St. James Episcopal Church

The Net

November 2022

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.

From the Desk of our Priest

I can not believe how fast the time is going by and that I am writing for the November – December Net. It feels like we just arrived and here we are at the end of the year. It has been such a whirlwind of activities and meetings with all of you and with people in the community. And, I have loved every minute of it. Doug and I could not be happier, we feel incredibly blessed to be with you here at St. James. You are open, engaging and faithful. I have been so impressed with your willingness to bring back some things that have been gone since Covid arrived as well as trying new things. It feels like this is a place that truly believes “all things are possible with God.”

I still would love to get to know many of you better and would like to grab coffee, lunch, or come by for a chat, whatever might work for you. Please feel free to send me an email and we can find a time to do this (rector@stjamesnl.org). I have so enjoyed my time with those of you who have taken me up on this!

I also wanted to let everyone know that my day off is Friday. I try really hard to honor this so I do not check emails or messages at the church. If you send me an email after Thursday at 4:00 chances are good I won’t see it until Monday morning. Should you have a pastoral emergency at any time (my day off, the middle of the night, whenever) you can reach me on my cell phone which is 571-234-2277. If you have a time in which it would be helpful for me to be present with you and your family such as a health emergency, a death, or some crisis, please do not hesitate to contact me, it is what I am here for.

There is a lot going on at St. James, some has been happening for a long time, and some new things. Most of what is going on can be found in this edition of The Net, please take time to read through it all. And, please join us for one or more activity, ministry, worship service, Bible study, whatever might be speaking to you. I look forward to seeing you there!

Peace,
Denise+
Prayer List

We hope as we make changes to the way we pray for people in need of prayer at St. James, we see it as a way to open the prayer lists to more and more people and have more intentional prayer for these folks. Whether a name is read out loud or held in our hearts during silent prayer, the prayer is just as powerful and is heard by God. And, we want the congregation to be involved in these prayers and not tune out when our list gets overly long. So, we will have two lists on our weekly prayer list for the Prayers of the People. One will be for people in short term need, up to three months, these names will be read aloud each week. Then for folks who are in need of prayer over a longer period of time, there will be on a list for “continuous need of prayer”. Both of these lists will be remembered on Sunday mornings.

Daylight Savings Time Ends:
Sunday, November 6th at 2:00 AM

All Saints Sunday

All Saints Day will be observed on Sunday, November 6th. There will be several opportunities to remember the saints in our lives who have gone before.

For the members of St. James Church who have died since last All Saints Day, there will be a candle on the altar in remembrance of those people. You may also give names to Ellen (email parishoffice@stjamesnl.org) to be read on that Sunday during our Prayers of the People.

And finally, small stones will be placed in baskets in the narthex and the parish hall, you may pick them up as you come into church for folks you wish to remember. Then as you come forward to receive Communion, you place them in the bowl in the Chancel and say their names out loud.

Stewardship Sunday

Stewardship Sunday will be Sunday, November 6th. When reviewing your stewardship information this year, think about—What gifts have you been given? How do you claim them? How then do you put these gifts to work in the world, perhaps in ways that might surprise you? How might these look in terms of helping one another in our parish and in the community outside our parish?

Respectfully submitted

Bob Bowlin and Stef Brandon
Stewardship Committee
The Anglican Singers Celebrate 25 Years At St. James!

At 5:00 PM on Sunday, November 6th, The Anglican Singers will celebrate, with a special service of Evensong, our 25th anniversary as Artists-in-Residence at our beloved St. James (which turns 300 years old in 2025). This will be a joyous, momentous occasion in the life of our ensemble.

The Anglican Singers was founded and for the first several years directed by the late Marianna Wilcox. As our organizing principle, we have always described ourselves thus: “The choristers who are The Anglican Singers have a deep interest in music of the English choral tradition. Much of the finest music of this tradition, spanning half a millennium, is found in the Anglican Service of Choral Evensong.” Yet, in addition to our dedication to that heritage, we have explored the musical traditions of other cultures and countries over the years.

Since 1996, the Singers have toured much of the northeast United States and eastern Canada, as well as the United Kingdom where we have been choral residents at Bristol, Ely, Truro and Exeter Cathedrals. Next summer, we return to England for a residency at Lichfield Cathedral.

