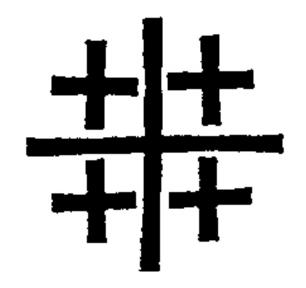
2014 Annual Report



Saint James's

Episcopal Church 1018 Farmington Avenue West Hartford, Connecticut 06107 (860) 521-9620; Fax 521-5756 www.stjameswh.org

The Annual Meeting of Saint James's Parish will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2015 immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Liturgy Published January 2015

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Agenda

The Annual Parish Meeting Saint James's Episcopal Church West Hartford, Connecticut January 25, 2015 10:45 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Order

The Rev. Robert C. Hooper III, Rector

Reading of the Warrant

Ollie Bunch

Reading of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Ollie Bunch

The Report of the Nominating Committee and the Election of

Wardens, Clerk, Treasurer, Vestry members, and Diocesan Delegates

The Senior Warden's Report

Ann Cooke

The Junior Warden's Report

David 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 26, 2014 10:45AM

The 2014 Annual Meeting of St. James's Episcopal Church was called to order and the Welcome was made at 11:05 AM by the Rector, the Reverend Robert C. Hooper III.

The Warrant was read by Ollie Bunch, Parish Clerk

The acceptance of the minutes of the January 27, 2013 Annual Meeting, as printed in the 2013 Annual Report, was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

All reports contained in the 2013 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 the Rector, the Reverend Robert C. Hooper III. There being no nominations from the floor, the slate was elected unanimously by voice vote. Ann Cooke was elected as Senior Warden. David 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. Carol McDermott (2 year term replacing David Dynowski who was elected as Junior Warden), Kathy Bolt, Ben Parish, Michael Shuey, and Judith Stahl were elected to the Vestry, Class of 2017. The Rector offered heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Vestry members of the Class of 2014: Paul Duva, Jonathan Lewis, Gale Mattison, and Marilyn Tomlinson.

The Senior Warden, Anne Cooke, urged the parishioners present to read her report and all of the other reports in the 2013 Annual Report booklet.

The Junior Warden, David Thomas, offered additional comments to his printed report. summarizing his six years as Junior Warden .

The Parish Treasurer, Michael Sherrill, gave the Finance Committee Report. (a) St. James's Parish finished the 2013 fiscal year with a 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) The Treasurer noted that the Endowment Fund has increased from \$2,300,000.00 to \$2,500.000.00 during the 2013 Fiscal Year. (c) The Treasurer thanked the parish for its moral and financial support during the 2013 fiscal year. (d) The 2014 Budget is scheduled to be accepted by the Vestry of the parish at its February 18, 2014 meeting. (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.

All other committee reports were accepted as printed in the 2013 Annual Report.

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:

- (a) Expressed his gratitude for the generosity and stewardship of time, talent, and treasure of the Parish;
- (b) Gave thanks for the continued ministry of the Executive Committee and the Vestry;
- (c) Gave thanks for the parishioners who "get stuff done" in their quiet, unobtrusive manner;
- (d) 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);
- (e) Gave thanks to the associate clergy of the parish for their faithful service;
- (f) Gave thanks for the ministry of the Reverend Curtis A, Farr, Assistant Rector, for the new sense of vitality that he has brought to the life of the parish in his six-plus months with us;
- (g) Gave thanks to the parishioners of St. James's Church for their support and dedication;
- (h) Noted that St. James's Church is an "amazing training ground" for new clergy;
- (i) 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.
- (j) Gave special thanks for the compassion and comfort shown to the Hooper family after the passing of Mrs. Jan Hooper, the Rector's mother;
- (k) Outlined, briefly, his planned Sabbatical that will commence in April 2014.

Other matters arising:

(a) The attention of the parish was directed to the Organist/Choirmaster's poetic report and its mention of the need for substantial repair/renovation of the organ; (b) The Rector indicated the possible need for a Capital Campaign in the next few years.

The 2014 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM with a closing prayer and blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Ollie R. Bunch Parish Clerk

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

January 25, 2015 Annual Parish Meeting

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

2014 has been an interesting year both for the community of St. James's and for me personally. On a personal note, through the generosity of the good people of this parish, Curtis' and Cheryl's hard work, and Priscilla's indulgence and patience, I spent part of my three-month sabbatical walking the Camino de Santiago. It was an 800km/500mile journey across northern Spain. I began my walk in St. Jean pied de Port, France and 33 days later I walked into Santiago de Compostela. It was certainly one of the most challenging/interesting/fun/rewarding things I have ever done, and, if you are so inclined, I would commended it as an addition to most peoples' "bucket list."

For the parish of St. James's, 2014 saw the departure of our much beloved Choir Master Jason Roberts and the arrival of the very talented Vaughn Mauren. Vaughn seems to have settled in well and the choir has never sounded better. The clergy and staff of this parish are a real blessing to both its membership and to me. I could not ask for more creative, hard-working and patient folks to call colleagues and friends.

