

St. James's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH
West Hartford Center

January 2014

From the Rector's Study

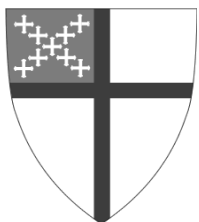
AS many of you know my mom, Jan Hooper, died on December 6 after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. In my blog of December 12, I indulged myself with some reflections on what I had learned from her and the experience of her death (if you are interested, read it). I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on something related, but different. That would be the care and comfort given to my family and me since Mom's death.

As you can expect, I am not big on having others show me sympathy—it is just contrary to my personality. That said, I must add that it was heart warming to know of the care, concerns, and prayers of so many. We have received countless cards, notes, e-mails and hugs from the good people of St. James's and our other communities. The best was the family that sent a box of Carolina peanuts, shrimp and grits fixin's, and a tin of southern cheddar cheese straws—now there is someone who knows me.

I have been accused of going on and on about the power and grace of community, but it is at times like these when it is undeniable. We may not be able to walk comfortably in another's shoes or see through another's eyes, but we can certainly get beyond ourselves and if not feel the pain and sadness of others, we can know it and hold it in our prayers. Community has the power to lift those who have fallen and to support those who may feel the pains of life. It also has the power to celebrate the joys and happiness of others.

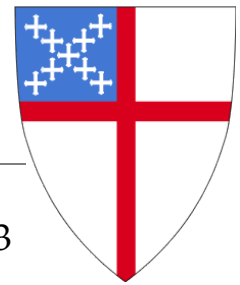
There is a reason that Jesus lived, healed, taught and fed always in the context of community. God has created us for each other and it is in community that we are able to live into the fullness of this reality. Grace, hope, and love abound, and it is with others that we can experience it most profoundly.

Your brother in Christ,



To Learn, Live and Teach the Values of
the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Treasurer's Report



St. James's Treasury Report Reported Results Year to Date through November, 2013

Current Position: With a month remaining in the year, the church continues to struggle with the deficit faced during most of the year. The table below shows an overall deficit of \$3,587. While that reflects an improvement from the October deficit of \$6,352, time is running short to eliminate the deficit figure. The reason for the deficit is one that has persisted through most of the year – pledges that lag where we had expected at this point in the year. For example, pledges now trail their budgeted amount by \$7,600, a slight deterioration from the amount by which they lagged their budget at the end of October (\$7,400). Expenses are \$5,577 below budget. Lower than expected expenses help the overall surplus/deficit position of the church. During the final month of the year, expenses will continue to be monitored while we address the shortfall in expected pledge income.

Income & Expense Summary:

Category	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	Total Annual Budget
Income (+)	\$642,214	651,378	9,164 Below plan	729,600
Expense (-)	646,280	651,857	5,577 Below plan	725,600
<i>Net</i>	(4,066)	(479)	3,587 Negative variance to budget	4,000

Income: Year-to-date (YTD) actual income is \$9,164 below budget (or 1.4% worse than budget). As of the end of October, income was \$9,800 below budget (or 1.6%). The gap between actual income and budgeted income continues to close but at a pace slower than expected.

Expense: YTD expenses are currently \$5,577, or 0.9%, below budget. As of the end of October, expenses were \$3,400 (or 0.6%) below budget. As reported in recent months, most expense categories are close to their budgeted amounts.

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Important Dates to Remember!

Friday, Jan 3 - First Friday Family Night from 5:30 to 7pm in the dining room!

Sunday, Jan 12 - Brass Ensemble at the 9:30 service and Bishop James Curry visits St. James's!

Monday, Jan 20 - Martin Luther King Day of Service!

Saturday, Jan 25 - Annual Chili Cook-off beginning at 5:30pm in the dining room!

Sunday, Jan 26 - Annual Meeting after the 9:30 service in the church and Youth Sunday!

From the Assistant Rector

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

There is a tendency of some people to, at the death or anniversary of a death of a famous historical figure, either celebrate the best of that person's legacy or dwell in that person's inevitable faults—that person can either be a hero or a villain and nothing in between. We are quickly disappointed when we discover the blemishes on those whom we formerly thought of as saintly figures. But if we look into the lives of the saints, we quickly find that their lives weren't perfect either. They *were* people, after all.

