



the
OPEN DOOR
news from St. James's



Christmas at St. James's

Christmas Eve, December 24

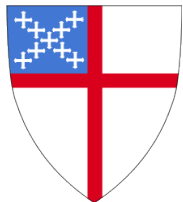
Pageant & Eucharist, 5:30pm

Music Prelude, 10:30pm

Choral Eucharist, 11pm

Christmas Day, December 25

Holy Eucharist with Carols, 10am



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

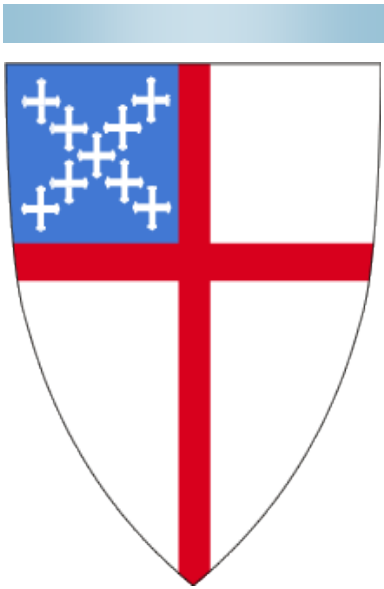
December 2016

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Highlights in December

- **Saturday, December 3 through Sunday, December 11** Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale
- **Sunday, December 4** Advent Lessons & Carols, 5pm
- **Saturday, December 10** Women of St. James's Holiday Tea, 2-4pm
- **Sunday, December 11** Angel Tree and Toy Collection Gift Deadline
- **Sunday, December 11** Rhythms of Grace service, 4pm
- **Sunday, December 11** Youth Group festive dinner at 5:30pm followed by neighborhood caroling!
- **Friday, December 23** Greening of the Church in preparation for Christmas, 3-5pm
- **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day** See schedule to the left



Vestry Corner

Treasurer's Report—October 2016

Current Position: At the end of October the Church's finances remained positive vis a vis the budget. Year To Date Total Income exceeded the budgeted amount by \$2,168. Expenses Year To Date were \$24,277 less than

the budgeted amounts. As a result, the Church's Net financial position after the first ten months of 2016 was a positive variance from budget of \$26,445.

"One verse in every six in the first three Gospels relates, either directly or indirectly, to money. Sixteen of our Lord's 44 parables deal with the use or misuse of money. A loving, joyful, liberal giving to the Lord's work is an acid test of a spiritual heart, pleasing to God." William E. Allen, Alliance Witness magazine.

Income & Expense Summary:

Category	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	Total Annual Budget
Income (+)	639,598	637,430	2,168 Over budget	770,500
Expense (-)	619,218	643,495	24,277 Under budget	770,500
<i>Net</i>	20,380	6,065	26,445 Positive variance to budget	0

Income: At October 30, Year To Date Regular Contributions (Current and Prior Year Pledges, Seasonal and Unspecified Offerings) exceeded the respective budgeted amounts by a total of \$13,616 with Current Year Pledges accounting for the greatest part of this excess (\$12,172).. Facilities Income was \$2,628 below budget at October 30. Special Fundraising was \$12,062 below budget due to the cancellation of the Strawberry Festival on Memorial Day and to the fact that the Auction results will be included in the November financial report whereas the budget assumed they would be reported in October.

Expense: Property: Year To Date Property expenses were \$19,449 under budget due primarily to less than budgeted charges for gas, insurance, general maintenance and lawn care as well as the savings realized on snow removal costs during the winter months.

Personnel: At October 30 the total year to date overage in the Personnel expense account was \$2,776. This represents an improvement of \$1,550 since September 30. The year to date reduction in the Personnel expense overage is due in large part to the change in the sexton position from full to part time.

From the Associate Rector

Dear Ones,

The conclusion of the election season has brought out the worst in a lot of us. Many people with a wide range of perspective have contributed to our current climate of deplorability, but there are entire segments of our population who continue to bear the brunt of hateful words and actions.

Blame who you will, but blaming only gets us so far. We are followers of Jesus, a man who would have shared a cup of tea with Hillary Clinton after scarfing down a Trump Steak with our president-elect. This is not to say that the bigoted words of Donald Trump are excusable—they are most certainly not, and neither are the words and actions of many of his supporters. To say that Jesus is the Christ for all people is to say that all people are beloved children of God. And now we have the opportunity to go beyond our anger at others and fear of the future in order that we might act in love.

