The NET

“All things come of thee Oh Lord, and of thine own have we given thee”

Let me present you with a hypothetical conversation amongst parishioners at a Ministry fair of a given Church. One parishioner says to the other, (after checking in about family, life, etc..) “Have you given some thought about stewardship, and joining our Church committee? The second parishioner runs away from his friend and the question, sharing “Nope. Not for me. Keep me as far away from that committee as can be.”

This conversation, while obviously embellished is, I would surmise, a common refrain amongst Christians in mainline denominations. Many people don’t want to be a part of the stewardship conversation, let alone the season. Often times the first thought that springs to mind when we think about stewardship is money, and how much we struggle to talk about it, maybe given our struggles with our own budget, and what it may mean to each of us as individuals. We may have had a complicated relationship talking about it, within our own immediate families. This is all too real for some of us.

Leaders within the Church, including me, bear much of the blame for this. There has been a tendency within parishes to only discern stewardship at the very end of a Church year, so that we can have enough money for next year’s budget. There is a practical reasoning around this. We need to have the financial resources in order to support the Church as an institution, to make sure we can continue to practice and live into all the life giving ministries we share in as a parish. Yes, absolutely. Amen.

And yet my friends, I think we are missing out on the deeper meaning of stewardship. The title of this article is “all things come of thee, Oh Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.” It’s what I or another Priest says, typically at a Rite One Holy Eucharist service, as the offertory is presented at the Lord’s table. In more contemporary terms it means, everything is God’s, and we share what we have from God back to God.” But that entails not just our weekly or monthly pledges; but the WHOLE of our lives, our relationships, our time, our gifts, everything is a gift from God, and we are called as followers of Jesus to be stewards of all that God has given us.

This changes everything about how we understand stewardship. The question then is, not how much do we pledge for the stewardship drive for the coming year; but after prayer, discernment, and wrestling with scripture; how are we able to steward all that God has given us, in order to build the Realm of God? It’s an awesome responsibility, and yet we can draw on the Holy Spirit to lead us deeper into this journey; as individual disciples of Jesus Christ as well as the broader body of Christ.

My prayer is that as we move deeper into our faith, we would come to understand our radical dependence on God, and that this very close, and intimate relationship would transform us to be the disciples we have hope to be: followers of Jesus, and builders of the Realm of God.

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.

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

The Mayo Clinic suggests 5 principles for a stress-free life. They are gratitude, compassion, acceptance, forgiveness, and higher meaning (who we are, why you are here and what the world means). These principles are loving, liberating, and life giving.

Two ways of practicing gratitude are to keep a gratitude journal of 3 things you are thankful for each day or by putting your loose change into a United Thank Offering (UTO) box and say the prayer on the side of the box.

At the end of the month, we will celebrate Thanksgiving. Included in the NET is a calendar that recommends a way to offer thanks each day.

"Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. …

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things."

Sunday Parish Events—November

November 4—Ecuador Mission Lasagna “To Go” fundraiser after both morning services.

Forum with Tom Verde on the Nicene Creed at 11:45 AM.

November 11—Forum on the Community Land Trust at 11:30 AM

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.

Approved at the April 10, 2018 Vestry meeting.
**All Saints’ Day—November 1**  
12:00 PM, Holy Eucharist in the Hallam Chapel

**All Saints’ Sunday—November 4**  
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM, Holy Eucharist in the Church

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**Daylight Savings Time Ends:**  
Sunday, November 4 at 2 AM

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**Ecuador Mission Lasagna Fundraiser—November 4**

Homemade gourmet lasagna, “Hughies” love salad and fresh garlic bread “to go” meals will be available on Sunday, November 4 after both morning services. Tickets are $20 per meal and all proceeds support the Ecuador Mission.

Tickets are available for purchase in the parish office during office hours and on Sunday morning until meals are sold.

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**Pilgrimage to Dergah al-Farah—November 17**

Dear friends,

You might remember that on December 9th and 10th of 2017, our parish received ten members of Dergah al-Farah in Tribeca, New York City. For those of you who are not aware, the Dergah is a part of the Sufi branch of the Islamic faith. I am friends with their Imam, Mujadid Shah, and we had the wonderful gift of developing friendships across our two faiths. Mujadid led our gathered parishioners on a Zhikr (prayer) in our sanctuary, and then we had dinner at the Rectory. On Sunday, they attended our 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist service, and together Muja and I facilitated a forum on Islam and the commonalities between Christianity and Islam. To say that it was a dynamic, eye opening conversation would be an understatement.

