I don’t know about you; but I never fully appreciated the meaning of lament. I knew what the word meant in a superficial way; but not to the depth of its biblical understanding. Our dictionary defines the word as “feeling or expressing sorrow or grief.”

The word entails a wholehearted connection to what happened in the past, a sadness over it, where you offer a deep sense of contrition over what you have done. If we are honest, this is not something we do very well here in the west. I know this is a blanket statement, but lamenting means showing emotion, and sadness; and well, we would rather not do that. It goes against the grain of our dominant cultural narrative. “Keep a stiff upper lip. Don’t let them see you cry.” It’s much easier to bury ourselves in things that numb, like buying something, or eating some ice cream or having a glass of wine. Don’t get me wrong, these are all good things; but if they are being used as a way to escape our own pain; then they won’t do the trick – they won’t meet the need. They will not meet that deep seated pain. I know I’ve numbed before.

We encounter lament in the Psalms, in the Book of Lamentations, in the prophet Habakkuk lamenting the coming judgement on Israel, and of course with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. As my colleague, the Rev. Stacey Kohl, rector of Christ Church, Norwich and I were traveling to Camp Washington in Morris for the gathering of the Mission Council of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, we had a deep and soulful conversation about “lament.” There was resonance because we understood how important it was that our parishes and this region as a whole engage in lament, by creating space to show emotions, admit where we have fallen short. Stacy and I talked about the deep need to offer lament for the ways in which the dominant culture has ridden over the native American people in Norwich or the ways in which European settlers enslaved Africans.

As the institution of the Episcopal Church here in Connecticut, have we truly lamented the harm we have done in our past? Have we lamented the reality that misogyny is still a deep part of the fabrics of much of our institutions here in the United States, including the Church? There is much to offer lament for, and this season of Lent, offers an opportunity for deep self-reflection; but also I hope a time where we can truly offer lament, taking time to share our grief. Lament cuts across our perfection driven culture, and invite us our imperfect selves into wholeness.

I will be gathering with some southeast region clergy colleagues to plan an evening service of lament during Lent, here at St. James. The details are still being worked out; but we will get those out to you just as soon as I am able. I do hope you will join.

My friends, have a blessed and Holy Lent.

In Christ,
Ranjit
The Witness …

is the newsletter of St. James Church, New London, Connecticut. It is published six times a year 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.

76 Federal Street
New London CT 06320-6601
860-443-4989
www.stjamesnl.org

Find us on Facebook: St James Episcopal Church &
Instagram: st_james_newlondon

News from our Deacon

On the sixth Sunday of Epiphany, we heard Moses say in Deuteronomy, “I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life…” Easter is about choosing new life. Lent is our opportunity to move from a death-dealing behavior to a life-giving one. It is time set aside to be intentional about our relationship with God, others and ourselves. It is a time to reassess what is not working and to do something about it.

If we are ignoring our relationship with God, we might take on a spiritual practice. There are all kinds of books, calendars, and emails that can help us with daily meditations or acts. I am going to use the Episcopal Relief and Development Reflections this year. I have asked Ellen to order more copies so they will be available for those of you who wish to join me.

If we find we are ignoring family and friends or doing something we know interferes with one or more relationships you can take on a discipline around your relationship with others. You might decide to call someone once a week that you neglect or write a thank you note each day to someone who has made a difference in your life. I am going to reconnect with friends that I have lost contact with over the last few years. The idea is to choose something specific to the relationship(s) you wish to improve.

I have a lot of friends that give up chocolate every year. This makes them appreciate chocolate more but I do not think it changes their life. You need to take on a discipline that gives you new life. You might make sure that you eat 3-5 fruits and vegetables each day, or to take a walk around the block. You might decide to only make necessary purchases for the 40 days. (No binge shopping on Sundays!) One year I gave up fast food. I made sure I did not eat on the fly. I eat far less fast food now which is good for my health and my pocketbook.

Deacon Ellen

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 8 — Don’t forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night. That way you will be on time for Sunday worship.
Special thanks to our retiring wardens and vestry members

Senior Warden: Lori Sarkett
Junior Warden: David Higgins
Vestry: Eleanor Godfrey and Fred Smith

Lent
Christian Formation

Beginning on March 11, we will be reading Brene Brown’s book, Rising Strong: How the Ability to Reset Transforms the Way We Live. Brene Brown talks about the power of acknowledging our emotions and need to lean in to our discomfort. Although dealing with change is stressful, it also can help us define our values and make us stronger and happier. Father Ranjit and Deacon Ellen invite you to join them on this Lenten journey. Worship is at 5:15 PM. Discussion begins at 6:00 PM. You are invited to bring your supper to eat during our time together. Call Ellen in the parish office if you want her to order you a copy of the book. Price $12.