In other words, don't blame, love. Don't "love the sinner and hate the sin;" just love. But just how do we love amidst racism, anti-LGBTQ rhetoric, islamophobia, and so on? I may not have all of the answers, but I do have some ideas. I hope you will receive them prayerfully as you contemplate how to move forward in love.

Listen to perspectives you do not understand. If the people you read or watch on television look like you, think about changing how you get your news. Our perspectives are always shaped by where we gather our information. If you're hearing about Black Lives Matter on Fox News, you are not getting the whole story. If you are learning about economic issues facing those in the rust belt from MSNBC, you are missing out on a chance to understand where they are coming from.

Join local groups committed to discussing issues that you might otherwise ignore. Standing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meets monthly at the Unitarian Society of Hartford. I and other members of St. James's are plugged into this group. These are great people committed to word and action. They will be offering a Racism 101 training at St. James's on Saturday, January 28th from 10:30am-12noon. Please mark your calendars and participate with an open mind.

Do not be a bystander. West Hartford is a nice town with nice people dressed nicely, but people do terrible things here too. And you will likely at some point witness harassment, whether it be against someone because of their sex, sexual identity, sexual orientation, race, cultural expression, religion, or anything at all. Jesus would engage, and so should we. Engage the victim of the harassment in conversation—it can be about anything at all. You can create a safe space for that person without confronting the harasser. The harasser is certainly a child of God, but right now the victim needs you to be their neighbor. And then accompany that person wherever they are going until they feel safe. Don't be a bystander.

Allow yourself to recognize your fear, but do not let it rule your world. Fear will lead us to hate, and as Dr. King teaches us, "Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Be good to yourselves and be good to one another.



Your brother,

Curtis +

High School Formation

**Sunday Mornings,
11-11:45**

**December 4
Meet Your Mentor**

**December 11
Introduction to Scripture**

**December 18
Bible Jeopardy!**

*All High School Formation
Classes will be held in the
Youth Room unless
otherwise noted.*

Youth Group In December

Sunday, December 11

**Caroling & Festive
Christmas Dinner!**

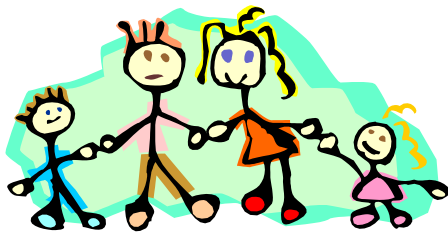
**We'll enjoy a festive
Christmas dinner in the
parish room at 5:30 then
head out for Christmas
Caroling in the
neighborhood!**

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



Bring a Friend to Church 3

St. James's Center for Family Ministries



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

Rhythms of Grace

Sunday, December 11

Our next Rhythms of Grace will be held in December. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for a worship and faith formation experience for children and families here at St. James's. Rhythms of Grace is held every second Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.

**KFC (Kids for Christ)
Sundays at 9:30**

Young children age 3 through elementary school are welcome to gather in the narthex (main foyer) for Sunday School. They return during the Peace.



Bring a Friend to Church 4

THE other night, Bob and I went to Yale Divinity School in New Haven to hear our seminarian from last year, Nathan Bourne, preach his senior sermon. I always love worshipping with a seminary community. I love the strong voices that join together in song. I love the energy of young people of faith excited about what they are learning and the future of the church. On this evening, the night after the presidential election, many of us were seeking a community of support. I rode in the truck with Bob to the service feeling broken and lost. I was thankful that I had something to do that night that didn't involve watching the news. We saw Nathan when we arrived and he informed us that he had written his sermon well before the election results were known. After the results came out, he stayed up all night and rewrote his sermon.

As is the tradition in our church, Nathan tied together the Bible readings of the day in a beautiful way, but what I really got out of his sermon was from the book of Job, "I know that my redeemer lives, and in the end he will stand on the earth." Nathan spoke about how we are all part of the communion of saints and that we can't let fear of the future get in the way of being God's hands and heart in the world today. He concluded by saying that we are an "Easter people" that we believe in the resurrection of our Lord and that God will come again.

