Every day, as I go and drop off Dhruv to school, Johanna will lovingly say to him, as we make our way down the stairs to the garage, “Dhruv – be kind and be brave.” And he’ll say, “ok, Amma.” It’s one of the many rituals, I cherish during our morning routine.

Be kind and be brave. How appropriate for our time, and not only for a first grader; but for all of us. What if we could all head into our day with a posture of being kind and brave? There are all hosts of things that we encounter on an everyday basis. Really hard and tough things. The reality of injustice, of un-kind spaces and sometimes people. That’s just the honest truth. And yet it’s important that as people who strive to follow Jesus, what if we were kind and brave as we did this? Wouldn’t this help us to more ably follow Jesus?

During this Epiphany season, we remember the three wise men bringing the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus as their gifts for the incarnate God. What are the individual gifts we can claim as we move out to meet Jesus? I can imagine Dhruv taking his kindness and his braveness out into the world, leaning into a world of possibility and grace.

I remember back when I attended George Washington University in Washington, D.C, and during that time, I participated in a Christian fellowship called Hope Bible Study. For those of you who are wondering, I just couldn’t find the Canterbury Club, which is the Episcopal version of campus ministry. In any case, I remember meeting Sharon Chang, who had this incredible warmth and care to her. She would share this warmth and care with all whom she encountered. I still remember her and the way in which she embodied Christ’s love in the world. She would engage people whom she had never met with a sincerity of care – she was kind and she was brave.

We all have gifts that have been endowed by our Creator, and as baptized Christians, we are called, again, to be the salt and light of the Earth. That is our vocation, and so it is important to share these gifts, because as we do, we reveal Christ out in the world. My friends, where are you this morning, afternoon, or evening? I invite you to return to that place in your heart where you experienced God’s love in your life. Remember? That tangible, very real experience, whether in nature, with a friend’s unconditional love, the joy and transformation of worship, or something else altogether. Go back to that place, and rest in it. Tarry for a little while.

After reveling in that space, I now invite you to go out into our world, into our very real neighborhoods of New London, into your local supermarkets, or into Dunkin or Starbucks and share those gifts that you have been given by God. They may not be gold, frankincense or myrrh; but by being brave and kind, you can share what you have been given. By doing this, by living into our God-given selves, we do the work of Christ and we build the Realm of God.

In Christ,

Ranjit
News from our Deacon

Epiphany is known as the season that The Light, Jesus Christ, came into the world. It is based on the reality that the days are getting longer. Christians look for ways to bring the Realm of God to earth.

St. James has decided to use the season of Epiphany to interview members of the parish on how they feel they bring love into the world on a daily basis. It is the church’s job to offer public worship but it is also our job to discern how to use our specific skills to the glory of God and to support each other in what we as individuals decide to do. It is also important, in this missional age, to celebrate our various ministries in the world.

We spent last fall talking about being disciples. Now we are asking each person who worships here to talk about the joys and sorrows connected with their work so that we know what others are doing and find ways to support and celebrate the many ways God works through us.

Faithfully,

Deacon Ellen

Epiphany begins Sunday, January 6

Dear friends,

On Epiphany Sunday, January 6th, after both morning services, I will offer a forum on our parish’s new companion relationship with the Diocese of Goma, in the Anglican Church of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and what that may mean for us.

As time avails itself, I will also lead a discussion on the work that The Episcopal Church engages in with Anglican provinces within sub-Saharan Africa. Please join us.

Peace,

Ranjit
Senior Warden’s Report

As the New Year begins, the students from the Drop In Learning Center (DILC) will continue to come to St. James to learn, be creative, dance and grow. The children are between the ages of three and twelve, and are always enthusiastic to walk into our parish hall every day during the week.

Reona Dyess, the Executive Director of the DILC was pleased that the pen pal letter exchange established in June went well as it encouraged the children and the St. James parishioners to correspond with one another on a weekly basis over the summer. This allowed the students to hone in on their reading and writing skills. Reona also stated that volunteers are the key to the program’s success and many more are needed to help the students with their Reading and Math lessons.

If you have a little free time during the week please consider being a volunteer at the DILC, the younger children love having books read to them and the older children need a little extra help with their homework. We all need to realize that the knowledge that one passes on to a youngster might inspire them in ways that you could never imagine.

