



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1018 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, Connecticut 06107

*The Annual Meeting of Saint James's Parish will be held
on Sunday, January 24, 2016
immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Liturgy*

Published January 2016

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Agenda

The Annual Parish Meeting
Saint James's Episcopal Church
West Hartford, Connecticut
January 24, 2016
10:45 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Order	The Rev. Robert C. Hooper III, Rector
Reading of the Warrant	Ann Cooke
Reading of the Minutes of the Last Meeting	
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 Dynowski
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 25, 2015
11:00 AM

The 2015 Annual Meeting of St. James's Episcopal Church was called to order with a prayer by the Assistant Rector, the Reverend Curtis A. Farr. A brief welcome was made by the Rector, the Reverend Robert C. Hooper III.

The Warrant was read by Parish Clerk, Ollie Bunch.

The acceptance of the minutes of the January 26, 2014 Annual Meeting, as printed in the 2014 Annual Report, was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

All reports contained in the 2014 Annual Report were accepted as printed, including those of the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and other committees and staff members.

The report of the Nominating Committee was read by Rector 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 Dynowski was elected as Junior Warden. Ollie Bunch was elected as Parish Clerk. Michael Sherrill was elected as Treasurer. Ann Cooke and David Dynowski were elected as Delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Diane Duva, Kim Lytle, Carolyn O'Sullivan, and Bob Smith were elected to the Vestry, Class of 2018. The Rector offered heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Vestry members of the Class of 2015: Doug Compton, Ron Coons, Ellen Dollar, and Chuck Willson.

Senior Warden Ann Cooke (a) urged the parishioners present to read her report and all of the other reports in the 2014 Annual Report booklet; (b) requested that any parishioners who wished to serve on any committee or in any capacity in the parish make that desire known to the clergy or any Vestry member; (c) A question was asked about lay participation in Diocesan work. The Rector stated that Bishop Ian Douglas has encouraged lay persons in the Diocese to involve themselves in Diocesan work.

Junior Warden David Dynowski (a) affirmed the Senior Warden's assessment of the strength of St. James's parish; (b) gave thanks to the immediate past Junior Warden, David Thomas, for taking on the appointment as Building Manager for the parish complex; (c) reminded parishioners that a potentially sizeable investment will have to be made in the near future in the refurbishing of the organ and the Parish Hall; (d) asserted that the parish complex infrastructure is aging and that the Major Maintenance Fund has been used to keep up with required maintenance, rather than deferring the maintenance; (e) urged parishioners to assist in the upkeep of the Memorial Garden. The Rector commented on how heavily involved the Senior and Junior Wardens are in the day-to-day activities of the parish.

Parish Treasurer Michael Sherrill gave the Finance Committee Report. (a) St. James's Parish finished the 2014 fiscal year with a slight surplus which will go into the General Fund. The General Fund is used to cover Budget deficits incurred during a fiscal year, such as the ones that have occurred during some previous fiscal years. (b) Noted that the Endowment Fund has increased from slightly below \$2,500,000.00 to over \$2,500,000.00 during the 2014 Fiscal Year. (c) Thanked the parish for its moral and financial support during the 2014 fiscal year. (d) Stated that the 2015 St. James's Church Budget is scheduled to be accepted by the Vestry of the parish at its February 2015 meeting.

The budget will be finalized once the 2015 pledge income figures are finalized. (e) The Rector thanked Michael Sherrill (Treasurer), Richard Wenner (Assistant Treasurer), and Heidi Cotter (Financial Secretary) for their diligence and expertise in managing the finances of the parish. (f) The Rector stated that 2015 would be the last year that Michael Sherrill could canonically serve as Parish Treasurer. A request was made for any parishioner with the special skill set and the desire to serve as Parish Treasurer to contact a member of the clergy or the Vestry

All other committee reports were accepted as printed in the 2014 Annual Report.

A question was asked about Item (I) from the Conversation with the Rector from the 2014 Annual Meeting minutes: (The Rector) 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. As part of this endeavor, St. James's Parish will be embarking on a parish-wide, year-long program titled Renewal Works, authored by the Reverend Jay Sidebotham.

The Rector suggested that the questioner meet with him for a few minutes after the adjournment of the Annual Meeting.

There was no Old Business brought to the floor.

There was no New Business brought to the floor.

Conversations with the Rector was presented by the Reverend Robert C. Hooper III.

In his address the Rector:

Expressed his gratitude for the support given to him by his family, the lay leadership of the parish, and the ministry of Curtis Farr and the associate clergy during his 2014 sabbatical leave;

Described the Youth Mission Trip in the Summer of 2014 as being good for the youth of the parish and good for the parish in that future church leaders are trained by such an experience;

Expressed his appreciation for the talents of the organist/choirmaster, Mr. Vaughan Mauren, and for the size and excellence of the choir;

Described the wealth of daily activities that go on in the parish, by both external groups and parish groups;

Expressed his gratitude for the generosity and stewardship of time, talent, and treasure of the Parish;

Gave thanks for the continued ministry of the Executive Committee and the Vestry;

Gave thanks for the outstanding, capable staff of the parish: Cheryl Batter (Parish Administrator), Randy Martini (Sexton), Heidi Cotter (Financial Secretary), and Priscilla Hooper (Director of Religious Education);

Gave thanks to the associate clergy of the parish for their faithful service;

Gave thanks for the ministry of the Reverend Curtis A, Farr, Assistant Rector, for the many spiritual gifts that he has brought to the life of the parish in his year-plus with us;

Gave thanks to the parishioners of St. James's Church for their support and dedication;

Expressed his concern that Sunday service attendance has dropped and asked parishioners to reach out to other parishioners who may not be attending as regularly as in the past to encourage them to attend more regularly;

Expressed his concern that there is currently a \$40,000.00 shortfall in pledge income for the proposed 2015 fiscal year budget. He stated that if the shortfall continues, Outreach activities, salaries of the Organist, the Assistant Rector, the Director of Religious Education, and parish complex upkeep may be affected.

