when  
I turn to the Word to pray. Amen.

Madeleine L'Engle (1918–2007)

*The Ordering of Love: The New and Collected  
Poems of Madeleine L'Engle*

### St. James Prayer Team ... Praying together for you

*Always available, always confidential*

Pat Clark: [jardinage45@yahoo.com](mailto:jardinage45@yahoo.com),  
860-243-9334

Carol Kirkwood: [ckirkwood@snet.net](mailto:ckirkwood@snet.net),  
860-793-2247

Donna Paye: [djp2947@att.net](mailto:djp2947@att.net),  
860-673-0097

## Minutes of the Vestry of St. James: November 17, 2022

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

**Absent:** Anna Whilby, Foster White  
Meeting called to order 7:03pm

### Minutes of October 20, 2022, Vestry Meeting

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

Discussion: correction to the 10/20/2022 name of food trucks for 150<sup>th</sup> is from Almost Famous Brewery out of East Granby CT.

Motion made by Bob to accept minutes as amended, second by Kim

Unanimous vote to accept the minutes as amended.

Also noted via email from Foster White that he was listed as absent from 9/17/2022 Vestry Meeting but had been present, as he arrived shortly after meeting start via Zoom. Minutes corrected.

### Ministry Reports

#### *Finance/Treasurer's report – October 2022*

Summary of Report by EJ Ososki

- Pledge income continues to be strong and is \$13K ahead of our plan.
- We've also had good results from our craft fair, \$3K ahead of plan, and investments which are \$2K ahead of plan. All this puts our income \$21,550 ahead of our plan.
- On the expense side we are a total of \$3,482 unfavorable to our budget. This is driven by the usual suspects such as insurance, repairs, and snow removal. There are some favorable items on the expenses that haven't caught up with us yet, like the Outreach budget.
- Overall, we are in good shape and are \$18K favorable to our budget going into the last 2 months of the year.

Motion made by Bob to accept the October financial report as submitted with a second by Jim.

#### Questions / Discussion

- Request for Jerry to provide an overall investment report. Fr. George to send to Vestry members. Jerry always available to Vestry members.

- People can pay pledges online – Use a Donate button /Pledge pay on website
- Idea – to add into the Sunday service YouTube video link to donate to – them system able to provide for that. Many online services include such a link.
- Is there a Rainy-Day fund? No specific monies designated for such. Some monies that come in have restrictions. We have set aside money i.e., 6K in building improvements budget. We need to anticipate possibilities and include in the operating budget. Not good to rely on endowment, should be used as last resort.
- Consider free Eversource Energy Audit, Fr George has a contact. Building and Grounds to investigate it further.

Unanimous vote to accept the October financial report as submitted.

#### *Stewardship / future leadership*

- Stewardship is up and running. Pledges not in by December 4<sup>th</sup> Vestry can do reach outs via phone calls, letters, etc.
- Names of pledgers will be listed in the Sunday bulletin each week as their pledges come in
- Need for leadership moving forward at next Stewardship 2023; best if we have a chairperson and co-chair. Be thinking about who might take the lead

#### *Craft Fair final report*

- Approximately \$5,400 was raised through Craft Fair, Raffle and Donation Jar.

### New Business

#### *150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – timeline and activities review*

- Timeline of events shared with Vestry. September 30, 2023, Block Party and October 1, 2023, Founders Day 10:15am Church service will be heavily advertised through social media etc.
- For 2023 Budget need to create a line item for the 150<sup>th</sup>

#### *Outreach – getting started – Vestry Support*

- \$5,400 from Craft Fair will be going to Outreach which needs to allocate monies to various outreach projects. Get together those who want to discuss where to allocate the money and look at future outreach ideas and opportunities
- February 4, 2023, is next Church by the Pond, at Bushnell Park in Hartford, a ministry for the homeless and housing



insecure in Hartford. St James will be providing grab and go lunches.

#### *New Vestry candidates*

- Fr. George spoke with 2 people who are considering being on the slate for Vestry. Any others please contact and keep Fr. George informed.
- Suggestion from the past is to revise by-laws to include a person going off Vestry could extend for 1 more year, but after the one-time extension would need to go off.

#### **Old Business**

##### *Anti-Racism Training required for all elected leaders of Vestry*

- Evening of Friday February 3, 2023, gather in evening for teambuilding/conversations - dinner out at a restaurant.
- During Saturday February 4, 2023, gather at the parish hall for online 1-day anti-racism training with Absalom Jones Institute in Atlanta Georgia [www.centerforracialhealing.com](http://www.centerforracialhealing.com). Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be available.

##### *St Mark's, New Britain*

- Remaining Members are in process of looking at 5 churches (St James, Farmington being one). Once they decide, conversations would occur among the 2 Vestries, a discernment process, a lengthy one. At some point they will merge with another church.

EJ made a motion to adjourn. Kim seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

Adjourned at 9:09pm

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.

#### **Church by the Pond**

**We have agreed to bring lunches on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 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. On the 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, volunteers will assemble in the parish kitchen to make the sandwiches and put the bag lunches together. At 2 pm 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 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. For more information or questions, please contact Fr. George.

