



## Christmas Service Schedule

### Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve



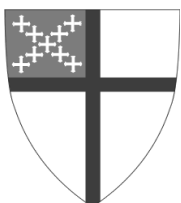
- 5:00 PM** Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist
- 10:30 PM** Music Prelude with Festal Noel Settings
- 11:00 PM** Choral Eucharist

### Friday, December 25 Christmas Day

- 10:00 AM** Holy Eucharist with Carols

### Sunday, December 27 First Sunday after Christmas

- 8:00 AM** Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 9:30 AM** Holy Eucharist, Rite II & Sacrament of Healing



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

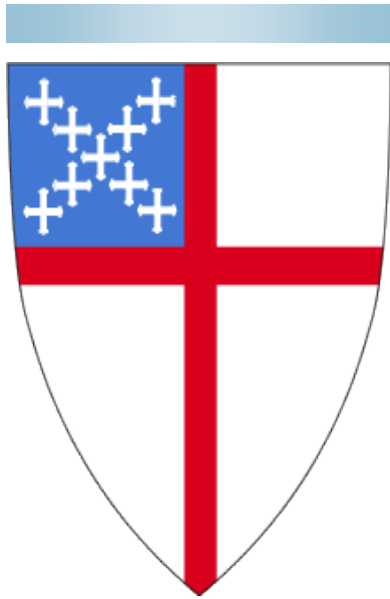
December 2015  
Volume 2, Issue 1

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#### Highlights in December

- Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale, Saturday, Dec 5—Sunday, Dec 13
- Advent Lessons & Carols, Sunday, Dec 6 at 5pm
- Pageant Rehearsals Sundays: Dec 6, 13 and 20 after the 9:30 service
- Holiday Tea, Saturday, Dec 12 from 2-4 in the afternoon (Snow Date: Dec 13)
- Second Sundays: Rhythms of Grace, 4pm / Youth Group, 5:30 pm, Dec 13
- Christmas Pageant Dec 24, 5pm
- Choral Eucharist, Dec 24, 11pm (Music Prelude at 10:30pm)
- Holy Eucharist, Dec 25 at 10am



## Vestry Corner

### Treasurer's Report—October 2015

**Current Position:** During the month of October, the financial position of the church improved from the results as of the end of September. In the table below, the overall surplus, or positive variance, relative to the budget equals \$5,823. At the end of September, the surplus was \$1,737. The September surplus represented a decrease from larger surpluses that had been reported throughout most of 2015. During the month, income improved from being \$1,200 below budget to the \$482 better than budget figure reported in the table below. The reason for the

improvement was due to an increase in pledge payments. On the expense side of the equation, the church is now \$5,341 below plan. Last month, expenses were \$2,940 below plan. The property expense category is well below its budget. However, this category can also be one of the more volatile as unexpected building issues can arise. Expenses will continue to be monitored.

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*“It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.” - Mother Teresa*

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### Income & Expense Summary:

Category	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	Total Annual Budget
Income (+)	\$618,841	618,359	482 Above plan	752,400
Expense (-)	623,465	628,806	5,341 Below plan	756,900
<i>Net</i>	<b>(4,623)</b>	<b>(10,447)</b>	<b>5,823</b> <b>Positive</b> <b>variance to budget</b>	<b>(4,500)</b>

**Income:** Year-to-date (YTD) actual income is \$482 above budget (or 0.1% below budget). As of the end of September, YTD income was \$1,200 below budget (0.2%).

**Expense:** YTD expenses are currently \$5,341, or 0.8%, below budget. As of the end of September, expenses were \$2,940 (0.5%) below budget. Most of the expense categories continue to be slightly under or over budget.



# ST. JAMES'S 2020 ENVISION OUR FUTURE

**T**HE lay and ordained leadership of St. James's has been in conversation for some time about our future and what part we are being called to play in God's Mission. It has become increasingly clear that if our faithful community is to move forward actively and effectively in God's Mission, we need to take a moment and look inwardly at ourselves and assess our facilities. We believe that the best way to do this is to broaden our conversation to include the wider parish.

Our conversation, starting with Vision Group Meetings, will be a vital part of what we are calling **St. James's 2020: Envision Our Future**. We are very excited about this opportunity and pray that everyone in the St. James's community will be personally involved as we move forward into the future while respecting our past. Over the next 6 months to a year, the St. James's 2020 Committee and the entire congregation will take the following steps together:

**October – November:** Between October 11 and November 8 (excluding November 1), Vision Group Meetings took place on Sundays after both services. Rather than one large meeting after the 9:30 service, there were two or three small group meetings, of no more than 12 people each, at the same time facilitating discussion while retaining the diversity of the overall congregation. (Spouses were asked not to attend the same meeting to encourage multiple points of view.)