Our vestry, under the leadership of its very energetic Sr. Warden, Ann Cooke, has begun a more deliberate exploration of our personal spirituality and faith journeys as we try to model this practice to the wider parish. This has produced some very good conversations and I think a renewed way of looking at the work we are called to do as a community.

While 2014 has been a good year for this parish, the end of the year has produced some challenges as well. Stewardship for 2015 is lagging, as is Sunday morning attendance. I hope that through the faithfulness and commitment of all of us we can reverse this trend before it starts to affect the work that we do together for all of God's people.

I could go on for pages talking about all the ministries and programs that we are involved in (this report will cover much of it). I could name person after person who helps to make this the wonderful place that it is – that would take too long and I'd be sure to miss someone. So I will end with a couple of simple words of gratitude, to my wife and family, to the clergy, staff, and vestry, and to all of you, and most of all to the God who makes all things possible – **THANK YOU**.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Robert C. Hooper, III

Rector

Report from the Senior Warden

HE primary role of the Senior Warden is to support and care for the Rector and his family. I have to admit this is a fairly easy job. Bob and I faithfully meet every week to share and discuss all kinds of things. While Bob was away on sabbatical, Curtis and I met regularly as well.

Several times this year I attended events to discuss our life in the Diocese of Connecticut. I am very pleased to report that we are one of the most vibrant parishes in our state. It is indeed a pleasure to relate to others about life at St. James's in West Hartford.

Our choir is larger than attendance at many other parish church services. Our youth groups are flourishing. We have two groups of women meeting regularly – an almost unheard of occurrence. We have a full time Rector, Assistant Rector, Organist/Choirmaster, Sexton, and Parish Administrator.

All this success is possible with your continued involvement. We have a challenging and busy 2015. Thank you and let us continue to grow with God's help.

Ann B. Cooke, Senior Warden

Report from the Junior Warden

2 014 was a busy year for facility maintenance here at St James's. We started off the year 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 and volunteers worked diligently to keep the walks clear in an effort to reduce our snow removal costs.

2014 also marked the first year with a volunteer Building Manager, Dave Thomas, who in addition to myself, works to stay on top of the facility maintenance. As the previous Junior Warden, Dave brings an experienced hand in the guidance of our efforts.

Several noteworthy repairs and projects this year included: repair of the Walden St. stairs, exterior and interior painting throughout the facility, repair of the fire alarm system, installation of new smoke detectors throughout the facility, re painting of the parking lot lines (per Town of West Hartford ordinance), donation and construction of a new shed by Matt Wilson (Eagle Scout project) adjacent to the garden area.

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, Rachel 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. Looking forward, we will need to make investments in several areas: replacement of the Parish Hall Floor, the refurbishment of the Organ, which had a significant break down this year, driveway resurfacing and repair of the underlying drains.

Working together, we make this place a thriving center for community outreach and spiritual sanctuary. Our efforts today provide those who will follow us with a solid foundation to build upon.

Report from the Assistant Rector

Dear Ones,

TERRIFIC momentum continues in our microcommunity of young people—that is, our teenaged population. I have had the privilege of getting to know many of our high schoolers much better through the various projects and events we have experienced this year. One thing is clear: the young people of St. James's area amazing and wonderful—often in all different ways.

With the support of the rest of this community, fifteen of us flew to the Dominican Republic this summer for a mission trip/pilgrimage. For over one week we labored during hot, tropical mornings painting and scraping and painting some more at the school of Santisima Trinidad (Holy Trinity). In the afternoons we played and sang with the children of a neighborhood vacation Bible school. We concluded our time with a little rest and relaxation on the beach. If you have a chance, take a look at some of our pictures on the wall across from the office. Thank you too all of you who provided financial assistance and/or prayed for us as we traveled to witness what God is up to in a different part of the world.

At St. James's, we alternate between mission trip and Confirmation years. The Confirmation program began in the fall with a group of ten students. We will meet as a group a few times every month until the Confirmation service on May 3rd, but Confirmation is only the beginning of these students' fuller participation in the life of the church. We had a spectacular retreat at Camp Washington, and I want to offer an extra note of gratitude to Susan Gutierrez for driving and Vaughn Mauren and Meredith Willson for chaperoning the weekend.

This fall we also initiated four new volunteer youth group leaders into the fold: Eddie Jacovino, Kim Kindleberger, and Ben and Martha Parish. Can I tell you what assets these good people are in the lives of our younger members? They each bring particular gifts to youth group and other events, and they do everything with joy in their hearts. If you think of it, express your gratitude to these leaders. This year we hope to engage the young ones on a deeper level, perhaps to see what community service opportunities might be available to us.

