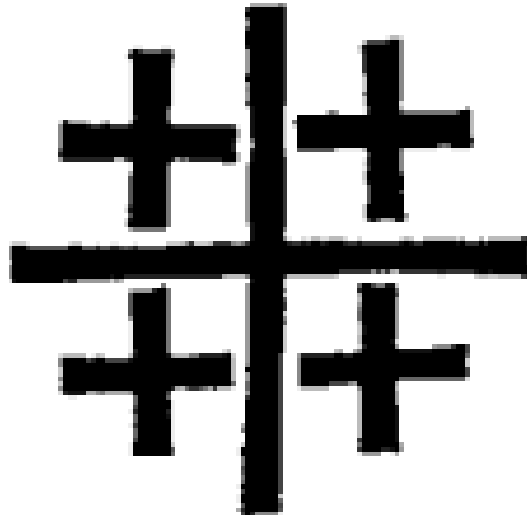


2012
Annual Report



Saint James's

Episcopal Church
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West Hartford, Connecticut 06107
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*The Annual Meeting of Saint James's Parish will be held
on Sunday, January 27, 2013
immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Liturgy*

Published January 2013

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Agenda

The Annual Parish Meeting
Saint James's Episcopal Church
West Hartford, Connecticut
January 27, 2013
10:45 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Order	The Rev. Robert C. Hooper III, Rector
Reading of the Warrant	Ollie Bunch
Reading of the Minutes of the Last Meeting	Ollie Bunch
The Report of the Nominating Committee and the Election of Wardens, Clerk, Treasurer, Vestry members, and Diocesan Delegates	
The Senior Warden's Report	Ann Cooke
The Junior Warden's Report	David Thomas
Report from Finance Committee	Dick Wenner and Michael Sherrill
Other Reports, as Distributed	
Old Business	
New Business	
Conversation with the Rector	
Others Matters Arising	
Adjournment	

The Annual Parish Meeting
Saint James's Episcopal Church
West Hartford, Connecticut
January 22, 2012
11:00 a.m.

The 2012 Annual Meeting of St. James's Episcopal Church was called to order and the Welcome was made at 11:06 AM by the Rector, the Reverend Robert C. Hooper III.

The Warrant was read by Ollie Bunch, Parish Clerk

The acceptance of the minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting, as printed in the 2011 Annual Report, were moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

All reports contained in the 2011 Annual Report were accepted as printed, including those of the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and all other committees and staff members.

The report of the Nominating Committee was read by the Rector, Reverend Robert C. Hooper III, in the absence of the outgoing Senior Warden, John Wadsworth. There being no nominations from the floor, the slate was elected unanimously by voice vote. Ann Cooke was elected as Senior Warden. David Thomas was elected as Junior Warden. Ollie Bunch was elected as Parish Clerk. Michael Sherrill was elected as Treasurer. Ann Cooke and David Thomas were elected as Delegates to the Diocesan Convention. John Wadsworth and Ollie Bunch were elected as Alternates to the Diocesan Convention. Douglas Compton, Ronald Coons, Ellen Dollar, and Charles Willson were elected to the Vestry, Class of 2015. The Rector recognized the members of the parish who are rotating off Vestry: Mrs. Nancy Barker, Mrs. Claire Burnett, Mr. Mark Evans, Mr. Mark Moyle, and Mr. John Wadsworth.

The Junior Warden, David Thomas, offered additional comments to his printed report regarding the refurbishing of the Memorial Garden in the Spring of 2012 with new plantings to replace those lost as a result of the October 29, 2011 storm and its aftermath. Other aspects of the Memorial Garden will also be addressed at that time. The Rector commented that traditionally the Junior Warden at St. James's Parish is in charge of all Property matters.

The Parish Treasurer, Michael Sherrill, gave the Finance Committee Report. (a) St. James's Parish finished the 2011 fiscal year with a deficit of \$6,560.00 which was covered by past years' surpluses. (b) St. James's Parish has an outstanding loan from the Diocese of Connecticut that was used for the refurbishing of the parish complex roof. There is a loan payment of approximately \$1000.00 per month which will be paid off in fifteen months. (c) The work on the 2012 fiscal year budget has been a challenge. The final 2012 budget will be completed in early February 2012 and will be submitted to the Vestry for approval at its February 21, 2012 meeting. (d) The Treasurer encouraged parishioners to read the monthly Treasurer's Report which is published in the monthly newsletter. (e) The Rector commented that a nice gift to the parish would be a donation toward the payment of a portion of the Diocesan loan. (f) The Rector thanked Richard Wenner for his continuing mastery of formulating the annual parish budget and his on-going assistance in managing the finances of the parish.

All other reports were accepted as printed in the 2011 Annual Report.

There was no Old Business brought to the floor.
There was no New Business brought to the floor.

The Rector's Address was given by the Reverend Robert C. Hooper III. In his address the Rector

- (a) Gave thanks to Jason Roberts, Organist and Choirmaster, and the choir of Saint James's Church Parish for the richness they bring to the overall worship of the parish;
- (b) Gave thanks to and for the professional staff and the many volunteers who do so much to keep parish activities and functions running so smoothly;
- (c) Gave thanks Mary Ann Haar for her diligence and beautiful workmanship in the flower arrangements for weekly Sunday services and for the decorating of the church for special holidays;
- (d) Gave thanks to the associate clergy of the parish for their faithful service;
- (e) Gave thanks to the Reverend Julia Whitworth, Assistant Rector, for her many contributions to the life of the parish;
- (f) Stressed the need for the 2012 Rector's Appeal to the parish for added funds to meet the 2012 Budgetary requirements in order to avoid reductions in outreach activities and parish staffing;
- (g) Gave thanks to the parishioners of St. James's Church for their support and dedication;
- (h) Gave thanks to the members of the Vestry and the Executive Committee for their faithful service to the parish;
- (i) Introduced the topic: How do We / You / I Experience God in this Place? with a description of his experience with a man who had come into the parish house kitchen on a bitterly cold night looking for a place to warm up and the events which followed which reinforced how God is experienced for him at St. James's Church. Several attendees shared their experiences in this same vein.