We hope you attended at least one of these meetings. Even if you were uncomfortable speaking in a group setting, if it is more comfortable for you, please contact a member of the St James's 2020 Committee either in person or by email with your feedback.

As these sessions unfolded, the Committee kept track of proposed ideas, and whether our current facilities would support them. The congregation will be continuously updated with the ideas coming out of the meetings so that conversations can build upon previous Vision Group discussions. This way we all can share in the excitement about the possibilities of improving our great parish and ministries!

**December – February:** The St. James's 2020 Committee will report all findings that might impact our current facilities to the Episcopal Church Foundation. ECF will analyze the results and prepare a feasibility study for funding these projects through a capital campaign.

**March:** With the help of the feasibility study, and the benefit of hearing the congregation's voice through the Vision Group Meetings, the Vestry will prioritize the project list and make a recommendation about whether to pursue a capital campaign.

**Remainder 2016:** If parish leadership decides to proceed with a capital campaign, we will transition into the next phase of our journey:

**St. James's 2020: Transform Our Future.**

## St. James's 2020 Update!

On Sunday, November 22, we wrapped up the last of the Envision Group Meetings. Nearly 180 people participated and shared many of their thoughts and dreams for what the future of St. James's might look like. Ideas ranged from the here and now to the broad and long lasting; and how we can better serve those who are already here as well as how we can more actively and effectively reach out to the wider community and beyond.

The next step is to invite you to share any thoughts you have that you did not have a chance to mention in the small groups. Email your thoughts at [2020@stjameswh.org](mailto:2020@stjameswh.org). We look forward to hearing your prayerful, thoughtful and creative hopes and dreams. Ours is a parish with a very long history of good and faithful people living out God's call. Let's continue to envision together what forms that might take on in the future.

A few of the facility changes that have been suggested:

- + Parish Hall improvements
- + Update kitchens
- + Rebuild Organ
- + Make sanctuary more assessable
- + Update bathrooms
- + Paint sanctuary

# From the Associate Rector

**D**EAR Ones,

We are building up our educational offerings this year at St. James's with some intriguing (as always) small group classes on gun violence, mortality, the Lord's Prayer, faith and food, raising children in the church, and Jesus' parables. I am excited about these opportunities and the skillful, willing leaders in our community who will facilitate the sessions.

I am especially excited about our line up of special guests who will be coming for our "Coffee Hour Forum" series "Sunday Morning Education for Everyday Christians."

Education does not end when we graduate from high school or earn a college degree or two. Education is lifelong, and committing ourselves to learning about the world and each other is part of being the Body of Christ.

With your feedback in the survey we did last summer, our special guests will present on timely and pertinent topics:

On December 6th, Author Susan Campbell will speak about "The Unpopular Life of An Activist," delving into what it means to be an activist from a Christian perspective.

On December 13th, IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services) Executive Director Chris George will speak on the refugee crisis in Syria. In the last 4.5 years, over 200,000 people have been killed in Syria, causing the crisis. Many organizations, secular and religious, are responding. St. James's has chosen to be one of them, and this forum will be important in helping us to be aware of our role and its effects.

On January 10th, Imam Sami Shamma will speak on the intersection of Islam and Christianity. This is a widely-requested topic as Islam is constantly in the media spotlight because of violence perpetrated by a tiny, radical minority.

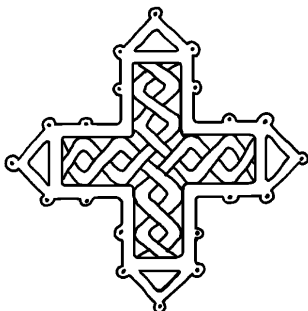
On February 7th, Mark MacGougan will host Who Wants to Be An Episcopal Millionaire. Mark is known for his great sense of humor, and this will surely be a forum you will not want to miss.

On March 13th, Chris Doucot of the Hartford Catholic Worker will speak on a topic connected to his upcoming book on Samaritans Today: Christians as Race Traitors. If that title makes you excited or uncomfortable, this forum is for you!

Finally, on April 17th Biblical Dramatist, Activist, and Quaker Peterson Toscano will present his one-man show Transfigurations: Transgressing Gender in the Bible. Peterson joined us this summer for an evening performance, which was attended by more than 50 people from St. James's and the West Hartford community. He uses humor and thoughtful historical/theological analysis to paint vivid pictures of well-known (and lesser-known) biblical characters.