Shifting from youth to education, we have had a full year of opportunities to think and grow more deeply into scripture, our tradition, and various topics. A big thank you to Mark Evans for organizing the calendar with me as well as for teaching some very interesting Bible studies. And thank you to Molly Louden, Ellen Painter Dollar, Bob Hooper, Ray Payne, Beth Richards, Bonnie Mills, Taffy Wilcox, Terry Wysong, Cheri Evans, and Marggie Mair for facilitating classes on stimulating topics.

Courses have ranged from environmentalism with "Is Your Faith Green" to women of the Bible with "Wanton Women and Babylonian Babes." These are some really fantastic classes; most of them last a few weeks, though all are welcome to sit in on one or two of them as well.

In December we saw the return of the "ADG" format when Chris Doucot from the Hartford Catholic Worker visited and spoke a bit about the good work they do in the North End. His visit was popular and well attended. We hope to see that same level of engagement in the coming months as we have a variety of speakers present during this coffee hour forum.

I have also continued to facilitate a mid-week Bible study on Wednesdays at noon. We have a crowd of five to eight participants of all levels of biblical familiarity. Typically we look at the readings for the upcoming Sunday, though we studied Revelation in its entirety last fall and will look more closely at Galatians and Paul's other letters in January and February. Come on by!

My final note this year is one of profound gratitude from both Antonio and me. As we sat near the altar during the second portion of our wedding in August, we looked out at those of you who were able to celebrate with us with amazement and joy. You made our wedding that much more special and meaningful. Many of you helped in various ways (creating floral arrangements, moving chairs and tables, receiving food, bringing drink, presiding, ushering, etc.). There are too many to name here, but be assured of our gratitude.

Thank you for another wonderful year at St. James's. Let us now discern what God would have us do next as we prayerfully go in peace to love and serve God and all of God's children.

Your brother in Christ,

(urtis+

The Rev. Curtis A. Farr, Assistant Rector

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

OR me, it always seems appropriate to write the annual report after the Christmas Pageant.

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

We have settled into a wonderful routine with our children here at St. James's. Our preschool Sunday school is expertly run by Eleanor Michaels, Carolyn O'Sullivan and Kristen Kirsch. A special thank you goes to Jonathan Lewis, Emily McMurray and many others who helped in the redo of this Sunday school in the fall. It looks fantastic and is welcoming to new families in the parish. In elementary school, we have the rotation model of Sunday school, based on the multi-intelligence theory of learning. This program has seemed to have smaller numbers attending over the last few months, with some exceptions where we have had huge numbers. We have done a little research as to why this is the case, and there seems to be many reasons, some of which are good reasons, like the fact that many children who are in the choir are "churched out" by the time Sunday school rolls around. I have had good success recruiting people to teach this age group and I am thankful for those who have volunteered their time, most especially those who don't have children in this age group anymore. If you are interested, ask anyone who has worked with these kids, they are truly a joy.

For the middle school, we are continuing with the Reel to Real curriculum by Cokesbury. It works incredibly well with this age group and we have incredible discussions around all kinds of issues. This age group is also difficult to get to attend. Donuts do seems to increase the attendance, as does movies the children are not familiar with.

For the high school Sunday school, Curtis is doing an excellent job providing them with thought provoking fun activities.

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

In addition to our regular Sunday offerings, this year we added *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.

In July, we had our annual summer program. This summer Vicki Culligan from Poppins Children's Theatre and I created a theatrical experience called, *Broadway Bible News Channel*. In this program the children learned a few songs from popular Christian Broadway shows, ie., *Jesus Christ Superstar*,

Godspell, etc. and put together a short performance with "commercials" between the songs, in a news channel style. A great time was had by all involved.

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 11 years but it is true. It really hits me when I look out at the children in my Kid's Liturgy and I can remember when many of them were born. That and many of my high school students I have known since preschool. Yikes! Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with me. They are truly a blessing.

Priscilla Hooper, Director of Religious Education

Report from the Organist-Choirmaster

HIS past year was a busy and productive period for the music program at St. James's. It was also a year filled with sadness and pride as Jason Roberts left our parish to take up the position of Associate Organist and Director of Music, and Organist and Director of Music for the Girl and Boy Choristers at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, New York City. Jason dedicated himself to St. James's for seven years and left as his legacy a thriving music program and wonderful memories.

Shortly after Jason's departure, our parish was treated to the leadership of our own musicians as Claire Burnett conducted the choir, and Ron Coons and Nora Dynowski lead hymns, accompanied the choir, and performed wonderful voluntaries. Visiting organist Sue Hertel was also of great help.

I arrived in early August and was made to feel very welcome and comfortable by all. It is with great pride and happiness that my first experience with the choir was at the August wedding of our Assistant Rector, Curtis, and his husband Antonio.

With any transition, there is change, and one of the most obvious differences between Jason and me is that I have bad allergies. So I was very quick to discard the pre-historic cloth sofas in the choir library – one of which – the Rector discovered, was stuffed with rat poison. We also threw out old dusty sofas in the choir room/undercroft.