The Rector emphasized that the conversation around this topic would continue throughout the coming year in various ways and at various times. The Social Media (Facebook, a Blog) will be used in conjunction with this conversation.

Other matters arising:

- (a) The Assistant Rector, the Reverend Julia Whitworth, thanked the originators of the First Friday get-togethers; (b) the Reverend Molly Loudon gave thanks for the ministry of the Rector, the Reverend Robert C. Hooper III.

The 2011 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 PM with a closing prayer by the Rector, the Reverend Robert C. Hooper III.

Respectfully submitted,

Ollie R. Bunch
Parish Clerk

Bob+

A Letter from the Rector The Rev. Robert C. Hooper, III

January 27, 2013
Annual Parish Meeting

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“I love my job!”

SINCE November, I have been interviewing and in conversation with many folks who are interested in the position of Assistant Rector here at St. James’s. By the end of January I will have been contacted by, emailed with, or interviewed nearly 30 people interested in the position.

Trying to explain St. James’s to these prospective colleagues has given me the opportunity to think very clearly about who we are as a community, and who I am as a priest and as the rector of such a wonderful parish; to come to a clearer understanding about what it means to serve God in the context of the parish of St. James’s and with you, its members.

This may all sound a little obvious, but it is very easy to get caught up in the busyness of the day and the inertia of what is to be done next that we may miss the opportunity to reflect on what is really going on. What is going on, it seems, is that God has blessed us as a parish with Grace upon Grace. God’s Spirit moves with and through this place every day, and it has become so common place that I feel we may be missing it.

During the past year, the vestry, while putting our new website together, engaged in a conversation about what the “Gospel Values” are, or the values of the Gospel. The point of this was to both flesh out and go deeper with the parish mission statement - *To Learn, Live and Teach the Values of the Gospel of Jesus Christ*. While we came up with many values, the one that resonates so clearly with me as I sit here and write this – is generosity. This is a generous parish. You show great generosity with your time and energy, with your financial resources, and most importantly with your spirit in caring for and in celebrating with each other.

This past year marked the 10th anniversary of my arrival as your Rector, and ten years of exploring together what it means to be faithful to God’s call, for each of us, to serve. It was once again a very busy year, including a most wonderful celebration of all the work that we do together. Again, your generosity of spirit overwhelms me. As the year ended, our Assistant Rector, Julia, and her family moved as she takes up a new position in NYC. But I know that she goes a better priest for having served with you.

As we begin this New Year, I can see before me all the things that we have planned to do in an attempt to be faithful to God and God’s call to serve. I also look forward to hiring a new assistant and welcoming them into our midst. Thank you all, again, for your generosity, your companionship, and your trust. All of this reminds me, once again, how much I love my job – and that is because of you.

Blessings,

Report from the Senior Warden

THANKS to all of you for making our life and ministry here so rewarding.

Together we can continue the growth we are experiencing, strengthen the commitment of those who are here, and increase all areas of stewardship.

I am delighted to have been a member of St. James's for 36 years, and I trust that we will continue to be an alive and exciting Christian community.

Thanks to everyone for your support in each of our endeavors. We have plans for so much more.

Ann Cooke, Senior Warden

Report from the Junior Warden

COMPARED to the previous year, 2012 began with mild weather. Then summer came and the news that the coolant for the Church's air conditioner had leaked away over the winter. Suddenly what was saved on snow removal, disappeared into fixing the leak and recharging the air conditioner with new coolant.

The painters returned during the summer to re-glaze and paint the exterior windows on the North and West sides of the Parish House. On the interior, the Sexton, Randy Martini, continued to refresh the paint in the Parish Office and where needed. Brian Wysong and Ollie Bunch made great strides converting the storage room across from the Parish Office into a Library. The shelving should be completed early in 2013.

The Memorial Garden benefited greatly from the advice and monetary support from concerned parishioners. Serious weeding, trimming and a thinning of the more scraggily bushes, gave the garden a cleaner, more appealing look. In the fall, three *Stewartia* trees were planted to replace the three trees badly damaged in the snow storm of October 2011. A plan is now in place to continue the weeding. Also, fresh plantings in the spring are planned to fill the gaps created where bushes were removed.

Chuck Russo continues to tweak the sound system, in efforts to make the sound clear and sharp for everyone. Six additional hearing devices were added for the acoustically challenged. Chuck can also point you in the right direction, should you want your own ear piece.

Ann Uphoff and Rachael Desmond, with the help of generous parishioners, continued to enhance the Church's "curb appeal." Again, the spring clean-up and the fall leaf raking were successes due to the many hands that came to help. The amount of weeds pulled in the spring and the leaves piled in the fall continues to astound me. Many thanks to all of the volunteers.

We look forward to 2013 and the completion of several projects. The remainder of the Parish House windows will be re-glazed and painted, ending a four-year exterior project. The Library will be finished; two additional speakers will be placed in the Nave to address the dead zone in the sound system; and the plantings in the Memorial Garden will be completed. The controls for the heating/air conditioning system, the Parish Hall floor, and the Organ refurbishment remain big ticket items for the future to address.

David D. Thomas, *Junior Warden*

Report from the Director of Religious Education St. James's Center for Children

It always seems appropriate to write the annual report after the Christmas Pageant for me. As most of you know, the Christmas Pageant involves the most children of any one activity that we do here. This year, we had our normal cast of thousands or so it seems when I am trying to organize them.... It always seems like we build to a crescendo, and then after, it is a good time to be retrospective about the year.