The Reverend Curtis Farr, Assistant Rector, spoke briefly about:

- (a) the intriguing experience of working with the 2015 Confirmation Class in preparation for the May 2015 visit of Bishop Douglas;
- (b) the revised format of Adult Religious Education with the insertion of a monthly Adult Discussion Group in addition to the current weekly small group sessions;
- (c) the success of the 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service – “Church happened elsewhere”
- (d) thanked the Rector, the Reverend Robert C. Hooper III, for the unique opportunity and the resulting experience of ministering in St. James’s Parish;
- (e) thanked the parish for its support during his time at St. James’s.

Other matters arising: no further concerns were brought forth.

The 2015 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 12:03 PM with a closing prayer and blessing by the Rector.

Respectfully submitted,

Ollie R. Bunch
Parish Clerk

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

January 24, 2016
Annual Parish Meeting

Dear Good People of St. James's,
As I look back on 2015, it becomes abundantly clear that while we participated in many new, exciting ventures, 2015 was most especially a year of living in community faithfully. St. James's has proven over many years to be a spiritual home of many thoughtful, prayerful, and generous people. For this I thank God every day.

That said, there are a few highlights I would like to point out. In the area of fellowship, we created a new event called, The Taste of St. James's Brunch, showcasing once again, the fine culinary skills of many members of the congregation and everyone's willingness to partake. This past summer, Michael Curry was elected the 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church at the 78th (meets every 3 years) General Convention held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Michael has already proven to be an extraordinary leader and the perfect person to lead the Episcopal Church into the future.

Back at home, we embarked on a new venture, exploring new and creative ways of being church at St. James's. We are calling it, St. James's 20/20: Envision Our Future. Many of us met in small groups to share our thoughts and dreams for our mission and ministry at St. James's, affirming much of what we already do and coming up with lots of new and exciting ideas. Also this fall, many of us found ourselves watching news from the unfolding refugee crisis, torn between looking away from the pain and suffering and a crushing need to come up with a helpful response. This began our journey together as we work with the people of St. John's to hopefully host a refugee family in the near future.

In 2015 the vestry and I changed both Curtis and Priscilla's titles to better reflect their ministries and responsibilities. Curtis is now Associate Rector, reflecting our much shared liturgical, pastoral and leadership responsibilities. This is a rare advancement for a priest so new and young but greatly deserved. The job of Director of Religious Education has grown and evolved dramatically over the years prompting us to change Priscilla's title to Director of Youth and Family Ministries. In her role here at St. James's, Priscilla works with the children of all ages on a weekly basis and spends time supporting the families of this parish regularly in new and creative ways. These two combined with the faithful Cheryl Batter, our parish administrator, the talented Vaughn Mauren, our organist and choirmaster, Randy Martini, our sexton and Heidi Cotter, our financial secretary plus a cadre of gifted Associate Clergy, and strong lay leaders gives me the opportunity to work with some of the finest people in the church today. Thank you to all of you who make serving here a pleasure and I look forward to seeing what the future holds.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Robert C. Hooper, III
Rector

Report from the Senior Warden

OF all of the leadership rolls I have taken on at St. James's in the past 40 years, Senior Warden has been the most rewarding and least stressful.

The major responsibility of the Senior Warden is to care for the Rector and his family, but also the St. James's family.

Thank you for all of your support the past four years, but don't worry; I will continue to listen to anything you might want to tell me and be of help in any way possible.

Ann B. Cooke, *Senior Warden*

Report from the Junior Warden

ONCE again, we began 2015 with snow storm after snow storm and a winter that stayed into the spring with single digit temperatures into March. The Rector, our Sexton Randy Martini, myself and other volunteers worked diligently to keep the walks clear in an effort to reduce our snow removal costs.

Dave Thomas worked with Randy to schedule all the various painting and cleaning projects in our buildings. Dave continues to be a great mentor and resource to all of us here at St. James's (particularly me) when it comes to being a good and responsible Jr. Warden. Thank you sir!

We invested in the rehab of our beloved Memorial Garden this year. Claire Burnett and Dave Thomas led the effort to hire a landscaper and refresh the plantings along with organizing volunteers to help keep the Garden maintained. We still have masonry work to be done, but we are making forward progress. Please consider donating some of your time to weed or trim; just let me, Claire or Dave know you want to pitch in. You will be surprised at how therapeutic weeding can be for relieving stress and getting us unplugged from our virtual, electronic lives. Come get your knuckles in the soil!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and effort for the spring and fall clean ups! Many hands make light work, and this year was no different. Ann Uphoff, Rachael Desmond, and other parishioners continue to work to keep our rose garden and the plantings around the church looking beautiful.

