



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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

*The Annual Meeting of Saint James's Parish will be held
on Sunday, January 26, 2020
immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Liturgy*

Published January 2020

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Financial Reports

Year End Financial Reports from the Treasurer separate attachment

Agenda

The Annual Parish Meeting
Saint James's Episcopal Church
West Hartford, Connecticut
January 26, 2020
11:00 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Order	The Rev. Robert C. Hooper III, Rector
Reading of the Warrant	Claire Burnett
Reading of the Minutes of the Last Meeting	
The Report of the Nominating Committee and the Election of Wardens, Clerk, Treasurer, Vestry members, and Diocesan Delegates	
The Senior Warden's Report	Claire Burnett
The Junior Warden's Report	David Dynowski
Report from Finance Committee	Harry Meyer and Mike 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 27, 2019
11:00 a.m.

Welcome and call to order by the Rev. Bob Hooper

Warrant read by Mike Sherrill

Motion to accept the minutes from the 2018 annual meeting: approved

Vestry Nominations:

Sr. Warden: Claire Burnet

Jr. Warden: Dave Dynowski

Clerk: Kimberly Lytle

Treasure: Harry Meyer

Three-year term nominations: Jane Good, Greg Jacobs, Chris Keesling, Kerri Raissian

Motion to accept the 2019 new Vestry members as presented: approved

Mike Sherrill referred to his Sr. Warden report for details and commented about his experiences as this year's convention and STJ's ability to do a lot of great work given the size of the parish and he encouraged everyone to think about the time, talents and treasures they can share with the parish.

Dave Dynowski gave the Jr. Warden's report as highlighted in his report in the annual report. He thanked everyone who has volunteered in the keeping of the facilities and grounds throughout the year. He also thanked Dave Thomas as the volunteer building manager.

Harry Meyer gave the Treasurer's report: We ended 2018 with a positive \$692. He referred to the exhibits in the report who would like the details on 2018's income and expenses. Harry provided an update on the outside audits; 2016 and 2017 audits have been completed and provided to the Vestry. Harry specifically thanked and acknowledged the work of STJ financial secretary, Heidi Cotter, and of Dick Wenner in the management of STJ's finances. Finally, Harry asked that the purpose of your contribution is noted (annual stewardship, capital campaign, etc) by your bank for electronic payments so payments are associated with the correct campaign.

New Business:

Tom Rouse provided an update to the Bridge lease at 1022 Farmington Ave. He read the following motion:

1. Consent be given to The Bridge, Inc., leasee of property owned by the Parish at 1022 Farmington Ave., West Hartford (the "Property") to construct, at its cost and expense, improvements to the Property to enclose the porch areas at the rear of the building to add additional useable square footage (the "Improvements"); and

2. The current Lease of the Property be extended for a period of time equal to a minimum of ten years from the completion of the Improvements; and

3. To enable The Bridge to accept and use the proceeds of a grant from the State of Connecticut to complete the Improvements, that the Parish enter into an agreement with the State granting a lien against the Property to insure that it is used and occupied by The Bridge for a period of at least ten years; the grant of such lien being expressly conditioned and in reliance upon The Bridge's further agreement to pay to the State any amounts due should it no longer occupy the Property and to indemnify and hold the Parish harmless from all losses and costs, of any nature and kind, caused by the State's exercise of its lien rights; and

4. The Senior and Junior Warden be and hereby are authorized to negotiate and execute such documents as are necessary to effect these transactions on behalf of the Parish."

The motion was voted on and approved by the parish attendees of the Annual Meeting.

No other New Business presented

Old Business:

Bob presented his 2018 report. He highlighted the following:

- Started the year without an assistant rector.
- Acknowledged Borden Painter & Doug Compton for their help in filling in during the time without an assistant.
- After a long search process Charlotte LaForest joined STJ as Assistant Rector and her work and gifts are a very good compliment to Bob.
- How many small children are in the parish which he feels is very positive and is glad to see families.
- He highlighted the great concert series happening at the church in 2019 and Vaughn's work to bring these musical experiences to STJ.
- Bob and parishioners commented on the great work in healing ministries by Molly Loudon who left in 2018 to pursue Celtic worship.
- Mission trip will take place this year; Bob highlighted aspects of the trip.
- This year is a confirmation year which will take place during the annual picnic in June.
- His upcoming sabbatical which will start Easter evening.

Bob then thanked the following parishioners: Mike Sherrill for his work as Sr. Warden, the executive committee members – particularly Dave D. for all the work he does with the facilities and grounds and the members coming off the Vestry for their service. He called out the work by Heidi, Leon and Cheryl in the administrative offices in the work they do to help the church run smoothly. Vaughn and the music program he has developed here and his work on ensuring the organ restoration was successful. He also thanked the choir for the amazing gift they provide us weekly. He thanked Priscilla for her work with all the children of the parish. Finally, he thanked the parishioners of the parish.

Bob then highlighted the upcoming challenges of the 2019 budget which currently stands at \$67,900 short of a flat budget.