I hope that you will make yourself, your friends and family available for these free offerings. We are blessed to have these resources available on Sundays to make us more informed, everyday Christians.

Your brother in Christ,



## Youth Update

**Youth: Thank you to all who helped put lunches together for our hungry friends in Bushnell Park, and attended the Church by the Pond event on Saturday, November 28!**

**Mark your calendars for youth group on December 13 where we will engage in Commando Church.**

**If you haven't filled out a survey for youth events, please do so!**

## Youth Group Second Sundays

**December 13**

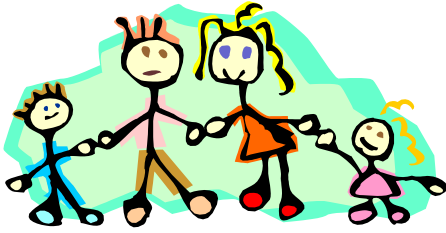
**Dinner at 5:30pm  
Commando Church at 6:30pm  
Prayer at 7:20pm  
Depart at 7:30pm**

**Do your homework early and invite a friend!**



Bring a Friend to Church 4

# St. James's Center for Children



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

## Rhythms of Grace

**Sunday, December 13**

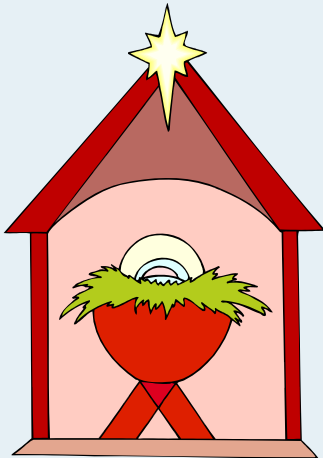
*A worship and faith formation experience for children and families is held at St. James's Episcopal Church in West Hartford on the second Sunday of each month at 4pm.*

## Pageant Rehearsals

*All those involved in this year's pageant must attend the rehearsals which will be held on*

**Sundays:**

**December 6, 13, and 20**



Bring a Friend to Church 5

**F**IVE years ago, fellow St. James's parishioner and brilliant writer, Ellen Painter Dollar wrote this blog about the Christmas pageant. I revisit it every year as I prepare for the pageant and asked if I could share it with you again this year.

Confession: I could really do without the annual Christmas pageant.

The children's ministries director at my suburban Episcopal church says this is a common sentiment among those in her position, for whom the pageant can be crazy-making, what with the involvement of dozens of small beings, some of whom rarely come to church otherwise and don't know the altar from the aisle, who need to be costumed and corralled and choreographed, all at dinnertime on Christmas Eve, one of the most excitement-filled, overscheduled, oversugared, meltdown-inducing days of the year. Our director, though, insists that she loves it all, and it shows in her patient handling of errant camel drivers and weeping angels who can't find their halos.

But as the mother of three of those children on the brink of meltdown, I always dread the pageant. Sure, it's cute and all, and it helps my kids understand, in a very concrete way, why we celebrate Christmas. But after weeks of baking, shopping, wrapping, and decorating, I'm ready to kick back with a glass of wine to admire the tree and stare into the fire. I am ashamed to say that I often see the pageant as the final hump to get over, the last thing to check off my to-do list so that I can actually celebrate the holiday instead of preparing for it.

This past Christmas Eve, it looked as if the pageant was going to be even more difficult to sit through than usual. A snowstorm the weekend before meant that the kids had no dress rehearsal. There were long, awkward pauses as we all waited for solos that both the singers and the organist seemed to have forgotten. There were sidelong glances and inscrutable hand gestures as the kids tried to pantomime to each other what they were supposed to be doing. I was anxious for it to be done so we could feed the kids and get them in bed by 9 p.m.—later than normal but early enough that they might make it through the following day without collapsing into puddles of misery. My stomach was growling in anticipation of Christmas Eve dinner. I sat slightly slumped over, chin in hand, as I went through my mental checklist of the children's gifts, making sure I hadn't forgotten to wrap something vital and that everyone was getting an equal number of presents.

And then, Gabriel delivered the infant Jesus (played by a three-month-old baby girl) into Mary's arms, and Mary and Joseph began to sing. And everything—the pageant, my attitude—was transformed. I was so caught up in what was happening up front that I sat glued into the same position, slumped over with chin in hand, for the entire song, afraid that the slightest movement would break the spell.