Friday evening —The Way of the Cross

The walking of the Way of the Cross is a common devotion that will be offered 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.

Annual Fish Dinners—supporting our neighbors

We will once again support the St. James Poquetanuck (Preston), Lenten Fish Dinners. Fried and baked fish will be served every Friday evening during the Lenten season. Join us for Stations of the Cross in the church at 5:00 PM and then carpool to Preston for fun, fellowship and good food. Meals will be served from 3:30 PM - 7:00 PM, price $13 adults, $12 seniors and $7 children. Please contact Lori Sarkett for additional information at 860.287.5500 or email lorisarketthne@gmail.com.

Lenten Christian Formation

On Saturday, March 21, Stephanie Brandon will lead us from 9:00 AM—noon in the Church school classroom. A Rule Of Life For You (You’re kidding, right?) Most of us know that a Rule of Life sets forth the spiritual principles by which monks, like the Benedictines or Brothers of St. John The Evangelist, live in community with one another. But that’s just for monks, right? That’s what I used to think, but I have changed my mind. Last year I attended a workshop about writing our own rule. This invitation comes to us from Bishop Curry. There’s a sign-up sheet on the buffet in the parish hall.

The Jesus Movement (that elusive idea Fr. Ranjit is always talking about) invites all of us to live the way of love. Here’s how Bishop Curry describes it on the Episcopal Church Website. “More than a program or curriculum, it is an intentional commitment to a set of practices. It’s a commitment to follow Jesus: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest.”

There are nuts and bolts to writing a rule of life and I will share what I have learned about applying this time-worn process to life in the 21st century. Please join me as we explore the possibilities of writing our own rule of life. And what the heck? It might become a good (though a little late) Lenten practice, or maybe even a practice for the rest of your life. There’s a sign-up sheet on the buffet in the parish hall.
**St. James Supper Group—Dinner and a Play**

On Saturday March 21, we will enjoy dinner at 6:00 PM at the Log Cabin Restaurant, 232 East Main Street, Clinton and then head to the Andrew’s Memorial Theatre, 54 East Main Street to enjoy a performance at 7:30 PM called “The Barrier Breakers” which is about the life of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Harriet Tubman. St. James parishioner, Emma Palzere-Rae, portrays Harriet Harriet Tubman: A Woman with a Railroad as portrayed by Adwoa Bandele-Asante

Percussion provided by Ibiju Bandele Asante

Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 7:00 PM

St. James Church, New London, CT

Free to public, donations accepted to defray the cost of the performance.

**Claire Rusowicz** has been a certified retreat director, spiritual director and spiritual director supervisor for more than 20 years. She currently offers spiritual direction, supervision, day and weekend programs, and retreats for individuals and groups in CT, NY and MA. Claire is a co-facilitator of Centering Prayer groups and weekend retreats at Mercy By the Sea (Madison, CT), as well as in other locations in the tri-state area. A CT resident since 1993, she is a certified hike leader for the CT Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, with a special interest in contemplative hiking.

**St. James Christian Formation cont’d**

Saturday, April 4, Claire Rusowicz will lead us from 9:00 AM—noon in the Parlor. At Jerusalem’s Gate: Pausing at the Threshold of Holy Week

“I know that you are descendants of Abraham. But you are trying to kill me, because my word has no room among you.” – *John, Ch. 8*

This morning offers a prayer-filled pause in which to set our intentions for walking through the streets of Jerusalem, up to Golgotha and on to the empty tomb during this year’s holy week. Through conversation and reflection, we will consider how to make “room” for the new during days that are filled with tradition and familiar prayers, readings, images, songs and ritual. The morning’s emphasis will be on the invitations of contemplative silence/ stillness, and the use of grace-inspired imagination. How can you listen more deeply and respond most authentically this year to God’s invitation to risk and trust: “No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed…. I am making a road in the wilderness....” (Isaiah, 43)

Claire Rusowicz has been a certified retreat director, spiritual director and spiritual director supervisor for more than 20 years. She currently offers spiritual direction, supervision, day and weekend programs, and retreats for individuals and groups in CT, NY and MA. Claire is a co-facilitator of Centering Prayer groups and weekend retreats at Mercy By the Sea (Madison, CT), as well as in other locations in the tri-state area. A CT resident since 1993, she is a certified hike leader for the CT Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, with a special interest in contemplative hiking.

