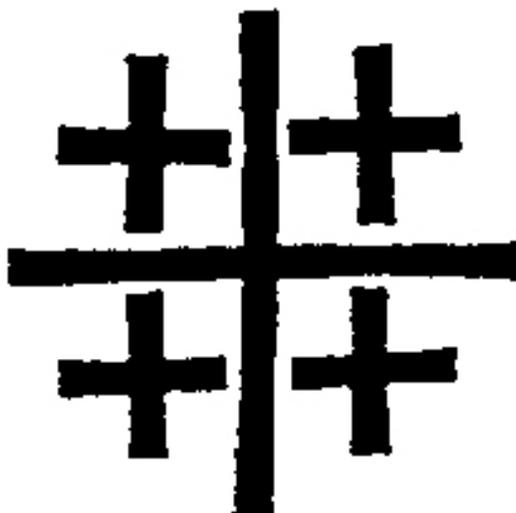


# 2013

# Annual Report



*Saint James's*

Episcopal Church  
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*The Annual Meeting of Saint James's Parish will be held  
on Sunday, January 26, 2014  
immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Liturgy*

Published January 2014



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# Agenda

The Annual Parish Meeting  
Saint James's Episcopal Church  
West Hartford, Connecticut  
January 26, 2014  
10:45 a.m.

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

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

The 2013 Annual Meeting of St. James's Episcopal Church was called to order and the Welcome was made at 10:45 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 2012 Annual Meeting, as printed in the 2012 Annual Report, was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

All reports contained in the 2012 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. 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. David Dynowski, Michael Fitzsosa, Eleanor Michael, and Peter Peterson were elected to the Vestry, Class of 2016.

The Senior Warden, Ann Cooke, urged the parishioners present to read her report and all of the other reports in the 2012 Annual Report booklet.

The Junior Warden, David Thomas, offered additional, brief comments to his printed report regarding the status of the St. James's Church Parish complex.

The Parish Treasurer, Michael Sherrill, gave the Finance Committee Report. (a) St. James's Parish finished the 2012 fiscal year with a surplus of \$15,152.00 which will go into the General Fund. The General Fund was used to cover Budget deficits incurred during a fiscal year, such as the ones that occurred during the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years. (b) The Treasurer noted that finishing the fiscal year with a surplus is unusual. (c) The Treasurer thanked the parish for its moral and financial support during the 2012 fiscal year. (d) The 2013 Budget has been completed and accepted by the Vestry of the parish at its January 22, 2013 meeting. (e) The Rector thanked Michael Sherrill (Treasurer), Richard Wenner (Assistant Treasurer), and Heidi Cotter (Financial Secretary) for their continued mastery of managing the finances of the parish.

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 the associate clergy of the parish for their faithful service;
- (b) Gave thanks for the ministry of the Reverend Julia Whitworth, former Assistant Rector, for her many contributions to the life of the parish during her two - plus year tenure;
- (c) Gave thanks to the parishioners of St. James's Church for their support and dedication;
- (d) Gave thanks to the members of the Vestry and the Executive Committee for their faithful service to the parish. Special thanks were offered to the outgoing Vestry members, David Downes, Diane Mack, Ted Newton, and Emily Sadler;
- (e) Gave thanks to the parishioners for being so welcoming to newcomers to the parish;
- (f) Noted that St. James's Church is an "amazing training ground" for new clergy;
- (g) Announced the intention that going forward, St. James's Church will go deeper into determining what God is calling the parish as a whole and the parishioners as individuals to do in His Kingdom...How God is moving among and within us.
- (h) Gave special thanks for the support of his wife and family and to the parish for being so accepting of his children and treating them with respect and love as they have grown up in the parish.

Other matters arising:

- (a) Donna Mattison offered thanks for the ministry of the Hooper family; (b) the Reverend Molly Loudon gave thanks for the ministry of the Rector, the Reverend Robert C. Hooper III.

The 2013 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM with a closing prayer and blessing by the Rector, the Reverend Robert C. Hooper III.

Respectfully submitted,

Ollie R. Bunch  
Parish Clerk

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

January 26, 2014  
Annual Parish Meeting

Dear Brothers and Sisters here at St. James's,

2013 proved to be a very interesting and exciting year in the life of this parish. At the end of the spring, Curtis Farr joined the staff and clergy as our new assistant rector. Along with Priscilla, Curtis has breathed new life into our youth program. He has also exponentially increased our social media presence with Facebook, twitter, and weekly blogs; this is work that could not have been done without the efforts and talents of Ellen Dollar. Curtis has also stepped boldly in to the tradition of dynamic preaching that has been the hallmark of St. James's for many years. As someone who is so heavily reliant on the gifts of my own spouse in my ministry, I would be remiss if I didn't say that Antonio, Curtis' partner, is also a great addition to the St. James's family.

One of the other very exciting things that has happened here at St. James's is the continued focus on helping meet the nutritional needs of those who struggle. For many years, St. James's has participated in these efforts by making casseroles for local area feeding ministries as well as over 12,000 sandwiches a year. A couple of years ago, we increased our efforts in this area by adding four, large vegetable beds to the property with the produce being distributed by the Hartford Catholic Worker in Hartford's North End. This year, we revamped our outreach committee by creating a subgroup that we call "The Feeding Ministry." One of the new additions that has happened through this is an increased effort in providing non-perishable goods to a number of local food banks—with tremendous results. It is hard to feed people's souls when their stomachs are empty.