After the completion of the Eucharist, Nathan and most of the seminary community gathered for a simple supper at Berkeley Divinity School. We ate and laughed and shared our stories together. I spoke to several senior seminarians about their plans after graduation, and it brought back memories of when Bob was a student at Virginia Theological Seminary. It was a simple evening, enjoying the company

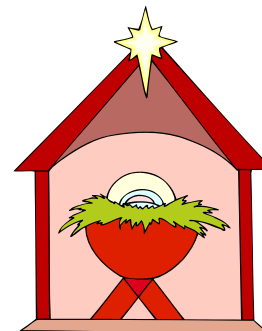
of people I didn't know, but with whom I shared a love of Jesus and of Nathan. As Bob and I drove out of New Haven and headed back to West Hartford, I was struck by a sense of calm that I didn't have before the service. We had gathered as a community—we prayed, sang, listened to a good sermon and had dinner together. However, I for one, left changed. I was healed of the pain that I had brought with me to New Haven that evening. I had never really thought too much about something we say in church almost every Sunday, "May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ." I was made whole that cold and rainy night and for that I am extremely grateful.

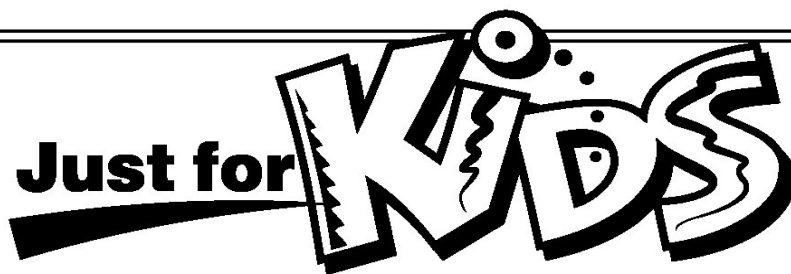
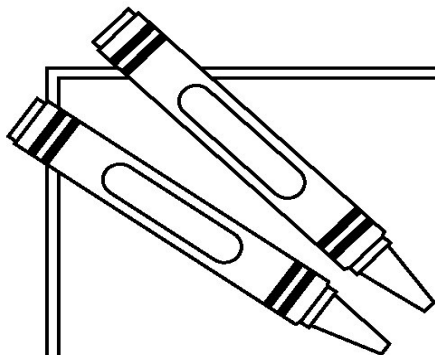
As we gather together during this Advent season, for Lessons and Carols, potluck dinners, a holiday tea, to sell Christmas trees and to celebrate the Eucharist, I pray that you and your family may find God's peace at church and in the world beyond.

Please note that the pageant rehearsals will take place on Sunday, December 11 and 18 after the 9:30 service. The primary characters (those with speaking parts) will meet for a quick rehearsal on December 4 while the rest of the participants are getting their costumes.

Your Sister in Christ,

Priscilla





The Birth of Jesus Foretold

The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus Christ. Isaiah knew that Jesus would be called a peacemaker, but that He would also be called by other names.

Use the code to find out what Isaiah said Jesus would be called.

CODE:

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

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 U Z G S V I K I R M X V

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 L U K V Z X V

Isaiah 9:6, NIV

Answer: And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

From the Organist & Choirmaster

THE Women of Saint James's recently invited me to make a presentation on the choir's trip to England. Part of my talk included a brief history of liturgical choral music, and I would like to share some of that presentation here.

Our Anglican musical heritage is traced back to the monastic tradition of the 11th century. Monasteries were home to communities of monks who participated in a daily routine of eight services, called "the Liturgy of the Hours." These services were:

Matins (during the night, at midnight with some); also called Vigils or Nocturns or, in monastic usage, the Night Office.

Lauds or Dawn Prayer (at Dawn, or 3 a.m.)

Prime or Early Morning Prayer (First Hour = approximately 6 a.m.)

Terce or Mid-Morning Prayer (Third Hour = approximately 9 a.m.)

Sext or Midday Prayer (Sixth Hour = approximately 12 noon)

None or Mid-Afternoon Prayer (Ninth Hour = approximately 3 p.m.)

Vespers or Evening Prayer ("at the lighting of the lamps", generally at 6 p.m.)

Compline or Night Prayer (before retiring, generally at 9 p.m.)