**Harriet Tubman: A Woman with a Railroad**

as portrayed by Adwoa Bandele-Asante

Percussion provided by Ibiju Bandele Asante

Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 7:00 PM

St. James Church, New London, CT

Free to public, donations accepted to defray the cost of the performance.
**Ordination**

Mary Barnett, our former intern, will be ordained to the priesthood on Wednesday, March 25 at 7:00 PM, Holy Trinity Church, Main Street, Middletown. Due to limited parking, we have a carpool leaving from the church at 5:30 PM. Contact Ellen in the parish office with any questions.

**Easter Flowers Offering**

As we gather to celebrate the Resurrection, with renewed hearts and spirits, we’ll gather to the beauty of great music and a beautifully adorned church. One part of what makes this celebration special are the flowers that dress our altar and the chancel of the church. You are invited to participate adorning of our worship space, by offering a donation—as a memorial or a thank-offering—toward the purchase of Easter flowers. An envelope for this purpose is included with this issue of The Witness. We ask that you return your requests promptly (no later than Palm Sunday, April 5) so that your donation can be recognized in the Easter bulletin.

**Baptisms—Easter Vigil**

Parish baptisms will be on Saturday, April 11 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.

**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 4 at 10:00 AM or on Sunday morning, April 5 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 8**
7:00 PM Tenebrae, church

**Thursday, April 9 (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 10 (Good Friday)**  parish office closed

Watch continues until the noon Good Friday service, church
Stations of the Cross immediately following the noon service
7:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy, church
Easter Flower Delivery to Shut-Ins
If you would like to help brighten Easter for members of our parish family who are homebound or in healthcare facilities, how about taking one of the lilies from our Easter decorations to him/her? Select someone who is near to your home or office. A sign-up sheet can be found in the parish hall. Please put your name next to the name of the person to whom you’d like to take a plant. If directions are needed, please contact Ellen in the parish office, 860.443.4989. Plants may be delivered immediately following the Easter Day service or anytime during the week after Easter Day.

Saturday, April 11 (Easter Vigil)
7:30 PM      Easter Vigil, church

Sunday, April 12 (Easter Day)
8:00 AM      Holy Eucharist, church  
10:00 AM     Holy Eucharist, church
Easter Egg Hunt immediately following 10 AM service

Monday, April 22 (Easter Monday)
Parish office closed

Easter Egg Hunt
Calling all children!
Easter Day there will be an Easter egg hunt for children 3-12 years old (after the 10:00 AM service).
Children will gather with their parents after church in the parish hall, and be escorted to the parlor. Everyone is welcome to come and watch.

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. 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. Training will have a minimum of ten (10) registered attendees; trainings with less than 10 may be cancelled.

Comprehensive Training: Consists of a full-day live training session. You will receive a certificate upon completion of the live session.
St. Cecilia Girls’ Choir Reunion, May 2-3, 2020

Saturday, May 2: morning and afternoon rehearsals, lunch provided
Sunday, May 3: 10:00 AM service, lunch provided

If you ever put on a blue robe with starched white collar, took your *Hymnal 1940* from its cubby, and grabbed your beanie from the beanie box, this event is for you!

We will spend Saturday on the ground floor of the Seabury Center, with morning and afternoon rehearsals in the choir room. We’ll have a long lunch break in the parlor, with plenty of time to reminisce.

On Sunday we will meet at 9:00 AM in the church to warm up, and sing the 10:00 AM service. One of our two anthems will be an old favorite, Gordon Jacob’s setting of Psalm 23, “Brother James’s Air.” Here’s a YouTube link to an English performance, to help you remember: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1whOV3qU-TE

Please let me know (contact info below) if you are an alumna, even if you can’t come. It’s going to take some tracking down to reach everyone we want to reach, and we’ll need your help.

If you didn’t sing with the choir but know someone who did, please forward this announcement to her/them.

Do you have food allergies? Mobility issues? Do you need a place to stay on the Saturday night? Let me know, and we will find a way to make this reunion possible for you.