2013 has also been marked by tremendous music and significant growth in our choir, particularly among the boys and girls. Jason continues to be one of the finest choir directors and organists in the Episcopal Church. He is a real blessing to this community.

In the areas of Christian education for adults and for children, we have seen both great growth and excitement around many new offerings. This past summer Priscilla led a week-long program for children entitled, "*And It Was Good - God.*" A program designed by her to educate our children around the theological, biblical and spiritual necessities of stewardship of all of God's creation. Mark Evans continued to develop new and engaging topics for adult discussion.

There are so many groups doing good work within the parish that I could go on for pages. So let me just say, that without the hard work of so many people involved in the social life of this parish to its liturgical life, we would not be who we are or doing what we do without them. The lay leadership of St. James's continues to be a tremendous support and resource to my ministry and to that of this parish, and I for one could not do my work without them. The generosity of the parishioners of St. James's has provided me with one of the finest staffs a rector could ever want. The patience, dedication, and faithfulness of Cheryl Batter is the catalyst that gets so much of what we do around here done. Our sexton, Randy, continues to keep the building in great working order, providing us with the space to do all that we do here.

So let me finish with two of the most important words in the English language to all of you, "Thank you."

Faithfully,



The Rev. Robert C. Hooper, III  
Rector

## Report from the Senior Warden

**J**UST think, folks, of all that we do as a faith community; Sunday services, coffee hours, choir, concerts, Adult Formation, Taste of St. James's, Women's Evening group dinners, Christmas tree sales, vestry meetings, 240 sandwiches, Women of, Easter baskets, Christmas stockings, Bible study, Wednesday morning breakfast, church school, chili cook-off, Lenten programs, high school mission trip, First Friday gatherings, picnics, gardening, and certainly some I have left off.

Thanks to all of you, and let us continue our faith journeys throughout 2014.

Ann B. Cooke, *Senior Warden*

## Report from the Junior Warden

**A**SIGNIFICANT improvement to the Nave's heating and air conditioning system was made when we replaced the old pneumatic thermostat system with a wireless electronic system. Now the Rector can even regulate the system from the comfort of his home.

The painters returned during the summer to re-glaze and paint the exterior windows on the South and East sides of the Parish House. The entrance to the Cloister was also re-varnished, completing the six-year sequenced refinishing of the exterior wood surfaces. On the interior, the Sexton washed and painted the stage and Parish Hall walls. Bryan Wysong and Ollie Bunch have all but completed the woodwork in the Tish Cox Library.

The Memorial Garden benefited greatly again from the advice and monetary support from concerned parishioners. Serious weeding, trimming and a thinning of the more scraggily bushes has given the garden a cleaner, more appealing look. The three new *Stewartia* planted in the fall of 2012 have taken hold and should provide gentle shade for years to come.

Chuck Russo continues to tweak the Church's sound system in efforts to make the sound clear and sharp for everyone. The Church services are recorded for those who could not attend or may want to relive the experience. Chuck could use some volunteers to help with monitoring the sound and making the recordings.

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 the volunteers.

It's hard to believe that my six-year term is over and 2014 will bring a new Junior Warden with a fresh approach to the maintenance of St. James's facilities. He has already guided our purchase of an industrial snow-blower for the walkways that will abate a portion of our snow removal budget. Aside from the recurring maintenance issues, some big ticket items – the Organ refurbishment, the driveway/parking lot resurfacing and replacing the Parish Hall floor – remain to be addressed.

David D. Thomas, *Junior Warden*

## Report from the Assistant Rector

**W**HEW! This year just flew right on past us! One year ago, Antonio and I joined you for the chili cook-off. I preached the next morning and interviewed with Ann (the senior warden) and Jonathan (a member of the vestry), and four months later we moved to West Hartford to join in the ministries of St. James's. Antonio and I are eternally grateful to the rector, staff, vestry, and this entire community for the many blessings of the past eight months. While there were too many special moments this year to name, here are some of the highlights.

We have seen a tremendous thing happen in our youth program this fall and winter. "Second Sundays at St. James's," our new monthly youth group sees an average 35-45 middle and high schoolers. Parent volunteers provide a dinner for us, which we eat together in a large group. We spend about an hour playing games and getting to know each other, and we conclude the evening with a brief service of Compline (night prayers). Activities for "Second Sundays" have included a West Hartford Center-wide scavenger hunt, "Commando Church," and bowling. It is always a good time.

On the majority of Sunday mornings I have had the pleasure of meeting with the youth after the 9:30 service. We spend that time catching up with each other and talking about topics from summer jobs to obscure books of the Bible (See: Bel and the Dragon).

In addition to these regular occurrences, we have had an overnight "lock-in" and made and served 200 sack lunches to people in Bushnell Park. By all accounts, this feeding and worshipping ministry was a meaningful one; we will be doing it again soon.

Something that the St. James's community has a great capacity for is intergenerational diversity during parish events and activities. That is why the "Adult Formation" course that I offered in December, *The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss*, was opened to high schoolers as well. Never mind that the books we looked at were by-and-large targeted toward children, the discussions were robust and I was glad to have people of all ages in the sessions.

