

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

JANUARY 31, 2021



**SAINT JAMES CHURCH
76 FEDERAL STREET
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT 06320-6601**

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**St. James Episcopal Church
New London, Connecticut**

**297th Annual Parish Meeting
January 31, 2021**

Agenda

Call to Order

Welcome Visitors and Newcomers

Opening Prayer

Appoint Parliamentarian

Mission story

Wardens' Reports

Treasurer's 2020 Report/2021 Budget as approved by the Vestry

Motion on Vestry and leadership slate

Thank you to outgoing Vestry members, Junior Warden and Parish Clerk

Adjournment with Closing Prayer

OFFICERS FOR 2020

Senior Warden	John Umland
Junior Warden	Charles Sharp
Parish Clerk	Ann Burdick
Treasurer	Gerald Miller
Assistant Treasurer	Garrett Brennan
Pledge Secretary	Greg Rice

PARISH STAFF

Rector	The Rev. Ranjit K. Mathews
Assistant Priest	The Rev. Dana M. Stivers
Deacon	The Rev. E. Ellen Adams
Parish Administrator	Ellen Merrill
Organist/Choirmaster	William Cooper
Sexton	Diane Theis

VESTRY

Class of 2021 (Retiring)	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Hildy Zeigler	William Crawford	William Sieburg
Karen Hatcher	Stacy Dunning	Diane Larson
Judy Benson	Stephanie Brando	

DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Emma Palzere-Rae (delegate term expires 2021)
Hildy Zeigler (delegate term expires 2022)
Deanna Bossdorf (alternate delegate expires 2022)

RECORDED IN 2020 PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms:	0
Confirmations:	2
Receptions:	0
Celebrations of Marriage:	0
Burials:	7
Transfers In:	1
Transfers Out:	1

RECORDED IN 2020 REGISTER OF CHURCH SERVICES

EUCCHARIST:

Sunday & Saturday Evening	36
Weekday	17
Private	8

DAILY OFFICE:

Sunday	33
Evening Prayer	3
Noonday Prayer	81
Compline	34

OTHER SERVICES:

Marriage	0
Funeral/Burial	7
Other Office & Private	3

(APPROVED MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING)

St James Episcopal Church

New London, Connecticut

Minutes of the 296th Annual Parish Meeting

January 26, 2020

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Parish Clerk, Ann Burdick, read “The Warning” which is a public statement that the 296th Annual Meeting of St. James Episcopal Church is called to order on January 26, 2020 at 10:34 am. Fr. Ranjit offered the opening prayer.

Rector’s Welcome and Report (page 12) - Fr. Ranjit gave a warm welcome to all parishioners and especially to the newcomers. Everyone has a voice and all members have a vote. Fr. Ranjit encouraged us to read all the reports in the Annual Parish Report, and see how the church’s ministries are helping in so many ways in our community.

Fr. Ranjit introduced The Reverend Koshy Mathews and his wife, Susan, and his sister, Manju, Attorney Zachary Kohl, and The Reverend Dana Capasso Stivers.

The Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movements here in Southeastern Connecticut is historical, theological and biblical. This will be an institution here at St. James, and through the committees we hope to bring this into our community.

In one way, the Drop-in Learning Center and Fresh New London are housed here at St. James. A Haunted House was created by the Drop In Learning and our staff in the Hallam Lounge and throughout the hallway. There was a sense of joy by the children participating, seeing people dressed up. This important ministry and offering is not reported as a part the written reports. This is a very special and an important part of our ministry, as to how we walk with one another. Fr. Ranjit said that by breaking down boundaries among communities, sharing this joy, and how Christ is happening in these new and different ways, and by looking with different eyes is a way to go forward in 2020. New work is being done in 2020, by the start of installing solar panels on the parish hall and the Stewardship Program’s to concentrate and emphasize who we are as a parish.

By the hard work of the Stewardship Committee and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ we are ahead \$32,000 for the pledges from last year. The revisions of the by-laws were also accomplished in 2019.

Welcomed newcomers attending their first annual meeting and had them introduce themselves

New members were recognized: Mary Lycan, Dagmar and Will Miller, Brian Stoner, and Helen April.

Misssional Story – Fr. Ranjit introduced Gena Scognamiglio who spoke about the Church School.

Children from the Church School also gave examples of their favorite experiences.

Introduction of Attorney Zachary Kohl to discuss the changes in the bylaws. Attorney Kohl explained that the by-laws were changed to incorporate what has been changed by the canons and new practices that have been adopted by the Vestry. Duties of the officers, the terms of the officers, and the quorum requirement at the Annual Meeting were further clarified. Tele-conferencing for the Vestry meetings and Interest of Contract were also included. The summary of the changes is attached.

(Continued on page 9)

Adoption of 2020 By-Laws - George Shaw made a motion to adopt the bylaws as presented. A second was made by Ralph Anderson. The motion was passed unanimously.

Adoption of Voter List (page 32) - A motion was made to adopt the Parish Voter List by Joan Robinson and seconded by Deanna Bossdorff. The motion was passed unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda - A motion to approve the 2020 Annual Meeting agenda was made by George Shaw and seconded by Gloria Gathers. The motion was passed unanimously.

Missional Story – Fr. Ranjit introduced Stephanie Brandon. She spoke of the Mission trip to Tucson, Arizona, taken last October to see how real the situation was at the border. Over \$4,000.00 had been donated for this mission. They contributed to a shelter run by the Episcopal Church in Mexico and another group of volunteers, as well as bringing supplies. They just wanted to offer a presence and support for the struggles these people are encountering.

Appointment of Parliamentarian and Tellers – Fred Smith was appointed as Parliamentarian and Joy Merrill and Karen Hatcher-Sneed were appointed as Tellers/Counters for this 2020 Annual Meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting (Pages 8-10) The minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting were approved by the Vestry at their February 5, 2019 meeting.

Financial Report (Pages 33-35)

Treasurer's 2019 Report/2020 Budget as approved by the Vestry

Jerry Miller reported that the approved 2019 Operating Budget established planned expenditures of \$437,046, and planned revenues of \$265,500. is over \$400,000. The budget was balanced by transferring \$171,546 from the Endowment Account, which was \$17,201 more than the 5% Rule allows. The 2019 actual income was \$278,206 more than the projected amount by \$21,493. After factoring in the approved Endowment withdrawal, our budget performance for calendar year 2019 yielded a deficit of \$8,781 which was paid from funds in checking account.

Regarding the 2020 budget, major changes included salary increases for clergy and staff as well as increased Medical, Property and Liability Insurance that are consistent with the guidelines contained in the Treasurer's Newsletter published by the Diocese, as well as increase cost of utilities. \$22,000 was also added to fund the part-time assistant priest position.

A question was asked about the committees and ministry works as to how many people serve in these capacities, how many people do we service in the community, what are the costs, and the financial support from parish to do these missions and committees. It was noted that no pledge or plate money is used for these missions. Donations that are received which are designated go directly to those specific activities, and are tracked separately as well as the expenses. Most of these missions are self-supporting. A summary report would be helpful, and should be included in their individual annual reports, to provide more clarity. Fr. Ranjit asked that the committee chairs include in their annual reports the number of people that volunteer, how many people they support, how much money has been brought in, and how much is spent to present as a full picture of their committees and ministries. This can then be presented to the parish in a holistic form at the next annual meeting.

A Financial Audit was conducted last summer and St. James is doing very well.

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Nominating Committee Report/Elections (Page 11)

Fr. Ranjit presented the following slate that was proposed by the Nominating Committee.

Vestry Class of 2021

Senior Warden	John Umland
Junior Warden	Chuck Sharp
Parish Clerk	Ann Burdick
Treasurer	Gerald Miller
Assistant Treasurer	Garrett Brennan
Historians	Mary Lycan

Vestry Class of 2022

Graham Lanz
Diane Larson
William Sieburg
Stephanie Brandon to complete Ron Ward's term

Delegates to Diocese Convention

Term expires 2021	Emma Palzere-Rae
Term expires 2021	Hilda Zeigler
Alternate Delegate Term expires 2021	Deanna Bossdorf

Fr. Ranjit opened the floor for other nominations. Hearing no other nominations from the floor a motion was made by Joan Robinson to cast one vote accept the Slate of Officers, Vestry members and Delegates. Ralph Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Annual Reports (Page 12- 31)

*Received by title as printed in the Annual Meeting Report

Joan Robinson made a motion to receive the Annual Reports as printed. Anna Shaw seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Missional Story Fr. Ranjit introduced Reverend Robert Bowlin who spoke about how his family became members of St. James and the overwhelming welcoming they received from people from St. James as newcomers. A Welcoming Committee has been created to discuss about to be more open about greeting and inviting people to participate.