Come to this event, make beautiful music together, and hear the definitive version of how my little sister, Jane Sherman (Anello) got lost on a choir outing to a football game at Yale.

Mary Ellen Sherman (Lycan), Parish Historian
Cell: 919.428.4503
Email: Mary.Lycan@UConn.edu
Snailmail: 14 N. Washington Ave.
Niantic, CT 06357
Church School

This year has started off great for the church school. We have been learning new stories from the New Testament. February 23rd was a busy day for us. We sang a new hymn, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” in both English and Swahili. Thanks to Dr. Will Cooper for teaching us another beautiful hymn. After the 10:00 AM service, we hosted a special “forest themed” coffee hour!

We will continue learning new stories in the New Testament and thank you to Ellen Bowlin and Mary White for assisting with our Sunday School classes, whenever needed.

Peace and prayers,
Robin, Gena and Johanna

Reading the book, Gifts of Myrrh by Marcia Alborghettii on the First Sunday of Epiphany.

ECCT’s 8th Annual Spring Training

Saturday, April 18 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Berlin High School, 139 Patterson Way, Berlin.

Join other Episcopalians from across Connecticut for a day of fellowship, learning, prayer and fun. All are welcome—from people in the pews, vestry members, parish leaders and staff. Over 30 workshop Offerings to choose from. For a complete list and description of workshops and registration links visit www.episcopalct.org, click on the Events Tab, and then select Spring Training in the drop down box. There you will find the entire menu of offerings, registration information and fees.
Birthdays

March

1  Ron Ward  12  Nina Butler  18  Kenneth Belknap
5  Thomas Vogel  16  Geraldine Brewster  18  Susan Menghi
5  Linda Cascio  17  Kristine Drew  28  Denise Dunning

April

3  Robin Olbrys  6  David Downes  8  Harold Kydd  11  Robert Rae
3  Anna Shaw  7  Sharon Dunning  9  Stephanie Brandon  12  Marci Marciniak
4  Marcia Pierce  8  Sue Chojnacki  10  Stacy Dunning  25  Mary Ellen Harris
5  Greg Rice  8  Henry Kydd  11  Barbara Harry

Racial Reconciliation Working Group

On Wednesday, February 12, 2020, ten members of St. James went to the Coast Guard Academy to hear Ibram X. Kendi, author of How to be an Antiracist speak. He explained that we are all racists and anti-racists. We are racist when we are actively supporting or doing nothing to do away with racist policies and perpetuate racist ideas. We are antiracist when we actively work to dismantle policies and express antiracist ideas. As we enter our second year of ECCT’s Season of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation, the congregation of St. James needs to look for ways that we can actively change local policies and practices that treat some of our citizens as less valuable than others.

Outreach Grant

The Palmer Fund has awarded St. James a grant in the amount of $4,200 for our Lift Up Preventive Health Program. St. James serves many low-income residents in its outreach ministries of Lord’s Pantry, Jumble Shop and Community Meal. These funds will allow us to provide programs and services aimed at improving health care for the people we serve.

Many thanks to parishioner, Tom Clark for researching, preparing and submitting the grant on behalf of our parish.

Social Media

Our Facebook page has 745 followers! Help us get to 800 - invite your like-minded friends to follow us and join us in the Jesus movement. Our Instagram page is active again! Follow us at st_james_newlondon. 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.
Centering Prayer (meditation)

A Centering Prayer Meditation group will meet on Saturday, March 14 in the Hallam Chapel from 8:30 to 10:00 AM.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Higgins

The Writers Group

Make a creativity appointment with yourself!

St. James hosts a writers group to foster a community of writers. Bring your projects and a laptop, notebook or journal. No exercises or sharing. Simply quiet time to write. Open to parishioners and members of the community.

The Writer’s Group will meet on the following Mondays in March and April: March 9, March 23, April 13 and April 27. The group meets from 6:30 - 8:00 PM in the Parlor. All are welcome!

Questions? Email Emma Palzere-Rae at emmapalzererae@gmail.com.

The St. James Book Group

The St. James Book Group will meet at 6:00 PM at the "La Luna Restaurant", located at the Holiday Inn, 35 Governor Winthrop Boulevard, New London on Thursday, March 26 and Thursday, April 23. 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.

March selection: Defending Jacob, by William Landry

April selection: The Art Forger, by B.A. Shapiro.