Beth Richards, Eleanor Michael, Ellen Painter-Dollar, Molly Loudon, Taffy Wilcox, Ray Payne, Priscilla Hooper, and Bob Hooper have all been tremendously helpful with their contributions to our formation offerings this year, but I have to give special thanksgiving for Mark Evans who does an incredible job creating the calendar and gathering information for our formation booklet, *Growing in Faith*. Thank you, all.

I also have much gratitude for those who have been a part of one or many of the mid-week Bible studies. We meet on Wednesdays in the Parish Room at 12:15 to pour through the upcoming Sunday's readings. Without this group, writing sermons would be much more difficult; scripture is clearly meant to be read in community. And I am grateful for the smaller worshipping communities among us, especially those who come to the healing services on Tuesdays and the morning services and breakfasts on Wednesdays.

One of the other beautiful things that I have been privileged to see firsthand at St. James's is the way we care for each other. While I have stepped in to fill a coordinator's role in making home and hospital visitations, much of that coordination happens through the Healing Team's efforts or simply organically. I am glad to see this, and I look forward to finding new ways to facilitate pastoral care this year.

We have a lot to look forward to in this coming year. This summer a group of high schoolers and other volunteers will go to the Dominican Republic to work with the people of the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic. Bob will use a portion of his sabbatical to join the trip, and we will be helping with Vacation Bible School and doing more laborious projects as well. This means that we have a lot of work to do over the next five months to prepare, but the community spirit that we will build during fundraising efforts will be priceless.

Next Sunday, a number of formation offerings begin. While coffee hour is a totally acceptable and worthwhile choice after the service, I encourage you to also try out a few classes this “semester.” A lot of hard work goes into their content, and you might just have something to offer to the discussion that you didn’t realize you had. The same is true for any number of ministries going on at St. James’s, and together we can help each other become fuller participants in God’s kingdom.

I am thrilled to be in community with you, and I am eager to discover where following Jesus will take us in 2014. God be with you and yours.

The Rev. Curtis A. Farr, *Assistant Rector*

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

**F**OR me, it always seems appropriate to write the annual report after the Christmas Pageant. 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 choral them, and even as we missed one rehearsal for a large snowstorm, it was fantastic! Thanks to all who helped make the pageant a success.

We have settled into a wonderful routine with our children here at St. James's. Our preschool Sunday school is expertly run by Eleanor Michaels, Kristen Kirsch, and Elizabeth Waterman. In elementary school, we have the rotation model of Sunday school, based on the multi-intelligence theory of learning. At the end of the program year in June, I wasn't entirely pleased with the elementary school attendance and so I did a little research. I asked some parents for their input and found that we needed to get some new lesson plans for this age group. So, over the summer, I created a list of new lessons to use. This fall we did a unit on The Great Commandment, a unit on Isaiah and we are now doing a unit on the prodigal son. By making some changes, we have been able to increase the attendance this fall which thrills me! I continue to be pleasantly surprised at the ease I have of recruiting people to teach this age group. Ask anyone who has worked with these kids, they are truly a joy.

This year, Bob, Curtis and I came up with the idea of Second Sundays for both the middle and senior high youth groups. Once a month, we get together for some sort of activity, dinner and compline. We have fun, eat and worship together. All of us have been pleased with the attendance at these monthly events. Thanks to all the parents who have made this a priority for their kids. In the new year, we have many more fun activities planned.

For the high school Sunday school, they have done a combination of programs including coming to adult education opportunities, outreach projects and more.

In Kid's Liturgy, our numbers are regularly between twenty and thirty children on a Sunday. I often have parents attend, and they are always welcome. It is amazing how much these children are learning about our church traditions and liturgy. They are like sponges, soaking up everything! 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 June. As we had done all the programs of this type that I could find, Bob helped me to create this program called, "*And It Was Good-God*" This program explored creation and being good stewards of the earth using the film, "*The Lorax*." We had great attendance and lots of fun.

So, looking forward, we have a lot of fun and learning planned for 2014. The elementary school children will begin with a unit on the prodigal son, Middle schoolers will continue with their Real to Reel curriculum. We have begun the year using the film, "*Scooby Doo*" to explore the concept of Christian teamwork.

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 10 years, but it is true. This is the last year for a Hooper

kid to be enrolled in Sunday school and involved in youth programs here which seems a little unreal. Maddy was in first grade when we moved to West Hartford, and has become such an amazing part of the parish here. We will all miss her when she goes away to college, but it is nice to know she isn't going far. As a freshman at UConn, I can keep my fingers crossed that she will not be a stranger. All the children of this parish are wonderful. Thank you for sharing your children with me. They are truly a blessing.