Fr. Ranjit acknowledged his staff including Ellen Merrill, Deacon Ellen, Dr. Will Cooper, Barbara Calkins, and Diana Cortez for their heart filled support to him and the parish. Diane Theis is a new member of our staff as our new sexton. She offers a lot of care to the building in a very real and special way. Thanks were offered to Greg Rice who comes in at all hours to record the pledges. Fr. Ranjit reflected back to the 2019 outreach committees which have continued to thrive. He thanked everyone for their support and passion to St. James.

Fr. Ranjit celebrated the people that have completed their terms on the Vestry. Eleanor Godfrey was presented the book, *Inspired*. Gratefully, Ms. Godfrey will continue on as chairman of the Lord's Pantry.

Fred Smith who has been invaluable serving his term on the Vestry, but also as a lector, a chalice bearer, and shows up in so many ways to support St. James. He was presented the book, *The Soul of America*. Dave Higgins who is completing his term as Junior Warden on the Vestry, also serves as an acolyte, and always ready to serve the parish in so many ways in a meditative, reflective way was presented the book, *Universal Christ*.

(Continued on page 11)

Lori Sarkett, completing her term as Senior Warden, who has given so much of herself, and will continue to help in so many ways, always steps up to give of herself to St. James. She was given the book, *Hamilton*.

Lori Sarkett thanked the members of the parish for letting her serve as their Senior Warden, and spoke of her many treasured experiences. She gave enormous thank you to Dave Higgins for being by her side to fix problems that occur constantly at St. James. She thanked Fr. Ranjit for his leadership, and for having him as a good friend and mentor.

Thanks - Dr. Will Cooper thanked: Fr. Ranjit for his incredible leadership, patience, friendship and helping us all to become better disciples of Christ, Pat Lang, Choir librarian; Mary Lycan for organizing the choir room; Katherine Brighty for the work on scheduling and emails; Anne and Kim Bingham and Stephanie Brandon for hosting parties; Sara Warren for violin playing and helping with the children's choir; Ellen Bowlin as the sub organist; the choir's dedication and their commitment to the adult and children's choirs, and Gena Scognamiglio, Robin Olbrys and Johanna Kuruvilla for their help with the Children's Choir.

Tom Clark offered thanks to St. James for their constancy of care over time that St James has given to the community, as well as housing the Community Orchestra that gives lessons to children of our community. Fr. Ranjit reported that The Reverend Dana Capasso Stivers will be St. James participating in our liturgical work at the Sunday 5:00 pm services and once a month for all three Sunday services. She working with Fr. Ranjit on how to share a presence in the community. She will serve 8 – 12 hours a week at St. James.

Closing Prayer - Fr. Ranjit offered the closing prayer.

Adjournment - Joan Robinson made a motion to adjourn and Stephanie Brandon seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

2020 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 11:54 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Burdick, Parish Clerk

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Vestry (Three year term) 2024

Marci Marciniak
Kris Drew
David Downes

Vestry (Two year term) 2022

Eric Ingmundson to complete Graham Lanz's term

Executive Committee: (One year) 2022

Sr. Warden:	John Umland
Jr. Warden:	Lori Sarkett
Clerk:	Kathy Harrington
Treasurer:	Jerry Miller
Assistant Treasurer:	Garry Brennan

Parish delegate to 2021 ECCT Convention: Emma Palzere-Rae

Parish Liaison to Drop-In Learning Center: Karen Hatcher

Respectfully submitted,
Nominating Committee

RECTOR'S REPORT

2020 was a surreal year for most of humanity. It was unprecedented in the modern era, and I believe the only other event that rivals the Covid-19 pandemic is the 1918 flu, which also killed hundreds of thousands of lives. Most of us were not around during that time, and so it is hard to understand how “incredible” that time was for so many people. Now, think of where we are, January 2021, and what we have done together as a community. We have lost loved ones, friends and family; and there are no words that will make anyone feel those losses any less than they do now.

It forced our Church to be what God wanted us to be in this moment, a nimble Church that was able to re-configure ourselves to be the hands and feet of Christ in southeastern Connecticut. So often, people, of faith and otherwise, think of the Church as the building; but we have shown that in fact the Church is the body of faithful followers of Christ, attuned to the movement of the Holy Spirit. We were The Jesus Movement, when we re-configured our Lord's Pantry so as to feed not only the people who come weekly for food; but the people whose lives were destroyed by the pandemic. I want to lift up the incredible ministry that Diane Theis, our Sexton and Ellen Merrill, our Parish Administrator alongside Chuck Sharp, our Jr. Warden, and Diana Cortes, our assistant Sexton offered with the incredible support of Ralph Anderson, Robert Johnson, George Shaw, Matthew Pinson and Peter Hewitt among others.

We reckoned with the pandemic leaving us quarantined at home and also isolated. I am delighted that we were able to move into the virtual space, zooming at 9am on Sundays from March 15th right through December. We got better, as time went by, honing our technological skills and worshipping God with vulnerability and strength. At this time, I want to thank our choirmaster and organist, Dr. Will Cooper, for his nimbleness and ability to help our faith community worship God through his playing and leading of the choir. Singing and being together in Church is one of the most important parts of being in Church, the community and the praise it offers to God.

2020 was apocalyptic, which, if rendered from the Greek, means “an unveiling.” Systemic injustice was unveiled to Americans in the past year, particularly around issues related to the original sin of the United States of America, “white supremacy.” After the killing of George Floyd, in particular, and the many other killings of black people, I am encouraged that our parish led by Deacon Ellen Adams and the Rev. Dana M. Stivers invited parishioners to confront white supremacy and anti-black bias. That work and deconstruction has formed into a group called the “Racial Reconciliation Working Group.”

I am delighted that through our Building and Grounds committee, ably co-chaired by Lori Sarkett and Ralph Anderson, and our Caring for Creation committee, chaired by Judy Benson, we were able to secure a new roof, and start the process for installing solar panels on the roof of the Seabury Center. The parish should know that the Building and Grounds and Caring for Creation joint committee met over several months to iron this work out.

I am proud of the work that our Re-opening committee, constituted in June, has done to not only carefully discern and pray about the best ways to safely re-open; but also work with the Drop-In Learning Center and implement the best practices for the non-profit to continue to do its work. This was painstaking work; but so important for the parish to live into our mission statement.

I am so proud of our quilters and many members of our choir who came together to make masks for nurses and our front-line workers, working tireless hours to be Christ out in the world. I was also encouraged by the phone tree that Deacon Ellen Adams created with the help of Graham Lanz to connect our parishioners

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with each other and deepen the sinews of the Body of Christ. I have been heartened by our Stewardship Committee, which led us ably into a deeper understanding of Stewardship, where we spend all of our lives in commitment to God, not just in a particular season. Given the realities of stewardship in 2020, I am thankful to our Budget committee, and in particular Jerry Miller, our treasurer, who helped us understand where we stood as far as finances are concerned.

My friends, churches all across our country are fraying and I am sure there are hundreds if not thousands that have had to close down because of the lack of revenue. We are fortunate that we have an endowment that we have drawn on to support our ministry; but we do need to find ways to take as little as we can from it in order to clear our operating expenses. This will be one of the important ways our Vestry can lead us into the coming years. Let me be clear, drawing as much from the endowment as we are doing now is not sustainable.

I am also grateful that over this year, we have applied for many grants and received money for them, including our Lord's Pantry, to bolster security all around our Church, and also to get internet architecture for the sanctuary and parish hall, which will help us evangelize and share the Gospel with folks who wouldn't necessarily darken the door of any church. As of this writing, we have applied to the Episcopal Church in Connecticut to see if we can secure a grant to help subsidize the replacement of our roof.