In the Bible, sainthood happens now—not by dying after living a perfect life. Sainthood is about pursuing our calling; sainthood is about recognizing our gifts and talents, seeking opportunities to use them for the betterment of others, and then putting our lives on the line to take advantage of those opportunities.

The Bible is full of examples of people who resist God's calling—and many of these stories do an excellent job of describing these struggles in literarily pleasing ways. Finding and living into our callings looks much less like Moses talking to a burning bush and much more like recognizing an impulse within and stepping up to do something that might seem awkward or frightening.

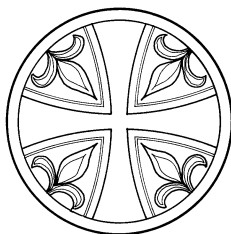
Verna Dozier, who was an author and Episcopal layperson, wrote in *Called to be Saints* that, "During the time of the black revolution, when blacks were marching on Selma and holding sit-ins in restaurants, the white people who joined them were generally ordained ministers. Some of their parishioners were furious. Many others sat back in the pews and thought they had taken a stand because their minister was down there marching, and they had given him leave to do that and paid his way. Actually *going down there* was his responsibility; that was what he was called to do, to make that kind of witness for the church (a witness that, for some, meant imprisonment or loss of life)."

Dozier goes on to say that witnessing for the church is not the role of just the ordained person, but the laity as well. While we don't often have opportunities to march on Selma or hold sit-ins, there are a number of ways that we can stand up for worthy causes.

More likely though, we will all have the calling to a particular line of work—medicine, education, management, retail, hospitality...etc., and it is within these daily activities and lifelong careers and vocations that we are able to do our work in ways that express our faith in God.

Witnessing for the church—the body of Christ followers—goes hand in hand with sainthood and calling. It is not just something we do, it is all of the things we do; it is who we are. The activity of sainthood is usually done outside of the walls of our worship spaces, but it always points toward the central figure of our worship: Jesus Christ.

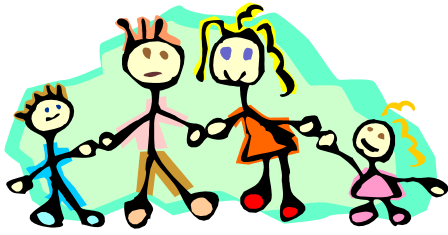
When you go about your lives between Sunday afternoon and Saturday evening, know that you are a saint—chosen by God to be a unique witness to the Truth, the Light, and the Way of Jesus Christ, and you are supported by the love of this community.



Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature that reads "Curtis" in a cursive, lowercase font. A small plus sign "+" is written to the upper right of the signature. The signature is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn, irregular circular shape.

St. James's Center for Children



*nurturing your children's spiritual life
from birth through high school*

IN Kids' Liturgy last Sunday, we sang one of my favorite children's church songs. Although, according to my husband, the theology is a little shaky, I like it anyway and sing it with vigor whenever I can.

The song and its motions go like this:

"I am the church. (Point to yourself.)

You are the church. (Point to everyone else.)

We are the church together. (Hold hands with the people on each side of you.)

All of God's people, all around the world, yes, we're the church together.

The church is not a building. (Clasp your fists together.)

The church is not a steeple. (Pull out your pointer finger for a steeple.)

The church is not a resting place. (Rest your head on your hands like you are napping.)

The church is the people." (Hold hands with the people on each side of you.)

As most of you know, I love working with the children of this parish. I love helping them to know God's love and to learn the stories of our people. This song, however, is one of my favorites not only because of the words, but the actions that reinforce the words.

As we begin this season of Epiphany, we can learn a lot from this precious little song. We can remember to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ loud and long, to not let our voices be silenced. We must all, like the children when we sing the words, "We are the church together: reach out to our neighbors and take their hands. Working together we can get the job done!"

On that note, I would be remiss if I didn't thank all of our wonderful volunteers who helped to make the Christmas pageant a success. Thanks to you all. I always feel a little strange writing this in my January newsletter as I am writing before the pageant has actually happened. So I am keeping my fingers crossed. I am sure it was a wonderful event.