They sang "O Holy Night," and it was remarkable for many reasons. The teenagers playing Mary and Joseph had beautiful voices, certainly, but it was more than that. They took turns harmonizing—one would sing the melody while the other sang harmony, and then they would switch roles, seamlessly, as if it were the most natural thing in the world. They worked together, each bringing something unique to the song, each willing to step back into harmony or step forward into melody as the song demanded. Just as two unprepared but willing teenagers might work together to raise the surprising gift of a baby—one stepping forward to lead when the other is scared or weary, each giving what they can when they are able, the sum of their efforts worth far more than their individual contributions.

*Continued on following page*

And how poised they were. Not confident exactly. There was uncertainty in the way they held themselves in this pageant that had, thus far, not gone quite as planned. Joseph stood with hands clasped in front of him, while Mary took care to hold the baby in her arms just so, stealing frequent glances down and occasionally doing a deliberate little bounce to soothe her. This was all new, this singing a song with difficult harmonies in front of several hundred hushed spectators, with a living, breathing baby alongside and without adequate rehearsals. They seemed apprehensive but not afraid, aware that things could go badly—the baby might wail, the harmonies might be off—but eager nonetheless to do what was being asked of them. Just as, I imagine, Mary and Joseph might have felt two thousand years ago in Bethlehem, two young people who were asked to accept and love a baby they did not expect, and no ordinary baby at that. A baby born among animals and visited by kings.

I did not want the song to end, but it did (probably to the relief of Mary, holding the baby who miraculously stayed calm and quiet for the entire song and the remainder of the pageant). The pageant continued, with the wooden camels clickety-clacking their way down the stone-slabbed aisle, and the proud parents snapping photos of the assembled angels and shepherds during the Peace, and the restless children asking, “Is it almost over?” through the Eucharist and final hymns.

We got through the pageant and Christmas Eve dinner, and the wildly anticipated Big Day itself. We had a wonderful week with no work and no school, during which I ignored most chores and allowed myself to really celebrate the holiday after all those weeks of preparing. And now, as I write this, the decorations are back in their plastic bins in the basement, the Christmas gifts have been shelved alongside all the gifts from past Christmases and birthdays, the kids are back at school, and my husband and I are back at work.

But I hold onto the sight of Mary and Joseph singing at the Christmas pageant, not fully prepared but ready enough, a little nervous but nonetheless willing to do what was asked of them. They have become, for me, a symbol of what it looks and feels like to respond to God’s call.

There are two major works that God has called me to thus far: motherhood and writing. In both cases, I have had to do what God was asking me to do despite not being fully prepared, and yet being fully aware of how things could go wrong. My husband and I decided to have biological children even though I have a disabling bone disorder and each child had a 50 percent chance of inheriting it. For five years, I worked at writing a book about what that experience taught me (is still teaching me) about God, human beings, suffering, love, choice and disability, even though publisher after publisher told me it was well-written but not marketable enough.

Today, I have three beautiful children, a book contract and two blogs with appreciative and growing audiences. Every day brings opportunities to get up in front of those willing to listen—my family, my community, my readers—to sing about darkness and light, sin and hope, weariness and rejoicing. I am blessed with many partners—my husband, my parents, my editor, fellow writers, friends who read and respond to what I write—with whom I work in harmony, sometimes leading, sometimes following, always aware that work done in communion with others is more valuable than work done in isolation. Writing and parenting can both be tremendously isolating, and even though that isolation is sometimes necessary (I keep my cool through many loud, contentious dinner times by reminding myself that later, once the kids are in bed, I can sit down alone to write), if I write or parent without engaging with the wider world, then my work becomes self-indulgent.

As I sing, offering my words and my work, the baby’s wailing might drown me out, I might sing the wrong notes, or I might be unsure of what I’m supposed to do next. But I’ll sing anyway, not fully prepared but ready enough, a little nervous but willing nonetheless to do what is asked of me.

# From the Organist & Choirmaster

**T**HIS year, Lessons and Carols for Advent will feature music of living composers from The United States, Scotland and England. Please come and enjoy this annual tradition on Sunday, December 6 at 5 o'clock in the evening.

Some notable selections include Malcolm Archer's setting of "People Look East" - a sprightly arrangement of the traditional Besançon Carol with words by Eleanor Farjeon, the noted English author of children's stories, plays and satire. Based in the United Kingdom, Archer is a prolific composer and arranger of Anglican church music. He has served as Director of Music at Wells Cathedral and Saint Paul's Cathedral, London. In the piece you'll hear, the melody is treated with clear vocal lines and an elegant organ accompaniment culminating in a beautiful descant for the soprano voices.