And now part two. On Saturday, November 17th, we are planning to take a day trip to the Dergah to visit with our friends and continue to build our relationship. We will hear Muja offer
Pilgrimage cont’d

A lecture on the nature of Christ and Mary within an Islamic lens, we will offer meditation practices from our traditions, break bread over lunch and then engage in the prayer of prostration, which is how Moses, Jesus and Mohammed prayed. We hope to leave New York to return to New London by 3:00 PM.

If you would like to join us for this pilgrimage, please reach out to Fred Smith or Dorothy Sieberg or myself to get more information. I hope you can join us, so please RSVP to Ellen Merrill at the office by Monday, November 5th.

Faithfully,

Ranjit

Thanksgiving Day—Thursday, November 22

9:00 AM, Holy Eucharist in the Church

Start your holiday off giving thanks to God for all our blessings!

November Birthdays

7 Ellen Adams
11 Betsy James
13 Grace Barnum
16 George Shaw
19 Stephen Percy
22 Maryjane Connell
23 Ethelyn Wardwell
26 Jim Shores

St. James Book Club

The St. James Book Club will meet at La Luna Restaurant (located in the Holiday Inn) on Thursday, November 29, at 6:00 PM.

This month’s book selection will be Acts of Faith by Erich Segal and is currently on reserve at the New London Public Library. Please bring your driver’s license and local library card to pick up the book. If you have questions for the New London Public Library, please contact the reference desk at 860.447.1411.

For more information about the book club or restaurant, please contact Lori Sarkett at 860.287.5500 or lorisarketthne@gmail.com. Meals and appetizers are available and pricing ranges from $5—$30 depending on the selection.
Fall Clean-up

At this year’s fall clean up we accomplished all our goals. The weather was great, as was the help. We cleaned all the woodwork in the church proper, unclogged the drain outside the boiler room, filled the dumpster to capacity, removed all the junk that had accumulated over the years and cleaned outside in front of the church. I would like thank Mary White, Sue Chojnacki, Diane Theis, Nancy and David Higgins, David Downes, Martha and Ralph Anderson, Mark Enoch, Anna Shaw, Gena Scognamiglio, Johanna Kuruvilla and Edward Rae. Thank you for all your help, it was greatly appreciated.

Walter Chojnacki
Building Preservation & Maintenance Chair

Acolytes

2018, my first year as coordinator for the Acolytes has been a challenging and interesting year. After years of dedication and service to the church as outstanding Acolytes, Pat Lee and I have retired. Retire with God’s Grace.

We are also blessed with three new acolytes: Stacy Dunning, William Crawford and David Higgins. Thank you so much for feeling the call to be an Acolyte. I also want to thank two very special people (Lori Sarkett and David Downes) for being willing to serve at either the 8:00 AM or 10:00 AM service whichever was needed. May God bless both of you. Thanks again.

Additional Acolytes are needed at both Sunday morning and special services. If you have ever thought of serving in this ministry, prayerfully consider whether God is calling you. To learn more, please call me at 860.443.5579. I’d love to hear from you.

Marcia Pierce
Coordinator

Greeters

Many thanks go out to Sue Chojnacki for her years of dedication in overseeing the scheduling of our Sunday morning greeters. Her ministry will be missed but she still remains a vibrant part of our parish including her work within the parish office, hats, mittens and scarves, etc..
The Bishop of Goma, DR Congo, the Rt. Rev. Desire Mukanirwa, visits the U.S. and New London. Your St. James Faith in Action team was wonderfully surprised when the news came that Bishop Desire was in the U.S. and able to make a brief visit to New London. The team had “met” the bishop via skype and phone over the past several months. We wondered how and when we could ever be face-to-face. Altogether fourteen St. James people gathered as we were blessed with learning from Bishop Desire of his hopes and visions for the newly established Diocese of Goma in the DR Congo, Africa. Several have shared these thoughts:

“I was moved by Bishop Desire’s wonderful energy and radiant smile. I so enjoyed listening to him speak about his family and home” – David Higgins