Our facilities are in good condition, but as the structures age they incrementally require more maintenance. We addressed several leaks that the rigors of winter made apparent in the cloister area and stairwell to the choir room (which also saw a much needed facelift this summer, thank you Vaughn and Randy!) and we should be in good shape as we move into a late winter arrival here in 2016.

Working together, we make this place a thriving center for community outreach and a spiritual sanctuary. Our efforts today provide those who will follow us with a solid foundation to build upon. Take time to thank the good Lord for what he has provided us, share your gifts with the world!

David Dynowski, *Junior Warden*

Report from the Associate Rector

Dear Ones,

FIRMLY established at St. James's after about three years, I am excited to have moved beyond "getting to know you" into observing the transformational nature of the St. James's community. We are a growing parish, in numbers and spirit. New leaders are stepping out, whether it be for vestry positions, committee work, or volunteer opportunities. Given that my role is focused (broadly) over areas of parish life such as pastoral care, adult education, high school ministry, and social media, I would love to take a look at some of the ways we have grown in these areas together over the past year.

Pastoral Care

The newly-formed "Pastoral Care Team," comprised of hand-picked men and women who possess gifts for listening and practicing the ministry of presence, are in the process of working with Molly Loudon and myself to identify needs within our community. This team operates under the broader umbrella of pastoral care ministries at St. James's but separate from the Healing Prayer Team, which is often found in the rear of the church on Sunday mornings.

If you experience the loss of a loved one or terrible illness, or if you just need someone in which to confide, Bob and I, the Pastoral Care Team, and the Healing Prayer Ministers are available. We can also help you to locate professionals in the mental health industry, if you feel that is a need. Visit stjameswh.org/mission/care for more information.

Adult Education

After studying the results of a parish-wide survey of Adult Education offerings at St. James's, Mark Evans and I sat down to plan out a year of diverse small group classes and "Coffee Hour Forums." I have been pleased with the quality of speakers thus far and thrilled with our attendance. In the Fall quarter, Susan Campbell spoke about her "unpopular" life as an activist, drawing our attention to much of the economic disparity present within our community. Chris George explained the worldwide refugee crisis and the arduous process of relocating as a refugee.

Other upcoming topics include transgressors of gender in the Bible and an interactive Episcopal trivia game. I am excited about all of these, as I am about previous classes on mortality and spirituality, the Lord's Prayer, and a Christian response to gun violence. Upcoming small group classes include faith and eating, the parables of Jesus, and bringing up kids in the church. Please take part in these courses—you'll be glad you did!

High School

Nine were confirmed when Bishop Ian Douglas visited in the Spring. It was my pleasure to walk through the Confirm Not Conform program with these wonderfully gifted young people. We will begin another Confirmation course in the Fall for interested high schoolers.

Youth Group continues to be great fun as we enjoy good food and fun activities like bowling and laser tag, "Commando Church," ice skating, and movie night. Eddie Jacovino, Kim Kindelberger, Ben and Martha Parish continue to be wonderful youth group leaders, and none of this would happen without the support and spirit of Priscilla Hooper, our Director of Youth and Family Ministries.

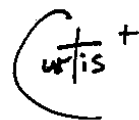
High Schoolers and many other parishioners gathered several times to make and serve lunches in Bushnell Park with Church by the Pond. I am grateful for everyone's contributions.

Social Media

I have been most blessed to be able to spend some time working on our social media presence (and learning how to do it without cutting into other important work). Instead of branching out into the newest social media applications, I have attempted to enhance our presence and presentation on Facebook and in regular emails. Working with a number of people, but especially Marc Miller of Big Ocean Studios, we completely revitalized our website. This included reorganizing the flow of information into a few distinct sections: "About, who we are;" "Discipleship, what we learn;" and "Mission, what we do." There are also tabs for newcomers and one with resources for the studious ones among us. If you haven't had a chance to take a look, please do...we are actually far ahead of many churches and have done so without spending ridiculous amounts of money. Please "like" us on Facebook, and leave a review there or on Yelp or Google.

I would like to take a moment to thank you all, from the bottom of my heart, for being a wonderful, transformative group of people. If I may wax a bit evangelical, Jesus is evidently present at St. James's. Don't let your heads get too big; God is everywhere, but from our worship to the ways we engage in God's mission, we are so blessed to catch a glimpse of the divine in a multitude of ways. And that is what we do, right? We meet together to orient ourselves to the God who loves in all of God's creative, redemptive, and sustaining power.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis" with a plus sign "+" to its right. The signature is enclosed within a hand-drawn circular shape.

The Rev. Curtis A. Farr,
Associate Rector

Report from the Director of Youth and Family Ministries

FOR 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.

As is always the case, the pageant seems to have a mind of its own. This year, we had a very dramatic rendition of Joseph's angst and one tiny escaping mouse who stole the show. It was a beautiful evening made possible by many volunteers and the beautiful children of this parish. The pageant seems to bring the year to a crescendo, and then it is a good time to be retrospective about the year.

As you may remember from the July/August Newsletter, we decided to try something a little different this year for the preschool and elementary school children this academic year. We have moved Sunday school to the time during the service that was previously designed as Children's Liturgy of the Word. These differences are somewhat subtle. The main difference is the curriculum I am using. I have shifted to a lectionary-based curriculum called, *Living the Good News*. So far, we have had great success with this, with the exception being the Advent lessons. I didn't really like what the curriculum had planned for Advent so I made a series of four Advent Devotionals for Families that the children then illustrated. The children seemed to really enjoy the devotionals and becoming illustrators. I will definitely do it again next year. A special thanks goes out to all the parent volunteers, I really appreciate having an extra set of hands or two, especially when we have a big turnout.