Priscilla Hooper, *Director of Religious Education*

## Report from the Organist-Choirmaster

**R**EVIEWING the year, I will gladly report that it's been quite a musical high of a sort. I have been very pleased with the choir's quick growth- Not just adults or choristers: actually both. Our chorister program is well and alive: Before we had twenty-one, now thirty-five! There are highlights of spring that I hope you'll recall, like the jazz mass, the dinner and "The General." Our observance of Lent in both anthem and psalm was especially thoughtful, both blessed and calm. Back in August at camp all the kids had a ball. Thanks, Samantha Dynowski, you made camp fun for all! As though singing at church didn't satisfy them, Quite a few of our kids went to RSCM. We sang for All Saints' Rutter's grand Requiem with harp, flute and 'cello, and oboe and drum. The choristers sang in a "do" at St. John's with the Hereford choir, choral paragons! Advent lessons and carols came off very well; Many difficult tunes were without parallel. We're so lucky to have volunteers who can sing. Both your time and your talents are such a blessing. Who can tell what the rest of the season will bring? I'm exceedingly thankful to Nora and Ron for your great organ playing the days when I'm gone. And not only to those two, but also to Claire: Thank you so much for waving your hands in the air! Before I conclude this report I must mention for a long time the organ has needed attention. It is fifty years old and needs work quite extensive and I do understand you might be apprehensive; but to do the job piecemeal will be more expensive.

Dr. Jason Roberts, *Organist & Choirmaster*

## Report from the Acolytes

**T**HE boys and girls who serve as acolytes are important contributors to our Sunday services. They light the candles, lead the processional and recessional, assist with the Gospel reading and help with Communion, all the while lending dignity, grace and pageantry to our worship experience. At the same time, they see church in a whole different way – one that emphasizes the interdependency of congregational worship.

This year, we welcomed Natalie Lytle, Lizzie Davis, Eleanor Duva, LeeAnn Madera, Bianca Ciccomascolo-Barry, Sophia Lankin, Winston Toutain, Charlie Lewis, Emma Pinckney, Connor Montgomery, and Madison Montgomery as new acolytes. But we lost long-time acolytes Henry Hooper, Will Blank and Isabel Blank to graduation in 2013 (thank you for your years of service!), and we will be losing Justin Lamy, Julia Lankin, Madison Hooper, and Emma Coll this coming year.

Each acolyte serves about once per month as a crucifer, torch bearer, or Gospel bearer. If you're a parent of a teen or pre-teen (third grade and above) who might wish to take on this important leadership role, please consider having them serve as an acolyte.

Ted Newton, *Coordinator*

## Report from the Altar Flower Coordinator

**I**T is such a blessing that we have at St. James' a wonderful large group of parishioners who support the ministry for fresh flowers every Sunday and on Holy Days. Without you, we would be reusing silk arrangements! Thank you all for your kind and consistent financial support with this offering so that we are able to present fresh flowers for the 40+ weeks in the year when our altars are graced with fresh arrangements.

A very special thanks to Claire Burnett who kindly stepped in, along with others, to take over the Easter decorating while I was out of town assisting a dear Uncle's transition to heaven. She and her helpers did a herculean job and the photos I saw were breath-taking!

This Christmas a wonderful group of parishioners showed up to mount isle candles and hang wreaths and garland – all during the Christmas pageant rehearsal! I am so grateful to all of you who stayed after the 'hanging of the Greens' to assist with clean-up! This year's 'Golden Rod' Helper Award goes to Doug Compton who came early and stayed late!

Special thanks go to Randy Martini, Cheryl Batter and Heidi Cotter for managing wholesaler invoices and donor lists. As always, my heartfelt thanks go to Bob and Curtis for supporting this meaningful ministry for all of us.

When making your requests for floral colors or design requests, perhaps this liturgical color chart will be helpful to you!

<b>Green</b>	Sundays in Ordinary Time	Ordinary Time Jun 22-Oct 31th Epiphany Jan 12 <sup>th</sup> -Mar 1 <sup>st</sup> Transfiguration Mar 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4th	
<b>Violet</b>	Sundays in Advent (no flowers traditionally) Sundays in Lent (no flowers traditionally) Offices for those who have died	Ash Wednesday Mar 5th Lent Mar 5 <sup>th</sup> -Apr 12th Palm Sunday Apr 10 <sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday Apr 17	
<b>Rose</b>	Third Sunday of Advent (no flowers traditionally) Fourth Sunday in Lent (no flowers traditionally)		
<b>White</b>	Holy Thursday Easter season (from the Easter Vigil to Pentecost) Holy Trinity Sunday The Nativity of St. John the Baptist Feast of All Saints Sacrament of Baptism Sacrament of Matrimony	Epiphany Jan 6 <sup>th</sup> -11th Ascension Day Observed Sun Jun 1 <sup>st</sup> Trinity Sunday Jun 15th	
<b>Red</b>	Palm Sunday Confirmation Pentecost Feasts of the Passion of our Lord	Palm Sunday Apr 13 <sup>th</sup> Pentecost June 8 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> All Saints Day Observed Sun Nov 2nd	
<b>Black</b>	Good Friday Apr 18 <sup>th</sup> Easter Vigil Apr 19th		

I look forward to designing altar arrangements for this new year, and I also look forward to meeting and working with those new to this endeavor during the Christmas and Easter seasons! Your talent and muscle power is very much appreciated! I invite all of your comments and recommendations at any time to this fulfilling and creative ministry.

Mary Ann Haar, *Floral Committee Chair*

## Report from the Altar Guild

**T**HE few and the faithful who are members of the Altar Guild “set the Table” in preparation for the celebration of the Eucharist. Working behind the scenes, they ensure the wine and bread are ready in both the Chapel and the Church for the regular weekly worship. For special festivals, including Christmas and Easter, members of the Altar Guild take extra care that the silver is polished and the linens are fresh. A member of the Altar Guild is always present at weddings and funerals to assist as needed.

