

### From the Rector's Desk

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! Well, that was interesting. If you are anything like me, I am sure you thought 2021 was going to be a lot easier than it was. Yes, most of us adults and many, many children have now been vaccinated against COVID-19, giving us an opportunity to catch our breath, if just a little bit. Life at St. James's has begun to look a little bit more familiar, as we lean into a new sort of normal. Of course, with this new strain of COVID, we continue to be cautious but have come to the realization that we can do that and get back to many of the things that are important to us, such as, worshipping together with music both in person and online, being with friends, having youth events, coffee hour, and once again more hands on outreach. It is my sincerest hope that 2022 will see us being able to relax even that much more and participate more fully in our own lives and the life of the church.

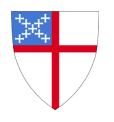
That is enough COVID talk for now. On a more positive note, 2021 did bring us many new families and individuals to the church—some new babies, including Priscilla's and my first grandchild, Millie, and new and thoughtful ways to share worship and many other aspects of the life of the church. It is my full intention and hope that 2022 will allow us to continue to reinvent how we do things as a faith community that will allow us to embrace the Good News even more fully. Speaking of good news, within the next few weeks, I will be announcing with great excitement the hiring of a new Organist and Choirmaster—stay tuned.

The beginning of a new year is always an interesting time. For many, it is a time of recognizing loss and regrets of things past, while for others it is an exciting time to move on and see what is next. For me this year, it is kind of both. We mourn the loss of several faithful parishioners and friends, and I regret any decisions made during the past year as we addressed the pandemic that may have felt either tone deaf or may have alienated some folks. That said, I am very proud of how our community has rallied in so many ways in both faithfulness and generosity.

In this new year, let us all commit to doing whatever we can to continue to support those who need our support emotionally, spiritually, and physically. Let us also continue to be there for each other as we navigate the coming months in our own and very personal ways. This can only be done when we understand that every one of us, young and old, processes what is going on around us differently. Most importantly, we need to recognize that we are all the beloved children of God and vital to the mission and ministry of God at St. James's.

Your brother in Christ,

Solat



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

## Jan/Feb 2022

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### Highlights in Jan/Feb

- Sunday, Jan 23 Annual Meeting after the 9:30 service.
- Saturday, Feb 5 Pub Trivia Night, 5-8pm

If you are still unable to join us for inperson worship, we continue to offer livestream worship on our YouTube channel every Sunday at 9:30am. Sign up for weekly emails to receive links and more information on services and upcoming events. Just go to: www.stjameswh.org/ resources/newsletter-subscribe.

## From the Lay-Curate

### In the Cozy Mid-Winter

ID-WINTER is one of those things that plenty of us like but no one can admit to liking. I am firmly in the pro-winter camp. There is nothing better than coziness and the blissful blanket of quiet that comes after a snowstorm. And being centered is much easier with the pressures of the holidays behind us — the perfect time for an Epiphany!

Speaking of revelations, did you know that The Episcopal Church has its own official dictionary? Of course we do. Here's how An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church: A User-Friendly Reference for Episcopalians defines Epiphany season:

A season of four to nine weeks, from the Feast of the Epiphany (Jan. 6) through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The length of the season varies according to the date of Easter. The gospel stories of this season describe various events that manifest the divinity of Jesus. The coming of the Magi is celebrated on the Epiphany. The Baptism of our Lord is observed on the Sunday after Epiphany. The gospels for the other Sundays of the Epiphany season describe the wedding at Cana, the calling of the disciples, and various miracles and teachings of Jesus. The Last Sunday after the Epiphany is always devoted to the Transfiguration. Jesus' identity as the Son of God is dramatically revealed in the Transfiguration gospel, as well as the gospel of the baptism of Christ. We are called to respond to Christ in faith through the showings of his divinity recorded in the gospels of the Epiphany season.