“Here is what I remember most. Bishop Desire shared with us the fearless bravery of the people of the diocese of Goma in confronting the rebels in Eastern Congo. When things become too dangerous for the UN and NGOs, the people of Goma put their lives on the line and confront the rebels telling them to stop killing villagers. His passion to improve the education of his people was also evident” – David Rainey

“Meeting with Bishop Desire Mukanirwa was a very enlightening experience. I was very impressed with his overall concern for the people of the D.R.C., especially for those living in the city of Goma. The Bishop stated that the majority of the citizens living in D.R. Congo cannot read or write, and one of his missions was to recruit teachers from the country to help educate the people living in the various communities of Goma. I wondered how St. James could possibly assist the Bishop with this mission, and I was elated to find out through our S.E. Missionary, The Rev. Rachel Thomas, that there are grants available to help provide books for such projects. I am very proud that we at St. James are able to serve our community as well as those in different parts of the world.” - Lori Sarkett
We feel very fortunate for your solidarity and support towards our family in the most difficult moments we have gone through. They were very hard days of tension and worry. But GOD is very good and he sent us angels to light the way.

Many thanks to Fr. Ranjit Mathews, his family, Ellen Merrill, the Vestry and entire parish of St. James for your displays of love and mercy. With your prayers, time and financial donations, our lives are a little easier during a stressful time. This is very special to us because we feel loved by a beautiful community.

Thank you so much for being with us along this journey. God Bless you all.

The Rodriguez family
Diana, Julien and Santiago

Anglican Singers

There is no service of evensong scheduled for November; however, mark your calendars for Sunday, December 9, when The Anglican Singers will offer our annual "Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent" here at St. James. Please join us at 5 p.m. on the 9th for this joyous occasion—which involves not only the parish of St. James, but the City of New London as well. Following the service there will be a reception in the parish hall.

Note also that on December 24th, the renowned King’s College Choir of Cambridge University will celebrate the 100th anniversary of their inaugural “Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols” on Christmas Eve, 1918, one month after the conclusion of the Great War. That magnificent program is broadcast worldwide each year.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Carr Bingham, Secretary
The Anglican Singers
Learn Spanish

Dear friends,

If you are interested in learning Spanish, our friend Julien Rodriguez will be offering a class on the Saturdays in November, from 10:00 AM to Noon in the Church school room here at Church. Please RSVP to Ellen Merrill to secure your space in the class.

Faithfully,

Ranjit

Caring for Creation

Let Your Little Light Shine - Fundraiser for a new Parish Hall roof.

Building on the great support for our Roots and Shoots for the Roof organic veggie fundraiser this summer, the Caring For Creation committee will be selling rechargeable lanterns this holiday season as a fundraiser for the new roof needed for the parish hall to support solar panels.

The LED lanterns have a solar recharger, or can be recharged from a 220 outlet or a mobile charger. Samples will be on display during coffee hour in November.

The lanterns will cost $15 each; we'll take prepaid orders through Nov. 18 for delivery in time for Christmas. The committee will meet at 5:30 PM on Nov. 8; all welcome. Any questions, please contact me at: moss153@att.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Benson, Chair

Faith In Action Luncheon

The day began with Holy Eucharist and then a wonderful lunch prepared by the Faith in Action committee. It was so nice having long-time parishioners: Alma, Ethel, Joanna, Joan, Sarah, Ken, Millie and Evelyn together! They are no longer able to make to Sunday services on a regular basis. We enjoyed hearing stories of their memories of St. James and the Jumble Shoppe.

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Respectfully submitted,

Judy Benson, Chair
Racial Reconciliation Working Group

Come join other members of ECCT at Ivoryton Playhouse in Essex, CT on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 7:30 PM to see the world premier of The Queens of the Golden Mask. Written by Carole Lockwood, it takes place in the summer of 1961 in Alabama. How will a woman from Ohio fit in with her new neighbors who belong to the Ku Klux Klan? The first 200 tickets are free. You may reserve tickets by emailing susanmc@ivorytonplayhouse.org or calling (860) 767.9520, Ext.203, Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Be sure to mention that you are a member of ECCT. A talk back will follow the performance. Speak to Deacon Ellen if you are interested in car-pooling.

St. James Quilters

Our mission is to make quilts for the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) Nurse Family Partnership (which cares for new mothers).

Our meetings are USUALLY on the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. HOWEVER, in November only, we’ll be meeting on the third and fifth Thursdays.