One of the places in our community where I lament is the inability to close the gap of isolation that many of our parishioners experience, because of the pandemic. While there are many who join in on Zoom every Sunday, there are many of us that do not feel comfortable with zoom; and thus are mostly cut off from the virtual space of our parish.

This year hasn't been what we would have wanted it to be. I know. We haven't been able to worship in the beauty of our sanctuary, or more importantly see one another. My hope is that in 2021, more of the vaccine will be more widely available, and that Governor Lamont would give us the green light to open up our Church. Let us live with that hope.

I am very thankful to our outgoing Vestry members, Judy Benson, Karen Hatcher, Chuck Sharp, Ann Burdick and Hilda Ziegler, who offered leadership in ways that led us more ably into the future.

As you read this, I am off on paternity leave, which I was granted by the Vestry. My sincere appreciation to all of you, for granting me space to enjoy this time with my family. I will see you all soon, in the later part of Lent.

May God continue to bless the parish of St. James, New London.

In peace,
Ranjit

DEACON'S REPORT

Many plans had to be canceled due to COVID 19. We were unable to run the summer youth program planned. We closed the re-entry program for women coming out of prison because we could not go into the prison to interview potential candidates and did not think it was fair to our supporters to keep paying rent on empty apartments.

I have preached quarterly and helped parishioners stay in contact with each other during these difficult times by helping to create phone trees. I have continued to study with the Racial Reconciliation Working Group. I helped to develop the New London Pollinator Pathway.

St. James has received a grant to help create a mentoring program for students at New London High School. This will be done with other churches and non-profits in New London.

Respectfully submitted,
Deacon Ellen

WARDENS' REPORT

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

I have found the limitations of this year of COVID an invitation to the community of Monday night compline. Since April 20th, about 6 of us meet every week and have the evening compline service together, no matter what technical hurdles we encounter, and share our lives together. We have met 33 times since the spring and we are continuing in 2021. Each week the small selection of readings and prayers, although familiar, bring a helpful perspective on all the troubled times we are living through.

In response to the cries of racial injustice from our African-American citizens and the assertion of a Trinity College undergraduate project, I also facilitated a study group on the history of Bishop Seabury's slave ownership with Deacon Ellen Adams and Historian, Mary Lycan. We met on Monday mornings through the summer. Despite the closure of libraries and city hall records offices, we have learned a lot about the presence of slaves in Seabury's household and his views on slavery. At this point, we can only point to two of his sermons affirming the full humanity of enslaved Africans and to his probate property at his death showing his ownership of 2 or 3 Africans. More and better research will continue when libraries and records offices are fully accessible again. A preliminary report is available from our church's historian, Mary Lycan.

I am looking forward to meeting with you all in the flesh at some point in 2021.

Peace and all good things,
John Umland, Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Thank You for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Junior Warden from February 2020 and through January 2021. It has been an honor to serve as your People's Warden. COVID may have closed our doors to in-person worship within our buildings, but COVID did not shut us down or stop us from continuing God's mission here at St. James and in New London County.

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As a community of faith, we have continued to worship virtually via Zoom, Facebook and YouTube. It has been a joy to see all of you in the Zoom Brady Bunch Checkerboard view, especially, our homebound parishioners who were not able to join us when we were worshipping in-person.

Seeing you sharing God's Love is a witness of living the Gospels and Loving Our Neighbors as Ourselves; by making masks, supporting our Lord's Pantry and Jumble Shoppe, and reaching out by calling each other just to check in.

It has been a blessing to assist Father Ranjit and The Rev. Dana with our Zoom Sunday Services. It has been a blessing to be allowed to do the Noontime Prayers with Dedications. One thing I can say about assisting with the Zoom services, is I love being able to replay Father Ranjit's and The Rev. Dana's sermons, and listening to Will Cooper and the Choir. The Noontime Prayer Dedications have given me a greater appreciation for the Saints of St. James and all that they have done and are doing for those living on the margins in our community.

I have been blessed to be invited to move forward in Formation for Holy Orders and the Diaconate. As such, I will be stepping down as your Junior Warden as of January 31, 2021. I am not leaving St. James immediately so will be with you at least through the end of 2021. I will walk with you as we continue God's mission here at St. James and in New London County during this time of the twin pandemics.

Peace,
Chuck Sharp, Junior Warden

PARISH ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN

As your newly appointed Archivist, I am charged with maintaining and organizing St. James's official records. Before the building lockdown had I downloaded diocesan guidelines on which documents must be retained, and began planning to meet with Ellen Merrill on how we continue to manage that task. I have also downloaded diocesan suggested guidelines on the arrangement (cataloguing and storage) of these archives, and of all the other documents we keep. I plan to develop a master classified list of our holdings, and remain hopeful that in 2021 I can resume a weekly work day in the Seabury Center to get this project off the ground.

As your Historian, charged with educating the parish and community on our history, I had planned to concentrate on one history-related event and one research push each year. A planned spring reunion of the St. Cecilia Girls' Choir fell by the wayside because of the pandemic. My intended research focus on the eighteenth century morphed into all-online research for the Senior Warden's ad hoc committee on Bishop Samuel Seabury (1729-1796) and slavery, convened because of other institutions' desire to reassess their associations with Seabury.

My research into manuscript sources is nearly complete, thanks to the generosity of archivists at the Diocese and at Union Theological Seminary who scanned and sent me images of multiple documents. I regret my report is not yet complete; I hope to finish it by the time of this annual meeting, January 31, 2021. In summary, it shows that Samuel Seabury's household in 1790 did include three enslaved persons, and his probate inventory from 1796 showed he owned Nell, a 38-year-old woman, and Rose, a nine-year-old term slave who was due to be manumitted at age 25 in 1812. Seabury's only published pronouncement on slavery is from a posthumously published sermon on the evils of Pharaoh. He preached that we should deplore Pharaoh's cruelties to his Hebrew slaves, and in the present treat enslaved people, our brothers as children of the same Creator, with humanity and mercy.

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I also wrote a series of historical annotations for the *Complicity* book study group convened on Zoom by the Rev. Rachel Thomas and the Rev. Ron Steed. These annotations deal with (mostly) New London County parallels to the chapters in the book. In particular, I amplify the story of Ichabod Pease (1755-1842), born into slavery and a devoted member of this parish, who ran away but was re-enslaved when he was “seized for a debt of his master’s.” I will be happy to email a copy to anyone who would like one.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lycan
Mary.Lycan@UConn.edu

BUILDING PRESERVATION & MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

The major accomplishment for the Committee was replacing the roof on the Seabury Center and re-caulking the upper windows. Hopefully this will eliminate the leaks in the parish hall. We didn't have the two cleanings of the church because of the pandemic but continued the contracts for grounds maintenance and snow removal. We worked with the Caring for Creation Committee for solar panels and are hopeful for a final decision in early 2021. Other noteworthy accomplishments are:

- * Installing a new electronics panel for the carillon.
- * Upgrading the cabinets, appliances and decor of the parlor.
- * Replacing the refrigerator and freezer in the parish hall kitchen.
- * Continuing with routine upkeep and maintenance.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Sarkett and Ralph Anderson, Co-chairs

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER’S REPORT

For the first two and a half months of 2020, the St. James Choir continued its dedication to providing high level performances of challenging and diverse repertoire to live services in our beautiful sanctuary. Among these pieces were our beloved Steve Anderson's *Four Angels*, Cornelius's *The Three Kings*, Maurice Duruflé's *Ubi caritas*, Wesley's *Lead Me, Lord*, Howells's *Like As the Hart*, Stainer's *God So Loved the World*, and Mozart's *Ave verum corpus*. The Choir also premiered a new arrangement of the spiritual **Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley**. Ellen Bowlin offered her wonderful gifts as substitute organist in my absence, leading the choir in John Bell's *Simeon Song*. The St. James Children's Choir grew tremendously in our rehearsals early in 2020, and they offered their gifts singing the anthem *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* in both English and Swahili.