Some of you may remember the vintage Mason and Hamlin grand piano that was located in the choir library. As with any piano from the 1930s, it needed a full restoration to the tune of \$20k-30k. I did not see this as a necessary expenditure since we already have two lovely grand pianos in the building and no room currently for a piano in the church. I contacted a local piano dealer and restorer, Shawn Hoar, and he purchased and removed the instrument from our library. The proceeds from that sale paid for sorely needed choir binders, and the remainder went into the choir development fund. A pool table has been erected in place of the piano, and we are very grateful to Rebecca Cooke for its donation. We are also grateful to Jonathan Lewis for the comfy leather sofas that now provide a resting place for choir parents and choristers alike.

The choir remains strong in numbers with two junior choristers, 27 boy and girl choristers, and 25 adults. We are looking forward to many future endeavors, the biggest of which – a trip to sing at Hereford and Bristol Cathedrals (England) – is planned for July 2016. Fundraising has already begun

and included a bake sale during the Christmas tree sale and a successful Yankee Candle fundraiser organized by Deb Ross.

We are in the beginning stages of a project to renovate our 1962 Austin Organ. A full rebuilding of the organ is necessary, proven by years of small fixes that are only accelerating in frequency and cost. As was unfortunately demonstrated to everyone in the fall, the organ cannot be relied upon to function sufficiently on a Sunday morning. On one Sunday the organ was entirely silent. On other Sundays, sections of it were unplayable. As we embark on a process of discernment for the capital campaign, proposed solutions to the organ's current state of being will be worked out and offered to the congregation. The successful proposal will be financially feasible and address both the working state of the organ as well as improvements in its ability to lead hymns, accompany the choir, and execute repertoire for voluntaries and concerts.

Finally, I want to thank all of the volunteers who make it possible for the music program to function. Their help ranges from carpooling to preparing delicious choir dinners. A key figure in these tasks is our choir mother, Sam Dynowski. Sam has been invaluable in organizing choir dinners, a rotation of choir parents for rehearsal duty, a lovely holiday party for the Boys and Girls Choir, the reception following Lessons and Carols, and much more. She also served as my partner in crime during choir camp, organizing and leading fun activities throughout the week.

While 2014 marked yet another year of great music making, I am confident that our best years are to come. Our choir is a remarkably talented group of musicians and I have had so much fun with them and look forward to the years ahead!

Vaughn Mauren, Organist & Choirmaster

Report from the Acolytes

HE boys and girls who serve as acolytes are special contributors to our Sunday services. As they light the candles, lead the processional, assist with the Gospel reading, guide us toward the Communion rail and finally lead the recessional, our acolytes add grace and pageantry to our worship experience. Through it all, they see church from a different perspective, one that underscores the importance of working and worshiping together. And most of them find it more fun than sitting in the pews with their parents!

If you are a parent of a teen and pre-teen (third grade and above), please consider having him or her serve as an acolyte. Each acolyte serves about once per month as a crucifer, torch bearer or book holder. While a number of younger kids became new acolytes this year, we also lost long-time acolytes Emma Coll, Madison Hooper, Justin Lamy, and Julia Lankin to graduation, and will lose Daniel MacGillis to graduation in 2015. So there is always room for anyone who wants to serve in this very important role.

Ted Newton, Coordinator

Report from the Altar Flower Coordinator

HE 2014 calendar year was full of events to which our floral tradition continued. Of special significance, our Floral Committee worked together and developed all of the flowers for the wedding of Curtis and Antonio while I was away on vacation! Many of you witnessed this blessed union but perhaps you didn't know of the skill and collective effort that went into creating the beautiful flowers for the church, wedding party and reception. This year's 'Golden Rod' award goes to Diane and Eleanor Duva for their willingness and commitment to the wedding day flowers! Also, none of it could have happened without the talent and leadership of Claire Burnett for heading the team!

We are also blessed to have Cheryl Batter, Parish Secretary, for her patience and skill with organizing and maintaining the listing of weekly memorial flowers and keeping me on schedule with special requests. There would not be fresh altar flowers in the chapel and main sanctuary every Sunday without Cheryl's constant communication with me and with parishioners' individual requests.

Additional thanks must be extended to our fine sexton, Randy Martini for his support with the heavy work required to decorate the church during holy days and festivals. Randy does all the little things, too, like clean up and watering, which is so very much appreciated. The church looks so festive with the candle pew torches decorated with flowers and greens during special celebrations, and we all have Randy to thank for installing and dismantling them, usually on very short notice!

Also, my personal thanks are extended to Heidi Cotter our Parish Financial Secretary for managing through all the paperwork I create for her through our wholesaler! As always, my heartfelt thanks go to Bob and Curtis for supporting this meaningful ministry for all of us.

For this new fiscal year, I am looking forward to continuing God's call to provide beautiful flowers to the Glory of God. I also look forward to adding additional names to my Floral Committee members list to help during holy days!