Former King's College Cambridge music director, Philip Ledger, provides us with this year's setting of "Adam Lay YBounden," the anonymous 15<sup>th</sup> century text about Adam and Eve. Unlike many other arrangements that deploy driving rhythms and urgency, Ledger's composition is contemplative, utilizing a slow tempo to complement fragments of the text such as "four thousand winters" and the idea of long term consequence.

Ellen Gilson Voth is a local composer and choral conductor. In 2005, Oxford University Press published her lovely setting of words by Christina Rossetti. Incorporating a traditional yet contemporary harmonic language, Gilson Voth writes with a beautiful sense of phrasing and lyricism that draws interest from constantly alternating time signatures and melodic variations. The piece begins with a beautiful solo for the upper voices and later includes a poignant duet between the sopranos and the tenors.

Perhaps the most exquisite of the carols this year is a setting of "Ave Maris Stella" by James MacMillan, Scotland's leading composer of choral music. You may remember the choir offing up his heart-wrenching anthem "A Child's Prayer" in November of last year. Written to commemorate a primary school shooting in 1996, it offers the same haunting and memorable choral writing found in "Ave Maris Stella," the excellent Vesper Hymn which the choir has undertaken for December 6. MacMillan is one of the few composers able and dedicated to writing transcendent sacred choral music.

A potluck supper will follow the service. Please invite friends, family, and neighbors!



## Advent

### Lessons & Carols

With the St. James's Choir

*Featuring the Music of  
Mawby, MacMillan, Archer,  
Gilson Voth, and Ledger*

*Sunday, December 6 at 5pm  
St. James's Episcopal Church*

*A potluck supper will follow in  
the dining room*



## LITURGY



## AND MUSIC

### Important Dates

#### **December 6**

Advent Lessons & Carols  
at 5pm followed by a  
potluck supper

#### **January 31**

Choral Evensong at 5pm  
*In celebration of the Rev.  
Canon John Mitman's  
50th anniversary of his  
ordination*



#### **Help Send Choir to England!**

We continue to raise funds for our England Trip by selling Stop & Shop cards! You can purchase these at face value, and we earn money because Stop & Shop donates 5% of your purchase to help fund our choir trip. You can also donate cards back to St. James's feeding ministries. Use your cards for holiday gift giving as well! Ellen Dollar and Deb Ross will be available at coffee hour each week with cards. Or contact them at [5dollars@comcast.net](mailto:5dollars@comcast.net) or [dross2631@gmail.com](mailto:dross2631@gmail.com).

Bring a Friend to Church 6

# From the Seminarian

## A November Lament

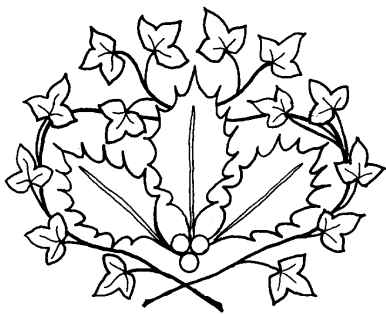
**N**OVEMBER was a hard month: Bombings in Paris, Beirut, Baghdad, and Nigeria, the continued refugee crisis and increased political polarization locally, nationally, and globally. It can be easy to compartmentalize single events, to keep them at a distance and not let them affect our day-to-day lives. It becomes much harder to ignore such a steady barrage. It's harder to turn off to the pain when there is so much, when it seems inescapable and raw.

A world shaken by tragedy is no new experience, but I have felt these last few weeks more acutely, and much of it has to do with the community I am a part of. The news of Paris came at the end of a week that left Yale's campus in turmoil. Throughout the month of November, racial tensions and the ongoing reality of discrimination, oppression, and aggression towards students of color dominated the discourse on campus. There were marches of solidarity, lists of demands published, criticisms of the administration, and public forums opened to offer students a chance to be heard. It felt like a bandage had been removed to reveal a deep infection underneath. Without addressing the specifics of any of it, the undisputed reality was clear. The community was hurting, afflicted from within and without, carrying the weight of the isolation and oppression of many of its own along with the stark realities of terror and death around the world.

Where is God in all of this? How does the church respond? What do we as Christians do with feelings of hurt, confusion, anger, deep sadness, and isolation, whether our own, our community's, or the world's? The weekend after Paris, I wrestled with these questions, prayed about them, and came to no conclusions, no clear vision of how to respond. I had no answers. Thankfully these were not my questions to resolve alone. What seems insurmountable as an individual becomes possible in community. And I experienced a community gathered to make that possibility a reality.