No further questions were asked by the parish.

Bob adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kim Lytle, Clerk

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

January 26, 2020
Annual Parish Meeting

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. James's,

2019 has been another extraordinary year in the life and ministry of St. James's and its people. On a personal note, 2019 marked a sabbatical year for me which was time that was both restful and rewarding. Thanks to everyone who made that possible, particularly Priscilla, Claire, Charlotte, and Cheryl, as well as our ever-faithful Priest Associates. This past year was also a confirmation and youth mission trip year. I believe that while our trip to Ecuador was both very interesting and fun, it may also have planted life-changing seeds in the hearts and minds of those who went. Once again, the Outreach/Mission programs here at St. James's were wide reaching. Doug Cooke continues to lead the group of faithful parishioners in our monthly Senior Food Distribution and Delivery Program that aids seniors who have the potential of being nutritionally at risk. We also continued this parish's very long-standing tradition of Easter baskets, Christmas stockings, and Angel Tree, due to the extraordinary organizational skills of Jane Good and Judith Stahl, along with the help of a multitude of parishioners. These are only a small sampling of the many Outreach/Mission Programs and opportunities that so many of us participate in both personally and collectively. A special thanks to Dick Wenner for his years of service at St. James's as Treasurer and then Assistant Treasurer. His expertise and guidance with St. James's budget over the years has been a huge gift to this parish and to me personally. Dick hates being singled out, but sometimes you got to do what you got to do.

With the completion of all stages of our Capital Campaign building upgrades, we had a full year of utilizing the beautiful new spaces and magnificent organ. This ranged from everything from Coffee Hour in the newly refreshed Parish Hall and kitchen to a wonderful concert series enjoyed by hundreds from within the parish and the wider community. A special thanks to Vaughn and all his helpers for making this a reality. I look forward to another great musical season in 2020.

Sunday morning at St. James's can feel at times like controlled chaos, but it would not be possible without the dedicated help of so many. These include, but are not limited, to our talented choir and organist/choirmaster, faithful chalice bearers, readers and intercessors, along with the altar guild, ushers, healing team, and nursery care. I would like to take a moment to thank especially this year, our acolytes, in particular those wonderful teens who I can always count on to step in when necessary. (You know who you are.) I would also like to thank Maryann Haar for her beautiful altar flowers Sunday in and Sunday out. One of the highlights of Sunday morning at St. James's is watching the hordes of young children follow Priscilla and her teen helpers process down the aisle as they go off to learn and live out the love of Christ.

Another couple of quick shout-outs go to the Women of St. James's for continuing their decades-long ministry to each other and the wider community. To our vestry and ever faithful Executive Committee (Claire, David, Harry, and Kim) for their hard work and support of both St. James's and my ministry. For these many years now, I have been blessed with some of the best colleagues and staff in the church, our Parish Administrator Cheryl Batter; Sexton, Leon Fraser; Financial Secretary, Heidi Cotter; our Choirmaster, Vaughn Mauren; Director of Youth and Family ministries, Priscilla Hooper; and our Assistant Rector, Charlotte LaForest, and absolutely the best and possibly largest group of Clergy Associates in all of Christendom.

2019 ends with the departure of our Assistant Rector Charlotte LaForest as she goes off to become the next Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Longmeadow, Massachusetts. Serving with Charlotte has been a real pleasure. We send her and her family off on this new adventure with our blessing and prayers. This means that 2020 begins with a search for our next assistant rector and the excitement of what newness can bring.

While I have thanked many groups and individuals, I know I have forgotten many. So, a general thank you to all of you who make St. James's such a wonderful place, and my ministry both possible and so rewarding. This letter would not be complete without an expression of my absolute gratitude and love to my companion in all of this, my wife, Priscilla.

Peace and Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob" with a small plus sign to the right.

The Rev'd Robert C. Hooper, III
Rector

Report from the Senior Warden

AS this, my first year as Senior Warden winds down, the big take-away has been how grateful I am for the “angels among us” who have kept this place active, relevant, and so profoundly impactful to many.

To our wonderful Assistant Rector, Charlotte, and the several priest associates who kept the services and visiting ministries to our parish family going during Bob’s well-deserved sabbatical – a huge thank you!

Bob’s absence also led us to appreciate the myriad of things that he and Priscilla do behind the scenes that often go unnoticed. As a parish we kept up our end-of-year events (Strawberry Festival and Annual Picnic), the amazing Outreach Team continued to lead us through many worthwhile projects, the gardens and grounds flourished, a superb team orchestrated a triumphant Night in Venice auction, and at this writing it looks like a banner year for our Stewardship Team.

While we have challenges ahead in finding a replacement for our beloved Charlotte, and in finishing up the collection of pledges for our Vision 2020 Capital Campaign, I remain absolutely certain that the community that is St. James’s will meet these challenges and continue to do God’s work in our parish and beyond.

Wishing you all God’s many blessings in the New Year.