In mid-March, the world was turned upside down by the COVID-19 pandemic, and we were faced with the challenge of finding new ways to provide music for services, and continuing to meet as a choir. Through the use of new technology, we have found ways to continue the musical life of our parish. We have made use of both live and pre-recorded hymn playing in our Sunday services over Zoom, including a capella singing by our wonderful choir members. Early on in the pandemic, the Choir met periodically for hymn sings, and this fall, we began to meet weekly for choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings. Through the course of the fall, we created choral videos of two anthems, *the Kyrie* from William Byrd's *Mass for Three Voices* and *In Paradisum* from Gabriel Faure's *Requiem*, which premiered on All Saints' Sunday, and began work on a third, Felix Mendelssohn's *How Lovely Are the Messengers*, which will premiere in Epiphany. The Choir did a particularly wonderful job leading a capella hymns during the Advent and Christmas season, and on Christmas Eve the St. James Children's Choir provided an anthem, *Away in a Manger* that featured beautiful

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singing by Ellie, Hugo, Dhruv, Sean and Kelly, and wonderful accompaniment on violin and guitar by Sarah and Derek Warren.

Though I long for the day when we can be back in the sanctuary, singing full-throated hymns and anthems of praise, I am deeply appreciative of the members of the Choir for their patience, persistence and faithfulness, as we have navigated this pandemic together. I would like to thank Pat Lang and Mary Lycan, who have volunteered countless hours to the service of the choir, and Katherine Brighty, who helps with our choir calendars, sends rehearsal reminders to the Choir, and graciously houses Young and me whenever we need to spend the night in Connecticut. I so appreciate the work of our parish administrator Ellen Merrill, who, among many other things, creates beautiful PowerPoint documents each week to enrich our worship, and Chuck Sharp who has so ably and cheerfully hosted our Zoom services. Finally, I want to thank Fr. Ranjit for so wonderfully keeping us together and growing as followers of Christ through these challenging times. In many ways, I feel that, through his leadership, we have become an even more tightly knit community of faith during this past year, as difficult as it has been. As always, anyone interested in singing in the Choir, or participating in our music program in some other way, should contact William Cooper at wilhelm.fassbinder@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,
William David Cooper, Organist/Choirmaster

THE ANGLICAN SINGERS **Artists-in-Residence**

Report of Activities for 2020

My report is shorter than usual this year—for the wrong reason. It's not because I lay claim to any wit of brevity or concise writing style, but because, alas, I have less to report on this season of *cantus interruptus*.

For the Singers, 2020 began as expected. The board had completed plans for our August residency at Worcester Cathedral in the UK, for which our terrific director, Rev. Benjamin Straley, was preparing our repertoire. We offered, as scheduled, Epiphany and Lenten evensong services. In the week following our March 1st service, we began rehearsing for Easter evensong, and for Worcester.

And then the bottom dropped out of everyone's world with the arrival on American shores of the COVID virus, as a frightening pandemic began to sweep across the globe. Activities quickly began to shut down or to continue only online. After many discussions between Benjamin and the board and our hosts in the UK, we regretfully decided to postpone our residency to a future date (since rescheduled for the summer of 2022).

Since March, we have been able to meet only virtually, via Zoom get-togethers each Tuesday evening. Cancelled in addition to the Worcester residency was the April evensong, as well as services scheduled for the current season—including, saddest of all, our Advent Service of Lessons and Carols on December 13th.

We did hold our annual holiday party (remotely)—and we made it a jolly occasion. Moreover, Benjamin has arranged for a vocal specialist to hold three online workshops with the ensemble in early 2021. We'll be working on technique and style, in preparation for what we expect to be the commencement of a full, in-person season in September. Thanks be to God for the early rollout of vaccines that will help all of us resume our lives!

(Continued on page 18)

While you most likely won't see or hear us this spring, we *will* be back in the fall, so let me close with the final verse and refrain of a poem I had written to cheer my colleagues: *"In time St. James will open wide; / her bells go mad with ringing. / Then we will set our voices loose / and never cease our singing. / Until such time, we'll carry on / while to the goal we're clinging / that on that day, together we / will fill our world with singing!"*

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Carr Bingham, Secretary
The Anglican Singers

THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The St. James Investment Committee is responsible for overseeing the St. James Endowment Fund, which is used to partially fund the annual Operating Budget and to pay for other expenditures as directed by the Vestry. This committee has four members: George Shaw, Matt Pinson, Robert Patten, and Jerry Miller, and meets quarterly with the Portfolio Manager from Citizens Bank to review the investments. Citizens manages all of the Endowment Fund except for \$490,000 which is held in Certificates of Deposit per instructions of the donor.

The St. James Endowment Fund began calendar year 2020 with a market value of \$3,700,864 and ended the year with a market value of \$4,028,813 for a net increase of \$327,949, approximately 8.9 percent. This net increase reflects withdrawals of \$171,546 to pay for operating expenses per the approved 2020 Parish operating budget. If we did not have to withdraw funds to balance our operating budget, the net change for 2020 would have been an increase of \$499,495, or about 13.5 percent.

The Investment Committee welcomes new members. If you are interested, please speak to one of the Investment Committee members.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Miller, for the Investment Committee

COUNTERS

The Counting Committee was put on hold due to the cancelation of in-church worship in March at St. James Church. From March until the present, Ellen Merrill, Parish Administrator, has made weekly deposits of the checks and/or transactions that were mailed or dropped off to the church office. A weekly summarized sheet of deposits was submitted to the bookkeeper for her records, as well as the pledge secretary. This procedure will continue until in-church services resume.

We have been so blessed with a great group of people volunteering their time to count the Sunday and special services collections. Thank you for your patience during this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Burdick
Chairperson of the Counting Committee

ALTAR GUILD REPORT

Where to begin.

Last year at this time, the Altar Guild was cleaning up from the Christmas Season and beginning to think about Lent, Holy Week and Easter. By the time Ash Wednesday had passed and we had put out our lovely Lenten array, the world turned upside down. I'm sure we all can remember our initial thoughts when the decision was made to discontinue services while Covid began its deadly march across America and the world. The horror of the past year remains raw in my thoughts as I write this Altar Guild report. So many unnecessary deaths, so much economic devastation, so much sadness, so much pain. ...

Yet through it all, St. James has continued to be a beacon of HOPE to the surrounding community. Other ministries are better able to speak to how this continues to be accomplished every day. But if we consider how St James has been that beacon for almost 300 years- through a revolution, enemy invasions, a civil war, two world wars and multiple other conflicts, a world-wide depression, assassinations, civil, political and economic upheaval, pandemics- what a witness to human suffering the church has been!

So the Altar Guild has had fewer tasks this year- no weddings, funerals, Sunday or Holy Day services to prepare for, no hangings to change or flowers to order, no washing or ironing or folding- in short no "dressing up" the public face of the church. But the mission continues without the finery- to love God and do right by Her/His children.

I would like to thank Fr. Ranjit, the staff, the Vestry and everyone who makes this happen every day at St James, and yes, I do so look forward to seeing you all again when we get (safely) to the other side of this!

Respectfully submitted,
Mary White

USHERS

During church services the St. James ushers perform a variety of simple but important duties: distributing Sunday bulletins, collecting and presenting the Sunday offering, coordinating the flow of people to and from the altar rail at communion, and providing general assistance to newcomers and regulars, as needed. After the service, the ushers return books and kneelers to their proper positions and remove stray papers from the pews, to be ready for the next service.

Because of the COVID pandemic, church services were limited to the first quarter of the year. The dedicated people serving as ushers in 2020 were: Martha Anderson, Ralph Anderson, Jean Rogers, Deanna Bosendorf, Garry Brennan, Ann Burdick, Bill Crawford, Peter Hewitt, Jan Merrill, Robin Olbrys, Nancy Higgins, Dave Higgins, Chuck Sharp, David Rainey, Brian Stoner, and Jerry Miller.

Ushers duties will resume when normal Church services resume. Additional ushers are always needed. Currently, each usher serves approximately once every third week. Our goal is to increase the membership so that each usher serves once a month. There are no duties beyond the regular Sunday services. If you can help, please contact the Parish Office or me.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Miller, Coordinator

CHURCH SCHOOL

We are pleased to say that Church School classes have continued despite the pandemic. We have luckily been able to still meet with our exciting and curious children through Zoom.

This year we are focusing on “Women in the Bible.” Starting in the Old Testament with Eve, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Naomi, Ruth and more! We have moved into the New Testament with Elizabeth and Mary before Christmas and now are continuing with Anna, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Mary Magdalene.