Our chorus has been singularly fortunate in its singers, directors, and organists over the past 25 years, and we continue to be thus blessed: in the dedication of our choristers; in our esteemed director Simon Holt, long a part of this ensemble; and in our organist, St. James’s own Will Cooper, whose compositional gifts will match his instrumental talents, with a piece that we will premiere as our introit on November 6th. We will also reprise the remarkable Service in G minor (Magnificat and Nunc dimittis) of the eminent American composer Robert J. Powell, which we first presented on February 11, 2007, at the celebration of our 10th anniversary at St. James, when Mr. Powell and his wife Nancy were our honored guests.

There is a delightful backstory to that presentation of the Powell Service. In 2006, former parishioner, choir member, and Anglican Singer, David Percival, discovered in the old choir room the original manuscript, commissioned for “The Inaugural Festival of the American Friends of St. Paul’s Cathedral [London] held at St. James Church, New London, Connecticut, 1965.” But for whatever reason, it was never performed—here or elsewhere—and lay neglected amongst dusty files and scores for four decades. After Dave’s find, Marianna Wilcox immediately contacted Mr. Powell (who himself had forgotten about it) to let him know that we would premiere the work on February 11, 2007, and inviting him and his wife to attend.

All that The Anglican Singers have been able to accomplish over the past 25 years would not have been practicable, or even possible, without the continued loyalty and commitment of the clergy, vestry, and parishioners of St. James. And so, our service on November 6th is, in part, a way to say thank you for your unflagging support. It is our sincere hope that all of you will join us for this celebratory Evensong and a gala reception following the service.

Anne Carr Bingham
(UTO) Ingathering

Please bring your UTO pledge offering to church on Sunday, November 20th to be blessed as a part of our communities offering to God. If you will not be in church that Sunday, please mail or drop off your offering prior to that date and we will bless all offerings received during the month of November. Grants awarded during 2023 will go to programs supporting Prison ministry.

Thanksgiving Day Worship

There will be a Thanksgiving Service at 9:00 AM on Thanksgiving morning. Please join us to offer thanks to God for all the many blessings God has bestowed upon you during this past year.

The service will be less than an hour so you will have plenty of time to be ready for Thanksgiving dinner!

Advent—A Time of Preparation

It’s Almost Advent

Sunday, November 30th is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent is our season of joyful expectation for the coming of Christ into our hearts and our lives. We will mark this Season with both a change in our liturgy, (using some of the Celtic Rites from our sisters and brothers from the Anglican Communion Churches of England and Scotland which both have Eucharistic Rites that reflect the Advent Season) and with the music we will hear and sing. This is intended to help set the tone and mark the season of Advent as a distinct and very special time in the Church year. As it is difficult to not rush into Christmas with all the secular influences around us, we hope that you can enter into this sacred space and allow this holy season to be fully present in your heart and spirit as you come to worship each week.

Please also consider taking a break from the Christmas madness and join us on Thursday evenings during Advent for our 5:00 PM Eucharist, pot-luck and a time of quiet reflection and conversation to help us enter into a time of preparation as we once again anticipate the coming of Christ into our lives.
Parish Outreach

Thanksgiving Meals

The Lord's Pantry will be distributing 100 Thanksgiving meal boxes on Tuesday, November 22 from 1:00—3:30 PM. To complete our dinners, we are in need for additional donations: stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, gravy, small oven roaster chickens, and dessert mixes (cake/brownies, etc.). These items can be brought to church or dropped off at the parish office during the week.

St. Nicholas Bazaar

Dates:  
Saturday, December 3rd from 9:30 AM—1:30 PM  
Sunday, December 4th—after both morning services

There will be a wonderful selection of items for sale:

- Handmade gift items made especially by our Quilters and other parishioners
- Delicious homemade holiday baked items
- Christmas decorations (gently used and new)
- Plus other surprises

Start your Christmas shopping at the St. Nicholas Fair!  
Proceeds benefit hurricane relief in Florida and Puerto Rico.