Claire Burnett, *Senior Warden*

Report from the Junior Warden

2019 was another active year for maintenance here at St. James’s. Masonry repair was completed to our exterior granite stairs at the entrances to the church along with miscellaneous masonry repairs to the parish hall building. Working in cooperation with our neighbors at the apartment building on Farmington Avenue, the overgrown arborvitae tree line was removed due to the many overgrown, damaged, and dead trees. The cost was covered by the homeowners’ association and we will work with them in 2020 on the new landscaping for the space.

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. It takes a lot of work to keep the plantings around the church looking beautiful. I particularly want to thank Dave Thomas for his continued help as the Volunteer Building Manager and Leon Fraser for all the great work he does every day to maintain our church. Our church takes a lot of daily TLC to keep things in order, please thank them for their efforts when you see them!

In general, our facilities are in great condition, however the aging HVAC (heating/ventilation/air conditioning) systems will continue to need more maintenance and we will need to invest in additional fire code upgrades.

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. Take time to thank the good Lord for our blessings and share your gifts with the world!

David Dynowski, *Junior Warden*

Report from the Assistant Rector

Pastoral and Healing Ministries

The pastoral and healing ministries of St. James's consist of lay Eucharistic visitors, prayer shawls, healing prayer teams, casserole ministry, and the CHEFs (Casseroles Helping Expanding Families) ministry, as well as clergy pastoral visitations. These ministries remained active in 2019 and explored how they could continue to grow and serve the community of St. James's, as well as the direction they would like to take after the departure of The Rev. Dr. Molly Loudon in the fall of 2018. The ministries continued somewhat independently during the spring of 2019, and in the fall of 2019 a desire was expressed for the participants in these diverse pastoral and healing ministries to meet together regularly to support one another in their work and to communicate across ministries more effectively. There was a discussion of exploring a resource called Community of Hope for the enrichment of the pastoral and healing ministries, and while there was interest in doing such a program at some point, the group felt that other goals were more important at this time.

Some goals and areas for growth identified for the coming year included the institution of regular meetings, the training of female Lay Eucharistic Visitors (all current LEVs are male), better communication with the congregation about what the ministries do in order to invite more members to participate, and the development of strategies for identifying members of the congregation who might benefit from casserole ministries.

Adult Education

Adult Education programs in 2019 sought to bring our Christian, and specifically Episcopalian, faith into dialogue with everyday life and the issues in the modern world. The year began with a study of the book *Busy Lives, Restless Souls* by Becky Eldredge, giving us a chance to explore how prayer might fit into the busyness of everyday life. In February we spent the month returning to our *EpiscoMentals*, exploring the Episcopal tradition in a way that was informative for newcomers and a useful refresher for even cradle Episcopalians. Borden Painter presented on Church History, Charlotte LaForest presented on Spirituality in the Anglican Tradition, and Bob Hooper presented on *The Book of Common Prayer and Liturgy*, as well as *The Church and the World*.

During Lent the Adult Forums focused on living our Baptismal Promises in a well-attended series that explored how these promises might be lived out in our lives. Speakers included Representative Jillian Gilcrest, who spoke on Human Trafficking and respecting the dignity of every human being; The Rev. Andrew Moore, who spoke on proclaiming the good news by word an example; writer Sophronia Scott, who spoke about resisting evil and her experience as the parent of a child present at the Sandy Hook shooting; Chris and Jackie Allen-Doucot from Hartford Catholic Worker about seeking and serving Christ in all persons and loving our neighbors as ourselves; and finally Bob and Charlotte presented on continuing in the apostles' teaching, breaking of bread, fellowship, and prayers, and how we do this together as a community at St. James's.

During Lent there was also a weekly gathering for soup and a book study of Parker Palmers's *On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity and Getting Old*. Participants in this study attended faithfully and enjoyed the experience, even if the book was not a favorite.

Fall of 2019 saw the beginning of a monthly forum series called "Faith and..." exploring what our faith has to say about big topics we face in the world around us and how we might engage with them faithfully. In September we discussed Faith and Poverty, Homelessness, and Hunger with Sara Salomons from Journey Home, a well-attended session that also served to raise a lot of interest in the work of Journey Home and led to significant support of the youth group's home makeover project with Journey Home in November. The discussion on Faith and Money in October was not

well attended, and a desire was expressed to continue this conversation, perhaps in another format and outside of stewardship season. The December discussion on Faith and Immigration and Refugees was very successful and included a thorough overview of immigration and refugees in the US by Dr. Abby Williamson, and biblical perspectives offered by Rev. Charlotte. This series will continue into 2020 taking on additional topics of race, global citizenship, gender and sexuality, and the environment.

The Rev. Charlotte H. LaForest, *Assistant Rector*

Report from the Director of Youth and Family Ministries

It is always nice to write the annual report in the middle of preparing for the Christmas Pageant. As most of you know, the Christmas Pageant is the liturgical event of the year where the children are the most visible. This year was no exception.