Not surprisingly, this rigorous daily regimen of chanting eventually encouraged some variation. Since older monks sang with novice boys, as recorded in the 11th-century Winchester Troper (a trope was an additional section or line of music), it allowed for the harmonic combination of upper voices and lower voices. Within this remarkable document is some of the earliest notated harmony – one part chanting plainsong (likely adult monks), while a second part, perhaps originally improvised, sings in harmony (probably the boys' voices).

Following the English tradition, two-part choral harmony was also composed at Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, from 1160-1250. This tradition is called Organum.

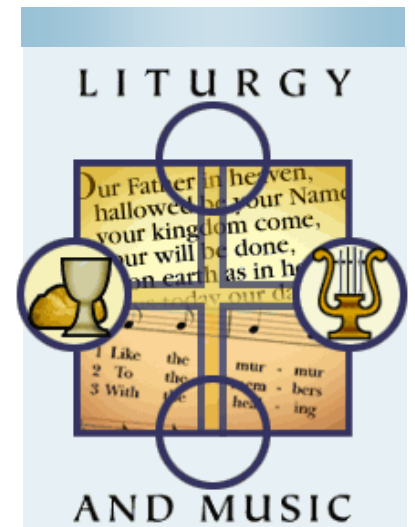
As the Renaissance bloomed across Europe, sacred choral music continued to develop as unique traditions and compositional techniques grew out of each country and region. Renaissance composers from the Roman church in English include John Taverner, Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, and Orlando Gibbons.

At the beginning of the 16th century, over 50 choirs existed at monasteries and English cathedrals. These were disbanded by Henry VIII in the 1530s when he divorced Catherine of Aragon and separated the English church from Rome. Following the separation, the Book of Common Prayer was written by Thomas Cranmer in 1549, and new liturgies for the nascent Anglican church were codified. Of these, Choral Evensong became a defining liturgy.

Charles II restoration to the throne in 1660 marked a revival of Anglican choral music. John Blow, choirmaster of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and his student Henry Purcell, now fully ensconced in the newly formed Church of England, composed a uniquely Anglican style of music.

After a lull in the 18th century, Samuel Sebastian Wesley revived Anglican choral music by the early 19th century, and composers of the Edwardian and Victorian eras wrote grand works that celebrated the power and glory of the British Empire.

Today, English cathedral choirs are in many ways stronger than ever, but some parish choirs have been disbanded in favor of charismatic and evangelical music, or for lack of funding. This has been mirrored in America, where divergent styles of music in the Episcopal Church, and a lack of funding, continue to reduce the number of traditional Anglican music programs. Here at St. James's, our choir still draws much of our repertoire and style of singing from the Anglican tradition. We are one of just a dozen similar programs in the State of Connecticut.



Important Dates

Sunday, December 4
Lesson & Carols at 5pm
in the church.
Followed by a reception
in the parish room.

Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve
Choral Eucharist at 11pm
With the full choir
(Choral prelude begins
at 10:30pm)



Jubilate Deo!

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

Psalm 100:1

Bring a Friend to Church 6

Mission

Angel Tree 2016

THE 2016 St. James's Angel Tree is here! This annual program provides Christmas gifts and personal messages for local children whose moms or dads are incarcerated, and we are expecting close to 60 children again this year. How can you help?

- **Pick an Angel tag** off the Angel Tree, purchase & wrap the gift on your tag (suggested cost is \$25). The Angel Tree will be in the cloister from November 20 to December 4. **Wrapped gifts must be returned to the church by December 11.**
- **NEW this year:** Angel Wings! Don't have time to shop but still want to help a child? Drop off a \$25 Angel Wing donation on November 27 or December 4, and our shoppers will purchase and wrap an Angel Tree gift for you.
- **Want to help even more?** We need Angel Drivers to deliver the wrapped gifts to the families before Christmas. Please email Jane Good at 4JaneGood@gmail.com if you'd like to help, or call Jane at 860-670-0950, or Barbara Schiller at 860-651-7332.

Christmas Toy Collection

TOYS, toys! Christmas is right around the corner and during this time we are collecting toys for children and youth in the Hartford area. Toys, games, and fun gifts are needed for children of all ages from toddlers to early teens. These gifts will then be delivered to various churches who will then deliver them to the families in need. Bring your **unwrapped** gifts to the church and place them at any of the three entrances to the building. **Deadline is Sunday, December 11.** Gift certificates for early teens are a great gift as well. Thank you for making Christmas a happier time for these children and families!