As I returned to the Yale Divinity School the Monday after Paris, I encountered some of the answers I desired. How do we respond to the pain of our community and the world? What do we do with the heaviness of our own emotions? We lament. I walked into Marquand Chapel (the main chapel at the Divinity School) that morning to a service that was unstructured, unscripted, and open to the spirit of those gathered. We were offered a space to feel exactly what we were feeling, and to do so while holding up and being upheld in community. We read Psalms of lament, we offered free prayers of intercession for the world, we sang hymns both to comfort and to allow us to express our struggles and sadness, and we sat in silence, letting ourselves stay with whatever emotions hit us in that moment.

I offer this not to say that this is how we ought to worship, but as a way to think about what we are doing when we worship together. So often I come to church thinking that it needs to be about joy, about celebrating with the community, about gratitude, about praying for others. The experience of lament in worship seemed unfamiliar to me. Yet within Christianity, from the Psalms to the life of Christ and the Cross, we see the whole range of human feelings. Christ became human, fully human, not just the parts of humanity that seem nice, neat, and safe enough to fit in a couple hours of Sunday. In his humanity he lets us know that it is okay to feel the whole range of human emotion. We can hurt, we can cry, we can get angry. As the church moves into this season of Advent, I wonder if we can take time to reflect on this past month, to reflect on where we are in our lives, and to think of how we can lift all of that up to God, not just the parts we think God wants to hear. I wonder if we can be intentional about being honest--with ourselves and God--about the weight of each of those feelings. And through it draw closer to God, but also closer to each other and to those who are suffering around the world.

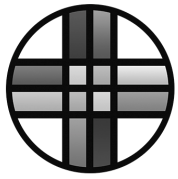


Your Brother in Christ,

*Nathaniel Bourne*



## Mission



ST. JAMES'S  
**MISSION  
COMMISSION**

### Ongoing needs:

Food Collection/West Hartford Food Bank: Please continue to bring your food donations to the wagon in the cloister or the bins located around the church. Donations are distributed to the SJ feeding programs and West Hartford Food Bank. Remember to check expiration dates! St. James's and The WH Food Bank will not accept items that have expired dates. Please see our website for specific needs.

### Mission of the Month:

Please support our annual **Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale December 5 to 13** and the **Poinsettia Flower Sale December 12 and 13**. Also start shopping now for our annual toy drive benefitting needy children in our area. Bring your **unwrapped new** toys to the church by **Sunday, December 6**. The **Angel Tree Project** is underway! Tags will be available again on **Sunday, November 29**. Please bring your wrapped and tagged gifts to the church office by **Sunday, December 13**. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please call Barbara Schiller, at 860-651-7332.

**Coming in January:** The annual **Martin Luther King Day of Service, Monday, January 18**. A day of service in and around our community. Different sites are chosen and signup sheets with the locations will be set out in the cloister in January. Choose a site to volunteer at and join other parishioners for a day of fun and service to our community.

**In November:** We had another successful Stocking Stuffing event on November 29! Thank you to all who donated toiletries and men's socks for this event. The stockings will be delivered to the men at the Salvation Army and Open Hearth shelters before Christmas.



## Poinsettias for Sale

*December 12 and 13*

**B**EAUTIFUL Poinsettia plants will be available for purchase on **Saturday, December 12** from 2-4pm during the **Holiday Tea**, and after both the 8 and 9:30 services on **Sunday, December 13**. A variety of colors will be available to choose from. Just look for Doug Compton who will be running the sale. Proceeds go to benefit the St. James's Feeding programs.

## Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale

**T**REES and wreaths will be available for purchase beginning **Saturday, December 5 through Sunday, December 13** on the front lawn of St. James's. **Sale hours are Monday-Friday from 4-8pm; Saturday from 9am-6pm; and Sunday from noon until 6pm.** You may phone the parish office and reserve your tree. Don't wait too long as these trees and wreaths go quickly.

*Cash, check, and major credit cards accepted.*



## Around the Parish

### Adult Education in December

*Small groups and forums at 11am*

#### December 6

**SUSAN CAMPBELL**

**Let 'Em Whine: The Unpopular Life of an Activist**

*Coffee Hour Forum in the Dining Room*

Author Susan Campbell will speak about "The Unpopular Life of an Activist," delving into what it means to be an activist from a Christian perspective. Susan is a friend of St. James's and the author of *Dating Jesus* and the upcoming *Tempest-Tossed: The Spirit of Isabella Beecher Hooker*.

