The Fruit of Prayer

Nearly three weeks ago, I attended the annual Episcopal Church in Connecticut’s clergy conference. The theme was, “Speaking Truth to Power,” and it was co-facilitated by The Rev. Canon Mpho Tutu and the Rev. Leng Lim. And yes, as you might have inferred, Canon Tutu is the daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, former Nobel Peace prize laureate. It was a moving conference not least of which was because the topic seemed so appropriate for the current social, cultural and political life in our country. We engaged in a number of different practices, as individuals and as a group, regarding issues of privilege and power; which were all important and challenging in their own right.

I remember when Canon Tutu articulated a story about her father, who at the height of apartheid abruptly told his staff at Bishopscourt that, “We are going to march.” His secretary then went on to inform other allies about the march, and when they had gathered at the appropriate time in Cape Town, someone came up to Archbishop Tutu and asked him, “on whose authority, did you call this march.” Tutu then said, “on the authority of prayer.” It was a moving story, and while I missed some details, I believe I captured the gist of the story. Canon Mpho Tutu then went on to ask all the gathered, “what is the fruit of your prayer life?” It was an uncommon question, and I feel embarrassed to say that I never thought about this, in this particular way.

As Christians, of faith, we have been given the model of Jesus taking time away to pray, which is well and good, and yet I wonder if we wrestle with the fruit of our prayer life and if we move into the “fruit of that prayer.” When you pray, where does it take you? And do you believe in the fruit of your prayer to then move into it. For Archbishop Tutu, when he prayed, it led him to march against apartheid and for the Realm of God.

For us, the fruit of our prayer lives will be, maybe, something else entirely. But our authority as people of faith, comes from this living relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It is in our baptism, where we receive the Holy Spirit to then lead us into the work we have been given to do. This ministry is nourished by intentional prayer. Right now my prayer life is leading me to sit with, “What would it mean to wrestle with issues on a systemic level, and what might my role be in that?” I’m asking God the question, “where God are you leading me?”

How about you? Where is your prayer life leading you now? If you feel comfortable, I wonder if you would write to me about this and maybe we can sit, and spend some time talking about. My E-mail address is Rector@stjamesnl.org.

In the power of Pentecost,

Ranjit
News from our Deacon

At Clergy Conference this year, Ranjit and I were asked to look at our identity – those characteristics that make up who we are. Quite often we are accepted or rejected on one of many characteristics instead of as a whole person. We were asked to reflect on how we see ourselves and how others may see us? We were reminded that we are all children of God.

What characteristics do we feel blest to have? What characteristics do we consider weaknesses and which ones do we find to be disadvantages in today’s world? How do we deal with those parts of ourselves for which we are ashamed?

A lot of the characteristics we have are unearned, we either inherited them or have them because of the family we were raised in. Quite often we are defined by others based on assumptions that may not be true. How do we react to others view of us, positive and negative?

This was a helpful exercise for me, especially since I am grappling with being less able to get around easily. I do not want to stop doing the work I feel called to do. Do I accept help? Do I give in and decide not to go to an event? Do I look into alternative ways of getting to an event? These are decisions I did not have to worry about a couple of years ago.

Take some time this summer to think about who you would say that you are. Also think about how you define others. God asks us to be compassionate and to judge others or ourselves. We are all children of God.

“We are all so much more than we appear to be.”

Deacon Ellen
Summer Schedule

Service Schedule—July & August

Sunday—One Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM in the Church with an alternating schedule utilizing Rite I, Rite II and The Celtic Tradition liturgies.

Sunday, July 28—there will be a forum in the parish hall following the 9:00 AM service with our Southeast Missioner, The Rev. Rachel Thomas.

Wednesday—5:00 PM Worship in the Hallam Chapel.

Parish Office Hours

Our summer schedule begins on Monday, July 1 with the parish office being open to the public from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The staff lunch break is from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM and afternoons are reserved for working on special projects. Messages will be checked frequently during the afternoon.

