Creating Space

What will you do with your one wild and precious life? This is a quote from the late poet, Mary Oliver and it’s a very popular one, at least here in the U.S. It is evocative and powerful, precisely because it helps us to open our eyes to the realms of possibility. With our day to day lives, we can get caught up with our to-do lists and routine. Mind you - these routines are melded with beauty and discovery, rich with deep meaning and resonance. Even now I remember washing, and rinsing Dhruv’s milk bottles, which was monotonous; until I saw the gift of being in the moment and enjoying how I was supporting my son and his development. Most things can be a gift if we re-orient our eyes to see them with hope.

And yet, at the same time God is asking us how we cast our eyes with hope into the future. Who will we dream to be as individuals, as Christians, as the parish of St. James, New London?

What will you do with your one wild and precious life? As we approach this Lenten season, I wonder how we can be drawn into a deeper relationship with Jesus, and how that will lead us to a liberating, life-giving and loving relationship with God and creation. Is there one spiritual practice that you can take up during Lent, one practice, not two or three, but one practice that you can commit to during this season? Our Caring for Creation committee is asking parishioners to take on the spiritual practice of giving up meat for two meals during Lent. This fast from meat would not only be good for our planet; but as a spiritual practice it could draw us into a deeper space with God.

We are often taught that Lent is hard and difficult and there is no doubt that the Wilderness for Jesus was tortuous, the likes of which we will never fully understand; but in our 21st century landscape, this sacrifice that we are taught to make during Lent can actually be life-giving. Whether it’s giving up chocolate or meat, or Facebook; we could open-up our micro lives to something deeper and beyond what we had been thinking. A whole world of deeper engagement with God, of more space consecrated for the indwelt possibility.

Imagine then, if you had a full day, where minutes were precious and you gave up television in the evening. What gifts of the Spirit might you find in re-configured time? As we as individuals and as a parish dive deeper into the heart of Lent, my prayer is that wherever or however we sense the Spirit leading us on the journey, our community of practice could hold and encourage one another in our respective walks.

My friends, this Lent, ponder on Mary Oliver’s aspiring question, “what will you do with your one wild, and precious life?”

In Christ,
Ranjit
The Net ...

is the newsletter of St. James Church, New London, Connecticut. It is published eleven times a year (September through June and a summer issue) for the information and edification of St. James members and friends.

Submissions are always welcome and should be submitted by the tenth of the month before publication. While your submission is always welcome, we would prefer to receive it by e-mail or memory stick in Microsoft Word format.

Please continue to forward your submissions to the church office or email them to: parishoffice@stjamesnl.org.

We also welcome your comments and suggestions. This is your newsletter.

News from our Deacon

“There are three stages to every great work of God: first it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done.”

James Hudson Taylor

I have always found this statement to be true. A lot of what God asks us to do seems impossible when we receive the call. It is often very difficult along the way and then one day it is done. It seems like a miracle but it is actually just God continuing to create the kingdom. As followers of Christ, it is our job to be open to being formed by God’s Word and Spirit. Then we need to reorient ourselves to God’s view of things instead of a keeping our narrow worldview. Finally, we need to do the difficult work to make this new understanding a reality. Sometimes the work is not meant to be done but continued so that others have choice and dignity.

St. James used to just give a bag of groceries once a month from the Lord’s Pantry. Now people have a choice and fresh vegetables and meat are offered when available. This allows the people to choose food that they will actually eat.

Dismantling racism seems like an impossible task but we are asked to do the difficult work of reaching that goal. Lowering our carbon footprint seems like another impossible task and yet we are called to do the difficult work of reaching this goal also. It will take pray, intention and the support of the community to move forward with these plans but because we feel it is God’s work, we will do our best to make both of these calls a reality.