#### December 13

**CHRIS GEORGE**

**Syrian Refugees: What We Can Do to Help**

*Coffee Hour Forum in the Dining Room*

Chris George, executive director of IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services) will speak on the refugee crisis in Syria and the work of IRIS for those and other refugees. In the last 4.5 years, over 200,000 people have been killed in Syria, causing the crisis. Many organizations, secular and religious, are responding. St. James's has chosen to be one of them, and this forum will be important in helping us to be aware of our role and its effects.

#### December 20

**THE REV. CURTIS FARR**

**A Christian Response to Gun Violence**

*Small Group in the Parish Room*

How are Christians to respond to the pervasive firearm violence that roils in the United States? Episcopal bishops Eugene Sutton and Ian Douglas offer a challenging and inspiring response that can help Christians think through this difficult issue via a virtual class.

## Vestry Nominations 2016

**T**HE Vestry Nominating Committee welcomes suggestions, from members of the parish, of persons who they believe would be fine members of our vestry and officers (Senior and Junior Warden, Treasurer and Clerk).

### Vestry members must be:

1. committed to Jesus Christ;
2. regular in attendance at public worship;
3. participants in the life and ministry of the congregation;
4. solid financial supporters of our ministries;
5. be willing to commit to regular attendance at monthly meetings (the 3rd Tuesday), annual vestry retreats, and to serve as liaison with committees or programs within the parish.

The members of this year's Nominating Committee are: Ann Cooke, Michael Fitzsosa, Carol McDermott, Eleanor Michael, and Pete Peterson. The Nominating Committee will publish its nominations in the January issue of *SJ News*.

In accordance with the by-laws of the church, any member may submit a petition to include any other member for inclusion on the ballot as a candidate for the vestry or as an officer. The petition must be signed by the nominating member, not less than three additional members of the parish and agreed to by the signature by the nominated member. All petitions are to be submitted to the Clerk no later than two weeks prior to the annual meeting to be held on **January 24, 2016**. Nominations not submitted as set forth will not be allowed from the floor at the annual meeting.

## Monthly Group Meetings

### *Women's Evening & Men's Discussion Groups*

**J**OIN the women of the parish and guests for a festive potluck supper on **Thursday, December 10** beginning at 6pm in the parish room. Bring something to share with the group if you decide to attend. Great food, wine, and fellowship for all.

**J**OIN the men of the parish and guests for a discussion group on **Saturday, December 13** beginning at 7:45am in the parish room. Various religious topics are discussed and refreshments are provided.

## Parish Office Closings

**T**HE parish office will be closed **Thursday and Friday, December 24 and 25; Monday, December 28, and Friday, January 1.**

Bring a Friend to Church 10

## Greening of the Church

**C**ALLING all able-bodied men and women to help with St. James's annual greening of the church. Come and share in the preparations of the sanctuary for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. Please join Mary Ann Haar in the church on **Wednesday, December 23 from 3-5pm**. Your help is very much appreciated!

## Christmas Flowers

**T**O give Christmas flowers in honor or in memory of loved ones, please make your request with the names of each person, along with your donation using the envelopes at the end of the pews in the church and chapel. **Flower envelopes will be available beginning Sunday, November 29.** Please return your envelopes to the parish office no later than Friday, December 18. A list of those loved ones so honored or remembered will be included in the Christmas bulletins.

## Annual Reports

**A**NNUAL reports are due in by **Monday, January 4, 2016!** All reports will be bound together in one booklet for distribution one week before the annual meeting which will be held **Sunday, January 24, 2016** following the 9:30 service. If at all possible, please email your report to help facilitate the organizing of all the information. The reports will be available on Sunday, January 17.

## December Parish Birthdays *Children and Youth*

Oliver Woodward, 4  
Harry Lewis, 5  
Blair Connelly, 7  
Joshua Campbell, 10  
Leah Dollar, 10  
Braden Flowers, 12  
Zoe Pinckney, 14  
Jacob Ciccone, 18  
James DeLibero, 18  
Frances Cox, 19  
Rowan Guerraz, 21  
Andrew Stafford, 23

Jackson Tyler, 24  
Emily Lemanski, 25  
Claire Sherrill, 25  
Ethan McCue, 29



# Readings and Registry

## Sunday Lectionary

### Second Sunday of Advent, December 6

Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4  
Canticle 4 or 16; Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6



### Third Sunday of Advent, December 13

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Canticle 9  
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

### Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20

Micah 5:2-5a; Canticle 3 or 15 or Psalm 80:1-7  
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

### Christmas Eve and Day, December 24 and 25

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

### First Sunday after Christmas, December 27

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 ; Psalm 147  
Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7; John 1:1-18; 147:13-21

## Parish Prayer List

### Those in our parish family

Jeffrey, Greg, Justin, Joan & Elsa, Ann, Michael, Michelle, Audrey, Claire, Nicole, Margaret & Richard, Ruth, Anne, Brian, Natalie & Harry, Stuart, Olivia, Walter, Frank, David, Liz, Jon, Elly, Justin, Tom, and Betsy.