Congratulations Fr. Ranjit

The NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner was held on Thursday, June 27th at the Port N’ Starboard Banquet Facility, Ocean Beach Park, New London.

Fr. Ranjit was one of the recipients honored this year, as he was given the Community Partner Award.

Save the date!

The parish picnic will be on Sunday, September 8, at Waterford Beach Park, Shelter #1 beginning at 12 Noon—Holy Eucharist and a picnic potluck lunch to follow.

Watch for more information, sign up sheets and directions coming in the September/October issue of The NET.
Doubting Thomas—A Resurrection Story

After John 20: 24–29 and Rev. Ranjit Mathews’ Sermon April 28, 2019

My name is Thomas. I am near death now, but many years ago I was transformed by a moment that is still as fresh in my mind as if it had taken place yesterday. Did it? My memory is clouded these days; I seem to recollect more vividly what happened decades ago than what occurred yesterday. Yet before I die, I want to record my remembrance of what I witnessed in that long-ago time.

I was called the Twin. A disciple of Jesus of Nazareth, I was his follower during his years of ministry in Galilee and Judea. In the end—as you know—the high priests destroyed him, as they had intended to do all along. They convicted him of blasphemy and turned him over to the Roman authorities for judgment. Pilate pled with the Jews to allow him to release Jesus, but the Pharisees had stirred the crowd to a kind of frenzy, and they shouted for Barabbas’ release and Jesus’ crucifixion. It was a horrible time. All of us disciples abandoned our beloved teacher, may God forgive us. We fled to our own hiding places—as if anyone could ever hide from God—and left our Lord alone in his moment of greatest anguish and greatest need.

After Jesus died on that dreadful tree, we continued to hide ourselves for fear of what the authorities might do to us, knowing that we had been his disciples. I was not with my brothers when he first appeared to them as the Risen One; I do not remember now where I was. The others were eating their supper on the first day of the week after Passover. They were in a locked room, and suddenly he was there. They told me that he stood among them and greeted them as a man of flesh and blood, his body scarred and wounded still from the scourging and the nails. Their wonder and rapture were indescribable, and they could hardly speak for fear and joy. Then he was gone.

When the others related this to me, I didn’t believe them; I thought they had suffered a sort of collective delusion. Then, just days later when I had joined my companions for dinner, he appeared again. His face was bathed in an incandescent light, but even in that white-hot moment of truth, I could not acknowledge that I was standing before my Risen Lord. He smiled at me—almost teasingly, though in a sad way—and said, “Thomas, give me your hand.” I did, and he took it and said, “Touch the inside of my palm. Now put your fingers in the wounds on my side.” My hands were trembling so badly that I could scarcely control them, but I did as he bade me. In that moment, as I lifted my streaming eyes to his, I saw Heaven open up. As if I were standing outside of my body, I heard myself cry, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus gently chided me for my earlier doubts and said, “More blessed are those who believe with the eyes of faith than are they who must see with the eyes of the body in order to understand and accept.”

I begged then God’s forgiveness for my unbelief. I have never doubted since, and I have spent the rest of my life in the service of the Risen Christ. I have traveled many lands and converted and baptized many people. But now I am imprisoned in a faraway place, and I shall be executed in the morning for my faith. I feel no fear; I am privileged and blessed to die for my Lord. For I know that my final memory, just before death claims my body, will be of those loving and reproachful eyes gazing steadily into mine as the Son of God stretched out his perfect, risen hands for me to touch—so many years ago.

Anne Carr Bingham
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 or incorrect? If so, please contact the parish office and provide us with the accurate information!