Let us go into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit,

Deacon Ellen

Crafting Prayers

The 1979 Prayer Book provides us with a template to use to write Prayers of the People. Enriching our Worship insists that we are in fact called to do so. Let’s come together for good cheer and to craft some Prayers of the People that embody our joys and concerns in fresh language. Are you interested in finding more inclusive language for God and for each other? In mining the lectionary readings for poetic images to inform our weekly prayers? In finding prayer resources in hymns?

What do you long to pray for as a member of the St. James and New London community? Come lift your heart, use your voice. In good company. We are all beginners.

Mary Barnett, Intern
Special thanks to our retiring Vestry members and Diocesan Delegate

Vestry: David Downes and Barbara Sherman
Delegate to Diocesan Convention: Sue Chojnacki

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 10—Turn your clocks one hour ahead Saturday night, March 9, before you go to bed. That way you will be on time for Sunday worship.

Sunday Parish Events—February & March

March 3—Bart Geisinger, Executive Director of Camp Washington will preach and also offer a forum after the 10:00 AM service in the parish hall.
March 10—Pulpit Swap—Fr. Ranjit will be at St. Alban’s Church, Simsbury and we will welcome The Rev. Rebekah Hatch, rector of St. Alban’s Church during our morning services.
March 17—Tom Verde will offer a forum on Celtic Christianity after the 10:00 AM service in the parish hall.
March 17—Silent Movie with Rob Humphreville, organist will be in the church at 7:30 PM.
March 24—Racial Reconciliation forum after the 10:00 AM service in the parish hall.
March 31—Plastics presentation led by Gail Boehm after the 10:00 AM service in the parish hall.
March 31—Beloved Community Dinner will be at 3:00 PM in the parish hall.
April 14—Palm Sunday We will gather in the parish hall prior to both morning services and

Memorials and Thanksgivings

During Lent we light a Sanctuary candle and consume bread and wine. 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. Sanctuary candle $5 and communion wine or wafers, $10.

Farewell dear friend …

Stephen Percy
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!

**March**

4 Carlton Saari
5 Thomas Vogel
5 Linda Cascio
6 Nina Butler
9 Elizabeth Dusza
16 Geraldine Brewster
17 Kristine Drew
18 Kenneth Belknap
21 Ron Ward
25 Carol McCoy
30 Steven Hulme

**April**

3 Robin Olbrys
3 Anna Shaw
4 Diane Dusza
4 Marcia Pierce
5 Greg Rice
5 Abigail Ryan
5 Ellen Ryan
7 Sharon Dunning
8 Sue Chojnacki
8 Henry Kydd
8 Harold Kydd
9 Stephanie Brandon
10 Stacy Dunning
11 Barbara Harry
11 Robert Rae
12 Marci Marciniak
18 Carleen Lee
24 Grace Jones
25 Mary Ellen Harris
27 JoJo Carter

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Ecuador Mission Network and the Diocese of Ecuador Central

**Partners in Mission**

**July 10-22, 2019**

Living the Gospel with our dear friends in Ecuador

We are blessed to be returning to Ecuador this summer as we once again engage in God’s Mission with our brothers and sisters-in-Christ. Are you being nudged? Have you had that sense that it is time to go? So far three parishioners from St. James are participating this summer. We would love to share the gift that it is as we go to give and are given to; as we go to serve, and are served. Think about it; pray about it; ask about it:

Grace Barnum 860.235-8701  
Dan Ivey 860.326.8026  
Ron Ward 860.857.4052
Church School

2019 has started off great with our 8 enthusiastic church school children!

We had a successful and entertaining Christmas pageant with huge applause for the children and a big thank you to the parents!

We continued into 2019 with the New Testament, starting with lessons on John the Baptist and Jesus’ baptism to Jesus fasting for 40 days and 40 nights in the desert and being tempted by the devil to Jesus calming the storm. We learned about the 12 Disciples and the children planted seeds. We also did an activity for MLK Day. We have many more lessons for the children and look forward to continuing their growing understanding of the Bible and the lessons we learn from it.