### Those in our extended parish family

Maria, Pam, Kevin, Mary Ann, Jenifer, Nancy, Jeff, Ashley, Carol, John, Christina, Jean, Jeff, Roger, Mario, Jennifer, Leslie, John, Justin, Karen, Bea & David, Heather & Bryan, Robert, Sarah, Claudia, David, Patricia, Bob, Jessie, Ryan, Dick, Linda, John, Quinn, Arroll, Chris, Joanie, Rob, Teresa, Dave, Alvin, Karen, Bob, Audra, Parker & Cynthia, Ted, Olivia, Brent, Kaitlyn, Ann, Kara, Henry & Irene, Patricia, Jonathan, Kate, Carrie, Josh & Yvette, Dan, Derrick, Family of Nancy, Grace, Kyle, John & Rita, and Betsy.

### Those Serving in the Military:

Andrew Clark, Michael P. Clarke, Wensley Barker IV, Mark Ulrich, Julian C. Barker, Andrew Huntsman, and Ed Vera.

## Baptisms

### Sunday, November 22

#### Ivan Douglas Garrow-Cooke

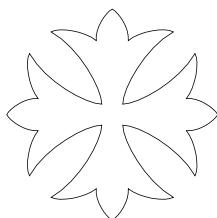
Son of Brett Garrow and Rebecca Cooke

#### Frances Josephine Carolyn O'Sullivan

Daughter of James and Carolyn O'Sullivan

#### Victoria Anna Christa Schell

Daughter of Peter and Amy Schell



# Women Of St. James's Programs for December 2015



### Tuesday, December 1

Chris Fisher  
*Birding the Mayan Ruins in the Yucatan*

### Tuesday, December 8

Santa Is On His Way  
*Christmas Buffet*

### Saturday, December 12

Annual Holiday Tea  
*In the parish hall from 2-4pm*  
*(Snow Date: December 13)*

### December 15, 22, and 29

No Meetings  
*Christmas and New Year Hiatus*

## United Thank Offering

It was another successful UTO Ingathering on **Sunday, November 22!** Thank you to all of you who contributed to the United Thank Offering.

Every coin from every Blue Box and Blue Envelope is given away in grants. Every cent you give, representing your thankful prayers today, is the dream for tomorrow's life and gives hope to people all over the world.

## Holiday Tea & Bake Sale

*Saturday, December 12 from 2-4pm*

**C**ELEBRATE this festive season with a traditional afternoon tea featuring Harney & Sons tea accompanied by an assortment of delicious homemade scones, savory tea sandwiches, sweet pastries and more.

Don't miss out on our renowned Holiday Bake Sale featuring artfully wrapped homemade treats, and shop our offering of artisan-made beaded Christmas ornaments.

**Tickets on sale** in the Parish Office, at the door, and beginning **November 22**, after the 9:30am service during coffee hour. \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 10 and under.

## St. James's Episcopal Church

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Fax: 860-521-5756

E-mail: [info@stjameswh.org](mailto:info@stjameswh.org)

Website: [www.stjameswh.org](http://www.stjameswh.org)

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## Address Service Requested



### The Clergy

The Reverend Robert C. Hooper, III	Rector
The Reverend Curtis A. Farr	Associate Rector
The Reverend Canon Douglas T. Cooke	Priest Associate
The Reverend Dr. Molly O. Loudon	Priest Associate
The Reverend Dr. Borden W. Painter	Priest Associate
The Reverend Elsa P. Walberg	Priest Associate
The Reverend Terry M. Wysong	Priest Associate

### The Staff

Heidi Cotter	Financial Secretary
Cheryl C. Batter	Administrator
Nathan Bourne	Seminarian
Priscilla Hooper	Director of Family Ministries
Randall Martini	Sexton
Vaughn Mauren	Organist & Choirmaster

### The Vestry

Ann Cooke	Senior Warden
David Dynowski	Junior Warden
Michael Sherrill	Treasurer

### Term Ending 2016

Michael Fitzsosa, Carol McDermott  
Eleanor Michael, Peter Peterson

### Term Ending 2017

Kathy Bolt, Ben Parish  
Michael Shuey, Judith Stahl

### Term Ending 2018

Diane Duva, Kimberly Lytle  
Carolyn O'Sullivan, Robert Smith