We warmly welcome anyone who is interested in learning more to “shadow” the Altar Guild some weekend to experience what we do – in order to discern whether this is a ministry of service which you would like to join. If so, please just let us know.

Cheri Evans and Sue Nelson, *Co-chairs*

## Report from the Christian Education Committee Adult Formation

**A**DULT Education at St. James's had a very successful 2013. We continued with our format of offering two to three concurrent small group sessions through both the winter-spring and the fall. Small group offerings included 'Raising Children in the Church' with Priscilla Hooper, 'Responding to Grief, in Faith' with the Rev. Dr. Molly Loudon, 'Sabbath in the Suburbs' with Ellen Painter Dollar, 'Movies that Matter' with Ellen Painter Dollar and Eleanor Michael, 'Speaking Christian' with Bruce Loudon & Ray Payne, 'Journey With Paul - the Acts of the Apostles' and 'The Great Flood' with Mark Evans, 'Exploring Spiritual Autobiography' with Beth Richards, 'Why Bad Things Happen to Good People' with the Rev. Bob Hooper, 'The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss' with the Rev. Curtis Farr, and others.

Attendance has been good for the small groups with between 5 to 20 people at each session. In 2014 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

**S**T. JAMES'S has hosted an EfM group for over 15 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: Mike Shuey, Hugh Whelan, Nell Walker, Audrey Lamy, year one, and Deborah Ross, year two. Other members are from Trinity, Collinsville; St. James, Farmington; St. Mark's, Storrs; and Church of the Good Shepherd, Hartford. An open house is offered in the spring for those who would like to attend a typical EfM session. For more information: [www.sewanee.edu](http://www.sewanee.edu), then click on "for Theology", then EfM logo. Parish contact: Ron Ward, EfM mentor, 860-686-8338, or [rtwtmr@comcast.net](mailto:rtwtmr@comcast.net).

Ron Ward, *Mentor and Administrator*

## Report from the Endowment Committee

**T**HE 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, Ray Payne, Mike Sherrill, Dick Wenner, Alex Smith, and me. Each member brings his own research, insights and/or experience to the table to help direct the Committee's work.

New England Guild Wealth Advisors, our investment manager, began managing the Fund on November 30, 2012. Through September 30, 2013 (the most recent reporting period), the Fund's total return was 11.6%, slightly less than the 12.3% total return of its comparative benchmark.

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 budgets.

The 2013 transfer was \$123,500, similar in size to transfers in previous years. The 2014 transfer will be \$125,400.

Please direct any questions you may have about the Fund or the Committee's work to me or any member of the Committee.

Ted Newton, *Chairman*

## Report from the Friends of St. Vincent's

**T**HE 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 under the auspices of 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 funds to enable the orphans to further their education at a high school and post-high school education level (i.e. local university, business school or language school).

This year The Friends were blessed in receiving a grant from the Church Mission Publishing Company. These funds will help continue the intense training program for the deaf teachers in learning American Sign Language and teaching techniques for the deaf students. Three Deaf Education missions are currently planned for 2014. The missionaries will test the deaf students to assess what grade level they are regardless of their age and will also train the teachers how to determine their grade level going forward. Healing Hands/Team Canada and the Friends have joined together in providing Sign Language education for the teachers as well as techniques in assessing the deaf students in order to provide appropriate educational interventions. It is important to note that of the six deaf students who took the National sixth-year exam this year, all six passed! It is now imperative that they are properly prepared for the ninth-year exam to continue their success. For the first time, The Friends brought craft items made by the students in Haiti back to the States to sell in

parishes. The Gift Shop at St. Vincent's Center has recently begun providing opportunities for the students to showcase their talents.

The Friends have had to refocus their priorities during the second half of this year from medical supplies and education to supplying food and resources for the orphans and residential students due to the completion of St. Vincent's pre-existing food contract. With the help of Reverend Marianne Stuart and the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf, the Deaf missions raised \$1,000 which the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf matched dollar for dollar for a total of \$2,000. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season, a donation letter was sent out and successfully raised enough funds to purchase food for 3 months. Included within the aforementioned funds one individual came forward and decreed a generous matching gift challenge- if the Friends raised \$6,090 (the total amount needed to feed the residential students and orphans for one month), she would match this amount.

The funds thus far received will keep the orphans and residents fed through the beginning of April. Therefore, we have already begun preparing for a spring appeal in the form of a newsletter. Without food, we realize our goal of supporting the educational and medical needs of the orphans and students is lofty at best.

That is not to say that The Friends have neglected their medical outreach. We have succeeded in supplying a vitamin to every student along with their lunch. The effect of this rather minor allowance has had major results. Over the course of one year, the hemoglobin counts of the students have been stabilized. In addition to the daily vitamin, the students and staff at St. Vincent's have each received an annual physical. The missionaries were also able to further train the staff of St. Vincent's in physical therapy techniques.

Perhaps one of the biggest breakthroughs on the medical side was that one child effectively received surgery on her club foot. A toddler or infant with a club foot can be fitted with a new cast every three to four weeks to correct the bones. However an adult or teenager requires bone surgery as his/her bones are less pliable. The hope of the team is to increase intervention with the younger children so that a cast can be applied as opposed to a major surgery later in life. The Red Thread Promise, The West Tennessee Haiti Partnership, and the Friends of St. Vincent's have been instrumental in providing club foot surgery and intervention in-country (within Haiti).