Despite the distance and limited meeting time frame, we are able to teach the children of the many women who made impacts in the Bible. It is also good to keep in touch with our church school families and for the children’s connections to continue.

We are also blessed to have Ms. Jan Dargel’s continued support! Along with singing opportunities, like Christmas Eve, with guidance from Dr. Will Cooper!

We pray that this year is filled with positive thoughts and actions for our church school and church families! Peace, health and safety for everyone as we all face 2021 together, despite social distancing.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Olbrys, Gena Scognamiglio & Johanna Kuruvilla, Church School Teachers

REOPENING COMMITTEE

The Reopening Committee was established within about two weeks of the pandemic closing and the committee met via zoom twice weekly for about two months, then moved to weekly meetings through much of the summer. We now meet Monthly/bi-monthly or as needed. We expect to continue on this schedule until developments suggest otherwise. We are closely following the guidance of the Bishop’s office of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut in all reopening issues.

The committee first established protocols for reopening for in person worship; screening for entrance, traffic patterns for movement in the worship and meeting areas, markings and patterns for distanced seating, etc. During the month of August, outdoor was offered in the yard of a parishioner. Registration was required and a total of four services were held. The early time and cold weather prohibited folks from attending.

We set protocols for screening, access, operation and communication for the Drop In Learning Center to use the upper floor of the Seabury Center with access via the Meridian Street entrance.

Proposed and established virtual church services via Zoom – thanks to Chuck Sharp. We also recommended expansion of internet for continued online access to in house worship even after we reopen for in person worship. This is to accommodate those who are geographically distant or who might be hesitant to join in person. It will also be a valuable addition to our ministry of outreach. Chuck has gotten a grant to help fund the setup of the expanded internet and airing capacity for St. James.

The committee consulted with set up protocols for reopening the Jumble Shoppe and for food distribution through the Pantry. Both are now available by appointment. Thank you to Dorothy Sieburg and staff for setting up the Jumble Shoppe and to Ellen Merrill., Diane Theis, and aides for the Pantry food distribution.

Kudos to the hard work of the committee members: Diane Larson, Diane Theis, Ellen Merrill, Stephanie Brandon, Dorothy Sieburg, Karen Hatcher, Chuck Sharp, and Fr. Ranjit Mathews.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Will Sieburg, Chair

FAITH IN ACTION

The Faith in Action Committee meets regularly to explore how we can be faithful to the calling to be God's presence and love in the world around us. In this year of physical isolation, committee members have focused on maintaining contact with fellow parishioners, and most especially those who are homebound, living alone, or in congregate care. Additionally, the committee reviews initiatives addressing poverty, racism, and social justice to determine ways to support such initiatives, particularly at the local and state levels. The committee also makes decisions about allocation of money from Jumble Shoppe sales to mission and outreach programs.

The committee currently meets on Zoom, with call-ins and updates from those members unable to attend a virtual meeting. Present committee members are Fr. Ranjit, Stephanie Brandon, Deanna Bossdorf, Deacon Ellen Adams, Kathleen Harrington, Grace Barnum, Cheryl Allison, Mary Ellen Harris, Chuck Sharp, Carole Shores, Lori Sarkett, John Umland and Hilda Zeigler.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Sieburg, chair

ST. JAMES QUILTERS

Our mission is to make quilts for the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) Nurse Partnership, which cares for new mothers. We have not been able to meet since the pandemic shut everything down, but we are looking forward to getting back to creating quilts for those babies in 2021. At this time, we have eleven members, but new members are always welcomed. You do not have to know how to quilt; we will teach you. If you have any questions, call Mary Chartier at 860-443-0590.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Chartier

STITCHES & PRAYERS MINISTRY

If any parishioners know of someone who would benefit from receiving a prayer shawl or square, please reach out to Ellen in the parish office.

Respectfully submitted,
Deanna Bossdorf and Pat King

HATS, MITTENS, GLOVES & SCARVES

A positive from 2020 - my knitter angels really knitted up a storm! What a delight to be able to deliver so many sets to the schools, Covent Shelter, and others in need. We were certainly blessed with so many handmade, store bought and financial donations. It was truly seeing God's work in action. Everyone greeted us enthusiastically when we delivered them.

Remember, I will take your donations all year long. I thank you many times over for the wonderful support that you have given this mission.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Chojnacki, Chair

SECURITY COMMITTEE

Members: Ralph Anderson, John Brewster, Diane Larson, Rev. Ranjit Mathews, Ellen Merrill, Chuck Sharp

In the Spring of 2020, St. James submitted a proposal to the CT Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection for Physical Security Improvements. In September 2020, we were advised our proposal was accepted and in October 2020 we submitted forms to the Federal Department of Homeland Security for funding. In November 2020, we received approval of our proposal for \$20,000.

We developed this proposal following a Security Assessment report from the New London Police Department. We intend to enhance security for parishioners, staff, visitors and the local community by improving perimeter lighting around the Seabury Center, installing cameras at entrances to the Seabury Center and locating panic buttons throughout the church area to deter criminal activity and provide information to the New London Police Department when incidents occur.

We expect to install lights, cameras and panic buttons by the end of Summer 2021. Please contact a member of the Committee if you have any questions. Thanks.

Ralph Anderson, Chair

CARING FOR CREATION COMMITTEE

Despite many canceled plans due to the pandemic, the Caring for Creation Committee managed to maintain its cohesiveness and sense of purpose through monthly Zoom meetings, which included time for well-being check-in and personal sharing about experiences in nature. Two active members left due to changing family circumstances, but others have joined and the group now has six active members. We expect to continue with a hybrid of in-person and Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future to allow maximum participation.

Some key activities this year include:

- Joined other groups in helping launch New London Pollinator Pathway. We look forward to group getting active again in the spring.
- Before the pandemic, held vegetarian potluck and watched “Paris to Pittsburgh.”
- Hosted vegetarian recipe swap via Zoom on Jan. 12.
- Donated \$120 from reusable bag sales to the Lord’s Pantry; donated remaining 23 unsold bags to the Jumble Shop.
- During a virtual coffee hour, invited congregation to share nature appreciation photos via Instagram for Earth Day; led environmental stewardship discussion in December.
- Contributed to roof/solar panel committee
- Cleanup of Antientist Burial Ground in November; plan to make it a biannual activity.
- In the coming year, several members will be participating in the Growing Together interfaith pilot program; also participating in upcoming community garden initiative of CT Episcopal Diocese.

New members are welcome. Please contact Judy Benson, chairwoman, at: moss153@att.net.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Benson

JUMBLE SHOPPE

The Jumble Shoppe opened the year 2020 with very brisk sales, netting over \$5,000 by mid-March when church services and all activities in the church building came to an abrupt halt in the face of the Covidi-19 pandemic. The shop remained closed throughout the spring and summer months, although some donations continued to arrive through the parish office. Diane Theis and Ellen Merrill dealt with the donations and also were able to find some articles of clothing and household goods for people in need. In early fall, in consultation with the Re-Opening Committee, several volunteers began to come into the shop to deal with the large number of unsorted donations and to clear out and reorganize the shop with an eye toward possible winter re-opening. The Vestry approved the re-opening of the shop in December, with a solid protocol for safety of customers and volunteers. Customers must make an appointment to enter the shop and are checked in with questions about travel and health, as well as having a temperature check. No more than four customers are allowed to shop at any one time. It has been heart-warming to once again see some of our favorite neighbor/customers, many of whom combine their visit to the shop with picking up food from the Lord's Pantry. As word spreads, more customers are asking to shop and recently sales on one day were quite high. As noted in the accompanying financial report by Treasurer Deanna Bossdorf, the Jumble Shoppe has been able to continue its mission of supporting local and international causes.

It is with great sadness that I must report the sudden death of one of our most faithful community volunteers, Yuderka Costillo. May she rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon her.