Mary Ann Haar, Floral Committee Chair

Report from the Altar Guild

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

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

Cheri Evans and Sue Nelson, Co-chairs

Report from the Christian Education Committee Adult Formation

DULT Education at St. James's had a very successful 2014. We continued with our format of offering two to three concurrent small group sessions through both the winter-spring and the fall. Small group offerings included 'A New New Testament' with Mark Evans, 'Eat with Joy' with Ellen Painter Dollar, 'The Journey of Our Universe' with the Rev. Molly Louden, 'Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts Inventory' with Beth Richards, 'Dispelling the Myths of Hospice' with Taffy Wilcox, 'Speaking Christian with Ray Payne, 'Pilgrimage in Spain' with the Rev. Bob Hooper, '10 Reasons to Read William Strangefellow' with the Rev. Curtis Farr, and many others.

Attendance has been good for the small groups with between 5 to 20 people at each session. In 2015 we look forward to continuing our wide selection of offerings in small discussion groups but also going back to a once-a-month Adult Discussion Group format. Our challenge is to maintain an excellent and relevant adult education program that focuses on enhancing the spiritual and intellectual development of active Christians. With this goal in mind, we continue to look for new ideas on topics and speakers, and your contributions are welcomed and encouraged.

Mark Evans, Adult Formation Planning Committee

Report from Education for Ministry

T. JAMES'S has hosted an EfM group for over 18 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 two, and Deborah Ross, in year four. Other members are from Trinity, Collinsville; St. James, Farmington; St. Mark's, Storrs; and Church of the Good Shepherd, Hartford; and Christ Church Cathedral, 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

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

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

New England Guild Wealth Advisors, our investment manager, began managing the Fund over two years ago, on November 30, 2012. From this date through September 30, 2014 (our most recent reporting period), the Fund's annualized total return was 11.7%. This return equals the return of its comparative benchmark over the same time period. For the 12 months ending September 30, the Fund's return was 9.7%, slightly higher than the 9.1% return of the benchmark.

Per church bylaws, the Committee transfers a certain portion of the Fund's total return 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. The 2014 transfer was \$125,400, and the 2015 transfer will be \$127,000. As you can see, this annual transfer significantly helps the parish meet our annual budgets.

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

HE Friends of St. Vincent's Center, Inc. is a 501c (3) tax exempt non-profit Connecticut corporation started by a volunteer group in 1997 as an interfaith outreach ministry of St. James's Episcopal Church in West Hartford, Connecticut. St. Vincent's Center is a residential facility, day school, orphanage, and out-patient medical clinic owned and operated under the auspices of the Episcopal Church of Haiti. The institution provides services to seriously handicapped children from pre-school through elementary school. For years, the Friends have provided funds to enable the orphans to further their education at a high school and post-high school education level (i.e. local university, business school or language school). A number of parishes have also sent needed items in plastic barrels to the Center.

Currently, St. Vincent's Center is in transition. The government of Haiti has decided to reclaim the land upon which St. Vincent's rests to utilize the land for urban development. After many meetings, the government has granted a year reprieve until September 2015. Therefore, the focus has been to find and purchase new land for the building of the new campus. Negotiations are in process and we pray it will become final so construction can start.

This October the Friends hosted the First St. Vincent's Gathering of the Committed in Washington DC. Eleven groups attended with Fr. Sadoni, the Director of St. Vincent's. This is the first time all the NGOs involved with St. Vincent's conferenced together for the purpose of long term and short term planning. We are planning to have the Second Gathering this summer in Washington DC.

During this meeting we were informed that the Haitian Ministry of Education is requiring all teachers in the country to attend certification program. At this time we have sent funds for 25 teachers for the total 51 teachers to attend this 15 day program.

The Blind Program needed the embosser repaired in the States which is occurring at this time. Two new braillers were purchased and 5 were repaired.

The Church Mission Publishing Company grant funds are being used to continue the intense training program for the deaf teachers in learning American Sign Language and appropriate educational interventions. We have partnered with Team Canada/ Healing Hands to provide American Sign Language to the teachers and support of the Parent Education for the Deaf Students.

West Tennessee Haiti Partnership and the Friends provide funds for supplying a vitamin to every student and medications for the pharmacy for the clinic. Our medical team continues to provide primary care to the students and staff. During this last visit, the students were receiving dental evaluations and will be referred to the University of Haiti Pediatric Dental Clinic if needed.

St. Vincent's is "going green". Our partner, 100 Gardens will be installing a demonstration aquaponics unit at St. Vincent's in early 2015. The system is a scaled down version of the larger system to be installed in 2016 at the new campus. The purpose of the system is to give the students real world experience of managing an aquaponic system and the produce will be used to feed the 300+ students.

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

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

Report from the Fundraising Committee

hanks to the participation of many people, 2014 was another successful year for fundraising activities here at St. James's. The committee focused its efforts on organizing activities that promoted fellowship among the members of St. James's as well as the greater West Hartford community.