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 thoughtful discussions around all kinds of issues. This age group is also difficult to get to attend. Donuts seem to increase the attendance, as do movies the children are not familiar with.

In addition to our regular Sunday offerings, we have continued with *Rhythms of Grace*: a liturgical experience for children with special needs. This service happens on the second Sunday of each month at 4:00. Although we don't have a huge turnout for the service, it has been well received and is much appreciated by the families that attend. Although it is specifically designed for children with special needs, it is open to the entire parish family. Come and join us some Sunday. It is a wonderful experience.

One thing we didn't do this past summer was a summer program. I recently joined the board of trustees of Camp Washington, and after much discussion with many of the parents in the parish, decided to encourage our children to attend camp. We had wonderful attendance at Camp Washington this past summer, with one session being mostly St. James's children. The Episcopal Church in Connecticut has a vision for Camp Washington as a place to nurture discipleship. As a member of the board, I am very pleased with the hiring of our new Executive Director Bart Geissinger. I am honored to be a part of this effort and will be working hard in 2016 to get more of our young parishioners to give Camp Washington a try.

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 13 years but it is true. It really hits me when I look out. Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with me. They are truly a blessing.

Priscilla Hooper, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Report from the Organist & Choirmaster

THIS past year measured yet another period of strength for our choir. Though we lost a bass, an alto, a soprano, and a treble to relocations, we were fortunate to welcome a new bass, a new tenor, two sopranos, and three new trebles. The choir currently counts among its membership 26 trebles, 5 sopranos, 4 altos, 5 tenors and 7 basses.

Claire Burnett continues to serve as an associate conductor, taking on the responsibility of directing anthems when it is logistically impossible for me to do so, or when the piece requires both a conductor and an organist. I am very grateful to have someone of her experience and ability in this role.

Treble chorister Nora Dynowski was named Organ Scholar in December, a title that honors her hard work in preparing hymns, service music, and repertoire for voluntaries. I believe it is critical to train and develop Nora, and any other prospective organist, to leave St. James's with the capabilities necessary to serve another parish if such an opportunity arises.

On Tuesday in Holy Week, the choir sang Gabriel Fauré's Requiem as a musical offering. It was a success and attracted a large and enthusiastic number of listeners. Based on our experience and feedback, the choir will continue to make similar offerings in the coming years.

As in past years, a service of Compline was offered every Sunday of Lent. It was well attended and enthusiastically sung each week by at least 10 trebles and several adult choristers.

This year marked a return to overnight choir camp, and the choristers were thrilled to spend a week in residence at St. John's Episcopal Church, Fishers Island, New York. Twenty trebles and three chaperones co-habitated in the church's rectory, a beautiful five-bedroom house located right on the water. Though we spent each morning in rehearsals, there was a lot of free time on the beach and at the house (which had its own beach). Highlights of the week included 'Beach Compline,' the mile and a half walk each way from the house to Toppers Ice Cream, and of course any time we spent on the beach. We ended our time 'on island' by singing Holy Eucharist and Morning Prayer services at St. John's and were enthusiastically received by the congregation and Rector, the Rev. Michael Spencer. Most of all, I am grateful for Sam Dynowski and Minna Gröndahl for sharing responsibility with me for 20 children and for cooking beautiful and tasty meals three times a day for six days.

Another highlight of the year was the return of our choir to the opera scene. Some of our adult choristers remember singing when they were children in productions of Aida and Tosca back in the 1970s and 80s. It has been quite some time since, but both trebles and adults seemed right at home in the chorus of Connecticut Concert Opera's Tosca. I was incredibly proud of the choir's preparedness and enthusiasm for the whole rehearsal process and especially the production week, which was time consuming but rewarding. A well-respected reviewer called our chorus "Excellent," and both the conductor and the director were taken by surprise at how well the kids were prepared and focused their rehearsals with them.

The choir had another successful Advent season beginning with Lessons and Carols held on the second Sunday. Attendance was higher than it was last year, and the choir met the challenges of newer works by leading composers of choral music.

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve was similarly well attended and sung beautifully by our choir. The pre-service carol prelude took on a more traditional theme this year, and the choir sang with enthusiasm and passion. I was also pleased that there was a substantial increase in the number of trebles who were able to sing. In past years there have been very few if any children in the choir for Midnight Mass, so I was especially happy to have 15 and hope to have even more next year for this very special and important service.

The organ continues to function at reduced capacity, though we were lucky to avoid total failures similar the incidents in 2014. But there still are - and will continue to be in ever increasing numbers - dozens of dead notes throughout the organ. In order to address this problem, we have in hand a proposal to refurbish the existing instrument and address most of its tonal problems through the installation of new pipes and the re-voicing of existing stops.

Vaughn Mauren, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Report from the Acolytes

THE 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 past year, we welcomed Chloe Toutain and Andrew Lemanski as new acolytes. But we lost long-time acolyte Daniel McGillis (thank you for your years of service!), and we will be losing Chloe Hart-Kindelberger, Kyle Hunt and Tim Stahl as they graduate 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 and 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

FOR 43 weeks this year, fresh floral arrangements were designed for both the main church sanctuary and for the chapel. This included several funerals as well as services during the annual holy seasons of Easter and Christmas. During the Advent season and Lenten season, fresh greens or other grown elements from nature's bounty were used as sculptural arrangements for Sunday services.