In closing I want to thank all the volunteers who have worked to clean up the shop and are coming faithfully twice a week to keep it open and well stocked: Deanna Bossdorf, Sandy Downing, and Susan Bracht. Thanks also to Ellen Merrill for fielding appointment calls, to Diane Theis and Diana Cortes for cleaning and accepting donations, and to Dave Downes who loads up all our unusable goods for delivery to Good Will in Groton. Finally, thank you also to Rolanda Fernandez, Gladys Kimmel and Laura Pinson, who, although unable to be volunteering now in the face of the pandemic, continue to be in communication with us and are eagerly awaiting the time when they can return to the shop.

We are grateful to parishioners of St. James for your donations to the shop and for your ongoing support and prayers during these trying times.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Sieburg, Manager

JUMBLE SHOPPE FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance on hand 01/01/2020	8,911.81
Deposits 01/01/2020 TO 03/31/2020	4,281.66
Deposits 11/01/2020 TO 11/25/2020	<u>874.00</u>
	14,067.47
Disbursements	6,540.13
Balance	7,527.34

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DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

Australian Wildfires	500.00
Puerto Rico Earth Quake	1000.00
Sudanese Immigrants	500.00
Liberation Rising Campaign	500.00
Struggling Families Support	1000.00
Racial Justice	1000.00
Immigrant Green Card	<u>500.00</u>
	\$5000.00

JUMBLE SHOPPE INTERNAL DISBURSEMENTS

_Diana Cortes Cleaning (Jan. – March)	221.40
Diane Theis – Repairs	55.00
Moving Fee for Donated Furniture (Hallam Lounge)	150.00
Repair of Jumble Shoppe Door	52.50
Jumble Shoppe Supplies	108.72
Diane Theis - Supplies	55.00
Plexiglass dividers for Shoppe	507.93
Air Purifier for Shoppe	<u>444.98</u>
	\$1540.13

Respectfully submitted,
Deanna Bossdorf, Treasurer

RACIAL RECONCILIATION WORKING GROUP

A few hardy souls braved a snowstorm on Saturday, January 18, to see the movie, *Just Mercy* and then went out to dinner to discuss it. Another group of us went to hear Ibram X. Kendri speak at the Coast Guard Academy on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. We were going to sponsor a show about Harriet Tubman in March, but it had to be cancelled because of the pandemic.

Rev. Dana and Deacon Ellen lead the group through the books White Fragility by Robin Diangelo and How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi during the spring and summer. We then read essays by James Baldwin and watched interviews with him in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,
Deacon Ellen

THE LORD'S PANTRY

This year has been a tough one for all of us with the onset of COVID-19 but it has been especially difficult for our neighbors within the greater New London area facing food and financial insecurity.

Our clients have been very appreciative for what our parish has been doing to assist them during this difficult time. Each curbside delivery contains six days of meals along with personal hygiene items. Over 80

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holiday meal boxes were distributed for Thanksgiving and Christmas along with their weekly food items.

One of the social workers that picks up food on a weekly basis for her clients shared an experience with us. While she was delivering food and wrapped Christmas gifts to her families, she was greeted by the children of two separate households. The children saw the wrapped gifts in the trunk along with the boxes of food. The children ignored the gifts but went directly to the food boxes. What does that tell you? It broke our hearts to think that the food insecurity situation is much worse than what we thought and this being so close to home.

Many thanks go out to all who have donated food, money, boxes and their time and talent to support the pantry. Over \$32,000 has been received in donations along with two grants totaling \$22,000 from the Community Foundation and \$8,000 from the Palmer Fund. We have expended \$19,000 during 2020 and utilized \$10,000 of the cash donations to purchase fresh produce, food, personal hygiene items and supplies. From the remaining balance, there are additional purchases made during 2020 that have not been invoiced as of yet. The remainder of the donations will be spent during 2021.

The numbers of individuals being assisted has steadily been increasing since March. We anticipate our food produce and personal hygiene purchases to increase dramatically during 2021 if this upward trend continues.

Month	Age Group			Totals	
	Children	Adults	Seniors	People	Meals
March	23	29	10	62	1,488
April	48	76	30	154	3,696
May	99	113	39	251	6,024
June	95	139	21	255	6,120
July	130	157	45	332	7,968
August	159	161	32	352	8,448
September	269	259	73	601	14,424
October	269	257	78	604	14,496
November	346	326	92	764	18,336
December	425	387	85	897	21,528
Totals	1,863	1,904	505	4,272	102,528



Respectfully submitted,
Diane Theis and Ellen Merrill

HOW TO DONATE

Monetary contributions and/or food items are always welcome to assist with this valuable parish ministry. Please make checks payable to St. James, memo “Lord’s Pantry—Food” or “Rector’s Discretionary Fund” if you would like to provide monies to assist those with financial emergency needs. Thank you to all who have donated during 2020. Without your food and financial assistance, we would not have been able to assist the families and individuals that needed our support.

THE COVENANT SHELTER

The Covenant Shelter was able to continue to accommodate families and individuals during 2020, with social distancing and respect to the State of Connecticut protocols.

At our August 15th Board of Director’s meeting, Phyllis Cappuccio, Executive Director of the Covenant

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Shelter announced she would be transitioning out of the shelter into partial retirement through the end of the year. At the November meeting of the Board of Directors, a new Executive Director was voted on and unanimously accepted to succeed Phyllis Cappuccio, who will retire in December. Mrs. Peggy Miceli will assume the position of the Executive Director, around the first of the year. During the months of November and December, Mrs. Miceli will be shadowing Ms. Cappuccio. Mrs. Miceli has recently served as the chairman of the Board of Directors and has been a large supporter of the shelter and its mission for many years. The board was enthusiastic to have her name proposed for this position.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Burdick

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

This has been the year that social media went from serving as an alternate means of communication to being the means of communication, and of education and worship as well. As a parish of committed Christians, many of us have had to adjust to Zoom meetings, video and audio connections and muting, daily noontime Youtube recordings and Facebook and Instagram alerts. While our internet skills may have improved, though, we can't forget to effectively communicate with our members who need more traditional ways of connecting.

Because Zoom link access has been critical for live video connections to our Sunday worship, Bible Studies, Fellowship meetings and Compline services, we added a "Saturday reminder" email each week to make finding the Zoom link easier and to update the parish about new upcoming activities. These Saturday emails go out to about 180 parishioners and friends (up 20 from last year) and are also posted on the St. James Facebook page. The regular Tuesday church emails go out both to those same parishioners, plus our SE Region contacts, for a total of 208 emails sent each Tuesday.

Our website at stjamesnl.org received 504 visits a week last year, up 124 from 2019. We look forward to suggestions, and especially pictures to add to our various media formats. Our Facebook page has seen its "likes" grow from 696 in 2019 to 780 this past year, and our "followers" now total 849, all increased by around 100. Thanks to Chuck Sharp who has actively posted videos of services, photos, and other news on our Facebook page.

This past year, our focus was on Instagram. With the help of Karla Umland and Dana Stivers, who both did great work on the platform, our Instagram page ([st_james_newlondon](https://www.instagram.com/st_james_newlondon)) grew to 752 Followers. Typically posts receive more than 100 likes, making our visibility on Instagram greater than on Facebook. With Instagram and Facebook now integrated, we are able to streamline the overall process.

Our social media policy remains "As a forward looking, multicultural and inclusive faith community, St. James believes that social media can be a place for proclaiming and doing Christ's work of love and justice, enabling us to reach our New London community and out into the world. We welcome social media engagement as we seek to grow and live in our faith. St. James does, however, reserve the right to block and hide posts and followers who do not enter into dialogue here from an inclusive and loving perspective".

The committee continues to meet regularly to discuss the ways we can continue to grow our ministry via social media, and welcomes new members who would like to engage the larger community. Thanks very much to Dana, Karla and Chuck for all their input this.

Respectfully submitted,
David Downes and Emma Palzere-Rae, Social Media Committee

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship theme for 2021 is God at Work in Pandemic Time: Grief, Hope and Action. None of us remembers a year like 2020! All were inconvenienced, though some struggled greatly. There is loss and deep grief that so many of our fellow citizens are going hungry or losing employment and housing. The joy of Eucharist in the sanctuary is on hold for now, though worship continues on-line. Yet, through all this, the parish has recognized that all our hope is founded on God, and that we are called to do the work of Christ, the way of love, within the parish and in the larger community in this strange time. Thank you, people of St. James, for doing Christ's work with your gifts of time, energy, dedication and financial resources.