Last year Charlotte and Nora Willson helped me write a pageant from the perspective of the animals in the manger. Led by a jovially rooster, played by Nora Willson, the animals in the manger take turns rejoicing in the birth of Jesus. It is sweet, a little funny and gives more speaking parts to more children of varying ages which is a good thing in my book. This year, we also brought back the star in human form, played by Caroline Bowman. As always, the beautiful evening was made possible by many volunteers and the beautiful children of this parish. One thing about the pageant, it seems to bring the year to a crescendo, and then it is a good time to be retrospective about the year.

This year, Kids for Christ, or Kid's Liturgy has grown, mostly with much younger children. We have a large group of young three and four-year-olds which is awesome. This change in demographics requires that I be flexible with my curriculum. In 2018, I started creating curriculum that could change depending on the demographics of the Sunday school gathering. This past summer, while on a walk with Bob, I came to the realization that my sticking to the assigned readings in the Revised Common Lectionary meant that many children were missing out on some integral stories, because they are read every year in the summer. So, I made a decision to ditch the RCL assigned readings. What I did was research and find the 40 or so commonly considered most important Bible stories, and I present those stories on the Sundays when we have the biggest turnout. So far, I am extremely pleased with the way things are going. I also found a wonderful series of videos called, God's Stories, that tell the stories in a simple straight forward style with "Quick Version" at the end of each story. These videos which are between 3 and 5 minutes long, have been a wonderful tool for teaching these stories. I have also found that EVERYONE enjoys a good video and that these seem to reach children of all ages and abilities. I usually try to have several options for each Sunday, from more advanced liturgical based. I really feel that the children are growing and learning, each at their own level. Thank God for that.

As you may remember, we changed my title from Director of Christian Formation to Director of Family Ministries a couple of years ago. Although it may seem like a small change, it much more accurately describes my job here at St. James's, supporting children and families in their spiritual journey. I do find myself more and more in a position of support for the parents trying to raise their children in this glorious faith community. I love this aspect of my job and hope it continues to grow in the future. I would be remiss if I didn't thank the wonderful teenagers who help me every Sunday. Thanks to all the people who help with KFC especially Kate Healy for helping me keep the chaos to a minimum. I really appreciate having an extra set of hands or two, especially when we have a large turnout. Thanks also to the wonderful people who take care of our children in the nursery: Meg Dollar, Natalie Lytle, Kate and Maeve Healy, Amelia Neal, and Olivia Shuey. We have had a lot more

children in the nursery this year and I am happy to report that parents are using the nursery so that they can have a few minutes to worship and listen to the sermons.

In addition to our regular Sunday offerings, we have continued with Rhythms of Grace, a liturgical experience for children with special needs. A couple of years ago, we decided to offer this service three times a year to try and increase the turnout. That decision seems to be a good one. At the All Saints and Advent Rhythms of Grace we had great attendance, and I look forward to our Lenten program as well. Although it is specifically designed for children with special needs, it is open to the entire parish family. Come and join us. It is a wonderful experience.

Last, but definitely not least, please consider sending your children or grandchildren to our wonderful Camp Washington! This is a perfect way to support your children on their spiritual journey. Like Sunday attendance or anything else, start them early and the seed of a life of faith will flourish. Bob and I both are big believers in church camp and will be working in 2020 to get more of our young parishioners to give Camp Washington a try.

Whew, that is a lot! 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 17 years, but it is true. Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with me. They are truly a blessing.

Priscilla Hooper, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Report from the Organist & Choirmaster

THIS past year proved to be an especially busy one for the musical life of St James's. Our choir consistently offered beautiful liturgical music, and we reached out to even more of the surrounding community through increased concert attendance.

Our choir program continues to thrive, and the shift to holding all rehearsals on Wednesdays has been successful. The weekly choir dinners have created a wonderful opportunity for the younger choristers to come together and build community.

The choir continued to offer anthems, motets and leadership of congregational singing each and every Sunday during the program year - September through end of May. In addition, the choir has offered choral evensong, compline, a special concert devoted to the works of Felix Mendelssohn, and volunteered to make our concert series successful.

Concerts at St James's, our in-house performance series, has had its biggest year to date. Leveraging our location, the special acoustics of our church, and the improved lighting and interior space, we have been able to welcome some 1,500 people through our doors in 2019, many of whom had never visited St James's. The two largest audiences were in attendance for performances by the Vienna Boys Choir and VOCES8. In particular, at the VOCES8 concert we welcomed patrons from six different states. That we sold out our VOCES8 concert more than a month before the concert was made more remarkable by the fact that super-star conductor and composer Eric Whitacre guest-conducted a performance on the same night and time, just two miles away.

In May, I was able to offer the re-dedicatory recital of our fantastic pipe organ. The concert exclusively featured music from England, intended to highlight the tonal changes I made to the instrument in collaboration with Austin Organs, Inc. The organ continues to be a joy to play on Sunday mornings because it is now enormously flexible, offering a wide range of colors and sounds.