We will be singing during the 10:00 AM service on different occasions under the leadership of Dr. Will Cooper. We started Feb 10th, singing “Jesu, Jesu” to promote racial reconciliation and to remind our children to love our neighbors just as God loves everyone. We are planning on singing in March, and again at the Easter service in April. We feel that singing is an important part of our church school’s contribution to the church as a whole.

We are hoping to organize an Easter Egg hunt in collaboration with the Drop In Learning Center during the week before Holy Week. More news to come soon.

We look forward to continuing our teachings of the New Testament with lessons on many miracles Jesus performed, different parables in the bible, Ash Wednesday and Easter.

St. James Supper Group

Join fellow parishioners on Wednesday and Friday evenings during Lent for dinner, fun and fellowship.

The St. James Supper Group will be supporting our Wednesday Lenten dinners and also the Friday Fish dinners at St. James Episcopal Church, 95 Route 2A, Preston. For additional information, please contact Lori Sarkett at 860.287.5500 or lorisarketthne@gmail.com.
FINAL TWO EVENSONG SERVICES OF 2018–2019 SEASON

Sunday, March 10, 2019—The First Sunday in Lent
St. James Episcopal Church at 5:00 PM

On Sunday, March 10th, The Anglican Singers will present their Lenten service of evensong, featuring music of the English choral tradition written by such luminaries as Richard Farrant, William Byrd, Philip Moore, and Herbert Howells.

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Sunday, April 28, 2019—The Second Sunday of Easter
St. James Episcopal Church at 5:00 PM

On Sunday, April 28th, the Singers will offer their final evensong of the season as they celebrate the continuing joy of Easter with glorious works composed by William Byrd, Bernard Rose, C.V. Stanford, and Samuel S. Wesley.

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There will be a reception in the Parish Hall immediately following each service. Please join us as we bring to conclusion another wonderful and memorable year.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Carr Bingham, Secretary
The Anglican Singers

Silent Movie Night

Sunday, March 17 at 7:30 PM in the Church featuring Robert Humphreville as organist. The movie is Spite Marriage, starring Buster Keaton. A suggested donation of $10 per person is requested to help offset expenses.

Whenever Elmer sees actress Trilby Drew, his heart beats wildly, but she only has eyes for her lover, Lionel Benmore. When Lionel breaks up with Trilby, however, she decides to make him mad by marrying Elmer instead.

Although Elmer is thrilled at first, he grows despondent when he discovers the reason behind their nuptials and embarks on a sea voyage. Tough smugglers on the ship soon make him wish he’d never left shore.
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 or restaurant, please contact Lori Sarkett at 860.287.5500 or lorisarketthne@gmail.com.

Thursday, March 28 White Chrysanthemum by Mary Lynn Bracht
Thursday, April 25 Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah

St. James Writers Group

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.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 6:30 - 8:00 PM in the parlor. 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

The Social Media Committee is committed to spreading the word of our parish’s good works and engaging our community in The Jesus Movement. You are a critical part of this!

You will notice our wifi password posted around the church. We encourage everyone at church activities to pull out their phones, take photos or videos, do Facebook Live, or share your thoughts.

When you visit Facebook or Instagram, please like, comment and share our posts. This helps us to be seen by more people. If you are not sure how to do this, feel free to ask Emma Palzere-Rae your questions during coffee hour.

Stay tuned: We’ll have some exciting news about St. James podcast coming soon!

St. James Quilters

Do you like to sew? Come join us in the Parlor on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 10:00 AM—2:00 PM. Bring a bag lunch as we eat lunch together.

Margaret Murallo, Member

Covenant Shelter Dinner

The Covenant Shelter will be honoring The New London Motorcycle Club and Steve (Stash) Schiavone for their charitable work. They will receive the Merrill-Fontaine Awards at our annual dinner May 11, 2019, beginning at 6:00 PM. Tickets are $50.00 per person and will be available from the Parish Office or Fred Smith, Ann Burdick, and Eleanor Godfrey.