The Stewardship of Financial Resources (as of the date of this report).

Number of Pledges Received for 2021: 71

Total Amount of Pledges for 2021: \$189,336

Average Pledge for 2021: \$2,667

Comparison Chart from Previous Years:

	Financial Pledge History						
	2021*	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Pledging Households	71	91	97	92	89	108	115
Pledge** Amount	\$189,336	\$222,514	\$189,389	\$175,229	\$173,444	\$175,327	\$196,857
Average Pledge	\$2,667	\$2,456	\$1,952	\$1,905	\$1,949	\$1,654	\$1,712

In addition to these pledged amounts, St. James parishioners and others have given generously to the parish. Note: Since January 2020, St. James has received \$34,432 in individual contributions to the Lord's Pantry as well as an additional \$22,250 from community organizations! We are grateful for this outpouring of generosity. The Stewardship of Our Time, Energy and Dedication. Though we are not worshipping as a parish in the church building, many of the ministries and committees of the parish are fully engaged. In the stewardship appeal materials mailed to you last fall, there is a list of St. James ministries and committees, with the email address of the leader of each. Please review this list, and as you feel called to join one of the groups, please take the initiative and reach out the leader. Please call the church office if you need a new list.

I am grateful to Stewardship Committee members Stephanie Brandon, Kathy Harrington, Sue Menghi, and Chuck Sharp for their diligent work, and to Greg Rice and David Downes for recording and tracking the pledge income. Further appreciation is due to Fr. Ranjit for his guidance at the beginning of the committee's work; to Ellen Merrill, parish secretary, for much help in preparing the stewardship materials and in other ways; to those who have written notes of thanks; and to Deb Downes for designing the logo for the stewardship appeal.

Respectfully,

Robert H. Bowlin, Stewardship Committee Chair

Parish Voter List—2021

Alborghetti, Marcie	Crawford, William	Kuruvilla, Joanna	Reyburn, Trish
Alison, Cheryl	D'Amelia, Henry	Kydd, Harold	Rice, Greg
Anderson, Martha	Dargel, Jan	Kydd, Michael	Robarts, John
Anderson, Patricia	Debski, Nicole	Kydd, Rose	Robarts, Masha
Anderson, Ralph	Delancy, Duke	Lang, Patricia	Roberts, Edwin
April, Helen	Delancy, Joanna	Larson, Diane	Robinson, Joan
Barnum, Grace	Delancy, Martha	Lee, Eun	Rogers, Jean
Barnwell, Jason	Dooley, Carol	Lee, Patricia	Sage, Sharrill
Barnwell, Pandora	Downes, David	Lewis, Cecilia	Sanders, Patricia
Bath, Florence	Downes, Deborah	Lycan, Mary	Sarkett, Lori
Bath, Kristine	Drew, Kristine	Manwaring, Cheryl	Scheibner, Anne
Belknap, Kenneth	Duffy, Charles	Marciniak, Marci	Scognamiglio, Gena
Benson, Judy	Dunning, Alma	Mathews, Ranjit	Sharp, Charles
Bingham, Anne	Dunning, Sharon	McCarthy, Effie	Shaw, Anna
Bingham, Anne Carr	Dunning, Stacy	McCoy, Carol	Shaw, George
Bingham, Robert, Kim	Dyess, Reona	Menghi, Susan	Sherman, Barbara
Bossdorf, Deanna	Enoch, Mark	Merrill, Joy	Shores, Carole
Boulanger, Arthur	Evans, Shirley	Miller, Dagmar	Shores, James
Bowlin, Ellen	Fulton, Myrna	Miller, Gerald	Sieburg, Dorothy
Bowlin, Robert	Gathers, Gloria	Miller, Kathryn	Sieburg, William
Brandon, Stephanie	Godfrey, Eleanor	Miller, Wilbert	Skeffington, Beverly
Breitenstein, Timothy	Griffin, Andrea	Miskell, Edna	Smith, Frederic
Brennan, Garrett	Harrington, Kathleen	Morgan, Elizabeth	Spence, Michael
Brennan, Victoria	Harris, Mary Ellen	Moorhead, Sarah	Steed, Ronald
Brewster, Geraldine	Harry, Barbara	Nave, John	Steed, Roxanne
Brewster, John	Hatcher, Karen	Olbrys, Robin	Stoner, Brian
Brewster, Laura Jean	Hewitt, Joy	Panko, Grace	Streeter, Nicholas
Brighty, Katherine	Hewitt, Peter	Patterson, Bruce	Theis, Diane
Burdick, Ann	Higgins, David	Patterson, Carol	Traggis, Elizabeth
Carter, James	Higgins, Nancy	Percy, Marilyn	Umland, John
Carter, Tina	Hislop, Arlene	Peterson, Alma	Umland, Karla
Cascio, Linda	Hume, Deborah	Peyton, Evelyn	Vine, Sara
Cascio, Paul	Hume, Patrick	Peyton, Henry	Vogel, Nancy
Chartier, Mary	Ingmundson, Erik	Pierce, Marcia	Warren, Derek
Chartier, Ray	Ingmundson, Rebecca	Pinson, Laura	Warren, Sarah
Chojnacki, Sue	Ivey, Dan	Pinson, Matthew	Welsh, Barbara
Chojnacki, Walter	Johnson, Robert	Rae, Edward	Welsh, Robert
Clark, Thomas	Jones, Joan	Rae-Palzere, Emma	White, Mary
Coleman, David	Kepner, Janet	Rae, Robert	Wiersma, Grace
Congdon, Mary	King, Dick	Rae, William	Ysordia, Renee
Margaret	King, Pat	Rainey, David	Zafros, Kristen
Connell, Mary-Jane	Koczera, Gary	Ramey, Charles	Zeigler, Hilda
		Reichard, Allison	
		Reichard, Peter	
		Reyburn, Charles	

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 31, 2021

OVERVIEW

St. James is a business, requiring in excess of \$450,000 a year to remain operational. This money is used to pay utilities, insurance, personnel salaries and benefits, maintenance costs, and office operations costs. The money to support these Parish expenses is received from annual Pledges by parish members, donations by users of parish facilities, Beneficiary Income from various estates, and other miscellaneous donations. For many years these sources of revenue have not been sufficient to cover our expenses, and the shortfall has been made up by withdrawals from the St. James Endowment Account under the "5 Percent Rule" established by the vestry. This rule allows up to five percent of the Endowment average value for the prior five years to be used to balance the budget. Any amount withdrawn in excess of the five percent must be approved by the Vestry. In 2021, as in 2020, we will need to withdraw more than five percent to balance the budget.

2020 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

The approved 2020 Operating Budget established planned expenditures of \$490,618, and planned revenues of \$286,000. The budget was to be balanced by transferring \$204,618 from the St. James Endowment Account. This withdrawal amount is \$45,610 more than the "5 Percent Rule" allows, as discussed in last year's annual report.

The 2020 actual income was \$273,217, less than the projected amount by \$12,783. The 2020 actual expenditures were \$476,006, less than the projected amount by \$14,602. After factoring in the actual Endowment withdrawal of \$171,546, our budget performance for calendar year 2019 yielded a deficit of \$31,243.

The budget details can be found in the spreadsheet at the back of the Parish Annual Report.

All 2020 bills were paid in full when received, enabling St. James to enter 2021 with a clean financial slate, as we have done for the last five years.

2021 BUDGET

The Vestry has adopted a 2021 Operating Budget of \$478,125, about \$12,500 less than the 2020 Operating Budget. Major changes incorporated into this budget are:

- \$10,000 decrease in Plate and Special Offerings, based on assuming Church reopens July 1.
- Fifty percent decrease in revenues from Seabury Center Usage, Fundraisers, and Altar Guild Revenue, based on assuming Church reopens July 1.
- Deletion of part-time Assistant Priest position, and associated budget of \$22,000.
- Carrying the \$12,000 contribution from the Drop-In Learning Center as a credit against Church Utilities instead of revenue from Seabury Center usage (as was done when the homeless shelter was housed in the Seabury Center about ten years ago).
- Salary increases of 1.68% for clergy and lay staff, consistent with guidelines published by the Diocese.
- Increased Medical, Property and Liability Insurance costs of 20%, per guidelines published by the Diocese.
- Deleted line item and funding for membership and participation in the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes (CEEP).
- Increased several Plant Maintenance and Operations line items based on historical trends.