Faithfully,

Lori Sarkett

Sunday Parish Events—January & February

January 6—Partnership with the Diocese of Goma Forum after the 10:00 AM service in the Parish Hall

January 20—MLK Stewardship Panel after the 10:00 AM service in the Parish Hall

January 20 MLK Scholarship Memorial Service is at 3:00 PM in the Church. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall

January 27—Annual Meeting after the 9:00 AM (One Service) in the Parish Hall

January 27—Anglican Singers Evensong at 5:00 PM in the Church

February 3—We welcome the Rev. Canon Tim Hodap, Canon for Mission Collaboration

February 10—Racial Reconciliation Forum presented by Lottie Scott on her book Deep South, Deep North after the 10:00 AM service in the Parish Hall

February 17—Forum presented by Mike Dimauro, Sports Editor for The Day newspaper after the 10:00 AM service in the Parish Hall

Bi-Lingual Mid-Week Holy Eucharist

On Wednesday evenings, I will offer a bi-lingual Eucharist at 6:00 PM in Hallam Chapel. Hope to see you there.

In Christ,

Ranjit
Annual Parish Meeting

Parish Committee Reports Due

It’s that time again — time for committee and activity chairs to produce their annual reports in preparation for the Annual Parish Meeting. While there’s never a lack of activity in the parish office, we hope to schedule the work we need to do — to complete and compile the reports.

Therefore, all reports are due in the parish office by Friday, January 11. Any submissions not received by that date will not be in the report.

Sunday, January 27, 2018, St. James will hold its Annual Parish Meeting. There will only be one service that day, at 9:00 AM, so that we may all gather together as a single parish family and transact the “business” of our parish.

That day, immediately following the service, parish financials will be presented, an annual report of the various committees and ministries of St. James will be distributed, and new officers of the parish will be elected by members in good standing. The following is a canonical (“legal”) description of a member in good standing:

- Be baptized,
- Be at least 16 years of age,
- Be faithful in corporate worship,
- Have received communion at least three times during the preceding year,
- Have contributed to the financial well-being of the congregation.

Only members in “good standing” will be eligible to vote for our new officers; however all are invited to attend, become more informed about the life of St. James, and prepare yourself to more fully participate in the life of the St. James parish family.

Please plan on joining us that day—it’s important (and there’s no such thing as an “absentee ballot”!).

News Flash—The Net is now bi-monthly!

St. James’ Mission Statement

We are a forward looking, multi-cultural and inclusive faith community, proclaiming and doing Christ’s work of love and justice in the greater New London area and the world.
St. James Christmas “Giving” Tree

Many thanks to the members and friends of St. James parish. Special thanks to the elves who ran the cookie platter fundraiser this year. Your generosity will make a big difference to our seven adopted families. Merry Christmas and God Bless You!!

Your Giving Tree Committee

Socks for the Homeless Hospitality Center

This holiday season, we received an outpouring of new white socks for the Homeless Hospitality Center Shelter guests. We were able to “gift” each guest with three (3) pairs of wrapped socks to open on Christmas Day. Your generosity was greatly appreciated.

Hats, Mittens, Scarves and Gloves

WOW! I really owe a huge THANK YOU for the wonderful donations to this mission. Elf Walt and I were able to deliver over 400 sets to the local schools, Covenant Shelter, our adopted families and to others in need. Requests are still coming in and we are doing our best to help. None of this would have been possible without your help. I especially want to thank all the knitters who went “beyond” this year to contribute to the hat mission. This mission goes on all year and I am happy to receive any donations you have - all year long. We especially are in need of mittens and gloves. Thank you again many times over!!

Sue Chojnacki
Chair

Outreach Project for January and February

It’s that time of year — when we begin our collection for the Covenant Shelter. We need to provide coffee for the residents of the shelter. We collect coffee, tea, hot chocolate, sugar and sugar substitute, non-dairy creamer, and juice boxes for the children residing there. Your donations may be brought to church any Sunday, or during the week you may bring them to the parish office during office hours.

TO ENSURE DONATIONS GO TO THE RIGHT PLACE, PLEASE CLEARLY MARK YOUR DONATIONS “FOR COVENANT SHELTER”
Choral Evensong on Sunday, January 27, 2019
Third Sunday After the Epiphany
St. James Episcopal Church at 5:00 PM

On Sunday, January 27th, 2019, the Third Sunday after the Epiphany, The Anglican Singers will present a service of evensong featuring motets, canticles, and anthems by American composers Leo Sowerby, Bruce Neswick, Harold Friedell, and Gerre Hancock. The service begins at 5:00 PM and there will be a reception afterward in the parish hall.