None of these floral tributes would have been possible without the support of the individuals and families here at St. James' parish. We have a strong tradition of supporting beautifully designed altar arrangements for both celebrations of family births, baptisms and weddings but also for memorials for loved ones having passed from this realm.

In preparation of this summary, I re-read several past reports I had prepared going back to the early 2000's when I took over this floral ministry from Ann-Celine Lehman. It was the floral work of Ann-Celine and Maureen Wenner before me that inspired me to share my design passion with flowers as a ministry here.

A very special note of appreciation to Cheryl Batter, our parish secretary who keeps me on point with generous monthly contributions. I also thank the individuals in the parish who assisted me with decorating for the seasons of Easter and Christmas. A very huge thank you to this year's Golden Rod Award winner, Martha Parish, who single handedly created all of the wreath bows weeks before the Annual Greening of the Church and also to Randy Martini, our Parish Sexton, who removes all of the decorations once the season is over.

Lastly, a heartfelt thanks to Fr. Bob for keeping the floral tradition here well supported especially when individual contributions run short. For this new fiscal year, I am looking forward to continuing this ministry with your support, both with financial contributions and with your help at Easter and Christmas!

Mary Ann Haar, *Floral Committee Chair*

Report from the Altar Guild

THE 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, the linens are fresh, and palms are stripped. A member of the Altar Guild is sometimes present at weddings and funerals to assist if needed.

We are actively seeking and will warmly welcome anyone who is interested in learning more to shadow members of 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.

Thank you to all the Ladies on Altar Guild. Your service is very much appreciated!

Elizabeth Gallegos and Sue Nelson, *Co-Chairs*

Report from the Adult Education Committee

ADULT Education at St. James's had a very successful 2015. We switched out of offering two to three concurrent small group sessions to offering more single sessions more in line with the old Adult Discussion group (ADG). This was partly due to the lack of three to four week time blocks as well as low attendance at many of the small groups. Some of the small group offerings included 'The Lord's prayer' with Cheri Evans, 'Being Mortal, Medicine and What Matters in the End' with Taffy Wilcox, 'Wonton Women and Babylonian Babes Part II' with Cheri Evans, and 'Incarnation, Crucifixion, and Resurrection' with Ellen Dollar. The large group sessions, or Coffee Hour Forums, included 'Episcopal Sacraments' with the Rev'd Curtis Farr, 'The Promise of Mindfulness' with Bill Williams, 'Transforming the Church' with Donald Romanik, 'Changes in the Church and our Faithfulness to the Mission of God' with the Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, 'Let 'Em Whine: The Unpopular Life of an Activist' with Susan Campbell, 'Syrian Refugees: What We Can Do to Help' with Chris George, and 'A Christian Response to Gun Violence' with the Rev'd Curtis Farr.

Attendance was fair to good for the small groups with between 5 to 15 people at each session. However, the Coffee Hour Forums consistently had well over 40 in attendance. In 2016 we look forward to continuing our wide selection of offerings in both small discussion groups and Coffee Hour Forums. Our challenge is to maintain an excellent and relevant adult education program that focuses on enhancing the spiritual and intellectual development of Christians for everyday life. 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 Education Co-Chair*

Report from Education for Ministry

ST. JAMES'S has hosted an EfM group for over 20 years. EfM is a four-year theological education and reflection program utilizing course materials from The University of the South School of Theology. Each group has a minimum of 6 and maximum of 12 students with one or two mentors. Current members from St. James's are: Mike Shuey, Hugh Whelan, and Audrey Lamy in year three, and Elizabeth Waterman and Eric Ross in year one. Other members are from Trinity, Collinsville; St. James, Farmington; St. Mark's, Storrs; Church of the Good Shepherd, Hartford; and Trinity Episcopal, 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, then click on "for Theology", then EfM logo. Parish contact: Ron Ward, EfM mentor, 860-676-8338, or rtwtmr@comcast.net.

Ron Ward, *Mentor and Administrator*

Report from the Endowment Committee

THE St. James's Endowment Fund is comprised of all bequests to the Church and any gifts that are specified for the Fund. These gifts are meaningful and fulfilling because they continue to work year after year, generating income and capital appreciation that can be applied to our annual budget and work of the Church. Significantly, this support will grow and continue in the years to come. Thus, gifts to the Fund are truly a form of "perpetual stewardship."

Per church bylaws, a certain portion of the Fund's income is transferred to the church's Operating Fund each year to assist with on-going parish expenses. In the last few years, the transfer amount has gradually increased. In 2015, the transfer was \$127,000. The Fund's annual transfer significantly helps the parish meet our annual budgets.

The Endowment Committee, which oversees the Fund, meets quarterly to discuss the overall investment environment, compare the Fund's return to the market's performance and assess the adequacy of the Fund's debt and equity portfolio allocation. Members of the Committee are Peter Krzyzek, 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, but they do not pick or trade specific stocks or other securities for the Fund.

Investment decisions are instead handled by New England Guild Wealth Advisors, the Fund's investment manager, who began managing the Fund on November 30, 2012. Since that date through September 30, 2015 (our most recent reporting period), the Fund's annualized return has been 5.3%. However, for the one year period ending September 30, the Fund experienced a return of negative 5.3%.