This year, Epiphany season runs from January 6 until February 27. That's a good chunk of time, and I'd encourage you to think about how you might use that time to encounter Jesus anew. After all, there is a reason we celebrate Epiphany every year: encountering the divine identity and miraculous reality of Jesus is an ongoing process. Many Epiphany-appropriate devotional resources exist — feel free to reach out if you'd like some suggestions.

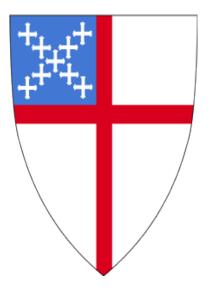
Epiphany season is also the ideal time to renew and reconnect with our ancient and particular Christian tradition. In that spirit, I will be offering an adult formation series exploring the past, present, and future of The Episcopal Church over the course of three Sundays in January and February — specific dates and times to be announced shortly. If you have any burning questions — or questions that have been in the back of your mind for ages — please let me know so that we can address them during the series. It will be a fun and slightly meandering affair, covering topics from Transubstantiation to the origins of liturgical colors. The more ideas for us to discuss, the better!

Lastly, on a personal note, I'd like to express my deep gratitude for the warm welcome I have received since arriving at St. James's in September. This is a tremendous place, and I am very glad to be here.



God's peace,

Jonathan



## Treasurer's Report / January—November 2021

**Current Position:** Through November, the Church's 2021 finances were positive vis a vis the budget. Total Income for that period was \$1,852 greater than the budgeted amount and expenses were \$27,451 less than budget. As a result, the Church's net financial position at the end of November 2021 was a positive variance to budget of \$29,293.

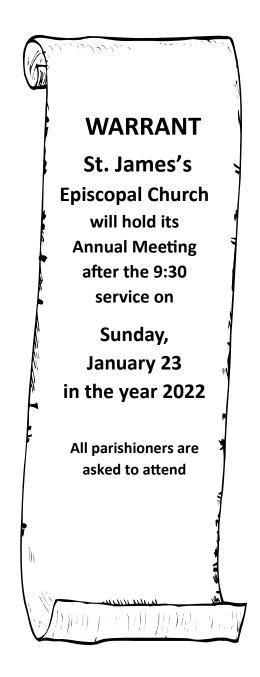
## Income & Expense Summary:

Category	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	Total Annual Budget
Income (+)	\$755,188	\$753,346	\$1,842 Over Budget	\$821,950
Expense (-)	\$722,305	\$749,756	\$27,451 Under Budget	\$826,950
Net	\$32,883	\$3,590	\$29,293 Positive Variance to budget	(\$5,000)

**Income:** For the first eleven months of 2021 Regular Contributions (Current and Prior Year Pledges, Seasonal and Unspecified Offerings) in total were \$352 more than budget. Current Year Pledges were \$1,809 less than the budget amount but Prior Year Pledges, Seasonal and Unspecified Offerings totaled \$2,161 more than budget. Income from outside groups using the Parish Facilities was \$240 less than the amount budgeted. Special Contributions were \$5,642 over budget.

**Expense:** Major contributors to the January – November expense results were the following: Property: Total Property expenses for the period were \$793 over budget. Personnel: Personnel expenses were \$22,775 under budget for the period primarily reflecting changes in both the clerical and lay staffs.

Of the remaining expense categories, five were over budget and five were under, the net amount being \$5,469 under budget.



## St. James's Center for Family Ministries



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

#### KFC (Kids for Christ) Sundays at 9:30am

KFC (Kids for Christ) meets in the parish hall on Sundays. Social distancing protocols will be followed. If you have questions, please email Priscilla at: education@stjameswh.org.



Bring a Friend to Church 4

S we welcome 2022, there is much to be thankful for both at St. James's and at home. I write this newsletter as I return from Wilmington, NC meeting my beautiful granddaughter, Camilla Banks Hooper, better known as Millie. No one could have prepared me for the overwhelming feeling of love I have for this precious new life! I am happy to report that my son, Robby, his wife, Katy, and Millie are adjusting well to their new life. Thank you, God, for this most incredible blessing!