The final two evensongs of the Singers' 2018–2019 program year will take place at St. James at 5:00 PM on Sunday, March 10th (Lent 1) and Sunday, April 28th (Easter 2). Please join us.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Carr Bingham, Secretary,
The Anglican Singers

Save The Date

Silent Movie at St. James—Sunday, March 17 at 7:30 PM
Featuring Robert Humphreville, Organist
St. James Episcopal Church

St. James Book Club

The St. James Book Club meets at La Luna Restaurant at 6:00 PM (located in the Holiday Inn). Meals and appetizers are available and pricing ranges from $5—$30 depending on the selection. Books are on reserve at the New London Public Library. Please bring your driver's license and local library card to pick up the book. For more information about the book club or restaurant, please contact Lori Sarkett at 860.287.5500 or lorisarketthne@gmail.com.

Thursday, January 24 Blessings by Anna Quindlen
Thursday, February 28 Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa Lee
**St. James Writers Group**

After a holiday break, the Writers Group will resume on January 14th. Subsequent sessions will be on January 28th, February 11th and February 25th. We are meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays (to avoid the Monday holidays) this winter. We meet from 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the parlor.

Our purpose is to offer quiet, dedicated time for writing. Just bring your pad and pen, or laptop, and the writing you have yearned to do. We don’t do writing exercises and don’t share our work. We just write in a supportive space.

If you have questions, email emmapalzererae@gmail.com. All projects and people welcome. Open to the St. James family and the community. Please join us!

**Social Media Committee**

Our November 26th post "The Holy Family - artwork done by Kelly Latimore" reached 31,791 people?

The Social Media Committee will meet on Sunday, January 13th, around 12:30 PM (following coffee hour after the 10:00 AM service).

I hope to see all current committee members and welcome new members interested in spreading the Jesus Movement through the Facebook, Instagram, through videos and more. We want to hear your ideas! Questions? Email me at emmapalzererae@gmail.com.

**St. James Quilters**

Our mission is to make quilts for Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) Nurse Family Partnership (which cares for new mothers). The St. James Quilters sold eight (8) of their quilts at the church Christmas Bazaar. Many handcrafted items made by Marcia Pierce were also sold. The quilters along with the Jumble Shop are proud to announce that their financial goal in supporting and paying for the installation of the air conditioning units in the church parlor has been met and exceeded. The quilters have raised $4,668 towards the cost of the air conditioning in the Parlor. Do you realize how many quilts had to be made and sold to meet this amount? We couldn’t have done this without the support of church members purchasing the quilts. Thank you.

The St. James Quilters meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 10:00 AM to 2:00 pm. New members are always welcomed. You do not have to know how to quilt, our experienced quilters will gladly teach you.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mary Chartier at 860.443.0590.

Margaret Murallo, Member
Church School

2018 has flown by and here we are at the beginning of yet another brand new year. A year of unlimited adventures and possibilities waiting to be discovered by each of us.

Our church school children, have been very busy learning about different people from the Old Testament. In December we transitioned to the New Testament starting with the story of The angel Gabriel visiting Zachariah and Elizabeth.

St. James church is known for bringing the love of Jesus from within the church to our outside community. Here at our church school we are trying to do just that. Our children have been making Christmas cards for home bound parishioners. We went caroling to New London Rehab and Care, Waterford which was a rewarding experience for all of us. Thanks to Nina Butler for suggesting the idea for all of us to go caroling. Addy Lanz, proposed the idea of having a Christmas pageant. She also wrote the script for it. Thank you Addy!

It is such a joy to see our children excited and enthusiastic about coming to church school and being active parishioners of our church. Thanks to all the church school parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles who bring their children to church every Sunday. Thanks to Will Cooper for helping us make music an integral part of church school. Thanks to all our St. James parishioners for supporting and encouraging our children at St. James! Here’s to 2019!
Church School Caroling at New London Rehab & Care and After Party

Cookie Platter Fundraiser

Monies raised went to help support our parish Christmas Tree of Giving outreach program.
**Birthdays**

The names on this list reflect the information as recorded in the parish database. Is your name (or a family member’s name) missing? If so, please contact the parish office and provide us with the accurate information!