Our Board members and other volunteers continue to work effortlessly to obtain any and all applicable grants. Several electric motor sewing machines were donated to St. Vincent's this year which allows the students to learn a wonderful trade that will be most beneficial for the students upon graduation. All of these donations are given in grace and kindness, for this we recognize the importance of each and every one of our donors. Although the immediate recognition may not be there, please know that we are truly grateful for your charity. Without you we would not be able to help St. Vincent's Center provide for the least fortunate in Haiti.

Donations of cash and/or supplies are always gratefully received and can be arranged through contact with "The Friends" volunteer executive director.

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

## Report from the Fundraising Committee

**T**HANKS to the participation of many people, 2013 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.

2013 activities included: our tenth annual Strawberry Festival in May, the very successful and popular Taste of St. James's in November, and our tenth annual Christmas Tree Sale in December.

A breakdown of the revenues can be found in the Treasury Report.

David Dynowski, *Fundraising Committee Chairman*

## Report from the Healing Ministry

### The Healing Team

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

**Sacrament of Healing.** It will be ten 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 six 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 165 prayer shawls. A big thank you to Cindy Welch, Julia 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 and those of us who have lost 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 and those in grief. 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,

Hospice services, etc. In the spring, as part of adult education, we had a class for those in the congregation who were grieving. This allowed us to add a new dimension to the support group. Now, we work in not only supporting caregivers, but also supporting those who are grieving the death of the person for whom they were caring.

**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, last year. 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.

The Rev. Dr. Molly O'Neill Loudon, *Priest Associate*

## Report from the Newcomers Committee

**T**HE Newcomers Committee's main function, as you may know, is to welcome new families into the parish. This year, we were pleased to welcome 23 new families to St. James's 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 McMurray, Judith Stahl, Trudy Thompson, Lesley Toutain 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.

We held a Newcomer Coffee Hour Reception on January 13 to officially welcome last year's Newcomers to St. James's. Many thanks are extended to our bakers and reception volunteers, Nancy Barker, Lindsay Fawber, Kim Lytle and Holly Fenn for their help in coordinating this event. Look for an announcement about this year's Newcomer Event in the coming weeks.

The new on-line Parish Directory is almost ready for unveiling. It will provide parishioners the ability to access the directory from any computer or smart phone as well as to be printed for those who prefer a paper copy. A special thanks to Mike Fitzsosa, Jonathan Lewis, Antonio Rocha, and Ollie Bunch for all of their efforts in photographing parishioners as well as coordinating and uploading the photos to the website. Additional thanks to Cheryl Batter for her invaluable assistance with administrative issues related to the new directory. All parishioners are kindly reminded to wear their name tags at church and coffee hour each week, and to help welcome and include our newcomers in parish events and activities.

Claire Burnett and Priscilla Thomas, *Co-chairpersons*

## Report from the Outreach Committee

**T**HE purpose of the Outreach program is to extend our ministry to those in need through contributions of time, talent, and financial support. In 2013, the members of St. James's parish continued to give generously of themselves and their resources.

Although the outreach budget had decreased over the past few years, an increase of \$7,000 in 2013 breathed new life into the program. 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. Many of the programs to which we contribute received gains in funding, notably A Hand Up and the feeding programs. (Please see the Feeding Program Report which follows this report.)

A significant portion of the increase was set aside to aid parishioners in helping to meet needs that they identified in the local or wider community. Members of the parish were invited to submit proposals for one-time grants of \$250 to \$1000 to support a charitable organization or activity with which the applicant would have a hands-on working relationship. Three \$1,000 grants were awarded, all to be completed by June 30, 2014.

**The Garden Shed:** Matthew Wilson was awarded a grant to build a shed close to the area of St. James's garden that supplies produce for the Hartford Catholic Worker to give out to families in the North End of Hartford who do not have access to fresh vegetables. The 8x8 shed will house gardening tools and materials, lawn mower and snow blower. The prefabricated kit, permit and ramp should cost an estimated \$1,200, with \$200 to be raised from individual donations. The foundation, shed, and a ramp will be built by Matthew, volunteers from the parish, and members of his Boy Scout troop. The project is expected to be completed by the beginning of the spring growing season.

**Trinity Episcopal Day School (TEDS):** Christine Pina, a long-time volunteer at TEDS, the only Episcopal school in the Hartford area, was awarded a grant that would fund two field trips for the seventh grade students at TEDS. The school operates on a very limited budget that does not allow for program enrichment activities for its underprivileged students. One field trip will be to experience whale watching at Mystic Seaport, utilizing the Seaport's educational center and curriculum and the other to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, to study the presence of the natural world as expressed through many art forms. Both of these trips will expand the way these Hartford based students experience the broader world and emphasize the importance of taking care of the earth and its creatures. Grant funds will be used for transportation costs, group admission fees and to provide some support for teaching materials that will be used to prepare students for the trips. The students will compile a report of their activities which could be shared with the committee and the vestry.