We have settled into a wonderful routine with our children here at St. James's. Our preschool Sunday school is expertly run by Eleanor Michael, Joey Meyer and Kristen Kirsch. In elementary school, we have the rotation model of Sunday school, based on the multi-intelligence theory of learning. This program has seemed to have smaller numbers attending over the last few months, with some exceptions where we have had huge numbers. As of this printing, I am not exactly sure why, but I will work on finding out an answer over the next few months. I have had good success recruiting people to teach this age group and I am thankful for those who have volunteered their time, most especially those who don't have children in this age group anymore. If you are interested, ask anyone who has worked with these kids, they are truly a joy.

For the middle school, we are continuing with the Reel to Real curriculum by Cokesbury. It works incredibly well with this age group and we have incredible discussions around all kinds of issues. This age group is also difficult to get to attend. I think I am going to have to go back to buying donuts for class which seems to improve the attendance.

For the high school Sunday school, we have done a combination of programs including coming to adult education opportunities, outreach projects and more. In Lent, we will have the Confirm Not Conform confirmation class during the Sunday school hour.

In Kid's Liturgy, our numbers are regularly between twenty and thirty children on a Sunday. I am pleased to report that Kid's Liturgy is growing and that the children are learning a lot about our church traditions and liturgy. I invite you all to attend some time if you get the chance. It is a great opportunity to get to know the children in the parish better. We all sit on rugs on the floor, but I promise if you visit, I will pull out a chair for you.

In addition to our regular Sunday offerings, we had our summer program in July. This summer we returned to "Aslan is on the Move," created by Leader Resources. Based on the film, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," we use this story to explore the theme of forgiveness and what it means to be a Christian. This year, we had great attendance and lots of fun.

So, looking forward, we have a lot of fun and learning planned for 2013. The elementary school children have begun with a creation unit called, "Let There Be Light." Middle schoolers are continuing with their Real to Reel curriculum, exploring the film, "The Blind Side" and much more.

As I have said so many times before, it is truly a pleasure to work with the children of this parish. It is hard to believe that I have been at this for 9 years, but it is true. It really hits me when I look out at the children in my Kid's Liturgy and I can remember when many of them were born. That and many of my confirmands I have known since preschool. Yikes! Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with me. They are truly a blessing.

Priscilla Hooper, *Director of Religious Education*

Report from the Organist-Choirmaster

THE Choirs at St. James's had another busy year in 2012. Our season included some historically-themed services. In January we celebrated our Eucharist in 14th century style, complete with a Gregorian Mass setting and some early polyphony. During Lent we tackled J.S. Bach's Cantata 79 as part of our 17th century German service. Again we presented Bob Chilcott's "Little Jazz Mass" at the very end of our season in June. It happens that Chilcott's is the only published Jazz mass, so you may be hearing it again in the future. One particularly interesting service in March featured the music of two members of the choir: Dick Wenner and Nora Dynowski. Our choir fundraising dinner in May featured selections from Broadway musicals, both old and new. Many thanks to all of the choir members who helped make the night a success. Two special Evensong services marked the beginning of our 2012-13 season, and the Advent Carol service was especially nice this year, featuring three contemporary carols by the Swiss composer Carl Ruti. We followed this up with a rendition of Part I of the Messiah as a prelude to the Christmas Eve Eucharist.

The Boys and Girls' Choir held camp at the church this year. This was done in the hope that some of our younger members would attend. In previous years, although we very much enjoyed Incarnation center, attendance was unfortunately less than I had hoped. I was pleased with the attendance this year. Samantha Dynowski, choir mom extraordinaire, is to be thanked for organizing all the activities that week, both the choristers and I enjoyed her creativity! Thanks also to Diane Slone and Kim Parsons for helping to lead the small music theory groups.

The Junior Choir has a record 11 members this year, and while they are quite wild they are also talented and I hope that many of them will stick around for the Boys and Girls' Choir next year.

I must thank all the members of the Adult Choir who give so freely of their time week after week. It's great to be able to work with such a lovely group of people.

I need to thank Ron Coons for always being most willing to substitute for me on the organ whenever I need to be away. A special thanks to Nora Dynowski and Alex Vietzke who also help me out at the organ every so often.

The organ at St. James's continues to be in less than optimum condition. I have used the tuning budget for making necessary repairs to the leather, which is long overdue for replacement. I recommend setting aside money for an organ restoration. Pipe organs will last for hundreds of years, but they must be kept in good condition.

Not to end on a sour note, I will say that it is a great pleasure to make music at St. James's and I look forward to another year!

Dr. Jason Roberts, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Report from the Acolytes

THE boys and girls who serve as acolytes are special contributors to our Sunday services. As they light the candles and lead the procession, assist with the Gospel reading and help keep Communion orderly, and finally, lead us out into the world after the service, our acolytes add grace and pageantry to our worship experience. Through it all, they see church happen from a different perspective, one that underscores the importance of working and worshipping together. And most of them find it more fun than sitting in the pews with their parents!

Each acolyte serves about once per month as a Crucifer, Torch or Gospel Bearer. Joseph Shuey, Cate DiGiacomo and Harry Lewis became new acolytes, while we lost long-time acolyte Taylor Hart-Kindelberger to graduation. We could always use more acolytes, so if you are a parent of a teen and pre-teen (fourth grade and above), please consider having them serve in this very important role.

Ted Newton, *Coordinator*

Report from the Altar Flower Coordinator

THE 2012 calendar year was again full of events to which our floral tradition continued. My personal thanks are once again extended to Cheryl Batter for her organizational skills with maintaining the listing of weekly memorial flowers. Cheryl's constant communication with me and with parishioners allows us to fill the variety of individual requests.

Special thanks go to Randy Martini for doing all the heavy work...especially with mounting and demounting candle pew torches so that the church can be decorated during holy days, festivals and weddings. Also, my personal thanks are extended to Heidi Cotter for managing through all the wholesaler invoices throughout the year. This year's 'Golden-Rod Award' goes to Liz Schott for creating all of the beautiful table arrangements for the Annual Holiday Tea!