Food Pantry Ongoing Needs

FOOD Collection/West Hartford Food Bank: Please continue to bring your food donations, which are distributed to the SJ feeding programs and West Hartford Food Bank. Remember to check expiration dates! We cannot accept expired items. **Most needed items:** Pasta sauce, canned fruit, canned tuna, baked beans, canned pasta (Spaghettios), peanut butter, and rice.

Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale

Saturday, December 3 through Sunday, December 11

TREES and wreaths will be on sale in December on the parish grounds in front of the church and will come in a variety of sizes. Don't wait too long to pick out your tree, as they usually sell very quickly. Sale hours are: Saturday from 9am to 6pm; Sunday from noon to 6pm; and Monday through Friday from 4pm to 8pm. You may reserve your trees or wreaths by either phoning or emailing the parish office. Cash, check, or credit cards will be accepted at the time of purchase. Spread the word and let others know about the sale.

Poinsettia Plant Sale

Sunday, December 11

BEAUTIFUL poinsettias will be available for purchase after both services on **Sunday, December 11.** Doug Compton will have a variety of plants which will include, 8" three stem, 6" two stem, and 4" red flowers. All proceeds will benefit the St. James's feeding programs.



Around the Parish

Christian Formation at St. James's

Sundays at 11am

December 4, 11 and 18

I SHOP, THEREFORE I AM

As we are all part of a consumer society, much of this preparation consists of shopping for gifts for our loved ones and friends. How does our Christian faith affect how we value and spend our money during Advent and throughout the year?

December 18

YOU'RE A MEAN ONE, MR. GRINCH

Delve into a theological take on Dr. Seuss's beloved "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas."

Vestry Nominations 2017

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

Vestry members must be:

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

The members of this year's Nominating Committee are: Kathy Bolt, Ben Parish, Michael Shuey, and Judith Stahl. The Nominating Committee will publish its nominations in the January issue of *The Open Door*.

In accordance with the by-laws of the church, any member may submit a petition to include any other member for inclusion on the ballot as a candidate for the vestry or as an officer. The petition must be signed by the nominating member, not less than three additional members of the parish and agreed to by the signature by the nominated member. All petitions are to be submitted to the Clerk no later than two weeks prior to the annual meeting to be held on **January 22, 2017**. Nominations not submitted as set forth will not be allowed from the floor at the annual meeting.

Monthly Group Meetings

Women's Evening & Men's Discussion Groups

JOIN other women of the parish and guests for a festive potluck supper on **Thursday, December 8** beginning at 6pm in the parish room. Bring something to share with the group if you decide to attend. Great food, wine, and fellowship for all.

ALL men of the parish and guests are invited to attend a discussion group on **Saturday, December 10** beginning at 7:45am in the parish room. Various religious topics are discussed and refreshments are provided. The men's discussion group normally meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month.

Greening of the Church

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

Christmas Flowers

TO give Christmas flowers in honor or in memory of loved ones, please fill out a flower envelope with your name request along with your donation. Flower envelopes are located at the end of the pews in the church and chapel. Envelopes will be available beginning **Sunday, December 4**. Please return your envelopes to the parish office no later than Monday, December 19. A list of those loved ones so honored or remembered will be included in the Christmas bulletins.

Annual Reports

ANNUAL reports are due in by **Tuesday, January 3, 2017**! All reports will be bound together in one booklet for distribution one week before the annual meeting which will be held **Sunday, January 22, 2017** following the 9:30 service. If at all possible, please email your report to help facilitate the organizing of all the information. The reports will be available on Sunday, January 15.

Parish Office Closings

THE parish office will be closed **Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2 for the Christmas and New Year Holiday**. Office hours Tuesday through Friday, December 27 through 30 will be from 9am until noon.

Readings and Registry



Sunday Lectionary

Second Sunday of Advent, December 4

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Third Sunday of Advent, December 11

Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11; Psalm 146:4-9 or Canticle 15

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18

Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Christmas Eve and Day, December 24 and 25

Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14(15-20); Psalm 96

The Holy Name, January 1

Numbers 6:22-27;

Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 2:15-21; Psalm 8

Parish Prayer List

Those in our parish family

Jeffrey, Greg, Justin, Joan & Elsa, Ann, Michael, Michelle, Audrey, Margaret & Richard, Ruth, Anne, Brian, Natalie & Harry, Stuart, Olivia, Walter, Frank, David, Liz, Jon, Elly, Justin, Tom, Betsy, Jenine, Melina & Family, Lucy, Joanne, Jeanne & Chuck, David, Sue, and Hope.