Finally, I want to thank each and every member of this community for their support of the music program - a program that touches so many through direct participation, appreciation, and outreach. I am confident that the next decade will be yet another strong era for St James's, with music continuing to play an integral role in parish life.

Vaughn Mauren, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Report from the Acolytes

THE boys and girls who serve as acolytes know they are a part of something special. As they light the candles, lead the processional and recessional, focus our attention on the Gospel reading, and help guide us to Communion, they lend dignity, grace, and an element of pageantry to our worship. It can also be more fun than sitting in the pews with their parents! In 2019 we said goodbye to Sophia Lankin, as she graduated from high school, and we will be losing two long-time acolytes, Harry Lewis and Madeleine Schott when they graduate this coming year. We thank them for their many years of service and wish them well as they begin new adventures. We also welcomed some new acolytes this year, including Roman Tagliarini, Ryder Morton, Lyla Fisher, and Maryn Bowman.

Each acolyte serves about once per month as a crucifer, torch bearer, or Gospel (holder). If you have a teen or pre-teen (3rd grade and above) who is willing to take on this important leadership role, please let me know of their interest in learning more about this unique opportunity.

Deb Morton, *Coordinator*

Report from the Altar Flower Coordinator

THE 2019 year confirms once again that our floral tradition is strong here at St. James's. Thank you all for your support to this ministry. A special thank you goes to Cheryl Batter, Heidi Cotter and Leon Fraser for helping me make it all look fresh!

For every Sunday this past year, except for the Sundays in Lent and in Advent, fresh floral arrangements were designed for both the main church Sanctuary and for the Chapel. A special thanks to the men, ladies, and children that helped with the 'Greening of the Church' in December, and to the group that helped with the Easter decorating as well. I can't do it without you.

For us to continue the tradition, we need donations! The line item for this expense account needs to be perpetually funded. Any amount is appreciated for a memorial or to commemorate a celebration such as the birth of a new grandchild, a birthday, christening, or even an anniversary! Won't you please consider a donation to the Floral Committee? Please contact Cheryl at any time to make arrangements for your donation.

This year's 'Golden-Rod Award' goes to the wonderful Kim Lytle. During the church greening last year Kim literally came running to my rescue with the last bit of hanging garland and CLEAN-UP! When Bob put out the call later in the day – within 5 minutes – she responded. I am still amazed.

Lastly, a heartfelt thanks to Father Bob and Charlotte for recognizing the impact and tradition of beautiful flowers around our altar. They encourage this ministry for us to experience the wonderment of God's natural world.

Mary Ann Haar, *Floral Committee Chair*

Report from the Altar Guild

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

Currently, we have four members on the Altar Guild: Elizabeth Gallegos, Kim Hart-Kindelberger, Chris Keesling, and Karen Ericson. At the end of 2019 we said goodbye to Maryita Trojanowski and Betsy Smith who have served honorably the past few years. They will be greatly missed. We are always actively seeking anyone who is interested in joining the team, and warmly invite you to shadow members of the Altar Guild some weekend to experience what we do – in order to discern whether this is a ministry of service which you would like to join. If so, please just let us know.

Thank you to all the members of the Altar Guild. Your service is very much appreciated!

Elizabeth Gallegos, *Chair*

Report from the Casseroles Helping Expanding Families (CHEF) Committee

CASSEROLES Helping Expanding Families (CHEF) is dedicated to providing meals to St. James's families whenever they experience an expansion or change. In 2019 we supported six St. James's families with a meal or casserole. This year our CHEF Team expanded to 13 volunteers (or volunteer teams – as some couples cook together). We strive to provide a minimum of 2 meals to families that have added a family member, and we also welcome opportunities to simply support St. James's families that might need a meal due to other events, such as moving into a new home, sending a child to college, etc. Please contact Kerri Raissian (kerriraissian@uconn.edu) if we can be of help!

Kerri Raissian, *Coordinator*

Report from Education for Ministry

ST. James's has hosted an EfM group for over 25 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: Matt Schott, Kerri and Tony Raissian in year four, and Susan Powers and Tom Rouse in year one. The group has other members from parishes in Newington and Wethersfield. Over the years St. James's graduates include: Elizabeth Gallegos, Mike Shuey, Audrey Lamy, Hugh Whelan, the late Marge Cunningham, Cheri Evans, Elizabeth Gallegos, Bill Harris, the late Margaret Mair, Deborah and Eric Ross, Barbara Schiller, Syd Tansi, David Thomas, Trudy Thompson, John Wadsworth, Elizabeth Waterman, and Ron Ward among others. An open house is offered for those who would like to attend a typical EfM session. For more information visit: www.sewanee.edu. Parish contact: Ron Ward, EfM mentor, 860-463 8057, or rtwtmr@comcast.net.

Ron Ward, *Mentor and Administrator*

Report from the Endowment Committee

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

Each year, per church bylaws, a certain portion of the Fund's income is transferred to the church's Operating Fund to assist with on-going parish expenses. In the last few years, the transfer amount has gradually increased. In 2019, the transfer was \$131,200.