**The Hartford Catholic Worker Project:** The Hooper family used a grant to purchase food and prepare the dinner at the 20th anniversary celebration of the founding of The Hartford Catholic Worker (HCW), nearly 250 attended. The donation of the food and its preparation made it possible for HCW to utilize its time and funds for its outreach and service programs to many children and their families living in The North End of Hartford.

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 \$255, St. James's parishioners helped Operation Fuel reach out to 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. It will be continued in January and February of 2014.

During June and early July, parishioners responded to the often-requested toilet paper drive by donating the equivalent of more than 900 single rolls of toilet paper and paper towels. 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 are due to all who helped, especially to the Youth Group members who contributed 50 pairs of socks and participated in the sorting.

The spring flower sale was the most successful to date. Together with the proceeds of the fall apple sale and the Christmas poinsettia sale, \$550 was netted for the benefit of 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.

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Following is a list of the ongoing Outreach projects to which St. James's members contributed in 2013.

**The Two Hundred Identical Sandwiches (THIS) program:** Almost 12,000 sandwiches were assembled and delivered to the people served by the Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen.

**The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual School Supplies collection:** 24 boxes of school supplies and 47 backpacks were donated for the children served by Hartford shelters and community agencies.

**The Christmas Toys collection:** 54 toys were given to the children in area shelters and in the neighborhood of a north-end community agency.

**The Angel Tree program:** 100 gifts of clothing and toys were delivered to 50 children of prisoners, on behalf of their absent parents. We were unable to provide gifts to all of the children on our list because we could not locate their families. Despite the snow storms we were able to make the deliveries in time for Christmas.

**The Christmas Stocking Intergenerational program:** 264 pairs of warm socks, and toiletries and candies were delivered to The Open Hearth (115) and the Salvation Army (149) for Christmas distribution to their clients.

**The September Mum sale:** 65 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 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk Against Hunger:** \$1,190 were raised by St. James's walkers and their supporters for the benefit of the Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen.

**Easter Baskets:** 161 baskets and bags of toiletries and candy were colorfully wrapped and delivered to the men and women in area shelters.

### **2013 OUTREACH MISSION EXPENDITURES**

The following table lists the organizations funded and the donations they received from the General Outreach budget in 2013.

<b><u>Recipient</u></b>	<b><u>Donation(\$)</u></b>
A Hand Up	\$ 2,000
Bishop's Fund for Children	\$ 1,000
Camp Washington	\$ 1,000
Feeding Programs	\$ 1,700
Foodshare	\$ 750
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 1,000
Hartford Area Food Pantries*	\$ 3,000
HopeWorks	\$ 500
Kairos Prison Ministry	\$ 400
Loaves and Fishes	\$ 400
Mission Service Grant	\$ 500
My Sisters' Place	\$ 400
Outreach Hands-on Needs Grants	\$ 3,000
St. Vincent's Center, Haiti	\$ 2,650
South Park Inn	\$ 700
Youth Outreach Service Projects	\$ <u>1,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>

\*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.

**Reminder:** Please read the following report for a summary of the Feeding Program activities.

Barbara Schiller, *Chairperson*

## **FEEDING PROGRAMS**

“For I was hungry and you gave me food.” Matthew 25:35

The Feeding programs at St. James’s Parish continue to grow because of the support of so many gifts and helping hands. There is weekly sandwich making, monthly casserole preparation, ongoing regular food drives, fresh produce in our church garden for the Catholic Worker, serving meals at Loaves & Fishes in Hartford, volunteering on Martin Luther King Day at Foodshare and Walk Against Hunger, and picking up food from Whole Foods. People are discovering new possibilities to feed our hungry neighbors.

The actual figures are outstanding. One example is the sandwich making program which happens on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays each month providing almost 9,000 sandwiches and involving great numbers of our parish family. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, individual parishioners bring in ‘brown bags’ with sandwiches and snacks. One family makes 120 sandwiches for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. In December, our Youth Group made 200 sandwiches and lunch snacks which they took to Bushnell Park for the Church by the Pond Eucharist. Altogether, our parish family and friends provide almost 12,000 sandwiches each year.

Sunday after Sunday people bring nonperishable canned and packaged foods which are given to the West Hartford Food Pantry and the Catholic Worker. Volunteers pick up donated food from Whole Foods and deliver it to Loaves and Fishes. Others provide some of the canned products needed for our casseroles.

Early in the spring, in order to provide fresh produce to hungry people in Hartford, a faithful group of parishioners prepare and plant our church garden. Each Wednesday they pick vegetables from our garden and deliver them to the Catholic Worker. People who have extra produce from their home gardens add their donations as well.

Twice a month a group of faithful parishioners prepare casseroles and other items for meals at Loaves and Fishes and South Park Inn in Hartford. Some assist in serving the meals at Loaves and Fishes.

In addition to many hands at work, these programs require financial support. The outreach committee designates some funds for these programs. Easter flower, Christmas flower, and apple sales also raise funds. Individuals make financial gifts. Changes have taken place so that subsidized food is no longer available for the programs. Generous members have stepped forward to help fill in the gaps. One parishioner has taken the responsibility to purchase bread for the sandwiches, another to provide the meat and cheese for the sandwiches and casseroles.

We now need individuals who are willing to commit themselves to either purchasing required items or providing funds on a monthly basis, or for a designated period of time, for such things as large packages of cookies, large bottles of juice, disposable cooking pans and cases of large cans of food which can be purchased wholesale.