### July

1. Bruce Patterson
2. Pat Sanders
3. Sara Vine
4. Marci Alborghetti
5. Garrett Brennan
6. Carl Lee
7. Gena Scognamiglio
8. Darbee Percival
9. Kendall Luddington
10. Carol Patterson
11. Shirley Evans
12. Eliezer Monagas
13. Laura Hollot
14. Helen Dayton
15. Charlie Duffy
16. Deborah Downes
17. William Rae
18. Steve Hurley
19. Barbara Sherman
20. Anne Bingham

### August

5. Catherine Rottinghaus
6. Dan Ivey
15. Kathy Miller
17. Alberta Mushalansky
19. Cora Lanz
22. Mary White
24. Carol Dooley
25. Patty Anderson
26. Robert “Kim” Bingham
25. Lillian Rosario
30. Ellie Warren

## St. James Book Club

The St. James Book Club meets at La Luna Restaurant (located in the Holiday Inn) at 6:00 PM. 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, please contact Lori Sarkett at 860.287.5500 or lorisarketthne@gmail.com.

Thursday, July 25 The Zookeeper’s Wife by Diane Ackerman
Thursday, August 22 The Black Box by Michael Connelly
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."

July Gathering:
Place: Frank’s Gourmet Grille, 56 Whitehall Avenue, Mystic
Date: Friday, July 26 at 6:00 PM

August Gathering—Annual Lord’s Pantry Fundraiser:
Place: Dodd Stadium, Norwich (CT Tigers Baseball Game with Fireworks)
Date: Friday, August 23 at 7:05 PM
Tickets: $20.00 per person

Please RSVP Lori Sarkett or the parish office by Wednesday, July 24 for the July dinner. Baseball tickets reservations are confirmed when payment is made. Please purchase tickets in the parish office or from Lori Sarkett. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Sarkett at 860.287.5500 or lorisarketthne@gmail.com. Rides to events are available and encouraged!

Stitchers in Prayer Ministry

The Stitchers in Prayer Ministry Group held its first organizational meeting at Pat King’s home on May 1. We enjoyed getting to know each other and share our ideas. The group has given out more than fifteen prayer shawls during the past year and over two hundred prayer squares have found a new home in Ecuador and others to patients at L+M Hospital by Fr. Ranjit and the hospital chaplains. More prayer shawls will be sent out to our companion diocese in Goma.

Our Regional Missionary, The Rev. Rachel Thomas, has been contacted in regards to connecting the various parishes with Prayer Shawl ministries. We changed our name to Stitches in Prayer Ministry from The Prayer Shawl Ministry. We have many talented individuals who are knitting, crocheting and doing counted cross stitch. We welcome all needle crafters who feel a calling and would like to join us in making prayer shawls, lap robes and prayer squares. We are also thinking about making and providing baby blankets to any newly baptized babies here at St. James. All ideas are welcome!

St. James Quilters

The Saint James Quilters have been very busy working on additional quilts to present to the Visiting Nurse Association for the new mothers that are part of the VNA Family Partnership. We have our meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM with lunch at 12:00 noon. New members are always welcome.

With the newly installed air conditioning in the Parlor, we will continue to hold our meetings during the summer months whenever possible. Please contact Marcia Pierce regarding the dates at 860.443.5579.

If you have any other questions please contact Mary Chartier at 860.443.0590.

Margaret Murallo, member
Walking the dog before church on the morning of Pentecost, I found a nest on the ground. It lay beneath an evergreen tree where the street I live on dead-ends in a wooded wetland. I saw no sign of egg shells or feathers in the nest or nearby, just the marvelous handiwork – or beak-work – of the builder, probably a robin, based on information I found on a naturalist website. The perfectly round pouch of grasses, twigs, soil and a few pieces of nylon and plastic string had been expertly woven, I surmised, while the plants were fresh and pliable, then dried in place under the press of mud plaster. It made a perfect home for new life to be incubated by the warmth of a mother bird’s beating heart.

This beauty had to be shared. So I picked it up, brought it home and wrapped it in a towel to bring to church, intending to show it to the children and whoever else was interested. Then I would return it to where I found it. Honoring its beauty surely meant letting parts of it be reused by another bird – as nests sometimes are – or decaying back to earth in due time.