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Stay tuned: We’ll have some exciting news about St. James podcast coming soon!
Lent

Ash Wednesday—March 6

Holy Eucharist with dispensation of ashes will be at 12:00 noon and 7:00 PM

Ashes to Go – out into the neighborhood!
Not everyone can get to church on Ash Wednesday. Over the years, we have brought ashes to the train station area, shops, kitchens in restaurants, truck drivers, bike riders, moms in vans, folks at the Covenant Shelter and the Homeless Hospitality Shelter. And yes, even the street corner. Some folks only want ashes and a prayer; others also desire a moment to share a bit. We have prayers printed in English and Spanish. There are three opportunities to participate this year – whatever works for your schedule.

1. We’ll be gathering at St. James, 9:00 AM for a brief orientation before “heading out” together.
2. Right after the Noon Ash Wednesday service – into the neighborhood.
3. Before and after the 7:00 PM evening service at the church. (5:30 PM and 8:00 PM or so).

The evening is when we visit the shelters. The only experience needed is being present. Some of us prefer being there silently. Others engage in prayer and the offering of ashes.
Questions? call Ellen in the parish office at 860.443.4989 or Grace Barnum

Wednesday Lenten Dinners

Pat and Carl Lee have graciously offered to oversee our Wednesday Lenten dinners. Many thanks go out to you both and also the other parishioners who have volunteered to help out.

Lenten dinners are on Wednesday evenings (March 13 through April 10) from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM in the parish hall. Tickets purchased in advance are $10, $12 at the door and $8 per child under the age of 10. Package of five tickets is $50, available only the first night.

Christian Formation Program

Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent:

Holy Eucharist at 5:15 PM in the Hallam Chapel, followed by the fish dinner at 6:00 PM in the parish hall and A Way Other Than Our Own book discussion at 6:30 PM in the parlor.

Baptisms—Easter Vigil

Parish baptisms will be on Saturday, April 20 as part of our regular Easter Vigil service at 7:30 PM. If you know of someone—child or adult—who is ready to become an “official” member of the Church, this would be an appropriate time. Please contact Fr. Ranjit or Ellen in the parish office for more information or to schedule a baptism.
Easter Flowers Offering

Soon we will be gathering to celebrate the Resurrection in a church beautifully adorned church with Easter lilies and spring flowers. You are invited to participate by offering a memorial or a thank-offering—toward the purchase of Easter flowers.

Please return the attached envelope for promptly (no later than Palm Sunday, April 14) so that your donation can be recognized in the Easter bulletin.

Friday evenings — Way of the Cross

The walking of the Way of the Cross is a common devotion that will offer each Friday at 5:00 PM in the church. Come join Christ—and your brothers and sisters in faith—on His journey to the Cross.

Holy Week Reflective Garden

The Altar Guild is looking for your assistance with our Holy Week reflective garden in the Hallam Chapel. We are in need of shade loving flowering house plants and indoor trees for a week and would greatly appreciate any items you are willing to share. Items can be delivered to the Hallam Chapel on Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 AM or on Sunday morning, April 14 before or after the morning services. Please be sure to pick up your plants/trees after Easter Sunday service or Tuesday through Friday of Easter Week during parish office hours. Thank you in advance for your help.

If you have any questions or need to coordinate an alternate delivery date of plants and flowers, please contact Mary White by email at mgwhite56@att.net or by phone at 860.443.7990.

Wednesday, April 17
7:00 PM Tenebrae, church

Thursday, April 18 (Maundy Thursday)
6:00 PM Soup, Bread & Cheese Potluck Supper, parish hall
7:00 PM Holy Eucharist with footwashing and stripping of the Altar, church
8:30 PM Reflective Garden & Watch through the Night, Hallam Chapel

Friday, April 19 (Good Friday), parish office closed
Watch continues until noon
Noon Good Friday service, church
    Stations of the Cross immediately following the noon service
7:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy, church

Saturday, April 20 (Easter Vigil)
7:30 PM Easter Vigil, church

Sunday, April 21 (Easter Day)
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, church
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, church

Monday, April 22 (Easter Monday)
Parish office closed
The Caring for Creation Committee is inviting congregation members to join them in two Lenten initiatives to help us express our love and gratitude for God’s creation by taking steps to reduce our impact on the environment.