Back to the subject at hand, so, in this time of great and small epiphanies, let's remember to grab our neighbors by the hand and get to work. There is much to be done. Alleluia!

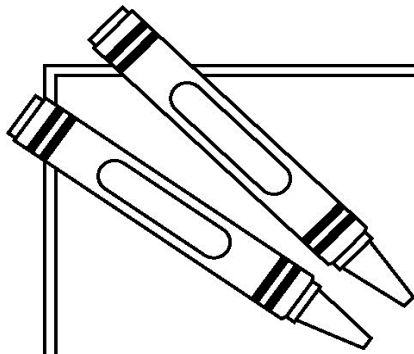
Our next unit of Sunday school for the elementary school children will be on the Prodigal Son. The next movie we will watch with the middle school students is *Scooby Doo*. Please note there will be no Sunday school on January 19 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend.

On Sunday, January 26 we will have a mixed age group special session of Sunday school while the adults are in the annual meeting.

As always, please keep the children of St. James's in your prayers.

Your Sister in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Priscilla".



Just for **KIDS**

THE POWER TO GIVE

In the New Testament, Jesus emphasizes the importance of giving and doing for others. In the Old Testament, Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tells us what not to do.

Cross out ALL of the following letters to reveal Proverbs 3:27.

..... **B J K Q X Z**

Write the remaining letters (in order) on the spaces below.

B W J I T J H Q H O B L Z D G B O O K
D K F Q R O M T B H J O B S Q E W H O
X B D B E K Q S E Z X R Z V J E Z X I B
T W K H Q E N I K Q T I Z S I Z N B Y
J X J O Z U X R P Q O K W J J E B B R T
O A Q C Z T

"DO NOT _____

_____, _____

_____."

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answer: "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act."

From the Organist/Choirmaster

I RECENTLY re-discovered my copy of *The Hymnal 1982 Companion* in the dark recesses of my office. It's a huge multi-volume encyclopedia that gives a history and analysis of everything in the hymnal, down to the most insignificant "Amen." A quick glance at the articles in the Easter section made me realize that, unlike the majority of music we hear and sing today, most hymns are not the work of a single composer or lyricist. Usually both the words and tunes have been changed and re-worked many times before coming down to us in their present form.

I'll give one example: one of the most famous of Easter tunes: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today." Apparently it started life as a Latin hymn in the Fourteenth century. "Surrexit Christus hodie, Alleluia," it was called. As with most medieval music we don't know the author. Then we find German translations in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth centuries: "Erstanden ist der heilig Christ, Alle-Alleluia." Close enough, you might think; at least you can recognize that it's the same hymn. We then learn that our English translation is actually a translation of the German. It appeared in the 1708 "Lyra Davidica: or a Collection of Divine Songs and Hymns, partly translated from the High German: and set to easy and pleasant tunes." We can of course be thankful for the "easy and pleasant tunes," but how close is our version to the Latin one? Probably not very. But the story isn't over: throughout the nineteenth century people in England changed a word here, a word there, to help the text match their most recent theological trends. Just as in the game "telephone," the end result is nothing like the original and it's impossible to name an author, since every other word has a different source.

The story of the music isn't much different, although a little shorter. The tune first appeared with the English translation of the text in 1708 in the "Lyra Davidica." My encyclopedia prints this original version, and apart from the first phrase it's virtually unrecognizable. For one thing, it takes up the entire page (it's about three times as long as the version we know). Apparently it was published many times throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and it has been known by at least five different names. Each editor must have changed the tune a little until it reached its present form. This tune is really a committee effort: it's not the work of a single composer.

I can remember one of my college professors saying that the worst thing that could possibly happen to music would be for it to be composed by committees of people. Gone would be the unifying vision of a single creator, and compromise and inconsistency would be everywhere. It's true that architects have more respect for buildings that are unified in style: Chartres Cathedral in France is famous because it is remarkably consistent. St. Albans Cathedral, on the other hand, is called in my visitors' guide, "an interesting old pile." The reason, of course, is that it was pieced together over the centuries by different architects of varying abilities.