As I look forward to the new year, I am extremely thankful for the three big Advent events we were able to pull off. On Thanksgiving weekend, we stuffed more stockings for a men's shelter this year than we ever have before. It was great that our High School Youth Council was involved in the organizing of the event. Thank you, council members for your dedication to this parish. There are so many things we couldn't do without you!

On December 2, the Nativity Walk was a huge success. Thank you to all who were involved—tour guides, scene coordinators and especially the children of this parish who brought the scenes to life! We had almost 40 kids involved in the walk and at least 120 people who attended. A special thank you to Kerri Raissian, Judith Stahl and my husband, Bob, who encouraged me to think outside the box this year! Thank you to Christine Waterman, who created a video recording of the event. The link to the recording is here: https://youtu.be/mgm\_Jr8ppLc.

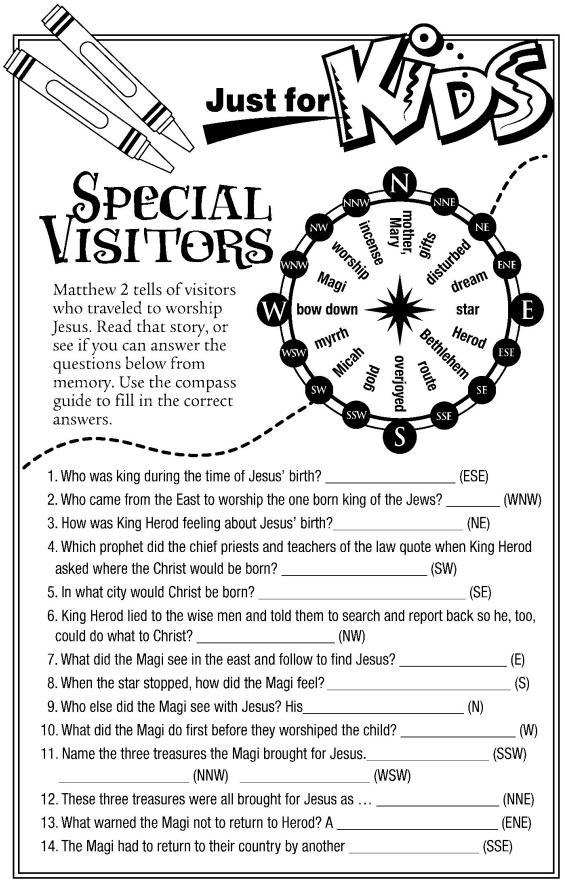
On Sunday, December 19, we had a successful evening of caroling around the Walden Street neighborhood. Every time I go caroling with people from St. James, I am struck by how much it means to the households we visit. People really enjoy being sung to! It was a really fun event with about 20 parishioners of all ages getting out and singing to families on Walden Street. After we sang, we enjoyed delicious hot cocoa and chocolate dipped pretzels provided by Martha Parish. Yum! Thank you to all who were involved.

All three of these are events that reach out to the greater community. Interestingly enough, our diocesan Bishops talk a lot about bringing Jesus to people where they are, out in the community. These three events are excellent examples of ways we are doing just that. I am proud to be a part of a parish that works hard to do just that!

As we look forward to the long winter months, I am sure we will continue to come up with new and innovative ways to bring Jesus into the greater community of West Hartford and beyond. I pray that with God's help we can continue in this important work!

Your sister in Christ,

Triscilla



Answers: 1. Herod, 2. Magi, 3. disturbed, 4. Micah, 5. Bethlehem, 6. worship, 7. star, 8. overjoyed, 9. mother, Mary, 10. bow down, 11. gold, incense, myrth, 12. gifts, 13. dream, 14. route

## Mission

## Hartford Catholic Worker Food Bags

**S** T. JAMES'S continues to partner with Hartford Catholic Worker to provide 30 bags of food twice a month for families facing food insecurity in the Hartford area.

**Each bag contains:** 2 cans of tuna, 1 jar of mayo, 1 can of soup, 1 box/bag of pasta, 1 jar of pasta sauce, 1 can of beans, 1 jar of peanut butter, 1 jar of jelly.