New members are always welcome. You do not have to know how to quilt, our experienced quilters will gladly teach you. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mary Chartier at 860.443.0590.

Margaret Murallo, Member

Hats, Mittens, Scarves and Gloves

We will be collecting contributions of homemade or store purchased items through Sunday, November 25. We are especially in need of gloves and mittens of basic colors. Any questions, please contact me at 860.440.3427.

This ministry supports the children in our local schools and community.

Sue Chojnacki, Chair
St. James Christmas “Giving” Tree

It’s time to start planning for this season’s Christmas Giving Tree. Our parish has always responded with extraordinary generosity and we are looking forward to once again sharing Christmas love with families in need. If anyone knows of a family who should be included, please notify the parish office by November 11. We are consulting with Fr. Ranjit to include families who are truly in need of what we can provide.

The tree will be in the parish hall on November 18. Gifts may be brought to church until December 16. If anyone wishes to donate money rather than shop, please bring your donation to the parish office by December 10.

Jumble Shoppe News

The Jumble Shoppe is currently accepting seasonal clothing and holiday decorations. Donations of household goods and jewelry are also being accepted during shop hours on Tuesday and Saturday, 10:00 -1:00 PM. For other drop-off times, please contact Dorothy Sieburg at 860.710.1649.

Proceeds from the bazaar will go toward payment for the recently installed air conditioning units for the parlor on the main level of the Seabury Center. Think about how you can help with this and watch for sign-up sheets in the parish hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Sieburg
Manager

The Jumble Shoppe and the St. James Quilters are co-sponsoring a Christmas Bazaar on the weekend of December 8th and 9th. This would be an open-to-the-public event on Saturday from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Items will be for sale in the parlor during Sunday coffee hours.

Volunteers are needed on Friday, December 7th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM to set-up. Pizza will be served to all helpers.

Socks for the Homeless Hospitality Center

This holiday season, we are requesting donations of new white socks for the Homeless Hospitality Center Shelter guests (male and female). Our goal is to “gift” each guest with three (3) pairs of socks. They may be wrapped (please note on the outside of the package the size and if they are men’s or women’s—if unisex, no marking needed) or unwrapped. All donations should be received by Wednesday, December 12. If you would like to help with sorting and wrapping the socks, please contact Ellen in the parish office at 860.443.4989.
Remembering the End of the Great War

At eleven o'clock on the morning of November 11, 2018, the world will pause to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the conclusion of the Great War—later known as World War I. One century ago, at the “the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month,” the guns along the Western Front of Europe fell silent after an armistice, signed earlier that morning between the victorious Allied Powers of Great Britain and France and the defeated German Empire, ended four terrible years of carnage. Though the United States, which had joined The Allies against the Central Powers in 1917, was not a signatory, it played, through the efforts of President Woodrow Wilson, a principal role in crafting the Treaty of Versailles, which was published seven months later.

What does all this have to do with us today and why should we spend time thinking about it? Besides remembering those who gave their lives for what they believed a just cause, these things are relevant because World War I, humanity’s first total war, changed everything that came afterward and because we still live with its consequences, good and bad. On the credit side, new democracies and nation-states emerged from toppled empires; human rights were formally acknowledged; America was heralded as a beacon of freedom and opportunity. On the debit side, the world lurched over the brink of catastrophe after the vicious ideology of Nazism led to a second cataclysm, known as World War II; tribal hatreds and religious fanaticism erupted in global hotspots; and a four-decade-long cold war divided the planet into two hostile blocs bristling with nuclear weaponry.

The universal hope at the end of the Great War was that such a tragedy would—could—never happen again. It did, twenty-one years later.

Will there be a third and final conflagration? Perhaps not, but we are heirs to the same perverse impulses which convinced principalities a century ago that waging war is the most effective means of resolving disputes. Has human nature improved, worsened, or remained unchanged since 1918? Have we learned anything at all?

These are the questions we should ask ourselves—and this is why remembering November 11th, 1918, matters.

Anne Carr Bingham
As we celebrate Veteran’s Day, we remember that on November 11, 1918, at 11:00 AM, World War I came to an end. We have in our church a reminder of this event – the Mansfield Window depicting two World War I soldiers. The window was installed in 1922, and was given by Beatrice Mansfield, the widow of Richard Mansfield, a prominent New York actor in the early 1900’s who is best known for performances in Shakespeare plays, Gilbert & Sullivan operas, and the play Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

The figures in the window represent Jack Morris Wright and his best friend, George Gibbs Mansfield, the son of Richard and Beatrice Mansfield, who were summer residents of New London. Mrs. Mansfield insisted on calling her son “Richard Mansfield, 2nd.”; the name appearing in the window.