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<th>January</th>
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<td>Henry Peyton</td>
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<td>Ann Burdick</td>
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<td>Kelly Dunning-Vazquez</td>
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<td>Alma Dunning</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sean Dunning-Vazquez</td>
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<td>Florence Bath</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Myrna Fulton</td>
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<td>Ranjit Mathews</td>
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<td>Diane Theis</td>
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<td>Bruce Skinner</td>
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<td>Carla Woodward</td>
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<td>Laura Jean Brewster</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Deborah Carter</td>
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<td>Deanna Bossdorf</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Roger Nelson</td>
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**St. James Supper Group**

Join fellow parishioners for dinner, fun and fellowship. We meet every month or so at a local restaurant for the fun of being together and trying new restaurants.

**January Gathering:**
**Place:** Flanders Fish Market & Restaurant, 22 Chesterfield Road, East Lyme
**Date:** Friday January 25 at 6:00 PM

**February Gathering:**
**Place:** Jasmine Thai Restaurant, 470 Bank Street, New London
**Date:** Friday, Feb. 22 at 6:00 PM

Please RSVP Lori Sarkett or the parish office by the Wednesday prior to the dinner. If you have any questions, please call Lori at 860.287.5500 or lorisarketthne@gmail.com. Carpooling is available from the church parking lot.
Racial Reconciliation Working Group

Take a 28-day journey to examine white privilege; group forming to share journey

"Me and White Supremacy" was a 28-day challenge that Layla F. Saad ran on her Instagram page between June and July 2018 "for people holding white privilege to examine their complicity in white supremacy." The challenge, which included journaling prompts, went viral and out of the feedback she received, she created a workbook with the same prompts so that more people could continue the work.

The workbook is free; download it after you submit a first name and email address, and get a link in return. Deacon Ellen Adams, who serves on the Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation Network, as well as the prison ministry network Faith Behind Bars and Beyond, has offered to host weekly conversations for people who want to take the "Me and White Supremacy Challenge" starting on Jan. 6, Epiphany, as a way to participate in ECCT's Season of Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation."

Deacon Ellen

Centering Prayer (meditation group)

A Centering Prayer Meditation group will be offered in February. Claire Rusowicz, (Ranjit’s spiritual director) at the Mercy Center in Madison, will be here once again to guide us into this practice for a few sessions.

We will then continue on our path of Centering Prayer co lead by Nancy Higgins and all who are interested in keeping the group going. Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God’s presence within us.

For all those who are interested, we will be meeting between services once or twice a month in the Hallam Chapel from 9-9:45 for Centering Prayer. A sign-up sheet will be located in the parish hall. Other times can be considered if this time is not convenient for most parishioners.

Contemplativeoutreach.org is a wonderful website to look deeper into this practice of meditation.

Sincerely,

Nancy Higgins
Caring for Creation Committee

Please join the Caring for Creation Committee at 6:00 PM on January 16 for a vegetarian potluck & environmental movie night. We plan to show "The Plastic Ocean" and share information about what we can do to reduce plastics in our environment. (Snow date is Jan. 23.)

The committee will meet at 5:30 PM on January 10 and February 14. Please join us if you'd like to learn about future projects including community gardens. Any questions, email me at: moss153@att.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Benson

SE Region—ECCT

2-1-1 Community Conversation—February 6th at Deep River Congregational Church, 1 Church Street, Deep River at 12:00 noon. Wendy Caruso, Director, 2-1-1 Call Center Operations will provide an overview of all services 2-1-1 provides including Opioid Enhanced services related to the Opioid Crisis and Substance Use Disorder Recovery Resources, Youth Crisis Program and Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention Services. This event is open to all members of our community so please extend the invitation to those you know. Please respond to Dawn Parker, phone 860-575-9293 or by email at dmparker@theconnectioninc.org.

SE Region Quiet Day—March 2nd at Enders Island, from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM featuring a focus on Lent led by Wendy Claire Barrie (more at http://www.wendyclairebarrie.com) She will offer a spiritual context to exploring six different practices for entering into the 40 days. More details will be coming; in the meanwhile, please save the date and spread the word.

Parish Health Ministry

Winter Wipeouts

Hand and wrist injuries spike during the winter because ice and snow make walking treacherous. When we fall, we automatically try to break the fall with our outstretched hands resulting in strained or torn ligaments, fractures and contusions. Other injuries are due to snowblower accidents or repetitive strain injuries after spending hours shoveling.

Do not put your fingers or hands near a snowblower. Even when it is turned off, the blades can still spin when snow is cleared. Instead, use a long wooden instrument to clear the snow and save your fingers!

Jennifer Wolf, MD
Vestry Highlights

The regular meeting of the St. James Vestry was held on Tuesday, December 4th at the home of Alma Peterson along with a Pot Luck dinner.