Those in our extended parish family

Maria, Kevin, Mary Ann, Jenifer, Nancy, Jeff, Carol, Christina, Jean, Jeff, Jennifer, Karen, Bea & David, Robert, Sarah, David, Patricia, Ryan, John, Quinn, Arroll, Chris, Joanie, Teresa, Alvin, Karen, Audra, Parker & Cynthia, Ted, Olivia, Ann, Kara, Patricia, Jonathan, Kate, Carrie, Dan, Derrick, Family of Nancy, Grace, Kyle, John & Rita, Betsy, Judy, John, Bret & Ginny, Barbara & Family, Tavern, Danielle & Cynthia, Robert, Mohan, Bev, Lisa, and Hudson.

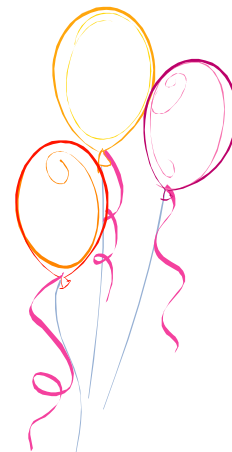
Those Serving in the Military:

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

December Parish Birthdays

Children and Youth

Laurel Raissian, 4
Oliver Woodward, 4
Harry Lewis, 5
Joshua Campbell, 10
Leah Dollar, 10
Braden Flowers, 12
Declan McDonald, 13
Zoe Pinckney, 14
Jacob Ciccone, 18
James DeLibero, 18
Rowan Guerraz, 21
Andrew Stafford, 23
Emily Lemanski, 25
Claire Sherrill, 25
Ethan McCue, 29



Women Of St. James's December Programs



Tuesday, December 6

Rebecca Hajosv, Elder Law Attorney

What Happens with You and Your Money when You Die?

Saturday, December 10

Holiday Tea from 2-4pm in the Parish Hall

(Snow Date: December 11)

Tuesday, December 13

Santa Is On His Way—Gift Exchange

Christmas Buffet and Punch

Tuesdays, December 20, 27 and January 3

No Meetings—Christmas Hiatus

Looking Ahead to 2017

Tuesday, January 10

Winter Picnic & Silent Auction

Eleanor Brazell, Auctioneer

(Business Meeting will also be held)



St. James's Holiday Tea

Sponsored by the Women of St. James's Episcopal Church

Saturday, December 10 at 2:00

(Snow date will be Sunday, December 11 if necessary)

Celebrate this festive season with us at a traditional afternoon tea featuring several blends of Harney & Sons tea accompanied by an assortment of delicious homemade scones, savory tea sandwiches, sweet pastries and more.

Don't miss our renowned Holiday Bake Sale! You can purchase delicious, homemade treats wrapped for gift-giving and your family's enjoyment.

Participate in our RAFFLE of beautiful, holiday-themed goods.

Enjoy musical entertainment, and remember that children are welcome to attend.

*Tickets on Sale in the Parish Office and at the Door
Admission: \$10 Adults and \$8 Children (10 & under)*

St. James's Episcopal Church

**19 Walden Street
West Hartford, CT 06107**

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E-mail: info@stjameswh.org



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The Clergy

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

The Staff

Cheryl C. Batter	Administrator
Heidi Cotter	Financial Secretary
Leon Fraser	Sexton
Priscilla Hooper	Director of Family Ministries
Vaughn Mauren	Organist & Choirmaster
Gregory Stark	Seminarian

Volunteer Staff

Ann Cooke	Volunteer Coordinator
David Thomas	Facilities Manager
Richard M. Wenner	Assistant Treasurer

The Vestry

Michael Sherrill	Senior Warden
David Dynowski	Junior Warden
Kimberly Lytle	Clerk
Harry Meyer	Treasurer

Term Ending 2017

**Kathy Bolt, Ben Parish
Michael Shuey, Judith Stahl**

Term Ending 2018

**Diane Duva, Barbara Rua
Carolyn O'Sullivan, Robert Smith**

Term Ending 2019

**Sam Paul, Lesley Toutain
John Walsh, Abby Fisher Williamson**