It wasn’t until I arrived at church that I remembered it was Pentecost Sunday, when I noticed many parishioners wearing red as a symbol of the Holy Spirit descending like fire on the disciples. A little way into the service, another symbol of the Spirit was introduced – the dove – in the text of a hymn. Is the dove of the Spirit looking for a home in my nest, in all our nests? Can I weave a place within my heart for the Spirit to dwell, a warm chamber to nurture new life, new possibilities, new ways of living out my faith?

During Communion, as I cupped my hands alongside everyone else at the altar, I realized we were all mirroring the shape of the bird’s creation. That nest had been made of common, seemingly worthless shards and discards, then transformed by a small and courageous being into a precious place. In a similar way, all our seemingly ordinary hands were cradling the hosts, then bringing them inside ourselves to become part of us just as the Spirit is part of us. For me, Communion is about reconnecting the physical world with the spiritual – blurring the boundaries we often erect in our daily lives. Encountering the amazing little nest on Pentecost Sunday opened a new channel for me into that experience, where the art and craft of another of God’s creatures made its own kind of sacred space.
Caring for Creation Committee

Local Veggie Sales again this summer
The Caring for Creation Committee will be selling local organic vegetables again this summer after the morning services on July 21 and July 28. The produce will be coming from Provider Farm in Salem and Hunts Brook farm in Waterford. Proceeds will add to the fund started from sales last year for solar panels for the Parish Hall roof. These sales were very popular last year and we hope you will support us again!

Resources for plastics alternatives
In response to requests after committee member Gail Boehm's presentation on plastics this spring, she has compiled a list of websites and other resources for alternatives to plastics. We hope this information is helpful and useful to everyone as we all try to reduce our everyday use of plastics:

www.susanmango.com (plastic bags that can be reused for up to a year, great for produce)

www.plasticaware.org

www.zevymo.com (reusable produce bags)

www.beeswrap.com (use instead of cling wrap)

www.mightynest.com (an easy way to get healthy green products every month)

www.stasherbag.com (silicone bags - an alternative to plastic, also found locally at Bower Bird in Old Lyme)

Fiddleheads Food Co-op in downtown New London (full selection of natural food options, many of them in bulk thus avoiding excessive packaging)

www.debbiemeyer.com (green bags used to store fruits and vegetables, take to grocery store)

Hello Eco Company (bamboo toothbrushes, shampoo bars)

Target, Walmart, Amazon (reusable metal drinking straws)

www.earthhero.com (bamboo utensil sets)

www.sailorsforthesea.org/nt3

Hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Benson
chairwoman
Racial Reconciliation Working Group

After a year of building relationships with local groups, St. James is proud to announce that our summer anti-racism program will be held in co-operation with Hearing Youth Voices. Thanks to those Episcopalians who offer thanks for their blessings by giving to the United Thank Offering, we received a $7,000 grant to pay for the staff for the training. We also received another $1,500 from other sources. The training will take place from July 31 to August 2 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM.

The goals are to:
- Build relationships between high school students in Southeastern Connecticut (SECT)
- Learn more about racism and how to combat it
- Learn how to make changes at school and in the community
- Learn leadership skills
- Learn more about the different cultures represented in SECT

Please keep the young people who will participate and this program in your prayers over the summer.

Deacon Ellen

Spring Outreach Project

When I visited my granddaughter (Katryna Pierce) at the New London Public Library, she showed me how empty and unwelcoming the Children’s Room space was. I was bothered by what I saw and decided this situation had to be fixed so I scheduled an appointment with Fr. Ranjit to see if we as a parish could do an outreach project for them.

I would like to thank our parishioners for their generosity. The room is now full of books and toys for all ages. It is now a great place to read books, play and participate in the newly organized children’s programs. The children and library staff could not be happier, and so am I.

My sincere thanks,

Marcia Pierce

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the United Thank Offering Spring Gathering. We collected almost three hundred dollars.