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

2014 activities included: our eleventh annual Strawberry Festival in May, the very successful and popular St. James's Auction in November, and our eleventh annual Christmas Tree Sale in December. Auction committee co-chairs Deb Ross and Samantha Dynowski led this year's auction effort along with a huge number of hearty volunteers. Thanks to everyone that participated in and supported this event, and all the fundraising activities in 2014.

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

David Dynowski, Fundraising Committee Chairman

Report from the Healing Ministry

The Healing Team

Edwina Bosco	Gale Gardiner	Judy Lawes	David Thomas
Al Davis	Bill Harris	Molly Louden	Marilyn Tomlinson
Ellen Dollar	Nora Harris	Sue Nelson	John Wadsworth
Daniel Dollar	Peg Howard	Beth Richards	Taffy Wilcox
Cheri Evans	Audrey Lamy	Matt Schott	Terry Wysong

Secretary Secretary of Healing. It will be eleven 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.

<u>Prayer Shawls.</u> To date we have blessed and delivered 181 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.

<u>Support Group for Caregivers and Those in Grief.</u> A group of us who spend time caring for a loved one and those of us who have lost a loved one meet once a month to support, connect and

encourage one another. We have grown closer to each other through the sharing we do at our meetings. The group looks out for the health and quality of life for the caregivers and those in grief. We hold each other in prayer and accountability to care for ourselves. The group has also provided guidance and much needed information on resources – doctors, home healthcare agencies, rehabs, in-patient care facilities, Hospice services, etc. 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.

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

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

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

Report from the Newcomers Committee

HE Newcomers Committee has completed another busy year! We were pleased to welcome 21 new families to St. James's with a freshly baked loaf of bread. Thank you to our volunteer crew of bakers, Donna Burke, Gertrude Carver, Fran Cobb, Rachael Desmond, Linda Fournier, Nancy Hoffman, Eileen Jackson, Audrey Lamy, Elizabeth Payne, Emily McMurray, Betsy Smith, Judith Stahl, Eve and Louise Strillacci, Trudy Thompson, Lesley Toutain, and Chris Wilson for their faithful assistance with this important ministry.

The new on-line Parish Directory is finally up and running! We held an introductory session last fall to provide information and assistance with signing in and accessing the directory. The on-line directory will provide parishioners with access to the directory from any computer, tablet or smart phone. Those who would like a printed copy may request one through Cheryl Batter in the Church Office. A special thanks to Curtis Farr, Mike Fitzsousa, Jonathan Lewis, Antonio Rocha, and Ollie Bunch for all of their efforts in photographing parishioners as well as coordinating and uploading the photos to the website.

A Newcomer Coffee Hour Reception to be held this spring will be announced shortly. 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 acclimate them to our St. James's Community.

Claire Burnett and Priscilla Thomas, Co-chairpersons

Report from the Outreach Committee

HE purpose of the Outreach program is to extend our ministry to those in need through the contribution of time, talents and financial support. In 2014, the members of St. James's parish continued to give generously of themselves and their resources.

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. Even with support some of these agencies have been unable to survive the current downturn in funding from other sources.

Here at St. James's our feeding programs, especially, have experienced changes and are in need of financial support. For example, subsidized food which has been provided for a number of years is no longer available to us. One parishioner who annually has contributed \$300 per month (\$3600/year) to the purchase of meat and cheese for sandwiches and casseroles will no longer be able to do so. Some outreach funds have been redirected to the feeding line and generous members have stepped forward to help fill in the gaps. We have depleted our pantry reserves, however, and we now need individuals who are willing to commit themselves to either purchasing required items or providing funds on a monthly basis, or for a designated period of time, for such things as large packages of cookies, large bottles of juice, disposable cooking pans and cases of large cans of food which can be purchased wholesale. Each new possibility provides another opportunity to offer time or give funds needed to feed our hungry neighbors.

Doug Compton's dedication to the support of the feeding program has produced spectacular results this year. The sales of Easter flowers, fall apples and pies, and Christmas poinsettias raised more than \$1,000 for the feeding programs, almost double last year's total.

In late August, HopeWorks, a long-time community agency serving at-risk youth, closed, resulting in the cancellation of the traditional mum sale for their benefit. Doug Compton has proposed a September Harvest Sale which will feature mums, as well as apples, pies, and apple cider all for the benefit of our feeding programs.

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 \$440, St. James's parishioners helped the agency reach out to families facing the choice between food and heat.

We received fewer than the requested number of Angel Tree names this year and several willing gift-givers were disappointed that they were not able to shop for Christmas presents for a child or two. Although it could be supposed that there were fewer incarcerated parents this year, it is likely that the children had "aged out" or that the parent had been transferred to another area. All listed families were reached this year and all gifts were delivered to the children before Christmas. A highlight of this year's program was the addition of Jane Good to the management of Angel Tree. Thanks to Jane and her husband for the new green felt Angel Tree display and for contacting many of the children's families.