**Two-Day-A-Week Meat Fast: Good for Your Health and the Environment**

Parishioners are encouraged to commit to eating two (or more) vegetarian meals per week during Lent through Earth Day, March 6 to April 22. We’re suggesting “Meatless Mondays and Fridays,” but choose whichever days work best for you. Changing our diets to include more vegetarian choices is not only good for our health but can also make a positive impact on our environment by significantly reducing carbon emissions contributing to climate change. Vegetarian meals, especially those using locally grown vegetables, generate approximately half the greenhouse gas emissions that beef, pork and other red meat generates. The following chart shows the greenhouse gas emissions produced by 1 kilo (about 2.2 pounds) of consumed food. Check out the source for more great information: https://www.ewg.org/meateatersguide/.

**Carbon Footprint Ranking of Food (Figures from EWG Meat Eaters Guide)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food</th>
<th>CO₂ Kilo Equivalent</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>CO₂ Kilo Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lamb</td>
<td>39.2</td>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>Pork</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lentils</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Avoiding meat and dairy products is the single biggest way to reduce our environmental impact on the planet. Livestock farming contributes 18% of human produced greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. This is more than all emissions from ships, planes, trucks, cars and all other transportation put together. Meat processing facilities also consume enormous amounts of energy, pollute water supplies and require increasing amounts of corn, soy and other grains which has led to the deforestation of large areas of our tropical rain forests. Most of us probably aren’t going to stop eating meat altogether but we can make more informed choices and eat less meat. This will help us to be better stewards of God’s creation by helping to build a more sustainable and equitable world.

Please let us know if you’re joining in this effort – we’d love to hear how it’s going and get a recipe exchange going. Send an email to Judy Benson, committee chair, at: moss153@att.net.

**Sustain Island Home carbon tracker**

The committee is enlisting volunteers to join them in trying out an online carbon tracking tool being made available by the diocese of California to Episcopal churches nationwide. Called SustainIslandHome.org, it offers a great way to calculate the carbon dioxide emissions from your household and your vehicles, travel and other areas, plus learn easy and challenging ways to reduce them. This is a way to become more conscientious of the everyday choices we make and start making different ones that have less impact on the planet. The tracker was endorsed by the Episcopal Church at the 79th General Convention and was piloted in the Diocese of California in the fall/winter of 2018.
Caring for Creation cont’d

On Feb. 5 the St. James Vestry approved this as a pilot project. Volunteers will start using the tracker on March 10, the first Sunday in Lent. After Lent we’ll report back to the Vestry and decide whether to make this a congregation-wide initiative. Many of us may be looking for ways to take some positive action to address climate change and reduce our impact on the planet, but maybe don’t know where to start or feel it’s hopeless. This tool is one way to regain our sense of hope by empowering ourselves to take positive actions that can make a difference. If you’re interested in volunteering, see Judy Benson, committee chair, or email me at: moss153@att.net.

The committee will meet at 5:30 PM on March 14 and April 10. We’ve got several great projects planned for the spring and we’d love to have new members join us!

Racial Reconciliation Working Group

I hope you will join other Episcopalians in Connecticut for the Season of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation. Check the list of ideas for study that are listed on our website now. Ask me for advice if you are not sure where to begin. There are an unlimited number of resources – events, books, articles, podcasts and videos. We hope to host a couple of events here later in the year. Study is not enough. We need to think about how we participate in supporting racism and then find some way to work toward dismantling racism. In this way, we are respecting the dignity of all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

    May we all know loving kindness.
    May we all be well in body, mind and soul.
    May we all be safe from dangers, internal and external.
    May we all be truly joyful and free.