Dorothy Sieburg,
Jumble Shoppe News

The Jumble Shoppe will be open and accepting donations until July 20 when the shop closes for its summer break.

We ask that donations be held until the shop reopens on August 20. Donations of fall and winter clothing will then be appreciated, as well as household items, linens and jewelry.

Preferred hours of donations are Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. For other arrangements, please contact Dorothy Sieburg at 860.710.1649.

Dorothy Sieburg, Manager

Christian Formation—Fall Program

Come One, Come All!

Our fall program kicks off on Wednesday, September 11. The evening begins in the Hallam Chapel at 5:00 PM with worship. We then move to the Parlor to enjoy a potluck supper together at 6:00 PM and the book discussion begins at 6:30 PM. You are welcome for one or all of the evening events.

We will study The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. Chapter titles include: Perspective, Humility, Humor, Acceptance, Forgiveness, Gratitude, Compassion and Generosity. This book has been a #1 best-seller on the New York Times book list.

Church School

Children enjoying their “snack hour” following church school class and singing the anthem during the 10 AM service on June 16.
Church School Cont’d

Summer is finally here and all of us here at church school have been so blessed to have had a “fun-ta-bulous” year! We started the church school year with stories from the Old Testament and by the end of November, we transitioned to stories from the New Testament. We have spent time doing Bible related arts and craft activities, checking in with each other during our snack time, praying for our needs as well as the needs of others, playing games like charades and four corners. We made Christmas cards for homebound parishioners, birthday cards for each other and “get well” cards for a few parishioners who have been unwell.

One Sunday afternoon during Advent, we went caroling to New London Rehab and Care in Waterford. The children put up a Christmas pageant at the 5 PM service on Christmas Eve. We organized and decorated our main hallway for our “trick or door” Halloween event and an Easter egg hunt for our friends at the Drop-In Learning Center. Thank you to all those who helped with making these events memorable.

We have had a wonderful time collaborating with our church’s Caring for Creation Team on different projects like cleaning up around downtown New London, planting at Ye Antientist Burial Ground and helping FRESH New London with a community snack garden. Ms. Gail Boehm taught us how we can be better stewards of our planet by using less plastic. We hope to continue building on this in the coming year.

Our children have been so fortunate to learn many more new hymns this year with our choir director, Mr. Will Cooper. They have had the opportunity to sing at the 10 am service on various occasions and a few times along with the adult choir. Thank you, Mr. Will, Ms. Yang, Ms. Ellen Bowlin and Ms. Sarah Warren for helping our children with music. We ended the church school year on June 16th with a church school party and our children sang the hymn- "There is a sweet sweet spirit in this place."

Lastly, but importantly, having a church school is possible only if we have children. All three of us, teachers here at church school feel encouraged that we have a group of children who love coming to church school and enjoy being part of our parish family. A big thank you to all the parents and grandparents who have made this possible. By bringing your children to church school regularly and supporting our different activities, has helped not only with the smooth progress of the church school curriculum but has also helped your children build bonds of friendship with each other and the broader parish community.

We look forward to another church school year starting on September 15th. Until then, we pray that all of you will have a relaxing, fun-filled and safe summer!

Love,

Robin, Gena & Johanna
Building and Grounds

The spring clean up was accomplished with seven people. We cleaned most of the church proper, removed all nine of the bathroom exhaust vent covers, cleaned and replaced them. We replaced the Episcopal flag and unwound the American flag which was wound around the pole. The outside work was done in the front, sides and rear of the church. I would like to thank David Downes, Ralph Anderson, John Umland, Anna Shaw, Peter Hewitt, Lori Sarkett and Sue Chojnacki for their conscientious and hard work, and especially their attention to detail. Thank you for your help, it was greatly appreciated.

Walter Chojnacki

The above photos are of the improvements to the Sacristy and stairway. Cracked plaster has been repaired and the area painted. Energy efficient LED lighting has been ordered and will be installed soon.