Update on the garden shed: In late 2013, Matthew Wilson was awarded a \$1,000 grant to build a shed close to the area of the church garden that supplies produce for the Hartford Catholic Worker

to distribute to families in the north end of Hartford. Despite adverse weather conditions and delays in approval by the West Hartford building and zoning offices, the 8x8 shed was completed by the beginning of the 2014 spring growing season. The shed was well built, is attractive, functional and very much appreciated by the gardening team. Well done, Matthew.

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

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

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

Following is a list of the ongoing Outreach projects to which St. James's members contributed in 2014.

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

<u>The 16th Annual School Supplies collection</u>: 22 boxes of school supplies and 47 backpacks were donated for the children served by The Catholic Worker Project, The Place of Grace Food Pantry, and The Bridge Family Center.

<u>The Christmas Toys collection</u>: 65 toys were given to the children in area shelters and in the neighborhood of a north-end community agency.

<u>The Angel Tree program</u>: 84 gifts of clothing and toys were delivered to 42 children of prisoners, on behalf of their absent parents.

<u>The Christmas Stocking Intergenerational Program</u>: 254 pairs of warm socks, filled with toiletries and candies, were delivered to The Open Hearth (120) and the Salvation Army (134) for Christmas distribution to their clients.

<u>Hot Lunches</u>: 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,

<u>Foodshare's 31st Annual Walk Against Hunger</u>: \$ 1880 was donated to Foodshare, \$1430 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.

<u>Easter Baskets</u>: 194 baskets and bags of toiletries and candy were colorfully wrapped and delivered to the men and women in area shelters.

<u>Paper Goods Collection:</u> the equivalent of 900 single rolls of toilet paper and paper towels were collected for distribution to clients of area soup kitchens and food pantries.

2014 OUTREACH MISSION EXPENDITURES

The following table lists the organizations funded and the donations they received from the General Outreach budget in 2014.

Recipient	Donation(\$)
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 Outreach Mission Trip	\$ 1,000
Youth Outreach Service Projects	\$ <u>1,000</u>
Total	\$ 20,000

^{*} Includes transfers of \$1500 from a budget line for Urgent Needs and Opportunities, and \$500 from a budget line for HopeWorks, which closed in 2014.

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

Barbara Schiller, Chairperson

Report from the Sacred Ministers

HE 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 (14), Lectors and Intercessors (22), 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.

Ollie Bunch, Chairperson

^{**} 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.

Report from the Stewardship Committee

HIS past fall, we distributed a Stewardship packet entitled *Stewards of Generosity*. The Packet included an explanation of stewardship, our budget, and a pledge card. It also included the third installment of "Who We Are, *A Different Perspective*" — a series of essays, in which parishioners explore what it means to be a part of St. James's, and for St. James's to be a part of them. In all of these we asked the parish to reconsider how God is calling us to respond to the needs of the world through the ministries of this Parish.

As of January 8, we have made 172 pledges for a total of \$502,464. This response is significantly behind our pledging in prior years, resulting in an early start of The Rector's Campaign to try to make up the difference of over \$50,000. We trust that the final results will allow the Finance Committee to be able to draft a budget for 2015 that will allow for St. James's to continue its critical core missions and, perhaps, expand our programs as appropriate.

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

Judith Stahl, Stewardship Coordinator

Report from the Ushers

HE ushers welcome people coming to our services and providing bulletins, information and direction for those who may be new to St. James's. During the service, the ushers enumerate the attendance for distribution of the Eucharist, bring up the elements before collecting the offerings, and collect newcomer information slips after the service.

Ushering is a fine way to become familiar with the church and its members, and it provides an important and needed service for our worship activities. With the current group of twenty-one ushers (for the main church year), the commitment is usually less than a service a month, and training can take place gradually with the first assignments.

On behalf of the St. James family, I would like to commend the ushers for their commitment to provide assistance at our services on Sundays and other Holy Days.

Derrick Kirsch, Coordinator

Report from the Vegetable Garden Committee

VER the spring and summer of 2014 our vegetable garden produced a large amount of produce: snap peas, collards, kale, swiss chard, tomatoes, beets, beans, cucumbers and peppers. A number of parishioners worked in the garden regularly and others made the

weekly delivery to the Hartford Catholic Worker where the produce was distributed to the folks in the neighborhood who have a hard time getting quality fresh produce. A big thank you to the volunteers who pitched in with enthusiasm. Soon we will begin looking ahead to the next gardening season and ways to make it even better than the last. Come spring, look for information about volunteering in this fun and very worthwhile project.

Ann Painter and Chuck Russo, Coordinators

Report from the Women of St. James's

HE Women of St. James's is an organization which had its beginnings in the 1880's at the old St. James's church on South Main Street, and whose present attending members keep the spirit continuing. All women of the parish are considered members in WOSJ and there are representatives of other churches who attend meetings and give much of their attention to the group and its work. A great appreciation is extended to everyone. Gentlemen are also welcome to meetings and WOSJ is thankful for their help on so many occasions.