For more information about the book group, please contact Lori Sarkett at 860.287.5500, or lorisarketthne@gmail.com.
In 2019 the Jumble Shoppe sales netted over $20,000 for the first time in the shop’s history; and this without any significant change in prices. We continue to offer gently used clothes and a variety of household and decorative items at prices affordable to people on restricted incomes. We also continue a practice of offering four items of clothing for free once every three months to anyone who applies — no proof of income, no questions. The question is sometimes raised by volunteers and parishioners, “Isn’t this likely to be exploited by some people? Wouldn’t you make more money for missions if your prices were more in keeping with prices of other thrift shops?” I have given those questions serious thought over the years of my involvement with the shop. We do set aside some articles of clearly high worth with prices more compatible with value. However, when I see customer after customer open up sandwich bags of coins and count out pennies, nickels and dimes (money my grandson Caleb leaves strewn, disregarded, on his dresser top) to purchase clothes or dishes, I am satisfied with the “foolishness” of our shop. I trust members of St. James will continue to support us with donations, with prayers and with visits to the shop.

The Faith in Action Committee oversees disbursements of funds from the shop. In the new year we have sent money to Episcopal Relief and Development for hurricane disaster relief and to a fund to aid Australia, suffering from so much destruction and loss from fires. We also have donated funds to support the recently arrived refugee family from Somalia. We welcome suggestions for outreach projects to consider as recipients. All organizations considered are vetted through Charity Navigator.

Dorothy Sieburg, Manager

St. James Quilters

Our mission is to make quilts for the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) Nurse Family Partnership (which cares for new mothers). In February we presented the VNA with 3 baby quilts and 3 knit baby blankets.

Our meetings are on the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. New members are always welcome, you do not need to know how to quilt our experienced quilters will gladly teach you. If you have any question, feel free to contact Mary Chartier at (860) 443-0590.

Margaret Murallo, member

You are Cordially Invited to A Community Tea
In Celebration of Spring
When: Friday, April 9th @4:00 PM
Where: The Drop-In Learning Center Afterschool Program
3rd Floor, St. James Parish Hall
Hosted by
The Drop-In Learning Center’s Children
Come and join us for an afternoon of Tea and Sweets
Caring for Creation

Please join us at St. James at 6:30 PM on Wednesday March 4 when members of our church will gather with a neighboring faith community, All Souls Universalist Unitarian Congregation, for a joint adult education session. Co-led by the Rev. Ranjit Mathews and the Rev. Carolyn Patierno, we’ll discuss a chapter from the book, *Justice on Earth*, titled: “Cherishing Our World: Avoiding Despair in Environmental Justice Work.” Electronic and paper copies of the chapter will be available from the church office. The book is also available for purchase on Amazon. But if you’re interested don’t hesitate to join us even if you haven’t read the selection.

We hope to plan a second joint discussion at All Souls on another chapter later this spring.

**Come to the surprise swap – you might get lucky!** The committee will mark the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22 with a vegetarian pot luck and surprise swap at 6:00 PM in the parlor. In an effort to encourage everyone to seek more second-hand items instead of always buying new or just throwing away usable but unwanted items, we’d like everyone to bring two household items in good condition that they no longer want. One will be donated to the Jumble Shop, and the other will go into a fun swap with other members after the potluck. Please wrap the item for the swap in newspaper or other recycled material so everyone can pick and be surprised! Look for a sign-up sheet in the parish hall.

There will also be a major Earth Day event at Mystic Seaport on April 18, involving dozens of groups and activities. This will be a great opportunity to learn about and support local efforts for the environment! Look for more information in local media in the coming weeks.

**The committee will meet at 5:30 PM on March 12 and April 16.** New members and new ideas welcome! Questions, email Judy Benson, chairwoman, at: moss153@att.net.

**SAVE THE DATE:** On Saturday May 9 at 10:00 AM, the Friends of Ye Antientist Burial Ground will have an event marking the formation of the new group at the cemetery, located off Hempstead Street next to the Regional Multicultural Magnet School. City Historian Sally Ryan will guide a walking tour, and the Rev. Rachel Thomas will lead a service of blessing. For information, contact Veronica Hoard, president of the Friends group, at: vhoard@comcast.net.

We have about 30 reusable bags we'll be selling once a month until they're gone. They are $10 each.

-- During Lent, please consider joining us in a single-use plastic fast. Bring your own travel cups to the coffee shop, skip the straws and stirrers and plastic bags and wrap. Make it a habit!