This is an on-going mission, please continue to give the items listed above. Bring them to the church during office hours or place them in the blue bin outside the cloister doors. If donating money is more convenient, please send checks to St. James's, add "Hartford Catholic Worker" in the memo line and we will shop for you. Thank you!

## Christmas Gifts for the Children of Parkville

N November, St. James's partnered with Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford, to provide clothing and toys for children in the Parkville neighborhood of Hartford, the area just east of Home Depot.

We were given the names of 13 families consisting of 43 children ranging in age from newborn to 17. Over 26 families/ individuals at St. James's contributed over 250 Christmas gifts to the children of Parkville.

Your generosity has provided a much brighter Christmas for so many children and families this year. Thank you!

## Around the Parish

### Men's Discussion Group Second and Fourth Saturdays

group of men from Saint James's Church and a few from other churches meet twice monthly on the second and fourth Saturdays for an hour and a bit more beginning at 8:00 AM in the parish room for discussion of religious subjects. Typically, the discussion is led by one of the group members about a book selected by the group. Past discussions have focused on thoughts from Marcus Borg's "The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith. The next meetings will be held **Saturdays, January 8 and 22; February 12 and 26.** Light refreshments are served. Bob Hoffman chairs the group. If you are interested, contact him at 860.614.3861 for further information.

### Wednesday Morning Eucharist Every Week at 7:00am in the Chapel



OLY Eucharist is celebrated every Wednesday morning in the chapel at 7:00. We hope to see you there!

# **SAVE THE DATE!** ST. JAMES'S FIRST ANNUAL

Saturday , February 5, 2022 5-8PM

PDB

TRIVIA

SERVING BEER, WINE, SODA AND MUNCHIES: WINGS, SLIDERS, NACHO BAR AND MORE....

## Advent Celebrations at St. James's!



E found new ways to celebrate Advent this year with a series of outdoor events to bring parishioners of all ages together safely and share our joy with the community. The festivities began with our first Nativity Walk on Thursday, December 2. The event was organized by Priscilla Hooper as an alternative to our traditional indoor pageant on Christmas Eve, and coincided with the annual Holiday Stroll in West Hartford Center.

More than 40 children participated in four nativity scenes staged on church grounds, with guides ushering about 150 visitors through each one and explaining its significance.

For a viewing of the Nativity Walk, go to: https://youtu.be/mqm\_Jr8ppLc.



THE following Sunday, December 5, the Rev. Canon John Mitman revived an activity introduced during his time as rector at St. James's for the Second Sunday in Advent. Instead of giving a sermon from the pulpit at the 9:30 service, he took a chair at the foot of the altar and invited children in the congregation to participate in a manger craft to prepare for the arrival of the baby Jesus. Here he is explaining the contents of the manger craft kits with Hunter, Lara and Bowden Swales—with a little help from Bob. John and Ruth Mitman placed a bit of straw and a construction paper crib in bags and asked the children to put one piece of straw in the manger each time they were kind or did a good deed.



More on the following page!

HEIR mom, Heather Swales, said the kids were trying all afternoon to do things to allow them to put in extra straw. They commented several times that it was, "very special" to be at church Sunday and sit with the priest. Sunday night, after they made the mangers, Bowden said, "I'm going to try to do kind things without being asked, like picking up toys and putting my dishes away." On Monday, Lara asked if her mom thought the, "baby Jesus comes only if there is enough straw in the manger or if he will come anyway just because it's Christmas?" "What do you think?", Heather said, to which Lara replied, "Maybe I should try hard to put straw in every day, just in case."



UR final Advent celebration event was held on Sunday, December 19. Members of the congregation gathered for some caroling in the St. James's neighborhood, followed by some hot chocolate back at church to cap off the night.