Do hymns suffer the same problems as St. Albans? Are they nothing but a patchwork of different centuries and styles heaped together in a disorganized pile? On the other hand, Perhaps they are more like the U.S. Constitution, which seems to gain strength from the fact that it can be changed by successive generations. The Constitution is a living document, and hymns are very much living things as well. The Constitution isn't a catalogue of how the U.S. government was run in the eighteenth century: it is our guide for how to run the government today. In the same way, we don't sing hymns to find out about fourteenth century Christians: we sing them to express our own faith today. Perhaps hymns gain strength from their patchy history.

Bring a friend to church, page 6



LITURGY

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven
Today our de...

1 Like the mur - mur
2 To the mem - bers
3 With the hea - ving

AND MUSIC

Important Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 12
BRASS ENSEMBLE AT THE 9:30
SERVICE WITH THE FULL CHOIR
AND BISHOP CURRY VISITS

Sunday, February 2
CHORAL EVENSONG WITH THE FULL
CHOIR AT 5PM

Jubilate Deo!

O be joyful in the
Lord all ye lands;
serve the Lord with
gladness and come
before his presence
with a song.

Psalm 100:1

OUTREACH ...

Operation Fuel

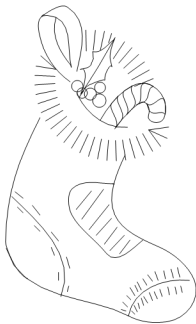
OUR early December cold spell has given us a taste of the winter weather to come. Imagine living without heat or electricity year-round because you couldn't afford this basic necessity. For families living close to the margin of self-sufficiency, a medical bill, a cold spell or other unexpected expense can mean the difference between paying a heating or utility bill and meeting other basic needs such as groceries and rent.

Operation Fuel is a private, nonprofit organization that provides emergency energy assistance to state residents who cannot pay their utility bills and do not qualify for government assistance, or have exhausted their benefits and have nowhere else to turn.

One in five Connecticut households cannot afford energy, but the other four can change that! You can be part of the change; give the gift of heat and light. Please make your check payable to St. James's Church, with the notation "Operation Fuel" on the memo line. Thank you for your warm-hearted response to this outreach mission.

Stocking Stuffer Update

STOCKING stuffer event results: There will be 264 pairs of warm feet this Christmas as 115 residents of The Open Hearth and 149 clients of The Salvation Army enjoy their Christmas stockings, toiletries and candies donated by St. James's parishioners. Thank you to all who participated in this annual event and especially to the Youth Group for their generous contribution of 50 pairs of socks.



Food Collection ...

PLEASE remember to bring a non-perishable item with you to St. James's each time you come to church! Look for the large, black bins around the building marked "non-perishable foods." Together, we can do a lot in the effort to stamp out hunger right here in our own community. Thank You!

WARRANT

Annual Meeting of
Saint James's Church

St. James's
Episcopal Church

will hold its
Annual Meeting
after the 9:30 service on

Sunday, January 26
in the year 2014

All parishioners are
asked to attend!

Adult Formation and Coffee Hour

January 2014

There are no Adult Formation programs this month. Please look for the new Growing in Faith Booklet for a listing of Feb-May 2014 programs.

January 5 - First Coffee Hour of the New Year and Christian Education for children.

January 12 - Come to Coffee Hour on this day and welcome Bishop Curry to St. James's.

January 19 - Martin Luther King Weekend, Coffee Hour in the dining room, no Christian Education.

January 26 - Annual Meeting / No Coffee Hour or Christian Education.

First Friday Family Night



COME to First Friday Family Night on **January 3 beginning**

at **5:30** in the Dining Room for something different to do on a Friday evening. Enjoy pizza, a movie for the kids, and fellowship with others from the parish. All are welcome! You don't have to be a parishioner to attend, so invite your friends! A \$10 donation is appreciated to help with the pizza, but not required. Beverage and a side will also be provided. Adults may choose to bring their own beverage. Please RSVP to Amy Messinger at ajmick@gmail.com if you plan to attend. We hope to see you there!

Save the Date!

Martin Luther King

Day of Service ...

On Monday, January 20 we will gather for the fourth annual parish-wide MLK Day of Service at St. James's. We will come together for a breakfast and then head out to the chosen sites. More information will be forthcoming in the Sunday bulletins.