#### **Notes from the Parish Office**

The 2023 Altar Flower Chart is now in the narthex. Please sign-up for a Sunday when you would like to donate and dedicate the flowers for the day's services. Note that there will be no altar flowers during the Lenten season.

If you pledged for 2023 and requested envelopes, the boxed envelope sets are available in the narthex for you to pick-up. Please contact the parish office if you would like your envelope set dropped off at your home.

#### **Celebrating January Birthdays**

*Anna Bongiorno  
Erik Ososki  
Peter Wack  
Dani Hawk  
Evan Chekas  
Eli Johansen  
Barbara Preneta  
Peg Trahoitis  
Philip Pearson*



## Another Outreach opportunity

Many may remember when Pastor Dana Smith, co-founder and Executive Director of New Life II, a recovery sober house in New Britain, came to speak to us last year. New Life II is, I believe, a place where St. James might exert some energy and time in the years going forward. New Life II accepts men who are coming out of recovery, incarceration, off the streets, etc. and seek to turn their life around. They use a holistic approach to recovery and support and are a faith-based community.



New Life II Connecticut's First Black, Faith-based,  
Peer-lead Recovery Community Center

## Integrated Healing Facilitator Overview Training

This free 4-hour overview training is an introduction to the Integrated Healing Facilitator (IHF) approach and is approved for 3.5 CCB CEU's.

Integrated Healing Facilitator (IHF) training offers a holistic approach in working with, and supporting individuals. IHF view people holistically; as whole people living complex lives and who may be facing a variety of struggles. IHF Training and curriculum is taught through a social justice lens that redefines the nature of what "help" means. IHF is one of the only approaches that attempts to hold all of these pieces at the same time. In doing so, we consider four primary components of a full life: Mind, Body, Spirit, and Community.

There are many different approaches in circulation that are designed to help people learn how to better support one another. However, few of them look at people holistically, and through a social Justice lens. With this understanding in mind, IHF training has proved to be incredibly impactful for "everyday people" and clinical professionals alike. IHF training re-envisioning what it means to be human, and to have a multitude of struggles. Because of this "human" approach, the IHF training is beneficial to all demographic areas of service.

**The IHF approach is built around five considerations:**

- Impact of Trauma
- Impact of Systemic Oppression
- Science & Research
- Harm Reduction Principles
- Best Practices for Support



[Newlife2.org](https://Newlife2.org)

*The vision for New Life II has always been to be more than just a recovery home.*

Pastors Dana and Evelyn envisioned their ministry to be about community—about learning to heal together; to support and encourage one another, and to teach one another how to build, maintain, and restore relationships.

### VISIT OUR RECOVERY COMMUNITY CENTER

117 West Main Street  
New Britain, CT 06051

Give us a call or visit our website  
We'd love to connect with you and explore the possibilities.  
Pastor Dana Smith 860.371.8271 [dsmith@newlife2.org](mailto:dsmith@newlife2.org)

A collection of black snowflake icons of various sizes and shapes is arranged in a semi-circle on the left side of the page. To the right of the snowflakes, the words "Winter Poetry" and "Reading" are written in a large, red, cursive font. Below the text, there is a decorative black flourish consisting of several curved lines and small circles.

# Winter Poetry Reading

**St James Episcopal Church**

3 Mountain Road, Farmington, CT

**January 14, 2023**

**6-7pm** hors d'oeuvres and music

**7-9pm** readings

All are invited to bring a new poem,  
an old poem, a spirited piece to warm  
the soul on a chilly winter's night  
Listeners, supporters, one and all welcome.

For more information

please call: 860-677-1564

Inclement weather date:

January 21, 2023

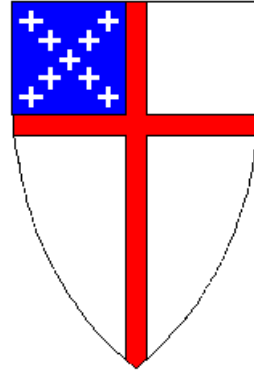


## St. James Parish

3 Mountain Road  
Farmington, Connecticut 06032

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

Email: [st.james.church@sbcglobal.net](mailto:st.james.church@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.stjamesfarmington.org](http://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		OFFICERS		
The Rev. George C. Roberts	<i>Rector</i>	Kim Pereira & Jim Wilkie, <i>Wardens</i>		
The Rev. Douglas Engwall	<i>Deacon</i>	EJ Ososki, <i>Treasurer</i>		
Amelia (Amy) Steele	<i>Dir. of Children &amp; Youth Ministries</i>	Jerry Hess, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i>		
Blake Hansen	<i>Director of Music</i>	Carol Kirkwood, <i>Parish Clerk</i>		
Susan Deming	<i>Parish Administrator</i>	<b>2021</b>	<b>VESTRY</b>	<b>2023</b>
Anthony Nauss	<i>Sexton</i>	Mimi Hostetter	<b>2022</b>	Kim Faubert
Laura Vacca	<i>Nursery Supervisor</i>	Kim Pereira	Thomas Nelson	Maina Rice
		Robyn Shover	Foster White	Anna Whilby
			James Wilkie	

## St. James Parish

3 MOUNTAIN ROAD  
FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06032

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