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

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 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 handicapped orphans to further their education at a high school and post-high school education level (i.e. local university, business school or language school) and funding of food. A number of parishes have also sent needed items in plastic barrels to the Center.

First, St. Vincent's has experienced a year of precarious changes- some good and some bad. Many of you know that the government of Haiti (GOH), by its power of eminent domain, decided to claim the campus that houses the primary school, girls' and boys' dorms and administrative offices. The GOH took the property to develop the new business district. Financial and physical reimbursement by the GOH is still pending. The Diocese of Haiti was assured it could retain the property until another site was secured.

Fortunately, the property for the new campus to St. Vincent's has been purchased but the funding for the construction has become a necessity due to the loss of its previous benefactor. Rev. David Boyd of the Domestic Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) of the Episcopal Church USA has been appointed to raise funds for this phase.

Second, feeding the children at St. Vincent's Center continues to be a major concern. However, with the help of a Board member of the Friends, the Center was accepted into the BND/World Bank/Government of Haiti Lunch Canteen Program for 2015-2016. We only need \$35,000 per year to supplement the cost of this program which offers us food at cut-rate.

Third, 100 Gardens which has partnered with the Friends, has set up an Aquaponics program that should, eventually, provide self-sufficient food sources for the Center, while offering a vocational education outlet for students to learn science, gardening and small business.

In conjunction with local Haitian doctors, and dentists, the rehabilitation students at the Haitian Episcopal University, our medical, physical and occupational therapy Board members are diligently providing technical assistance and capacity building services.

Finally, two Board members have been able to secure a partnership with the reading project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This project will provide curriculum design, material development and teacher training support to St. Vincent's primary school teachers.

Thank you for years of support.

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

Report from the Healing/Pastoral Care Ministries

The Healing and Pastoral Care Team

Edwina Bosco	Bill Harris	Molly Loudon	John Wadsworth
Al Davis	Nora Harris	Sue Nelson	Anne Walsh
Ellen Dollar	Peg Howard	Matt Schott	Taffy Wilcox
Daniel Dollar	Audrey Lamy	David Thomas	Terry Wysong
Cheri Evans	Judy Lawes	Marilyn Tomlinson	
Gale Gardiner	Harry Meyer	Mayrita Trojanowski	

Sacrament of Healing. It will be twelve 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 seven 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 192 prayer shawls. A big thank you to Cindy Welch who has 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 and Those in Grief. A group of us who spend time caring for loved ones and those of us who have lost loved ones 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. We support caregivers, but also support those who are grieving the death of the person for whom they were caring. We are a small group who grow close over the months and years as we care for and support each other.

Casserole Ministry. In the past, Sam Dynowski has coordinated a list of folks who prepare meals for individuals, couples and families. When there is a new baby, recovery time from surgery or illness, a death, or any other need for a prepared meal, these generous parishioners provide them. Thank you Sam for being our coordinator for several years. Bless you. Mayrita Trojanowski will be our new coordinator.

Healing Prayer Stations. There are healing prayer stations at the back of the church, inside the nave. With an Orthodox icon of Jesus on one side, Mary Magdalene on the other and oriental carpets to mark the space, healing prayer is made visible as part of our worship.

Pastoral Care Team. This fall, 2015, we added Pastoral Care Team visitors. These are people who represent the Community of St. James's. They are trained visitors, observers and listeners. Some take Communion when they visit. They keep confidence with those they visit, while reporting necessary information to parish clergy.

We feel The Healing Ministry has become an integrated ministry of St. James's. Recently all of our ministries--anointing, prayer, and laying on of hands, casseroles, prayer shawls, support group, 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 Mission Commission

LAST summer, a group of us got together to identify all of the outreach activities that happen at St James's and make that information more easily accessible and better communicated to the congregation. We decided to call ourselves The Mission Commission.

We identified about twenty-five programs that currently happen at St. James's, and organized them according to when they happen throughout the year, and also on a week-to-week basis. We then worked with Curtis to add a Mission Commission page to the newly revamped St. James's website. If you have not explored the new website I highly urge you to do so. It includes lots and lots of excellent information about all things St James's as well as several beautiful videos. It is a wonderful resource.

Once the website was operational we produced a new Mission Commission tri-fold, and introduced the Mission Commission page in the weekly bulletin as a place for everyone to get up-to-date information on what is happening every Sunday. Similar information is also printed in the monthly newsletter.

Going forward we will continue to promote and hopefully expand volunteer and outreach opportunities and encourage everyone to fully participate and get involved in God's Mission here at St. James's.

I would like to personally thank Bob Smith for getting this ball rolling, as well as all the members of the Mission Commission for their time and brain power in this endeavor, and especially Jane Goode for her efforts in organizing all of the various outreach activities and making the website make sense! Curtis and Cheryl have also been invaluable in getting the website running and keeping all the information up to date on a week to week basis. Thank you all!

Judith Stahl, *for The Mission Commission:*
Douglass Compton, Douglas Cooke, Michael Fitzsousa, Jane Good, Sam Paul,
Bob Smith, Judith Stahl, David Thomas, John Walsh, and Ron Ward.

Report from the Newcomers Committee

THE Newcomers Committee has been pleased to welcome 19 new families to St. James's this year with a freshly baked loaf of bread. Thank you to our faith volunteer crew of bakers and especially our newest members: Mary Ann Haar, Nancy Hoffman and Betsy Smith.