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Benson, chair
The Anglican Singers’ remaining evensong services in the 2019–2020 season will take place on Sunday, March 1st, and Sunday, April 26th.

March 1st, the First Sunday in Lent, will feature an all-British program, with Tudor composer Thomas Tallis; Jacobean composer Richard Ayleward; and the greatest composer of the Restoration and English Baroque era, Henry Purcell. Psalm 103 was set by two Edwardians, C.V. Stanford and Kellow John Pye. The anthem, “They that go down to the sea in ships,” was written by one of England’s premier 20th-century composers, Herbert Sumsion, and is a cinematographic and sensory tour de force. Fasten your seatbelts!

On April 26th, for the Third Sunday of Easter the Singers will present “O sing joyfully,” by Adrian Batten; Responses by our former director Simon Jacobs; settings of Psalms 114 and 115; Herbert Brewer’s sprightly Service in D; and Edward Bairstow’s soulful interpretation of “The King of love my shepherd is.”

Each service will take place at 5PM and be followed by a reception in the parish hall. Please join us.

On August 8th, The Anglican Singers will journey to Worcester, England, to begin our weeklong residency at magnificent Worcester Cathedral. This residency will mark our fifth over the course of the past decade, and we are thrilled by the prospect of singing in yet another space of such sacred and historic import.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Carr Bingham, Secretary
The Anglican Singers

Music On Whale Oil Row Event

Sunday, March 22 at 7:30 PM in the church.

Organist Robert Humphreville returns to St. James for our annual silent movie presentation.
This year’s film is Charlie Chaplin’s The Gold Rush.
All are welcome. Popcorn is provided.
A suggested donation of $10 per person is requested to help offset expenses.
Stewardship

Faith Active in Love. That's the St. James stewardship theme for 2020.

Your stewardship committee is hoping to provide some occasional written reflections by members of the parish on this theme. As you read the reflections of people you know about how their faith takes shape in their lives, we hope you will be encouraged to do your own reflecting.

For 2020 we see a significant increase in our financial pledges. As of this writing, the total amount pledged by 91 persons or families is $222,514. This compares to $189,389 pledged for 2019. Additionally, 9 persons or families indicated an intent to give but did not specify an amount. To all members of the parish, thank you for your generosity.

Robert Bowlin

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 infor-

Vestry Highlights

The January and February Vestry meetings passed the following motions. A motion that St. James join the Jesus Campaign was defeated. The Vestry voted and accepted the Letter of Agreement for the position of the Assistant Priest. The Reverend Dana Stivers has accepted this position and was introduced at the Annual Meeting. She will start in February.

A committee was formed to investigate the security at St. James. They will review the recommendations of the New London Police Department that was done last year, as well as looking into first-aid, CPR and active shooter training to be offered.

A meeting between St. James and the Board of the Drop-In Learning Center will take place to discuss their usage of the parish hall and their financial contribution to St. James.

Ann Burdick,
Parish Clerk

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.
Parish Financials

ST JAMES CHURCH
TREASURER’S REPORT
March 3, 2020

This report covers from January 1, 2020 to January 31, 2020.

Total Income:
Budgeted Amount: $22,583
Actual Amount: $30,268
Amount Actual is Under Budget: $7,685

The primary contributor to this is Pledge Income, which is $6,124 over the budgeted amount.

Total Expenses:
Budgeted Amount: $40,884
Actual Amount: $39,976
Amount Actual is Under Budget: $908

There are underruns in several budget categories that contribute to this amount. Also, Church Utilities are $1,016 over budget (not surprising, since costs are highest in winter).

Net Ordinary Income:
Total Income: $30,268
Total Expenses: $39,976
Net Ordinary Income: -$9,709
Endowment Income Applied $18,302
Net Income $8,594

Summary: As of January 31, 2020, we are $8,594 ahead of where we expected to be, based on our 2020 budget.

Investment Summary:
Balance 12/31/2019: $3,700,864
Balance 12/31/2020: $3,673,709
Total Value Change: -$27,155
Withdrawal 5%: $18,302
Change Pre-Withdrawal: $8,853

Summary: Our pre-withdrawal investment value has decreased by $8,853, about 0.2%, through July 31, 2020. After factoring in the 5% withdrawal, our investments are down $27,155, about 0.7% through January.

Respectfully submitted,

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