The Drop-In Learning Center Graduation

Congratulations
Maxwell Sheppard
and Maya George

Executive Director, Reona Dyess and Pre-School Teacher, Carrissa French present Maxwell with his diploma.
The Drop-In Learning Center Invites the Drop Families and St. James Parishioners to…

Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2019
Time: 5:00-7:00pm
Place: St. James Church Parish Hall

Fun for Everyone!
Dinner will be provided

There will be a Dessert Table for individuals who would like to bring a dessert to share.

The Drop-In Learning Center is looking for:

- **Pen Pals** - to correspond with the children giving them opportunities to enhance their communication and writing skills during the summer enrichment program.

- **Summer Travelers** - to send the children post cards as you travel to different places that will spark their interest and discussions about other places outside of their community.

- **Readers** – to engage children in a variety of books. If you’re interested in becoming a “Drop Reader”, please apply in the Drop Office, located on the first floor (basement level) for further information or call 860.442.4466.
Vestry Highlights

Much appreciation to Ann & Reid Burdick for hosting the June Vestry meeting at their home. An excellent time was had by all. It’s with regret that Grace Jones is leaving the Vestry to be with family in her retirement and on June 6th voted to fill her unexpired term with John Umland. St. James parish is joining an organization, Consortium for Endowed Episcopal Parishes which will make available resources for education and capacity building.

A parish safety committee was organized to include: Lori Sarkett, Eleanor Godfrey, William Crawford and David Higgins. Fr. Ranjit led a discussion on The Seven Principals of Mutuality: Try On; Ok to Disagree; Not Ok to Blame, Shame or Attack; Practice "Self Focus;" Take 100% Responsibility For Own Learning; Practice Both/And Thinking; Notice Both Process and Content; Be Aware of Intent and Impact; and Maintain Confidentiality. Next meeting is on Tuesday, July 2 in the parlor.

Memorials and Thanksgivings

If you would like to donate, as a memorial or as a thank-offering, contact the parish office or an altar guild member for more information. Altar flowers $45, Sanctuary candle $5 and communion wine or wafers, $10 each.

If you are interested in using the memorial garden, please contact the parish office or Fr. Ranjit. Copies of the memorial garden guidelines are available in the office.

Donations can be made in memory or thanksgiving of loved ones. If you would like to make a contribution to be used for purchasing plants, memorial plaque, maintenance or general upkeep, please notate on the memo line of your check “memorial garden

Reminder …

Don’t let your pledge go on vacation when you do. Please remember that St. James continues praying, worshipping and doing our various ministries, even when you are out of town. The summer can be a time of limited cash flow and our bills (like yours) take no holidays. Thanks for your attention!

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.
This report covers from January 1, 2019 to April 30, 2019.

**Total Income:**
- Budgeted Amount: $88,500
- Actual Amount: $96,728
- Amount Actual is Over Budget: $8,228

**Total Expenses:**
- Budgeted Amount: $145,682
- Actual Amount: $156,243
- Amount Actual is Over Budget: $10,561

**Net Ordinary Income:**
- Total Income: $96,728
- Total Expenses: $156,243
- Net Ordinary Income: -$59,515
- Endowment Income Applied: $57,184
- Net Income: -$2,331

**Summary:** As of April 30, 2019, we are $2,331 behind where we expected to be, based on our 2019 budget.

**Investment Summary:**
- Balance 12/31/2018: $3,233,467
- Balance 04/30/2019: $3,533,174
- Total Value Change: $299,707
- Withdrawal 5%: $57,184
- Change Pre-Withdrawal: $356,891

**Summary:** Our pre-withdrawal investment value has increased by $356,891, about 11.0%, through April 30, 2019. After factoring in the 5% withdrawal, our investments are up $299,707, about 9.3% through April.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald F. Miller, Treasurer
St. James Episcopal Church
76 Federal Street
New London, CT 06320-6601

Postmaster: Time Sensitive Material, please deliver immediately.
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED.

Saint James, our Patron Saint
Saint Day: July 25