Deacon Ellen

Beloved Community Dinner

On March 31st we will be inviting our neighbors to a “beloved community dinner” from 3:00 PM — 5:00 PM in the parish hall. We want to invite the neighbors across the street to St. James so we can get to know each other as well as bless them with a meal at the end of the month when budgets run tight. We will be giving out invitations from the Jumble Shoppe and food pantry as well as knocking on doors in the neighborhood making face to face invitations. Please join us to meet our neighbors. Your help in setting up and taking down will be needed as well. Thank you.

Blessings

John Umland, Committee member
SE Region—ECCT

SE Region Quiet Day—You’re invited to spend a Quiet Day with your brother and sister Episcopalians on lovely Enders Island in Mystic on Saturday, March 2, from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM. Wendy Claire Barrie (http://www.wendyclairebarrie.com, author of *Faith at Home*) will lead us through ways of experiencing Lent. The cost is $20; breakfast pastries and lunch included. Please register at Eventbrite. Please do not let the cost get in your way – speak to Rachel Thomas at 860.316.8184 or Fr. Ranjit.

Celebrating International Mission—A SE Region gathering on Saturday, April 13 at St. Ann’s, Old Lyme, 9:00 – 11:30 AM. In conjunction with the ECCT Companions in Mission, all parishioners of our SE Region are invited to share and learn of International Mission. Whether actively involved or considering anew, we’ll gather to share, learn and celebrate the ministry of mission with our brothers and sisters-in-Christ near and afar.

SE Region Convocation—Saturday, May 11. More details to follow within the next few weeks.

Safe Church Training

Safe Church training is required by resolution of St. James Vestry, for all parishioners in positions of leadership (i.e., new Vestry, Wardens, Officers, etc.) and for anyone involved with our youth.

All those needing Safe Church training are expected to take the training as soon as possible. Copies of the certificates of completion are required to be kept on file in the parish office. There is no cost to attend. 2019 training sessions begin in March.

Please go to the following link on the Diocesan web-site for more information, dates of classes and to register online https://www.ctepiscopal.org/Content/Safe_Church_Training_Schedule.asp?

**Comprehensive Hybrid Training:** Consists of two online course modules that will be sent to you via email within 2 weeks of your completed registration and no sooner than 4 weeks before the live training session. The two online course modules must be completed no later than two (2) days prior to the live session. You will receive a certificate upon completion of the two online modules and the live session. Trainings will have a minimum of ten (10) registered attendees; trainings with less than 10 may be cancelled.

**Comprehensive Hybrid Training:** Saturday, May 18, 9:00 AM, St James’ Poquettanuck, Preston.

**Recertification Training:** Monday, April 1, 6:00 PM, St. Mark’s Church, Mystic. Additional details will be available soon on the website regarding enrollment and timing of the class.
Vestry Highlights

At the January 8th Vestry Meeting, it was voted on and passed that St. James divest of its distinct holdings in Haliburton, Conoco Phillips, Select Sector SPDR Energy, and Valero Energy Corp, which totals about $96,000, or 3 percent of our total assets. Fossil fuel company stocks that are part of larger mutual fund investments would not be addressed at this time. Propose that those funds from the four distinct holdings be distributed among the existing investments.

The Caring for Creation Committee along with NL FRESH has plans to apply for the Jack Spaeth Diocese Grant for funds to plant gardens at the Community Meal Center on Montauk Avenue and/or establishing a garden on Ledyard Street.

The Breeze Software was introduced as a system that is going to be installed to provide digital tools for giving, organizing, creating events and communicating with individuals and groups through text and emails.

The concept of The Asset-Based Community Development Institute (ABCD) was also introduced. ABCD explores the local talent within a community, as a place to start to create ideas to build upon and develop. ABCD draws upon existing community strengths to build stronger, more sustainable communities for the future.