For every Sunday this past year, except for the Sunday's in Lent and in Advent, fresh floral arrangements were designed for both the main church Sanctuary and for the Chapel. This included special events and holy days such as Easter and Christmas. A special thanks to the men and ladies who brought their children to the 'Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal' last month and ended up helping out with the 'Greening of the Church'! I thank each and every one of you who dedicated your time and talent to create a glorious backdrop for this year's Christmas season!

For this new fiscal year, I am looking forward to continuing God's call to provide beautiful flowers for our worship. You are, and can be, an important part of this ministry! In order to continue to have beautiful flowers at both altars throughout the year we need donations! As the cost of fresh supplies continues to rise, we need to recognize that the account created for this purpose needs to be perpetually funded. Any amount is appreciated for a memorial or to commemorate a celebration such as the birth of a new grandchild, or a family member's birthday or even an anniversary! Won't you please consider making a donation to the Floral Committee? Please contact Cheryl at any time to make the 'arrangements' and I in turn will work with Cheryl to create a custom arrangement based on your preferences!

Lastly, a heartfelt thanks to Father Bob for recognizing the impact and tradition of preaching alongside beautiful flowers created for the various seasons and settings to the glory of God here at St. James's.

Mary Ann Haar, *Floral Committee Chair*

Report from the Altar Guild

THIS small dedicated group of men and women prepare the altars in both the Chapel and Church for all the regular services throughout the year. They also put in extra hours around Christmas and Easter to make sure all is looking its very best for these special services. Members of the team are present at weddings and funerals. This is a great group that works well as a team to support each other and the regular weekly worship experience for all. Anyone interested in investigating this ministry can speak to either Cheri, Sue or one of the Clergy.

Cheri Evans and Sue Nelson, *Directors*

Report from the Christian Education Committee Adult Formation

ADULT Education at St. James's had a very successful 2012. We continued with our format of offering two to three concurrent small group sessions through both the winter-spring and the fall. We also occasionally had St. James's Community Days where we had larger group presentations. Small group offerings included 'Wanton Women and Babylonian Babes: A Discussion of Femininity in the Hebrew Bible' with Margaret Mair, 'What In God's Name Are You Doing?' and 'Inquirer's Class' with the Rev. Julia Whitworth, 'No Easy Choices: Christian Ethics In Daily Life' with Ellen Painter Dollar, 'Living The Questions' with Bruce Loudon and Ray Payne, 'The Practice Of The Presence Of God' and with the Rev. Bob Hooper, and others. Larger group presentations included 'Reflections On The November Elections From A Christian Ethicist' with the Rev. Dr. Frank Kirkpatrick and 'All American Religion' with The Rev. Dr. Borden Painter.

Attendance has been good for the small groups with between 7 to 20 people at each session, for the larger groups, 25-35 attended. In 2013 we look forward to continuing our wide selection of offerings in small discussion groups. Our challenge is to maintain an excellent and relevant adult education program that focuses on enhancing the spiritual and intellectual development of active Christians. With this goal in mind, we continue to look for new ideas on topics and speakers, and your contributions are welcomed and encouraged.

Mark Evans, *Adult Formation Planning Committee*

Report from Education for Ministry

ST. JAMES'S has hosted an EfM group for over 14 years. It is one of hundreds that meet around the world for the annual 34 week program. EfM is a four-year theological education and reflection program utilizing course materials from The University of the South. Each group has a maximum of 12 students with one or two mentors. Current members from St. James's are: Elizabeth Gallegos, year four and who will graduate in June, and Deborah Ross, year two. Other members are from St. Paul's, Southington; Trinity, Collinsville; St. James, Farmington; St. Mark's, Storrs; and Bethany Lutheran, West Hartford. An open house is offered in the spring for those who would like to attend a typical EfM session. For more information: www.sewaneed.edu, then click on "for Theology", then EfM logo. Parish contact: Ron Ward, EfM mentor, 860-686-8338, or rtwtmr@comcast.net.

Ron Ward, *Mentor and Administrator*

Report from the Endowment Committee

THE Endowment Committee ("the Committee") oversees the St. James's Endowment Fund. The Committee meets quarterly to discuss the overall investment environment, compare the Fund's return to that of the market's and assess the adequacy of the Fund's debt and equity portfolio allocation. It's important to note that the Committee does not pick or trade specific stocks or other securities.

Members of the Committee include Peter Krzyzek, Jonathan Lewis, Ted Newton, Ray Payne, Mike Sherrill, Dick Wenner and me. Each member brings his own research, insights and experience to the table to help direct the Committee's work.

2012 Developments

In monitoring the Fund's returns we saw that performance was consistently lagging compared to the respective indices. As a result, the Committee interviewed three investment managers and came to the conclusion that The New England Guild would best fill the bill as a replacement to our current manager. The Vestry agreed and approved the switch and funds were successfully transferred in late 2012. Questions may be directed to anyone on the Committee.

Fund Performance

The Fund's twelve-month return as of 9/30/12 was 11%.

Annual Budget Transfer

Through careful stewardship of the Fund, the Committee is able to transfer a certain portion of the Fund's total return to the church's Operating Fund each year to assist with on-going parish expenses. This transfer plays a significant role in helping St. James's meet its annual budget.

The 2012 Transfer was \$120,200 which is in line with transfers in previous years.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Alex D. Smith, *Chairman*

Report from the Friends of St. Vincent's

THE Friends of St. Vincent's Center, Inc. is a 501c (3) tax exempt, non-profit Connecticut corporation started by a volunteer group in 1997 as an interfaith outreach ministry of St. James's Episcopal Church in West Hartford, Connecticut. St. Vincent's Center is a residential facility, day school, orphanage, and out-patient medical clinic owned and operated by the Episcopal Church of Haiti. The institution provides services to seriously handicapped children from pre-school through elementary school. For years, the "Friends" have provided scholarships to fund the orphans' continuing education at off-campus high school and post- high school institutions.