St. James's



Annual

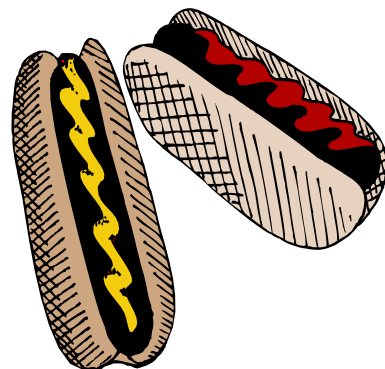
Chili Cook-off!

Saturday, January 25
Beginning at 5:30 PM

Awards will be presented for the 3 best chilis & the best presentation (so, as usual, be creative!)

Those wishing to enter a pot of chili are asked let the parish office know by Friday, January 24 and to prepare enough for at least 8-10 people.

BEVERAGES AND CORNBREAD WILL BE PROVIDED AS WELL AS HOT DOGS FOR THE YANKEES AND GRINGOS IN THE BUNCH.



No matter what your age, do not miss this opportunity to gather for some good food, healthy competition and great fellowship. You don't have to make a pot of chili to enjoy the event - come with a healthy appetite, and as always, invite your friends!

Sunday Lectionary



The Epiphany, Jan 5

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 84
Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a; Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

The Baptism of our Lord, Jan 12

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Second Sunday after the Epiphany, Jan 19

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-12
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

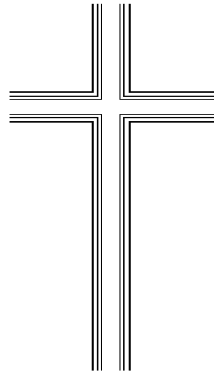
Third Sunday after the Epiphany, Jan 26

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 5-13
1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Parish Registry

Marriages

Morganne Gwyn to
William "Billy" McCarthy
October 26, 2013



Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the February 2014 issue
of the *St. James's Newsletter* are due
on **Wednesday, January 15**



Office Closings

The parish office will be closed for the Martin
Luther King Holiday on **Monday, January 20**

Parish Prayer List

Those in our parish family

Jeffrey, Greg, Justin, Joan, Elly, Ann, Carrie,
Michael, Charles & Family, Michelle, Audrey,
Claire, Nicole, Margaret, Ruth, Mae, Ruth, Anne,
Taffy, Mayrita, and John.

Those in our extended parish family

Maria, Mike, Pam, Kevin, Mary Ann, Jenifer,
Nancy, Jeff, Ashley, Carol, John, Margaret,
Katherine, Christina, Edwin, Sue, Eileen, Sally,
Jean, Jeff, Roger, Jean, Mario, Jennifer, Leslie,
John, Justin, Karen, Bea & David, Heather, Liz,
Bryan, Robert, Sarah, Corey, Claudia, David,
Carol, Christine, Patricia, Fran, Bob, Jessie,
Ryan, Lizzy & Taylor, Richard, Dick, Alice &
Vito, Mark, Linda, Ron, John, Quinn, Arroll,
Susan & Don & Eliza, Chris, Joanie, Rob, Joyce,
Lenore, Teresa, Dave, Alvin, Pat, Betsy, Karen,
Jillian, Bob, Isamar, Audra, Joelle, Michael,
Parker & Cynthia.

Those Serving in the Military

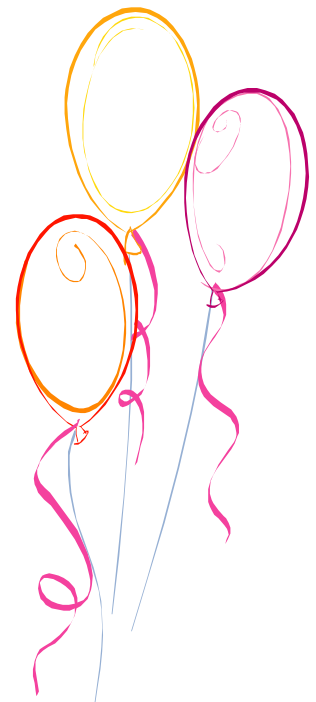
Andrew Clark, Michael P. Clarke,
Eric James Burgess, Mark Ulrich,
Julian C. Barker, and Andrew Huntsman.