Fr. Ranjit discussed the possible need for an Active Shooter Training at the church, in light of recent attacks and also the report on facilities safety presented by the police department in September. The question of what safety measures are needed for The Drop Learning Center was also raised, as were recent additions of safety buzzers and other procedures in the parish center. The consensus was that Fr. Ranjit will request a police presentation on active shooter training for the church that would be open to all in the church community.

He also proposed that The Net be published every two months, instead of monthly. Fr. Ranjit also revisited the possibility of changing the name of The Net to something that doesn’t connote the “internet” and might be less confusing to nonmembers looking at St. James.

Another name that incorporates a biblical reference and a sense of communication would be nice. Suggestions are welcome. Jerry Miller referenced the report on file to note that income was about $10,000 above budget, while expenses were about $12,000 above budget.

There are many ways the parish is engaging the community, including having the school children create cards in English and Spanish to invite people to come to the Bi-Lingual Eucharist being offered, the dance outreach to the teen community, and the pen pal exchange this summer with Drop Center participants.

The Saturday Spanish class offering is going strong and will continue in January. The Community Meal has seen an increase in attendance recently, and the New London High School ROTC, among others, continues to be great volunteer helpers there.

The proposed budget for 2019 was presented and described. The process of balancing the budget with endowment funds was also described. A motion was made by Stephanie Brandon and seconded by Dave Downes to approve the 2019 Budget with a 5.56% withdrawal amount from the endowment. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Caring for Creation Committee will hold a second "Movie and a Meal Night on Wednesday, January 16, with a potluck supper and stewardship oriented film. The committee will be applying with the Fresh program for a Jack Spaeth diocesan grant for funds to build a community garden at Willetts Avenue and Ocean Avenue, and a pollinator garden at the Homeless Hospitality Center. The Sunday School children will be involved in a project to improve and maintain the Hallam family burial plot in the Ancientest Cemetery near the church. Lantern sales raised about $700 toward the new parish center roof needed for solar panel installations.

Eleanor Godfrey will be joining Ann Burdick and Fred Smith on the Covenant Shelter Board.

Ann Burdick, Parish Clerk
Stewardship

Love in Action

Let all that you do be done in love.

— I Corinthians 16:14

Stewardship Pledge Campaign – A Very Special Thanks

The pledge forms gathered each fall by the Stewardship Committee have several purposes, and only one is to help our Finance Committee to plan a budget of income and expenses for the upcoming year. Just as critical to the life of St. James are the pledges of time and talent that allow us to continue to involve our members in the many ministries we provide to the parish, to the New London community, and to the world beyond. Our listing here in The Net of the parishioners who have returned a form is meant to acknowledge these pledges, whether or not they include a financial commitment, which some people just cannot make. For some, a ministry done at home, such as knitting a prayer shawl or praying for those listed on our parish prayer list, is what they can contribute, and we honor those pledges listed here as well.

We believe the list of pledges below is correct; however, if you submitted a completed pledge form by December 10 and your name is not listed here, please call Ellen in the parish office at 860-443-4989. We will update this list in the next edition of The Net. If you need a pledge packet, please call the parish office or pick one up at either of the two entrances to the church this Sunday.


The Stewardship Committee
This report covers from January 1, 2018 to October 31, 2018.

**Total Income:**
Budgeted Amount: $218,751
Actual Amount: $228,893
Amount Actual is Over Budget: $10,142

**Total Expenses:**
Budgeted Amount: $355,964
Actual Amount: $368,069
Amount Actual is Over Budget: $12,105

**Net Ordinary Income:**
Total Income: $228,893
Total Expenses: $368,069
Net Ordinary Income: -$139,176
Endowment Income Applied: $137,220
Net Income: - $1,956

**Summary:** As of October 31, 2018, we are $1,956 behind where expected to be based on our 2018 budget.

**Investment Summary:**
Balance 12/31/2017: $3,306,459
Balance 10/31/2018: $3,127,008
Total Value Change: -$179,451
Withdrawal 5%: $137,220
Change Pre-Withdrawal: $42,231

**Summary:** Our pre-withdrawal investment value has decreased by $42,231, about 1.3%, through October 31, 2018. After factoring in the 5% withdrawal, our investments are down $179,451, about 5.4% through October.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald F. Miller, Treasurer
Postmaster: Time Sensitive Material, please deliver immediately.
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED.

Sunday, January 27, immediately after 9 AM service.

Election of officers, 2019 plans and more!