One of the most urgent issues this year has been to raise funds to provide daily meals for the orphans and residential students. Very recently, we received a large grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York that provides immediate short-term relief, but we are still working on a permanent solution to this chronic problem.

The "Friends" have raised funds to help with staff salaries and professional education programs. We were able to provide a projector and educational program support for the teachers of Braille, French, Mathematics, and American Sign Language. We also equipped the library with new shelving, a scan magnifier machine and an Eye-Pal (an instant reader which converts print into speech) for the blind students.

The music programs were supported with the provision of some additional instruments and funding the painting of the music room.

The teachers of the deaf have started the St. Vincent's Choir and Dance Ensemble, a singing and signing and dance combination. It is hoped that the ensemble will soon be sufficiently proficient to be featured at fundraisers for St. Vincent's Center.

This year we were blessed in receiving a Diocese of Connecticut Episcopal Churchwomen White Envelope Grant. These funds have been applied to support an intense training program for the deaf teachers in learning American Sign Language and effective deaf student teaching techniques.

Arts and crafts programs have been supported this year with the provision of display and storage cabinets for a new Gift Shop at the Center. The "Friends" also funded the hiring of an art teacher to teach native crafts to the students and to supply items for sale in the Gift Shop. This effort is expected to establish a modest continuing source of funds.

One of the most celebrated moments this year was the arrival of the new handicapped van. The van was supplied by others but the "Friends" helped by funding the release of the van from customs. Finally, we have continued to provide funds for building repair, school supplies and student uniforms.

This year, we are pleased to be able to add to our report that we have been able to qualify, after testing, a shipping system to Haiti and the Center utilizing sealed, pre-addressed barrels. It has worked very well and is a welcome new convenience for transporting essential supplies.

As always, we are most grateful to all who, during this year, have contributed interest, prayers, time, talent, supplies and donations of money to make all these efforts possible.

Hope C. Lennartz, RN, MSN,
*Founder and Volunteer Executive Director
of the Friends of St. Vincent's Center, Inc.*

Report from the Fundraising Committee

THANKS to the participation of many people, 2012 was another successful year for fundraising activities here at St. James's. The committee focused its efforts on organizing activities that promoted fellowship among the members of St. James's, as well as the greater West Hartford community.

It is our hope that these events not only raise much needed funds for the general mission of St. James's, but that they also provide an opportunity for people outside of the St. James's family to learn more about, and become involved in, our church.

2012 activities included: our ninth annual Strawberry Festival in May, the very successful and popular Gala Auction and Dinner in November, and our ninth-annual Christmas Tree Sale in December. The auction raised the lion share of the funds: \$20,000. This greatly surpassed the \$16,500 budget goal for the event.

Combined these events generated approximately \$26,142.00, surpassing the budget goal of \$22,100.00. A breakdown of the revenues can be found in the Treasury Report.

2012 Fundraising Committee:

Ann Cooke	Emily Sadler
Paul Duva	Mike Sherrill
Sam Paul	Meredith Willson

David Dynowski, *Fundraising Committee Chairman*

Report from the Healing Ministry

The Healing Team

Sue Beeghly	Gale Gardiner	Judy Lawes	David Thomas
Edwina Bosco	Bill Harris	Molly Loudon	Marilyn Tomlinson
Al Davis	Nora Harris	Rita Neal	John Wadsworth
Ellen Dollar	Peg Howard	Sue Nelson	Terry Wysong
Cheri Evans	Audrey Lamy	Matt Schott	

S**acrament of Healing.** It will be nine years in April since I met with Bob Hooper to discuss whether St. James's wanted to develop a Healing Ministry. Our initial group spent two years in discernment, study, preparation and learning to pray. Then we began offering the Sacrament of Healing on the second Sunday at 8:00 and 9:30. Now, for over five years, we have been offering the Sacrament of Healing and Anointing every Sunday at the 9:30 service and the second Sunday at the 8:00 service. The people listed above are the members of the teams who every Sunday lay on hands and pray with those who come to us for healing prayer. Without their devotion and commitment we could not offer this ministry to our people.

Prayer Shawls. To date we have blessed and delivered 140 prayer shawls. A big thank you to Cindy Welch, Judy Nelson and Ann Kazarian who have knitted almost all of these prayer shawls for us. People who have received these shawls find them to be a real blessing and a source of comfort.

Support Group for Caregivers. A group of us who spend time caring for a loved one meet once a month to support, connect and encourage one another. We have grown closer to each other through the sharing we do at our meetings. The group looks out for the health and quality of life for the caregivers. We hold each other in prayer and accountability to care for ourselves. The group has also provided guidance and much needed information on resources – doctors, home healthcare agencies, rehabs, in-patient care facilities, etc.

Casserole Ministry. Sam Dynowski coordinates a list of folks who prepare meals for individuals, couples and families. When there is a new baby, recovery from surgery or illness, a death, or any other need for a prepared meal, these generous parishioners provide them.

New Healing Prayer Stations. The rector and I created healing prayer stations at the back of the church, inside the nave. With Orthodox icons of Jesus on one side, and Mary Magdalene on the other, and new oriental carpets to mark the space, healing prayer has been made visible as part of our worship.

We feel The Healing Ministry has become an integrated ministry of St. James's. Recently all of our services—prayer and laying on of hands, casseroles, prayer shawls and pastoral care—have been used to bring healing care to parishioners. Of note this year, is the way the team has stepped up to offer our care when they know of a need. Those of us on the Team are blessed by this ministry and in turn can be a blessing to others.

Healing in Community by Rita Neal

HEALING in our culture is usually something done in private. If you are physically sick you stay home. If you are really sick you go to the hospital, away from the everyday life to “heal”. If we are emotionally sick we can seek professional help from any number of healers (or all too often deny our pain and try and “tough it out.”) There are good and valid reasons for privacy when we have a need for healing. As a person whose profession is in healing, I have come to expect and revere privacy. On the other hand, this separateness allows us to hide from and look away from the sick. Because frankly, beyond issues of privacy, there is shame; shame of being sick, of being weak, and shame for our friends and family who are in a similar situation.