The group, which currently meets on Tuesdays from October to May, begins with the invitation to attend a Healing Service in the Kennedy Chapel at 11AM; lunch is served at 12:15PM and business meeting is held at 1PM; the lecture/presentation follows and ends at 2PM. The program committee usually meets in May/June to begin selecting speakers for October through May, and has always found topics of interest in many fields for presentation in the St. James's Dining Room and, sometimes, at other locations. The finished program is mailed in September to the women of the parish and those who are from other churches who are active and so welcomed and appreciated by the WOSJ.

Among the 2014 Programs were many enjoyed by the attending and one special presentation by the Rector entitled "The Camino de Santiago – Walking 500 miles across Spain and through History" was particularly well attended. A review of the 2014 Program brings memories of the information shared at the other meetings.

Major parish events which the WOSJ supports are the October and May Rummage Sales and the Holiday Tea. These undertakings provide an opportunity for all interested to come together and work as a community on the projects. These three events provide an income which the WOSJ uses to pay its pledge to the church; to make donations to its Outreach Program; present checks to various worthy organizations represented by visiting lecturers; and to offer financial help to the church and the rector for items that may be desired. In the past year the WOSJ has helped purchase long tables, card tables, and chairs for the dining room use; has helped with the Choir Fund, the Mission Trip, and the Healing Ministry, and given consideration to the Rectors Wish List.

The WOSJ Outreach Program benefits both local and distant organizations (which are not listed in this report but are readily available) and is voted on when the annual budget is presented. In 2014 SOME GROUPS RECEIVED AN INCREASE AND NEW GROUPS WERE ADDED.

Miles of Pennies, the White Envelope, and United Thank Offering are other collections that are taken during the year. The monies taken in through the Lenten Luncheon are donated to a local feeding program.

The Rummage Sales, sponsored by the WOSJ, are a large parish undertaking twice a year in October and May, and are an opportunity for the community to purchase clothing and other items. Remaining unsold materials are often selected by a representative from Christ Church, Friends of Haiti, A Hands Up and other needy groups, and Big Brother Big Sister and/or Salvation Army collect unsold items.

Each year the Holiday Tea is a beautiful and much anticipated event, and this year preparatory contacts were made in May, throughout the summer, and into the fall with so many offering their knowledge and contributing physical assistance with setting up, providing baked goods and raffle items, and all the jobs that need to be done. This is an event enjoyed by the people of the town.

To list all who assisted in these large projects would take quite a bit of space, so know that you have been much appreciated and THANK YOU!

During the year the WOSJ has offered assistance for funeral receptions and had representatives at funeral services for its members who have died.

Financial reports are made available to the membership throughout the year, and there is an annual review by the auditors.

Much thanks to all who support the WOSJ: to the clergy and staff, to the Board which works so diligently, to the committees who perform the many chores, to those who do all the odd jobs as they arise, AND, to ALL for making this a caring community, and truly, A SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALL.

Once again this year, it has been my pleasure to serve The Women of St. James's, and wishes are EXTENDED for its continuing SUCCESS for many a year to follow.

Edwina L. Bosco, President

Report from the Worship Sound Committee

he faithful and dedicated members of the St. James's Worship Sound Committee continued to record the Eucharist and monitor the sound system each Sunday, Christmas and Easter so everyone can hear The Word. A CD library of all recorded services is maintained in the Parish Office. We also provide the Gospel readings and Sermons for the Parish website to help spread The Word each week.

The committee is also responsible for checking the condition of the batteries of the wireless microphones and hearing assist receivers and to get problematic or failed equipment repaired or replaced.

This past year, two JBL horn speakers from the Church's original 1960 era PA system were recovered and sold on eBay.

We welcome anyone interested in joining us to learn what we do and to help in any one of our functions.

Chuck Russo, *Director*

2014 Annual Report from the Treasurer

he church ended 2014 with a \$4,551 surplus relative to the amount budgeted for the year. In addition, the endowment increased during the year as a result of the financial market performance.

Income and Expense Summary

Actual expenses for the year were \$747,288, or \$17,012 less than the budgeted figure of \$764,300. 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 well below budget because we did not have a full time organist for the full year. The income categories were less than budget by \$12,461 as total actual income for the year was \$751,839 while budgeted income was \$764,300. The primary drivers of the income results were the Regular Contributions category and Fundraising. Combined, these categories ended the year more than \$10,400 below budget. Given the income and expense figures from above, the net surplus position for the church for the year was \$4,551 (\$751,839 - \$747,288), or approximately 0.6% of the annual budget.

Endowment

The Endowment Fund had a beginning market value of \$2,491,000 on January 1, 2014 and finished the year with a market value of 2,511,000. After considering the \$125,400 endowment distribution that supports our operating fund during the year, the endowment produced a 6.0% 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 2014, St. James's underwent its annual "Diocesan Review' for the 2013 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's 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.

Financials from the Treasurer

EXHIBIT A

St. James's Episcopal Church

ACCOUNTING FUND BALANCES (Unaudited)

January 2014 – December 2014

NOTES