## **Registry and Readings**

### Deaths

Edith Booth October 31, 2021

### Baptisms

Tate Kelly Fagan—November 21, 2021 Son of Charles and Caley Fagan

### Parish Birthdays Children and Youth

#### JANUARY

Wilder Dempsey, 4 Charlotte Willson, 6 Lucy Adams, 9 Ollie Tewksbury, 10 Kate Healy, 25 Harry Keating, 26 Ben Dollar, 27



#### FEBRUARY

Francesca Galante, 1 Margaret Busse, 3 Ali Colburn, 3 Lauren Howland, 4 James O'Sullivan, 4 Bryson Tagliavini, 4 Billy Teed, 4 Carol Conca, 5 Virginia Collin, 7 Noah Rodriguez, 14 Danielle DiGiacomo, 16 Kallie Guerraz, 16 Harriet Busse, 19 Makenzie Gallagher, 20 Nate Meyer, 21 Elizabeth O'Sullivan, 22 Jessalyn Kirsch, 23 Gwendolyn Wills, 23 Aida Messinger, 25 Lillian Tagliavini, 25 Olivia Shuey, 26

### Parish Prayer List

#### Those in our parish family

Jeffrey, Greg, Elsa, Michael, Walter, Frank, Elly, Chuck, Sue, Will, Tom, Chris & Louise, Barbara.

#### Those in our extended parish family

Kevin, Mary Ann, Jenifer, Nancy, Jeff, Carol, Christina, Jean, Jeff, Karen, David, Quinn, Joanie, Teresa, Audra, Ann, Kara, Patricia, Carrie, John & Rita, Tavern, Mohan, Larry, Barbara, Hudson, Pierre, Guy, Stephen, Clark, Sydney, Clare, Leo, Larry, Cathleen, Denise, Javier, Susan & Gordon, Kristine & Noel, Janet, Annelise, Sue & Claudia, Gretchen, Nicki.

#### Those Serving in the Military:

Andrew Clark, Andrew Huntsman, Ed Vera, and Justin Hagemann.

### Sunday Lectionary

**The Second Sunday after Christmas, January 2** Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a Luke 2:41-52 or Matthew 2:1-12 Psalm 84 or 84:1-8

**The Epiphany, January 6** Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12 Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

The Baptism of Our Lord, January 9 Isaiah 43:1-7, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22, Psalm 29

Second Sunday after the Epiphany, January 16 Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11; Psalm 36:5-10

Third Sunday after the Epiphany, January 23 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21; Psalm 19

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, January 30** Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30; Psalm 71:1-6

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 6 Isaiah 6:1-8, [9-13]; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11; Psalm 138

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 13 Jeremiah 17:5-10; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26; Psalm 1

**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany, February 20** Genesis 45:3-11, 15; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50 Luke 6:27-38; Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

Last Sunday after the Epiphany, February 27 Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]; Psalm 99

## The Women of St. James's



FESTIVE, holiday potluck luncheon was held on Tuesday, December 14 with 26 merrymakers in attendance, including Jonathan Smith. Bob Hooper presented the grace and reminded us of upcoming events. Our members shared their cuisine skills with a delectable variety of casseroles and salads!



This is the proposed calendar for Tuesday general meetings, which will be held at 12:00 noon. Drinks and desserts will be provided.

January 11, 2022	Bag Lunch
January 25, 2022	Bag Lunch
February 8, 2022	Valentine Buffet – Potluck
February 22, 2022	Bag Lunch

Future programs at our meetings are in the planning progress.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE:** All women members of St. James's are members of The Women of St. James's. All are welcomed to our fellowship. We warmly encourage you to come and share a meaningful time together!

**PLEASE NOTE:** - Our Tuesday meeting is cancelled if West Hartford Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather or if there is a 90 minute delay or more in starting school.

### Seamen's Church Institute Don't Forget to Save Your Christmas Cards!

ACKAGES with knitting and other items continue to be delivered to the seamen despite the ongoing pandemic! So, we ask that you please continue to save your Christmas cards this year as they are always a lovely addition to each package. You may drop your cards off at the church anytime during parish office hours. Thank you!