A Newcomer Coffee Hour Reception will be held this spring. As always, all members are encouraged to assist with welcoming Newcomers to St. James's by introducing yourself at church and coffee hour and by wearing name tags at coffee hour and parish events to assist new members in learning names and faces. Please be sure to personally invite Newcomers to parish events and meetings to help get them acclimated to our St. James's Community. If you know of a Newcomer that may not have filled out a card or received a bread kindly notify either of us or the parish administrator, Cheryl Batter.

Claire Burnett and Priscilla Thomas, *Co-Chairs*

Report from the Outreach Committee

BEGINNING in October 2015, the activities of the committee formerly known as "Outreach," are now included as part of the new Mission Commission. Monthly projects and results are reported in the Newsletter and the Sunday Bulletin under the "Mission Commission" heading.

Although the "Outreach" designation will disappear, the projects listed below are expected to experience relatively few changes in focus and will be budgeted under a line item separate from the Mission Commission's. Because most of the 2015 projects and budget recipients were determined before the Commission was established, this report is listing them under the term Outreach Committee.

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 2015, despite the loss of a subsidized food source, we were able to continue our previous level of support for the feeding programs that depend upon St. James's for assistance. This was possible as a result of the pantry reserves, outreach funds that were redirected to the feeding line and generous members who stepped forward to help fill in the gaps. In order to maintain our pantry at the present level, we 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 option affords another opportunity to offer time or give funds needed to feed our hungry neighbors.

Doug Compton's continuing dedication to the support of the feeding program has produced outstanding results again this year. In addition to the sale of Easter flowers, fall apples and pies,

and Christmas poinsettias, Doug has added the St. James's Fall Harvest Festival which includes the popular mum sale. Total proceeds from all sales were \$957.

In January and February, outreach efforts continued to promote assistance to poor families who were not eligible for state fuel grants, by supporting Operation Fuel. Through the contribution of \$490, St. James's parishioners helped the agency reach out to families facing the choice between food and heat.

After a reduction in the requested number of Angel Tree names in 2014, we were back to the previous level of 60 children. All but 2 listed families were reached this year and all gifts were delivered to the families of the 56 eligible children before Christmas. In 2016, Jane Good, an outstanding administrator, will take over the management of the Angel Tree Program.

Churchgoers of all ages volunteered for and had fun participating in the three major intergenerational outreach functions: the Easter basket assembly, the school supplies sorting, and the Christmas stocking stuffer event. Many thanks are extended to those who contributed to these collections and to all who helped to make them successful.

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.

Following is a list of the ongoing mission activities to which St. James's members contributed in 2015.

The Two Hundred Identical Sandwiches (THIS) program: 14,000 sandwiches were assembled and delivered to the people served by the Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen.

The 17th Annual School Supplies collection: 22 boxes of school supplies and 52 backpacks were donated for the children served by The Catholic Worker Project, The Place of Grace Food Pantry, and The Bridge Family Center.

The Christmas Toys collection: 8 large boxes and 2 large bags of toys were given to the children in area shelters and in the neighborhood of a north-end community agency. In addition to the traditional dolls and toys for very young children, there were many games for older youth. One parishioner collected and donated over 150 stuffed toy animals that were gratefully received for distribution at the Place of Grace Food Pantry.

The Angel Tree program: 112 gifts of clothing and toys were delivered to 56 children of prisoners, on behalf of their absent parents.

The Christmas Stocking Intergenerational Program: 236 pairs of warm socks, filled with toiletries and candies, were delivered to The Open Hearth (120) and the Salvation Army (116) for Christmas distribution to their clients.

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

Foodshare's 32nd Annual Walk Against Hunger: A total of \$1680 was donated to Foodshare, \$1230 of which was raised by St. James's walkers and their supporters, and \$450 was contributed

from the Outreach fund. Hartford 's Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen was designated as the benefiting agency.

Easter Baskets: 192 baskets and bags of toiletries and candy were colorfully wrapped and delivered to the men and women in area shelters.

Paper Goods Collection: the equivalent of 590 rolls of toilet paper and 65 rolls of paper towels were collected for distribution to clients of area soup kitchens and food pantries.

Thank you for your support of St. James's Outreach Mission programs.

2015 OUTREACH/MISSION EXPENDITURES

The following table lists the organizations funded and the donations they received from the Outreach/Mission budget in 2015.

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Donation(\$)</u>
A Hand Up	\$ 2,000
Bishop's Fund for Children	\$ 1,000
Camp Washington	\$ 1,000
Feeding Programs	\$ 5,000
Foodshare	\$ 450
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 1,000
Hartford Area Food Pantries*	\$ 3,000
Kairos Prison Ministry	\$ 400
Loaves and Fishes	\$ 400
My Sisters' Place	\$ 400
St. Vincent's Center, Haiti	\$ 2,650
South Park Inn	\$ 700
Youth Mission Trip	\$ 1,000
Youth Service Projects	\$ <u>1,000</u>
Total	\$ 20,000

* 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.

Barbara Schiller, *Chairperson*

Report from the Sacred Ministers

THE role of the Sacred Ministers is to assist the clergy in the celebration of all worship services at St. James's on weekdays, Sundays (both 8:00 and 9:30 services), and religious holidays. The opportunities for service include Chalice Bearers (12), Lectors and Intercessors (23), Lay Readers (conduct non-Eucharist services such as Morning Prayer on weekdays) , and Lay Eucharistic Ministers (individuals who take the consecrated host to the homebound as an extension of the parish's sacramental life).