At the February 5th Vestry Meeting, we welcomed 3 new members to the Vestry, Bill Crawford, Stacy Dunning, and Ron Ward.

An updated job description for the Sexton was approved by the Vestry.

A motion was made and passed that the Vestry supports an initiative to explore use of the online carbon tracker tool being made available through the Sustain Island Home initiative for St. James. A group of volunteers would be assembled to learn about and begin using the tracker starting with the upcoming Lenten season if possible, and would report back to the Vestry about their experiences. Based on this feedback, the Vestry would then decide whether to launch a congregation-wide initiative to have volunteers teach others how to use the tracker and encourage members to use it.

The Thames River Heritage Park Group is going to provide group tours for Recreation and Senior Centers this summer. One of the topics will be "Well Healed and the Want-to-Bees" featuring the Tiffany family. They will be visiting St James and also Lyman Allen Museum.

Another motion was passed that St. James enter into a relationship with the CCS Consultant Group that was contracted by the ECCT to explore some ideas and concepts. They would provide St James with resources regarding spiritual goals and ways to raise the funds for the proposed future mission.
Jumble Shoppe News

The Jumble Shoppe has a new look! Thanks to the ingenuity and hard work of our sexton, Diane Theis, and our volunteers, we’ve made the shop look brighter and more appealing than ever. Come take a look and stay to shop. Using recycled clothes and household goods fits right in with our parish’s determination to be better caretakers of our planet!

We continue to welcome all donations of gently used clothes, housewares, linens, and decorative items. We will be switching to spring clothes soon – with the usual sales on winter items – so if you’re beginning to pare down your spring clothes, think of us!

Sales have continued to be good throughout the winter. The Faith in Action Committee will be making decisions about disbursements to missions and charities at its monthly meetings. Check the Annual Report or the poster in the shop to see the amazing outreach of this little shop in the past year. And please continue to support us with your prayers, donations, and help.

Dorothy Sieburg, Manager

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.

Stewardship

On January 20, Mary Barnett, Dorothy Sieberg and Stef Brandon led a discussion after the 10:00 AM worship on meeting acts of hatred with acts of love. Much of the discussion that morning centered on systemic racism, racial reconciliation and what acts of love we might perform in our often-hostile world to counteract these biases.

Since prejudice can be insidious, self-examination was suggested as a way to begin. Participation in community discussions on the topic of racial injustice was also proposed. We all agreed that it is easy to become complacent if we remain too long in our own comfortable but somewhat insular worlds.

Our forum was timed well to come just before Martin Luther King Day and black history month which provide focus on the problems of racism in a world where high school students confront peaceful Native Americans demonstrating on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial with ridicule. Racism is learned. And it is taught by us.

Stef Brandon, Stewardship Committee
This report covers from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

**Total Income:**
- Budgeted Amount: $262,500
- Actual Amount: $266,771
- Amount Actual is Over Budget: $4,271

**Total Expenses:**
- Budgeted Amount: $427,160
- Actual Amount: $432,200
- Amount Actual is Over Budget: $5,040

**Net Ordinary Income:**
- Total Income: $266,771
- Total Expenses: $432,200
- Net Ordinary Income: -$165,429
- Endowment Income Applied: $164,664
- Net Income: -$765

**Summary:** As of December 31, 2018, we are $765 behind where expected to be based on our 2018 budget.

**Investment Summary:**
- Balance 12/31/2018: $3,233,467
- Total Value Change: -$72,992
- Withdrawal 5%: $164,664
- Change Pre-Withdrawal: $91,672

**Summary:** Our pre-withdrawal investment value has increased by $91,672, about 2.8%, through December 31, 2018. After factoring in the 5% withdrawal, our investments are down $72,992, about 2.2% through December. These numbers include two bequests: $184,700 from the Mariea D. Spencer Estate, and $74,944 from the Roger and Helen Dennis Estate.

Respectfully submitted,

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