Both young men served in the U.S. Army Corps. They died not in battle but succumbed to illness contracted in France.

The window was not originally designed for St. James but rather for a New York City church – possibly St. Bartholomew, who did not accept it. It was then offered and installed in our church.

It is noted that the treatment of the glass in the designs at the top and bottom of the window are Tiffany techniques, but there is no Tiffany trademark. When the window was reshaped to fit the window opening, the “signature” may have been removed. May this window continue to serve as a reminder to remember all individuals of past and present wars who gave their lives for our freedoms.

The above information was found in a scrapbook of photographs and information about the stained-glass windows compiled by St. James historian Albert C. Dewire.

Jan Dargel, Parish Historian

**Veteran For Peace — Armistice Day Concert**

Sunday, November 11, 2018
Hygienic Art Galleries, 79 Bank Street, New London, CT from 3:00 PM - 8:30 PM
$10 Suggested Donation

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**Farewell dear friend …**

Robert Parise
October 4, 2018
Where: St James Episcopal Church [Fr Ranjit (860)443-4989]
76 federal st, New London, CT

Dance & Dine
When: 6-9 p.m
Ages 5-20 yrs
Dinner @ 7pm

Nov.1st & Nov.15th

All youth under Age 16 must be picked up by 730

DAI RENDEZVOUS
Stewardship cont’d

Love is the way. It’s all about love. Bishop Curry is not talking about romantic love, or the love of a parent for a child, or the love of one sibling for another, the love between close friends or even the love between a husband and wife. The love Jesus and Curry mean is a different kind of love; in fact, it is a love almost devoid of emotion. It is love for all of creation—people, nature, the universe—expressed by how we care for the world. It is the love we express when we do the right thing. How do we know what the right thing is? We know because the “right” thing is already in us; the right thing seeks reconciliation with God and forgiveness of one another for our human frailties. The Coke commercial capitalized on the idea not too many years ago: “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.”

This year, there is also a concrete goal which, if we all work together, can be met. We need to pray about our relationship with God, how we enact our belief in Him daily, and what we might sacrifice to His power and His glory.

Please submit your 2019 pledge form, please mail it to the parish office or place it in the Sunday collection plate as soon as possible. Forms are available at both entrances to the church and the parish office.

The Stewardship Committee

Vestry Highlights

At the October 2nd Vestry Meeting, a motion was unanimously passed to fund the Caring for Creation Committee $250.00 to help sponsor the refreshments for the Forum on Off Shore Wind Projects to be held at St. James on October 30th.

A presentation of the 2017 Audit was received at this Vestry Meeting.

Starting on Wednesday, November 14th, there will be a Bilingual Eucharist Service celebrated at 5:15 PM every Wednesday.

The Building and Grounds Committee are exploring installation of new lighting and spotlights to improve the dark areas around the outside of the church property.

Ann Burdick, Parish Clerk
ST. JAMES CHURCH
TREASURER’S REPORT
October 2, 2018

This report covers from January 1, 2018 to August 31, 2018.

Total Income:
- Budgeted Amount: $175,001
- Actual Amount: $175,446
- Amount Actual is Over Budget: $445

Total Expenses:
- Budgeted Amount: $284,769
- Actual Amount: $292,357
- Amount Actual is Over Budget: $7,588

Net Ordinary Income:
- Total Income: $175,446
- Total Expenses: $292,357
- Net Ordinary Income: -$116,911
- Endowment Income Applied: $109,776
- Net Income: -$7,135

Summary: As of August 31, 2018, we are $7,135 behind where expected to be based on our 2018 budget.

Investment Summary:
- Balance 08/31/2018: $3,307,531
- Total Value Change: $1,072
- Withdrawal 5%: $109,776
- Change Pre-Withdrawal: $110,848

Summary: Our pre-withdrawal investment value has increased by $110,848, about 3.3%, through August 31, 2018. After factoring in the 5% withdrawal, our investments are up $1,072, about 0.03% through August.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald F. Miller, Treasurer
Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist
Thursday, November 22nd at 9:00 AM in the Church