In 2017, the Fund provided a \$600,000 loan to the church to help cover some of the costs for projects related to the St. James's 2020 Envision Our Future capital improvement campaign. The loan, approved by the parish in October 2017, is being repaid as campaign pledges are received.

The Endowment Committee, which oversees the Fund, meets quarterly to discuss the overall investment environment, compare the Fund's return to the market's performance and assess the adequacy of the Fund's debt and equity portfolio allocation. Members of the Committee are Peter Krzyzek, Mike Sherrill, Dick Wenner, Alex Smith, Harry Meyer and me. Each member brings his own research, insights and/or experience to the table to help direct the Committee's work, but we do not pick or trade specific stocks or other securities for the Fund.

Investment decisions are instead handled by New England Guild Wealth Advisors, the Fund's investment manager, who began managing the Fund on November 30, 2012. Since that date through September 30, 2019 (our most recent reporting period), the Fund's annualized return has been 6.7%. For the one-year period ending September 30, the Fund experienced a return of 1.2%. Importantly, the Fund is diversified across various equity and fixed income categories. This helps mitigate the impact that market volatility has on the Fund.

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 Memorial Garden Committee

WITH the help of our amazing team of volunteers, the Memorial Garden continues to be a beautiful space of remembrance, solace and comfort. We were able to replace some of the older and weaker azaleas with beautiful new shrubs. We continue to divide overcrowded Hosta, Day Lilies and Astilbe to provide a neater appearance around the shrubs. A wonderful benefactor has offered to pay for pruning of some of the larger shrubs and trees in the garden. This work will happen in the late winter/early spring.

Work begins each year in April and ends in November with garden cleanup. In between there is weeding, pruning, and planting of summer annuals. All this happens with the help of our faithful, dedicated volunteers. This year our team of talented gardeners consisted of Janice Bonner, Liz Cloud, Bob Hoffman, Louise Keesling, Chuck Kinney, Judy MacDonald, Donna Mattison, Harry Meyer, Bob Smith, Priscilla Thomas, Lesley Toutain, Loretta Waldman, and Dick Wenner.

The committee will always welcome additional volunteers both for the opening and closing of the garden as well as to maintain it throughout the growing season. I am happy to talk with you about

the garden and will provide training on pruning and identification of weeds and invasives. If you are interested in helping kindly email me at claireburnett@comcast.net.

Claire Burnett, *Coordinator*

Report from the Outreach Committee

THE activities of the stand-alone committee formerly known as “Outreach,” are now included as part of the new “Mission Committee.” Monthly projects and results are reported in the newsletter and the Sunday bulletin under the “Mission” heading.

In 2019, the ongoing Outreach projects listed below experienced relatively few changes. 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.

During this past year, we were able to continue our previous level of support for the feeding programs that depend upon St. James’s for assistance. This was possible through outreach funds as well as generous donations from parishioners who stepped forward to help fill in the gaps. In order to maintain our pantry at the present level, we need individuals who are willing to commit themselves to either purchasing nonperishable food items or providing funds on a one time basis or on a monthly basis. Each option affords another opportunity to offer time or give funds to purchase food to feed our hungry neighbors.

This summer a group of high school students and adults traveled to Ecuador to work in conjunction with PACH (Partners for Andean Community Health) to provide dental and eye care to over 600 members of small isolated communities throughout the central Andeans.

Doug Compton’s continuing dedication to the support of the feeding program has produced outstanding results again this year. Through the sale of Easter flowers, fall mums, apples and pies, and Christmas poinsettias, Doug raised close to \$600.

The Angel Tree mission was changed this year, moving away from the Prison Ministries-based program, and instead partnering with a more local initiative coordinated by Professor Miriam Winter at the Hartford Seminary. Dr. Winter works with Hartford Social Services to provide Christmas gifts to known children in needy families in the greater Hartford area. In our first year partnering with Dr. Winter’s initiative, we collected over 200 toys: dolls, stuffed animals, Legos, cars and trucks, board games, puzzles, books, art supplies and sporting equipment. This new partnership was well-received by our congregation, resulting in providing more than 3 times the gifts we’ve supplied through our prior association with Prison Ministries. A small group of volunteers delivered 24 boxes of toys to the Seminary on December 3rd — to the delight of Dr. Winter and her team. This new program was a huge success and should be continued next year.

Churchgoers of all ages volunteered for and had fun participating in the three major intergenerational outreach functions: the Easter basket assembly, the school supplies sorting, and the Christmas stocking stuffer event. The Stocking Stuffer mission was also modified this year, eliminating the tradition of stuffing socks with toiletries, and instead filling small white bags with toiletries and socks. Our collection process using coupons was moderately successful. Two last-minute email blasts to the congregation were a big hit, quickly closing all gaps in toiletries and collecting close to 60 extra socks (which will be used to kick-start next year’s program). The new bag-stuffing approach made the assembly process much easier for our volunteers of all ages. 220 bags were filled with socks, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, razors and shaving cream, combs, hand lotion, chap stick, shampoo and deodorant. The bags were tied with red ribbons, creating a much more usable gift for the men living in The Open Hearth shelter. Two recommendations for next year’s Stocking Mission: 1. Cut down on the types of toiletries collected, focusing on 7 or 8

much-needed items instead of the 11 items we requested this year; 2. Permanently replace the sock-stuffing with bag-stuffing.