In 1997, while living in San Francisco, Tom and I made our first, tentative, foray with the Episcopal Church. The church's foundation had been damaged in the 1993 Earthquake so services were held in their little basement. Despite, or because of this, we were struck by the spiritual depth of this tiny (about 30 folks) congregation where we held hands in a circle to receive the Eucharist. Every so often, seemingly out of the blue, the Reverend would announce that today we would have the sacrament of healing. This was very odd to Tom and me. Okay, it kind of freaked us out. As lapsed Catholics we had not experienced this sacrament. With its laying on of hands, this was reminiscent of new age faith healers. I felt very uncomfortable during this process as it was performed right at the makeshift altar for all parishioners to see, and hear. HIPPA would not be happy.

So, you can imagine my feelings when Molly brought up at a healing team meeting that she and other members of the team were interested in bringing the sacrament of healing from the small rooms off

the entrance of the church into the church where everyone can see. No shroud to protect, no HIPPA, no privacy. I just wasn't sure if we, if I, if St. James's was ready for this. Culturally, healing is done while the patient is sequestered and then they join work, school, and other commitments, right? But the more I thought about it, the more I realized that bringing healing into the church was the powerful and right thing to do. Just as the hands of the children in the Baptismal Font and on each other's shoulders enriches and deepens the experience of our many Baptisms, so too is the power of our collective healing spirit.

I for one need healing on an ongoing basis. I believe most of us do. We not only need healing, we need others to help us heal. Through this community of healing we are reminded that we are not alone. Illness and shame are so entangled that it is refreshing to have healing prayer taking place within our community, inside our church, during services. I do not claim to be a "gifted" healer, but I have a strong belief in the power of prayer. I have felt the energy of prayer more than once while praying with someone asking for healing. I no longer think it is airy fairy (or scary) to have the laying on of hands to pray for our fellow parishioners. And I applaud the courage of all of us who disclose our ills for healing. To me, healing prayer in community has become a restorative, healthy act of faith in God and our community. Bringing the act of healing prayer to the open has made the mystery of the sacrament disappear, and has allowed all to see that there is no shame or magic in asking for healing for our ills or the ills of those we love.

The Rev'd Dr. Molly O'Neill Louden, *Priest Associate*
Rita Neal, *Healing Ministry Team Member*

Report from the Newcomers Committee

THIS was a busy year for Newcomer Committee bakers; we were thrilled to welcome 25 new families to St. James's this year with a freshly baked loaf of bread. Thank you to our volunteer crew of bakers, Fran Cobb, Rachael Desmond, Linda Fournier, Eileen Jackson, Audrey Lamy, Judy Lawes, Emily Sadler, Judith Stahl, Trudy Thompson, and Chris Wilson, for their faithful assistance with this important ministry. We are always in need of additional bakers; please contact Cheryl Batter if you would like to help.

A Newcomer Coffee Hour Reception was held on Sunday, January 13, 2013 to officially welcome all of this year's Newcomers to St. James's. Many thanks are extended to our bakers and reception volunteers, Nancy Barker and Lindsay Fawber for their help in coordinating this event.

This spring our committee will be exploring the production of a new pictorial Parish Directory, as there have been numerous additions and changes to our parish family since the last pictorial directory was published in 2005. The production of a new directory will help everyone to welcome our newest members, and to assist the newcomers in putting names with faces of all parish members. That being said, all members are kindly reminded to wear their name tags at church and coffee hour each week so that we might all help in the effort to welcome and include our newcomers.

Claire Burnett and Priscilla Thomas, *Co-chairpersons*

Report from the Outreach Committee

THE purpose of the Outreach program is to extend our ministry to those in need through the contribution of time, talents and financial support. In 2012, the members of St. James's parish continued to give generously of themselves and their resources. The reduction in the 2012 budget produced greater financial challenges than those encountered in 2011 and 2010.

Although most of the programs that we support continued to receive outreach money, some experienced the effects of the cut in the outreach budget, and funding for others was eliminated. As in the past, our emphasis was directed toward maintaining commitments to agencies that provide critical services such as food and housing, and that have long-standing connections to St. James's parish.

In January and February, outreach efforts continued to promote assistance to poor families who were not eligible for state fuel grants, through support for Operation Fuel. Through the contribution of \$545, St. James's parishioners helped Operation Fuel reach out to many families facing the choice between food and heat. This drive was a repeat of the program successfully initiated in the winter of 2011 when there was a reduction in federal funding and oil prices were on the rise.

During June and early July, parishioners responded to the often-requested toilet paper drive by donating the equivalent of more than 1000 single rolls of toilet paper. Because of the enthusiastic reception these basic items evoke from recipient agencies and their clients, we will return to an annual scheduling of the TP collection.

Churchgoers of all ages volunteered for and had fun participating in the three major intergenerational outreach events: the Easter basket assembly, the school supplies sorting, and the Christmas stocking stuffer event. Thanks to all who helped.

Thanks are also extended to Doug Compton who is ever in search of new ways to support our feeding programs. The spring flower sale was the most successful to date; the fall apple sale and the Christmas poinsettia sale were introduced. These sales netted over \$500 for the feeding programs.

Opportunities to Serve: Ron Ward is still looking for volunteers for the preparation of casseroles for South Park Inn on the third Sunday of each month, and Sam Paul could use help in sandwich-making for Loaves and Fishes on the second and third Sundays of each month.

The position of coordinator for the October/November stockings and toiletries drive is still available. This is a fun and easily managed project. If you are interested in volunteering to manage or to assist, or need more information, please call Barbara Schiller.

Following is a list of the ongoing Outreach projects to which St. James's members contributed in 2012.