Parish Birthdays

Children & Youth

JANUARY

Patrick Moyle, 2
Avery Sherrill, 5
Ava DeLaCruz, 6
Charlotte Willson, 6
Lucy Adams, 9
Matthew Barrows, 9
Nora Jane Sherrill, 23
Lizzie Davis, 25
Harry Keating, 26
Ben Dollar, 27
Josephine Mazingo, 27
Justin Lamy, 28



Women of St. James's

January 2014 Programs and Events



Tuesday, January 7
Quincy Abbott, Author
*From Schoolboy to Soldier, Coming of Age
in the Civil War Era*

Tuesday, January 14
Business Meeting & Silent Auction
Bring a sandwich

Tuesday, January 21
Barbara Ulrich
*Becoming an American Citizen, the
Naturalization Process*

Tuesday, January 28
Karen List, Superintendent
West Hartford Schools

Up and Coming ...

Tuesday, February 4
Dr. David Hill, Professor of Medical Sciences
Director of Global Public Health
*Global Public Health at the New
Frank H. Netter, MD School of Medicine at
Quinnipiac University*

Women's Evening Group

IF you are looking for an evening to unwind with other women from the parish, come to the Women's Evening Group on **Thursday, January 9** beginning at 6PM in the parish room. Join us for a half-hour social followed by a potluck supper with good wine, food, and fellowship. Dress casual and bring your choice of appetizer, main dish, vegetable, or dessert to share with the group. If you have questions, or to RSVP, please call Sue Nelson at 860-232-8157 or 860-604-2187. All are welcome, so please invite your friends!

An After Christmas Thought:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

Seamen's Church Institute

TIME now for the annual appeal for your left-over Christmas cards – we use the picture part to make small greetings to go in each Christmas-at-Sea package that will go out next year. When you are finished enjoying those you receive, tear off the message (or I can do that) and leave the pictures in the church office marked for me. Someone has already left a large bagful—and they are being worked on—thanks!

Had some help writing the cards this year, both from a parishioner who works on them at home and from the First Friday night group that made some recently. Thanks again!



Fran Cobb

The Clergy

The Reverend Robert C. Hooper, III
The Reverend Curtis A. Farr
The Reverend Canon Douglas T. Cooke
The Reverend Dr. Molly O. Louden
The Reverend Dr. Borden W. Painter, Jr.
The Reverend Elsa Walberg
The Reverend Terry M. Wysong

Rector
Assistant Rector
Priest Associate
Priest Associate
Priest Associate
Priest Associate
Priest Associate

The Staff

Heidi Cotter, Financial Secretary
Priscilla Hooper, Director of Religious Education
Jason Roberts, Organist and Choirmaster

Cheryl C. Batter, Administrator
Randall Martini, Sexton

The Vestry

Ann Cooke, Senior Warden
David Thomas, Junior Warden
Ollie Bunch, Clerk

Michael Sherrill, Treasurer
Richard M. Wenner, Assistant Treasurer

Term Ending 2014

Paul Duva
Jonathan Lewis
Gale Mattison
Marilyn Tomlinson

Term Ending 2015

Doug Compton
Ron Coons
Ellen Dollar
Chuck Willson

Term Ending 2016

David Dynowski
Michael Fitzsousa
Eleanor Michael
Peter Peterson

Committees and Organizations

Acolytes:	Ted Newton	Fundraising:	David Dynowski & Sam Paul
Altar Guild:	Cheri Evans, Sue Nelson	Outreach:	Barbara Schiller
Arbor Society/ Planned Giving:	Ted Newton	Parish Life:	
Choir Guild:	Sam Dynowski	Property Committee:	Rachael Desmond David Thomas
Adult Education:	Mark Evans	Readers & Chalice Bearers:	
Education for Ministry:	Ronald Ward	Sound Committee:	Chuck Russo
Endowment & Investments:	Ted Newton	Ushers:	David Downes
Finance:	Harry Meyer	The Women of St. James's:	Cindy Welch

www.stjameswh.org email: info@stjameswh.org 860-521-9620

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West Hartford, CT 06107

19 Walden Street

St. James's Episcopal Church

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