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To balance the operating budget we plan to withdraw \$208,975 from the Endowment Fund. This is \$45,822 more than the full 5% withdrawal permitted by Vestry Policy. The Vestry approved this amount as a one-time exception to the 5% rule.

NON-OPERATING BUDGET ITEMS

Mission and Outreach activities (such as The Lord's Pantry and Community Meal) are not considered to be Operating Budget items and do not appear on the budget spreadsheet in this report. In recent years these outreach activities have been funded by donations and grants. More information is provided elsewhere in this Annual Report.

The 2019 Financial Audit was completed in June 2020 and found parish financial record keeping fully satisfactory.

Special thanks goes to the Budget Committee members—Garrett Brennan, George Shaw, Matt Pinson, and Peter Hewitt—who worked diligently to establish and validate this budget, and to Barbara Calkins, our bookkeeper, who continues to skillfully manage our accounts, pay our bills on time and keep our financial records accurate throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jerry Miller
Parish Treasurer

ST JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COMPARATIVE BUDGET
FOR YEAR ENDING 12/31/2021

	BUDGET 2021	BUDGET 2020	ACTUAL 2020	ACTUAL 2019	ACTUAL 2018
Operating Revenues					
Pledge, Plate and Other Offerings					
4001 - Plate & Special Offerings	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$15,847	\$27,692	\$21,683
4002 - Pledge Income	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$205,415	\$194,119	\$184,903
4005 - Investment & Interest Income	\$150	\$0	\$148	\$141	\$146
4010 - Beneficiary Income	\$38,000	\$38,000	\$38,330	\$36,644	\$37,457
4015 - Seabury Center Usage	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$727	\$6,819	\$3,577
4020 - Other Income, General Use	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$10,905	\$3,077	\$2,019
4025 - Fund Raising Income	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$17	\$1,740	\$59
4030 - Grant Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$623	\$10,000
4050 - Altar Guild Revenue	\$3,500	\$7,000	\$1,828	\$7,351	\$6,927
Total Operating Revenues	\$288,150	\$288,000	\$273,217	\$278,208	\$288,771
Operating Expenses					
Missions					
5022 - Diocese Pledge	\$44,914	\$43,175	\$43,164	\$38,652	\$37,548
5012 - Vestry Expenses	\$500	\$500	\$346	\$3,278	\$1,163
5013 - Community Outreach & Support	\$0	\$0	\$37	\$20	\$397
Total Missions	\$45,414	\$43,675	\$43,547	\$41,950	\$39,108
Programs					
5031 - Booklets and Tracts	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,272	\$1,389	\$1,294
5032 - Youth Education	\$50	\$100	\$0	-\$60	\$24
5033 - Church School	\$200	\$400	-\$160	-\$312	-\$300
5034 - Adult Education Expense	\$100	\$200	\$19	\$174	-\$44
5036 - Acolytes/Ministry Training	\$850	\$1,700	\$0	\$0	\$0
5046 - Musicians	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$202	\$1,543	\$1,098
5047 - Music Program	\$375	\$750	\$0	\$1,019	\$560
5048 - Organ/Plano Tuning and Repair	\$2,600	\$1,880	\$2,310	\$2,607	\$1,957
5049 - Music Library	\$175	\$350	\$72	\$151	\$72
5055 - Altar Guild/Worship Expenses	\$3,500	\$7,000	\$714	\$8,580	\$7,011
5066 - Stewardship/Search Committees	\$500	\$500	\$758	\$906	\$447
5041 - Parish Fellowship and Events	\$900	\$1,800	\$557	\$1,576	\$1,651
50ax - CEEP Membership and Travel	\$0	\$3,000	\$2,648	\$0	\$0
5051 - Supply Organist Expense	\$500	\$800	\$350	\$0	\$1,450
Total Programs	\$11,750	\$23,480	\$8,742	\$17,673	\$16,226
Salaries					
5071 - Rector/Interim Rector	\$54,664	\$52,881	\$51,214	\$49,610	\$53,835
50ax - Assistant Priest	\$0	\$22,000	\$15,369	\$0	\$0
5073 - Supply Clergy	\$3,750	\$1,750	\$1,156	\$1,461	\$1,471
5076 - Administrative Asst.	\$34,699	\$34,126	\$35,160	\$33,846	\$32,983
5077 - Sexton	\$22,341	\$21,972	\$19,225	\$18,277	\$11,501
5078 - Organist/Choirmaster	\$36,867	\$36,258	\$36,258	\$35,512	\$34,330
5080 - Bookkeeper	\$8,458	\$8,318	\$8,145	\$8,513	\$8,200
5082 - Intern Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$750
5083 - Legal Expense	\$0	\$0	\$5,450	\$52	\$700
Total Salaries	\$180,778	\$177,306	\$171,877	\$147,771	\$148,770
Benefits					
5086 - Housing Equity Allowance	\$2,856	\$2,777	\$2,777	\$2,689	\$2,597
5087 - Clergy Housing/Relocation Allowance	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
5088 - FICA Supplement	\$9,079	\$8,827	\$10,476	\$8,548	\$8,254
5089 - Reimburse Rector/Deacon Exp.	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$1,042	\$4,074	\$3,335
5090 - Clergy Pension Fund	\$17,807	\$17,312	\$20,973	\$20,384	\$13,979
5091 - Clergy Life and Medical Insurance	\$38,868	\$36,960	\$36,365	\$33,008	\$30,370
5092 - Continuing Education	\$1,850	\$1,850	\$592	\$1,737	\$1,112
5101 - Staff Life, Health, & Disability, Ins.	\$16,921	\$16,237	\$14,688	\$15,420	\$14,966
5102 - Staff Pension Fund	\$5,134	\$5,048	\$5,035	\$4,331	\$2,712
5103 - Staff Payroll Taxes Lfity	\$7,831	\$7,702	\$7,158	\$6,704	\$5,227
5104 - Reimbursable Organist Expenses	\$200	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0
5105 - Staff Bonus	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$700	\$0
Total Benefits	\$108,648	\$106,413	\$106,108	\$102,686	\$87,682
Plant Maintenance & Operations					
5111 - Routine Maintenance/Repairs	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$20,987	\$29,657	\$28,472
5112 - Rectory Maintenance	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,197	\$2,189	\$6,139
5113 - Major Repairs	\$0	\$0	\$998	\$0	\$0
5115 - Church Utilities	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$27,191	\$27,193	\$29,762
5116 - Rectory Utilities	\$7,500	\$6,000	\$8,265	\$7,417	\$7,024
5118 - Janitorial Maintenance	\$10,555	\$10,394	\$10,780	\$12,099	\$11,905
Total Plant Maintenance & Operations	\$70,555	\$68,894	\$73,418	\$78,656	\$83,302
Other Non-Salary					
5126 - Advertisements	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,598	\$2,036	\$2,058
5127 - Office Supplies	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$1,791	\$2,514	\$3,066
5128 - Bank Fees	\$0	\$0	\$110	\$30	\$53
5129 - Audits	\$7,300	\$7,000	\$7,437	\$7,307	\$7,000
5130 - Dues & Memberships	\$200	\$200	\$1,248	\$1,116	\$175
5131 - Liability/Property Insurance	\$50,581	\$42,151	\$45,996	\$37,903	\$37,140
5132 - Office Equipment	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$13,822	\$15,113	\$12,657
5133 - Postage	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,169	\$1,432	\$998
5134/5 - Fund Raising/Grant Expense	\$0	\$0	\$45	\$2,644	\$101
Total Other Non-Salary	\$80,581	\$71,851	\$73,216	\$70,095	\$63,248
Total Operating Expenses	\$478,125	\$490,618	\$476,006	\$458,539	\$432,200
Net Revenue Minus Expenses	-\$208,975	-\$204,618	-\$202,789	-\$180,333	-\$166,429
Transfer from Endowment	\$163,153	\$159,008	\$171,546	\$171,552	\$164,664
Net Operating Total	-\$45,822	-\$45,610	-\$31,243	-\$8,781	-\$785

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