Sincere thanks to all who serve in these ministries for your faithfulness and dedication. Interested parishioners who would like to serve in one of these ministries may contact one of clergy for more information.

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

Report from the Stewardship Committee

THIS Fall was a busy time at St. James's. Parallel to the St. James's 2020 Envision our Future meetings, we launched the Stewardship 2016 campaign with the idea that we should: **CHERISH OUR PAST, BELIEVE IN OUR PRESENT, INVEST IN OUR FUTURE.** As I write this, we are still putting the final touches on this year's campaign, and I trust that we will reach our goals and fund the multitude of St. James's programs that are only achievable with the financial support of every member of our community. If you have not yet made a pledge, don't worry! I am sure Bob has a pledge card in his pocket. As of January 7th, we have made 184 pledges for a total of over \$513,700. Thank you to everyone who has pledged this year. It is through your generosity that St. James's will continue and even expand our participation in God's Mission in 2016. A special thank you to Curtis Farr, Bob Hooper, Cheryl Batter and Dick Wenner for their work on this year's campaign.

Judith Stahl, *Stewardship Coordinator*

Report from the Ushers

THE 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.

Currently we have a group of twenty ushers, thus the commitment is typically once a month. However, our group could use a few more volunteers, specifically "singles." This is to assist in scheduling with the married couples and substitutions. The detail is not strenuous and the training can take place gradually with the first assignments.

I would like to thank all the ushers for their commitment at our services on Sundays and other Holy Days.

Derrick Kirsch, *Coordinator*

Report from the Vegetable Garden Committee

DURING the spring and summer of 2015, the St. James's vegetable garden again produced a plethora of produce! We welcomed several additional parishioners who volunteered for the first time to help plant, weed, harvest, and deliver our vegetables. Their help continued to make this outreach project a great team effort. This year we added Okra to our crops this year in place of Kale, after consulting with our friend Brian at the Hartford Catholic Worker. This addition proved to be a big treat for the folks in the HCW neighborhood. Our weekly deliveries between June and September continue to be welcomed by the residents who do not have easy access to quality, fresh produce we provide. 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

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 West Hartford Police Department, Copper Beach Institute and the Hillstead Museum were all well received. St. James's parishioners and clergy spoke about various subjects such as travels abroad, recycling, and identifying with disabilities.

The Annual Mystery Trip in May to the American Clock and Watch Museum in Bristol was enjoyed by all who attended and the luncheon at the Season's Restaurant at Avon Old Farms Hotel following the tour was delightful. Last fall, Chris Fisher graciously returned with another photo tour, this time of Birding the Mayan Ruins of the Yucatan. Dr. Mary Decker led a conversation on Human Trafficking that was very informative.

As many organizations are suffering financially at this time, the WOSJ's budget has held its own. A special thank you goes out to Mayrita Trojanaowski for co-chairing the Holiday Tea with me, heading up the kitchen duties with wonderful goodies to eat. 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 2015 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.

And I would like to remind all of the St. James community that every one of you is welcome to come to our luncheons and experience insightful, educational and entertaining presentations on Tuesdays from October to May. Hope to see you there!

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 six members of the St. James's Worship Sound Committee record the Eucharist and monitor the sound system each Sunday and at Christmas. The Gospel readings and Sermons are then edited from the recordings and posted as mp3 files to the Parish website each week. Additionally a CD library of all recorded services is maintained in the Parish Office. Copies of these recordings are made when requested for shut-ins and other requests.

The committee also regularly checks the condition of the batteries of the wireless microphones and hearing assist receivers to ensure they are working properly each week. We welcome anyone interested in joining us to learn what we do and to help in any one of our functions. We especially need another volunteer to assist with editing and transcribing the Gospels and sermons.

I am indebted to the support and cooperation of the parishioners who help make this an easier mission.

Chuck Russo, *Director*

2015 Annual Report from the Treasurer

The church ended 2015 with a \$3,836 deficit for the year compared to a budgeted \$4,500 deficit. In addition, the endowment decreased during the year as a result of the financial market performance.

Income and Expense Summary

Actual expenses for the year were \$757,850 or \$4,786 less than the budgeted figure of \$756,900. All expense categories were monitored throughout the year and many of the twelve expense categories ended the year with small variances relative to their budgeted amounts. Personnel expenses were above budget due to a mis-categorization of health benefits in the budget. The income categories were more than budget by \$5,450 as total actual income for the year was \$757,850 while budgeted income was \$752,400. The primary drivers of the income results were the Regular Contributions category and Facilities Income. Combined, these categories ended the year almost \$5,300 above budget. Given the income and expense figures from above, the net deficit position for the church for the year was \$3,836 (\$757,850 - \$761,686), or 0.5% of the annual budget.

Endowment

The Endowment Fund had a beginning market value of \$2,511,000 on January 1, 2015 and finished the year with a market value of 2,430,000. After considering the \$127,000 endowment distribution that supports our operating fund during the year, the endowment produced a -3.4% return during the year. The Endowment Committee met quarterly to oversee the management of the fund and met with the endowment fund manager several times during the year.

Diocesan Review

During 2015, St. James's underwent its annual "Diocesan Review" for the 2014 fiscal year. This review was performed by an outside Certified Public Accountant with experience and expertise with Episcopal 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 and the full Vestry.

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*



St. James's

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