Each new possibility provides another opportunity to offer time or give funds needed to feed our hungry neighbors.

## Report from the Stewardship Committee

**T**HIS past fall, we asked the parish to consider the “Stewardship of Generosity”. We discussed ways we are all generous as individuals and as a parish. And then the parish responded with great generosity. As of January 12 we have made 187 pledges for a total of over \$520,000. This is an increase over last year’s stewardship campaign total, and includes over \$30,000 in new pledges. Thanks to this generosity, and with additional pledges and donations from the Rector’s Appeal, the Finance Committee will be able to draft a budget for 2014 that will allow St. James’s to continue our missions and expand our programs as appropriate.

I would like to thank all the people who have pledged, and especially Sam Paul, Cheryl Batter, Curtis Farr, Priscilla Hooper and Bob Hooper for their work on this year’s campaign.

Judith Stahl, *Stewardship Coordinator*

## Report from the Ushers

**T**HE ushers welcome 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, bring up the elements before collecting the offerings, and collect newcomer information slips after the service.

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. With the current group of twenty-four ushers, the commitment is usually less than a service a month, and training can take place gradually with the first assignments.

This year I will be turning over coordinating duties to Derrick Kirsch, after heading up scheduling for the past four years. I would like to commend the ushers for their commitment to provide assistance at our services on Sundays and other Holy Days.

David Downes, *Coordinator*

## Report from the Vegetable Garden Committee

**S**T. JAMES’S vegetable garden continues to be a great success! We had more volunteers this year than the previous years which made it a really big team effort. We produced and delivered a large amount of fresh produce for the folks at The Hartford Catholic Worker and the immediate neighborhood each week between June and September. We have been told by the staff at the HCW that they “snap it all up and love every bit of it” as they ordinarily do not have access to fresh vegetables.

Thank you to everyone who made deliveries and worked in the garden making this a wonderfully successful ministry for our brothers and sisters in Hartford.

Ann Painter and Chuck Russo, *Coordinators*

## Report from the Women of St. James's

**I**T 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 Seabury Retirement Community, Hartford College for Women and Seamen's Church Institute Christmas At Sea Program were all well received.

The Annual Mystery Trip in May to the Simsbury Historical Society was enjoyed by all who attended and the luncheon at Abigail's following the tour was delightful. Chris Fisher graciously returned with another photo tour with his focus this time on birding. Beth Richards fascinated us with her presentation on prison education through Wesleyan University. It was obvious the courage and dedication she has towards humankind. Ann and Dean Uphoff made two interesting presentations of their world travels; Russia and from Budapest to Amsterdam.

While 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 2013 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	Our Little Roses Ministries

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

**T**HE St. James's Worship Sound Committee recorded all but three Sunday services on Compact Discs, which are archived in the Parish Office, and on digital Compact Flash memory from which the Gospel and Sermon are edited and posted to the St. James's website.

This year, after conducting an in-house engineering analysis, we made minor improvements resulting in better intelligibility for relatively little cost. Most of the sonic demons that have haunted services in the past have been tamed. Thank you Marilyn Tomlinson and Bryan Wysong for your dedication each week.

A recent call for additional volunteers was rewarded by the addition of three new eager members.

**Committee Members:**

Michael Fitzsousa, Jonathan Lewis, Mike Sherrill, Marilyn Tomlinson, and Bryan Wysong.

Chuck Russo, *Director*

## 2013 Annual Report from the Treasurer

2013 continued the trend begun in 2012 as the church ended the year in a surplus position of \$9,933, \$5,933 more than the budgeted surplus of \$4,000. In addition, the endowment increased during the year as a result of the strong performance in the financial markets.

### *Income and Expense Summary*

Actual expenses for the year were \$723,820, or \$1,779 less than the budgeted figure of \$725,600. All expense categories were monitored throughout the year and five of the twelve categories came in below budget. Personnel expenses were well below budget since actual benefits for the Assistant Rector were less than projected in the budget. The year-end surplus was also aided by income that exceeded its budgeted amount. Total income for the year was \$733,753, or \$4,153 above the income budget of \$729,600. The primary drivers of the income results were the Regular Contributions category (which includes pledges) and facilities income. Combined, these categories ended the year more than \$6,000 ahead of budget. Given the income and expense figures from above, the net surplus position for the church for the year was \$9,933 (\$733,753 - \$723,820), or approximately 1.4% of the annual budget.

### *Endowment*

The Endowment Fund had a beginning market value of \$2,302,000 on January 1, 2013 and finished the year with a market value of 2,491,000. After considering the \$123,500 endowment distribution that supports our operating fund during the year, the increase in the endowment represents a 13.8% appreciation during the year. The Endowment Committee worked and met quarterly to oversee the management of the fund and also met with the new endowment fund manager several times during the year.

### *Diocesan Review*

During 2013, St. James's underwent its annual "Diocesan Review" for the 2012 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 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.

I would also like to thank our small group of parishioners that count and record the contributions made by parishioners after each service. 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***

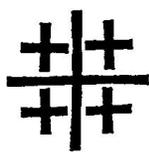
St. James's Episcopal Church

## **ACCOUNTING FUND BALANCES (Unaudited)**

January 2013 – December 2013

# NOTES





*St. James's*

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