The Two Hundred Identical Sandwiches (THIS) program: More than 10,000 sandwiches were assembled and delivered to the people served by the Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen. Foodshare contributed 1,600 loaves of bread to THIS program.

The 14th Annual School Supplies collection: 24 boxes of school supplies and 59 backpacks were donated for the children served by Hartford shelters and community agencies.

The Christmas Toys collection: 61 toys were given to the children in area shelters and in the neighborhood of a north-end community agency.

The Angel Tree program: 116 gifts of clothing and toys were delivered to 58 children of prisoners, on behalf of their absent parents. This was an increase of 30 gifts over the previous year and close to the all-time high of 120. Reaching the families assigned was especially difficult this year because of language problems and frequent family moves. Thanks to the interpreters, and to the gift purchasers who responded to our last-minute requests, the deliveries were made in time for Christmas.

The Christmas Stocking Intergenerational Program: 252 pairs of warm socks, and toiletries and candies were delivered to The Open Hearth (126) and the Salvation Army (126) for Christmas distribution to their clients.

The September Mum sale: 75 colorful mums were sold, with the proceeds benefiting the at-risk youth at HopeWorks. This year's plants were especially lovely.

Hot Lunches: A total of 2,600 hot lunches were served: 1,200 for the clients at Loaves and Fishes, and 1,400 for South Park Inn.

Brown Bag Lunches: 3,000 lunches were donated for the evening meal for persons who received a hot lunch at Loaves and Fishes.

Foodshare's 29th Annual Walk Against Hunger: \$1,320 were raised by St. James's walkers, for the benefit of the Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen. This was an increase of 23% over 2011 contributions.

Easter Baskets: 163 baskets and bags of toiletries and candy were colorfully wrapped and delivered to the men and women in area shelters.

2012 OUTREACH MISSION EXPENDITURES

The following table lists the organizations funded and the donations they received from the General Outreach budget in 2012.

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Donation(\$)</u>
A Hand Up	\$ 750
Bishop's Fund for Children	\$ 1,000
Camp Washington	\$ 750
Feeding Programs	\$ 850
Youth Group Trip to New Orleans	\$ 1,000
Foodshare	\$ 750
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 800
Hartford Area Food Pantries*	\$ 2,700
HopeWorks	\$ 500
Kairos Prison Ministry	\$ 400
Loaves and Fishes	\$ 400
My Sisters' Place	\$ 400
St. Vincent's Center, Haiti	\$ 2,000
South Park Inn	\$ <u>700</u>
Total	\$ 13,000

*These funds were distributed among four Hartford Area agencies that provide food for the poor: The Place of Grace Food Pantry, South Park Inn, Loaves and Fishes, and The Open Hearth.

Thank you for your support of St. James's Outreach programs. The committee welcomes your participation and suggestions.

Barbara Schiller, *Chairperson*

Report from the Sacred Ministers

THE role of the Sacred Ministers is to assist the clergy in the celebration of all services at St. James's on weekdays, Sundays, and Holidays. The opportunities for service include Ministers of Communion (Chalice Bearers), Licensed Lay Readers, Lectors, Intercessors, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers. At present there are 12 Ministers of Communion, 15 Lectors and Intercessors for the 9:30 Sunday service and 8 Lectors and Intercessors for the 8:00 service.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers take the consecrated host to the home bound as an extension of the parish's sacramental life.

My thanks to all of you who participate in this ministry; for your faithful service and dedication in 2012.

Elizabeth Cloud, *Chairperson*

Report from the Stewardship Committee

STEWARDSHIP is a year round part of every growing community. As much as we give of our Time and Talent, Treasure remains critical to our mission. We cannot avoid the discussion and assessment of our financial contribution, as a community cannot function without a solid financial foundation. This means that each of us is asked to do our part to financially support the mission and ministry of God through the work of this parish. It is our faithful giving that supports our parish. The finances we have to work with come from us.

The mission statement of St. James's states that our mission is: To live, learn and teach the values of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To the faithful Christian, being a good steward is one of these core values. As we think about Stewardship as a core value of the Gospel, we are reminded that it is made up of two other values of the Gospel: Gratitude and Generosity. As Episcopalians we learn through scripture, tradition, and reason/experience that we live lives of great abundance. We live lives filled of God's Grace, Generosity and Blessing. It is in gratitude to God for all of God's blessings that we respond to the call to be faithful stewards.

We are a community that shares a vision of living and teaching the words of Jesus Christ; a community that strives to give back and to serve as a source of strength for those in need; a community that is a welcoming spiritual home for the greater West Hartford area.

This year we asked members of the parish to pledge their financial contribution to St. James's in a mature and timely fashion. As the calendar year ended we had received 173 pledges. This is ahead of

the previous year. Within the next few weeks we anticipate that the total number of pledges will approach 200.

We are very grateful for and appreciate all the effort that Judith Stahl, Kim Lytle, Ron Coons, Diane Mack, Rita Neal, Eleanor Michael, Beth Richards, Cheryl Batter and Bob Hooper have put into this year's stewardship effort. Thank you.

Gale Mattison, *Stewardship Chair*

Report from the Ushers

TWENTY-TWO parishioners currently share the role of welcoming people coming to our services and providing bulletins, information and direction for those who may be new to St. James's. During the service, the ushers enumerate the attendance for distribution of the Eucharist and bring up the elements before collecting the offerings. I would like to commend the ushers for their commitment to provide assistance at our services on Sundays and other Holy Days.

We added two "substitute" ushers this year to help replace assigned ushers when needed, and we welcome new volunteers to help us. Ushering is a fine way to become familiar with the church and its members, and it provides an important and needed service for our worship activities. The commitment is usually less than a service a month, and training can take place gradually with the first assignments.