Opportunities to Serve: Ron Ward can use additional volunteers for the preparation of casseroles for South Park Inn on the third Sunday of each month, and volunteers can help with sandwich-making for Loaves and Fishes on the second and third Sundays of each month.

The following is a list of the ongoing mission activities to which St. James's members contributed in 2019.

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

In cooperation with Foodshare and the town of West Hartford Social services, 25 members of St. James's deliver 65 boxes of food each month to senior citizens in need.

The 20th Annual School Supplies collection: 22 boxes of school supplies including 48 backpacks were donated for the children served by The Hartford Catholic Worker, The Place of Grace Food Pantry, and The Bridge Family Center.

The Christmas Toys collection: 2 large boxes of toys were given to the Place of Grace Food Pantry for distribution to children living in the south-end community agency neighborhood. In addition to the traditional dolls and toys for very young children, there were many games for older youth.

The Angel Tree program: Over 200 toys were collected and packed into 24 boxes which were delivered to the Hartford Seminary on behalf of the children and families served by Hartford Social services.

The Christmas Stocking Intergenerational Program: 220 pairs of warm socks, toiletries, and candies, were packed into 220 individual Christmas bags and delivered to The Open Hearth shelter for Christmas distribution to their clients.

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

Easter Baskets: 196 baskets and bags of toiletries and candy were colorfully wrapped and delivered to the men and women in area shelters.

Foodshare's 38th Annual Walk Against Hunger: A donation of \$1,100 was made to Foodshare, of which \$650 was raised by St. James's walkers and their supporters, and \$450 was contributed from the outreach fund. Hartford's Loaves and Fishes Ministry was designated as the benefiting agency.

Paper Goods Collection: The equivalent of 600 rolls of toilet paper and 65 rolls of paper towels were collected for distribution to clients of area soup kitchens and food pantries.

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

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2019 OUTREACH MISSION EXPENDITURES

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Donation(\$)</u>
Camp Washington Campership Fund (scholarships)	\$ 1,000
Camp Washington General Fund	\$ 1,000
Feeding Programs	\$ 6,000
Foodshare	\$ 450
Hartford Area Food Pantries	\$ 3,000*
Loaves and Fishes	\$ 400
My Sisters' Place	\$ 400
St. Vincent's Center, Haiti	\$ 2,650
South Park Inn	\$ 600
Youth Mission Trip	\$ 2,500
Youth Local Mission	\$ 500
Urgent Needs and Opportunities	\$ <u>1,500</u>
Total	\$ 20,000

* The \$3,000 was distributed among four Hartford Area Agencies that provide food for the poor: The Place of Grace Food Pantry, South Park Inn, Loaves and Fishes Ministries, and The Open Hearth.

Outreach Committee

Report from the Sacred Ministers

THE role of the Sacred Ministers is to assist the clergy in the celebration of all worship services at St. James's on weekdays, Sundays (both 8:00 and 9:30 services), and religious holidays. The opportunities for service include Chalice Bearers (10), Lectors and Intercessors (23), Lay Readers (conduct non-Eucharist services such as Morning Prayer on weekdays), and Lay Eucharistic Ministers (individuals who take the consecrated host to the homebound as an extension of the parish's sacramental life).

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

The Rev'd Bob Hooper, Rector

Report from the Stewardship Committee

THIS year during our stewardship campaign, we discussed the many circles of interest and cycles of generations of St. Jamesians, and our responsibility to support both the present and future of our parish. Gratefully you seem to have heard us. As of December 22, 2019, we are a bit ahead of the last few years with just over \$540,000 from 154 pledges. Last year we had a total of 181 pledges by the end of the campaign. Hopefully by the time you are reading this we will receive a number of additional pledges and will achieve our goals to fund the next year and our participation in God's mission. I am excited to share that we have had 11 new pledges so far this year. These make up nearly 5% of our current total. All good news as we move into the budgeting process.

In addition to thanking everyone who has and will pledge, I send a huge thank you to Claire Burnett, Dick Wenner, and Mike Sherrill for their help and guidance with the 2020 Stewardship Campaign.

Judith Stahl, *Chair*

Report from the Ushers

THE ushers welcome worshippers coming to our services and provide 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. Additionally, the ushers assist, as needed, with sitting worshippers, especially newcomers and during large services such as Christmas and Easter.

Ushering is a fine way to become familiar with the church and its members, and it provides an important and needed service for our worship activities.

Currently we have a group of approximately twenty ushers. Typically, the commitment is once a month and the detail is not strenuous.