## January/February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II—Chapel 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/ Livestream— Church 9:30 AM KFC (Kids for Christ) - PH	31 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group - DR 6:30 PM EfM—PR	1 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	2 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Chapel 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal—CR	3 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group—DR	4 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	<b>1/5</b> 7:00 PM AA Group—DR NO AA in FEB 5:00 PM Pub Trivia Night— PH
2/6 NO COFFEE HOUR IN JANUARY 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II—Chapel 8:30 AM 200 Identical Sandwiches 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/Livestream— Church 9:30 AM Kids for Christ (KFC) - Parish Hall 10:45 AM Coffee Hour—PH	3/7 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group - DR 6:30 PM EfM—PR	<b>4/8</b> 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 12:00 PM WOSJ Luncheon—DR 7:00 PM Samaritans Group—PR	5/9 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Chapel 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal—CR	<b>6/10</b> 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group—DR	7/11 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	<b>8/12</b> 8:00 AM Men's Discussion Group - PR 7:00 PM AA Group—DR
9/13 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II—Chapel 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/Livestream— Church 9:30 AM Kids for Christ (KFC) - Parish Hall 10:45 AM 200 Identical Sandwiches 10:45 AM Coffee Hour—PH	10/14 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group - DR 11:30 AM Serve for Loaves and Fishes 6:30 PM EfM—PR	11/15 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 12:00 PM WOSJ Luncheon—DR 7:00 PM Samaritans Group—PR 7:00 PM Vestry—PH	12/16 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Chapel 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist— McAuley 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal—CR	13/17 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group -DR 10:00 AM FOODSHARE	<b>14/18</b> 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	<b>15/19</b> 7:00 PM AA Group—DR
16/20 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II—Chapel 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/Livestream— Church 9:30 AM Kids for Christ (KFC) - Parish Hall 10:45 AM Coffee Hour—Parish Hall	<b>17/21</b> 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group - DR 6:30 PM EfM—PR	18/22 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 12:00 PM WOSJ Luncheon—DR 7:00 PM Vestry—PH	19/23 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Chapel 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist— McAuley 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal—CR	20/24 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM FOODSHARE	<b>21/25</b> 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	22/26 8:00 AM Men's Discussion Group - PR 7:00 PM AA Group—DR
23/27 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II—Chapel 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/ Livestream— Church 9:30 AM KFC (Kids for Christ) - PH 10:45 AM Coffee Hour—Parish Hall 11:00 AM Annual Meeting—Church	24/28 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group - DR 6:30 PM EfM—PR	25 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 12:00 PM WOSJ Luncheon—DR	26 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Chapel 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal—CR	27 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group—DR	28 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	29 7:00 PM AA Group—DR

#### St. James's Episcopal Church

19 Walden Street West Hartford, CT 06107

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#### **Address Service Requested**



#### The Clergy

The Reverend Robert C. Hooper, III The Reverend Canon Douglas T. Cooke The Reverend Barry W. Miller The Reverend Canon John L.C. Mitman The Reverend Dr. Borden W. Painter The Reverend Elsa P. Walberg The Reverend Terry M. Wysong

#### The Staff

Cheryl C. Batter Heidi Cotter Leon Fraser Priscilla Hooper Jonathan Smith Administrator Financial Secretary Sexton Director of Family Ministries Lay-Curate

#### Volunteer Staff

**Michael Sherrill** 

**Assistant Treasurer** 

Rector Priest Associate Priest Associate Priest Associate Priest Associate Priest Associate Priest Associate

#### The Vestry

- Claire Burnett David Dynowski Kerri Raissian Harry Meyer
- Senior Warden Junior Warden Clerk Treasurer

#### Term Ending 2022

Doug Compton, Greg Jacobs Chris Keesling

#### Term Ending 2023

Jerrod Bowman, Ruth Mitman Tyler Smith, Loretta Waldman

#### Term Ending 2024

Adam Fisher, Jessica Henning Jonathan Lewis, Debra Morton

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