David Downes, *Coordinator*

Report from the Vegetable Garden Committee

THE St. James's vegetable garden, which provides healthy food to our Hartford neighbors, was even more productive this year and yielded many bushels of a variety of vegetables. Brian Kavanagh of the Hartford Catholic Worker said that every bit we brought to them would be used. In addition to those who come by the HCW house, there are many places in the immediate neighborhood where fresh produce is welcomed. Among them are senior housing, a House of Bread Transitional housing facility, a halfway house for women recently released from Niantic, and a housing facility for grandparents raising grandchildren.

Ann Painter and Chuck Russo wish to thank everyone who contributed their time and energy to this labor of love.

Ann Painter and Chuck Russo, *Coordinators*

Report from the Women of St. James's

It was another exciting year of programs that we shared in fellowship and discovery. We had a multitude of speakers from in and around our community as well as clergy and parishioners. Presentations from the University of St. Joseph Art Gallery, Trinity College and Music Therapy Services were all well received.

The Annual Mystery Trip in May to Billings Forge in Hartford was enjoyed by all who attended, and the luncheon from the Firebox Restaurant at Billings Forge following the tour was delightful. Chris Fisher graciously returned with another photo tour. This year's presentation, the Galapagos Islands, was just as wonderful. Dr. Richard Freund visited us again and entertained us with his presentation on Finding Atlantis.

As many organizations are suffering financially at this time, the WOSJ's budget has held its own. A special thank you goes out to Deborah Ross for chairing our annual Holiday Tea. What a wonderful event and thank you to all who contributed your time, talent and baked goods! Together with the May and October Rummage Sales, we are happy to have our necessary fundraisers in place so we can provide the stimulating list of presentations at our luncheons, meet our outreach goals and enhance our church community.

Some of our Outreach Program recipients for 2012 are:

Camp Washington	Episcopal Church Women	Frontier Nursing
Friends of St. Vincent's	Seabury Charitable Foundation	Seamen's Church Institute
Society for Increase of Ministry	Connecticut Historical Society	Noah Webster House

Finally, thank you to all who have been very helpful and supportive to me as your president, particularly the Executive Board. With God's help and guidance, we can enjoy a world of fellowship for years to come!

Cynthia L. Welch, *President*

Report from the Worship Sound Committee

THE Worship Sound Committee completed another successful year supporting the Eucharistic and music ministries of St. James's thanks to the dedicated support of volunteers Marilyn Tomlinson and Bryan Wysong.

The committee monitors the sound reinforcement system during the 9:30 Sunday Eucharist while recording the service. The Gospel and Sermon are then posted to the St. James's website. Copies of any of these recordings in the form of an audio CD or mp3 file may be requested by contacting the parish office.

Minor adjustments and modifications continue to be made to the sound system in the Nave to improve intelligibility. CMI Sound Systems contributed their expertise in May and helped make improvements to adjust for the complex acoustic nature of our worship space.

A new wireless microphone was donated for use in the sound system in the parish dining room to replace the original one that had become less reliable.

The church uses a Telex Assistive Listening System to broadcast sound from the microphones directly to small personal receivers during services. The receivers are located at both entrances to the

Nave and may be requested from the ushers prior to the beginning and returned after the end of services. An additional six receivers have been purchased bringing the total to twelve.

Chuck Russo, *Director*

2012 Annual Report from the Treasurer

2012 reversed the trends experienced during the past two years as the church ended the year in a surplus position of \$15,152. In addition, the endowment increased during the year.

Income and Expense Summary

Actual expenses for the year were \$717,527, or \$1,773 less than the budgeted figure of \$719,300. All expense categories were monitored throughout the year and eight of the twelve categories came in below budget. The property expense category accounted for approximately \$750 of the \$1,773 by which expenses were below budget. The year-end surplus was also aided by income that exceeded its budgeted amount. Total income for the year was \$732,679, or \$13,379 above the income budget of \$719,300. The primary drivers of the income results were the Regular Contributions category (which includes pledges) and facilities income. Combined, these categories ended the year \$13,000 ahead of budget. Given the income and expense figures from above, the net surplus position for the church for the year was \$15,152 (\$732,679 - \$717,527), or approximately 2% of the annual budget.

Endowment

The Endowment Fund had a beginning market value of \$2,122,000 on January 1, 2012 and finished the year with a market value of 2,302,000. After considering the \$120,200 endowment distribution that supports our operating fund during the year, the increase in the endowment represents a 14.5% appreciation during the year. The Endowment Committee worked through the challenges presented by the financial markets, met quarterly to oversee the management of the fund, and moved the management of the endowment funds from the diocese to an external manager during the year.

Diocesan Review

During 2012, St. James's underwent its annual "Diocesan Review" for the 2011 fiscal year. This review was performed by an outside Certified Public Accountant with experience and expertise with church finances. The focus of the accountant's work is on the verification of account balances, transaction accuracy, and financial controls. The auditor has again confirmed that our finances are in order and summarized her analysis by stating that "the financial records of St. James's Episcopal Church seem to be in excellent condition." Details of the report have been reviewed with the Executive Vestry, Vestry, and Finance Chair.

Resources

Overseeing the church's operating budget and managing the finances of the church are roles that are carried out by many people - the Rector, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, members of the Finance and Endowment Committees, and the Vestry. In addition to thanking those listed above, I would like to recognize and thank Heidi Cotter, the church's financial secretary. Heidi quietly and efficiently keeps the books of the church and makes sure that everything is running smoothly. In addition, I would like to thank Alex Smith for his leadership of the Endowment Committee.

After each service, a small group of parishioners count and record the contributions made by parishioners. I would like to thank Ron Ward, Don Jacobs, Bryan Wysong, Claire Burnett, Kevin Kindelberger, Bill Stahl, Nancy Barker, and Alex Smith for serving in this role this year. Finally, I would like to thank Dick Wenner for everything that he does to keep the financial engine of the church running.

Michael Sherrill, *Treasurer*

Financials from the Treasurer

EXHIBIT A

St. James's Episcopal Church

ACCOUNTING FUND BALANCES (Unaudited)

January 2012 – December 2012

NOTES



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