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

Derrick Kirsch, *Coordinator*

Report from the Vegetable Garden Committee

ALTHOUGH the cool spring weather provided some challenges for us gardeners, our eighth vegetable garden here at St. James's continued to yield abundant amounts of fresh vegetables for our friends in Hartford served by the Hartford Catholic Worker House. Our dedicated parish volunteer gardeners – Claire Burnett, Deirdre Penland, Louise Keesling, and Donna Mattison – would come early each Wednesday morning from June to September to help plant, weed, and harvest the vegetables. Also, each week as we harvested the ripe tomatoes, collard greens, pole beans, cucumbers, peppers, and snap peas, they were transported to 18 Clark Street by our volunteer drivers Bill Harris and Borden Painter.

The Hartford Catholic Worker does not accept government funding, and the all-volunteer staff relies solely on other volunteers and donations to work with the children and families in the Clark Street neighborhood, helping to secure housing for the homeless and food for the hungry. Our weekly deliveries to the HCW continue to be welcomed each year by those neighborhood families who do not have easy access to quality, fresh produce we provide. We are pleased to be able to support this wonderful mission.

Thank you to everyone who made this wonderful ministry possible for another year!

Ann Painter and Chuck Russo, *Coordinators*

Report from the Women of St. James's

It was another exciting year of programs that we shared in fellowship and discovery. We had a multitude of speakers from in and around our community as well as clergy and parishioners. Presentations from Our Little Roses, The Bridge Family Center and West Hartford Police and Fire Departments were all well received and informative. St. James's parishioners and clergy spoke about various subjects such as refugee resettlement, the American Civil War, and the beautiful music of Mendelssohn.

The Annual Mystery Trip in May took a sabbatical for 2019 but will return in May of 2020. Last fall, we started our program year with Mark Dixon, Meteorologist for WFSB TV Channel 3 with a lively discussion on the life of a meteorologist, harmonizing personal goals with the demands of the ever-changing weather, and followed up with presentations by Bob Hooper and his "walking" the Camino de Santiago, and Charlotte LaForest with the Mission Trip to Ecuador last summer.

As many organizations are suffering financially at this time, the WOSJ's budget has held its own. With the success of the May and October Rummage Sales, we are happy to have our necessary fundraisers in place so we can provide the stimulating list of presentations at our luncheons, meet our outreach goals and enhance our church community, i.e. purchasing new card tables.

Some of our Outreach Program recipients for 2019 are:

Our Little Roses Ministry	Episcopal Church Women	Seabury Charitable Foundation
Interval House	Seamen's Church Institute	Food Share
Journey Home	The Town That Cares	

Finally, thank you to all who have been very helpful and supportive to us as your co-presidents, particularly the Executive Board.

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

With God's help and guidance, we can enjoy a world of fellowship for years to come!

Cynthia L. Welch and Rachael Desmond, *Co-Presidents*

2019 Annual Report from the Treasurer

FINANCIALLY speaking, 2019 turned out to be a good year for St. James's. Careful conduct of the Church and its many missions resulted in total operating income exceeding total expenses by \$430. This positive result was accomplished despite the budget forecast of a \$5,300 operations deficit for the year.

Income and Expense Summary

The Church's total operating income for 2019 (\$810,060) was \$6,340 less than the budgeted amount (\$816,400). Regular Contributions (which consist of current and prior year pledges, seasonal and unspecified offerings) constitute 69% of the operating budget. The first three of these income sources exceeded their budget amounts. However, Unspecified Offerings fell \$7,984 short of its budget goal. This resulted in a \$4,084 shortage in total Regular Contributions for the year. Income from the use of Church facilities by outside groups contributes 7% of the budget. This source also failed to meet its budget goal by \$4,119. Total Expenses in 2019 (\$814,930) were \$6,770 less than budget (\$821,700). Personnel costs were \$6,198 under budget while Property expenses were \$5,026 over budget due primarily to a year-end unbudgeted \$4,000 contribution to the Major Maintenance fund. Of the remaining expense categories, seven were under and three were over budget, the net amount being \$5,598 under budget. All expense categories were continually monitored throughout the year and reviewed with the Vestry at each meeting.

Diocesan Review

In order to enable it to determine the financial health of its parishes and whether adequate accounting procedures and safeguards are being used, the Diocese has adopted a policy of requiring parishes having operating revenues of more than \$750,000 to have their financial statements audited annually by a CPA, such audit to be conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The audit of St. James's financial statements for 2018 was completed during the year and the results reviewed with the Vestry.

Resources

Many people are involved in overseeing the Church's operating budget and managing its finances throughout the year. The Rector, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurers, Finance and Endowment Committee members and the Vestry all play a part in this effort. Heidi Cotter, the Church's financial secretary, accurately and efficiently maintains the books and keeps the Church's financial wheels running smoothly. A small group of parishioners make a major contribution by counting and recording the monetary receipts following each service. A very special "thank you" to all these folks for their efforts supporting the financial side of St. James's mission.

Harry Meyer, *Treasurer*

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St. James's

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