We are looking for donations of holiday baked goods for the bakery table and also other handmade items for our gift table. All items need to be dropped off on Friday, December 2nd from 3:00 – 4:00 PM or from 6:00 – 7:30 PM.

If you have any questions, please email Dorothy Sieburg at dorothysfolly@gmail.com or call 860-447-2896.

Socks for the Homeless Hospitality

This holiday season, we are requesting donations of new, white socks for Shelter guests (male and female). Our goal is to “gift” each guest with three pairs of socks. They may be wrapped (please note on the outside of the package if they are men’s or women’s—if unisex, no marking needed) or unwrapped. Please be sure to have all socks delivered to the church by Sunday, December 18th. If you would like to help with sorting, wrapping, and/or delivering socks to the shelter, please contact Ellen in the parish office.
Stitches & Prayers

The Stitches & Prayers group of St. James is ready to resume our ministry. We want to distribute prayer shawls and prayer squares to anyone in need of comfort and prayer. We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in participating in this ministry. We know many of you are talented knitters, crocheters, cross-stitchers, etc. Any form of needlecraft is adaptable to these items.

We will plan an organizational meeting at the church once we have a list of interested parishioners. There will be a sign-up sheet in the parish hall during coffee hours. Please include your phone and/or your email.

We have a supply of shawls and squares on hand. These are available for anyone, whether a parishioner or a friend. They can be given for many reasons, either happy or sad. We hope to hear from you soon!

Deanna Bossdorf: 860-437-3153, matjge6@gmail.com
Pat King: 860-271-3459

Hats, Mittens, Gloves, and Scarves

It is that time of the year for collecting hats, mittens, and scarves for the New London Elementary Schools, Covenant Shelter, and others in need. We will collect both homemade and store bought items through Sunday, November 20th.

Donations to have the elves do the shopping will also be accepted. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Chojnacki at 860-303-4582. Thank you for your support.

Giving Tree

Our parishioners can reach out with gifts for “those in need” this Christmas season. We are partnering with the Salvation Army to help support their Angel Tree program.

The Salvation Army registered our pantry and Jumble Shoppe patrons on three occasions during the month of October during our pantry hours.

The “Giving Tree” will be set up and ready for ornaments to be picked up by Sunday, November 20— for those who like to shop early. Don’t like to shop? Gift cards or financial donations are gladly accepted.
St. Martha’s Meals

The parish now has a meal ministry, with parishioners cooking meals for church members who are ill, returning home from the hospital, or celebrating the birth of a child, etc. We are looking to have at least ten parishioners volunteer to cook meals based on dietary needs and deliver them.

Please contact Kathy Harrington, who is overseeing this new outreach ministry for additional information. She can be reached at 860-514-3125 (Cell) or easternpoint@hotmail.com (Email).

Who is St. Martha? The Martha for whom we have named our meal ministry is most well known for her gift of hospitality in serving Jesus. Martha of Bethany was the sister of Mary and Lazarus. We find in the lessons from Luke and John that Martha is mentioned twice welcoming and serving food and growing in faith from being concerned that Mary was listening at the feet of Jesus and not helping her, to Jesus raising her brother Lazarus from the dead after she proclaimed belief in him to be the Messiah. Martha is the patron saint of cooks, dieticians and servants, and her feast day is July 29.

Outreach Project for January and February

It’s that time of year — when we begin our collection for the Covenant Shelter. We need to provide “COFFEE” for the residents of the Shelter. We collect coffee, tea, hot chocolate, sugar and sugar substitute, non-dairy creamer, and juice boxes for the children residing there. Your donations may be brought to Church any Sunday, or during the week to the parish office during office hours (9:30 AM to 3:30 PM).

To ensure donations go to the correct outreach ministry, please clearly mark your donations “For Covenant Shelter”. Thank you.

Outreach Ministry Spotlight

Beginning with this newsletter, we will feature one of our parish outreach ministries in each edition. Hear what our volunteers are saying about the programs they serve and what it means to them.

The Lord’s Pantry is our featured ministry and the Jumble Shoppe will be highlighted in the next edition.
Lord’s Pantry Coordinator

Diane Theis, our sexton for more than five years has accepted the position as our Lord’s Pantry Coordinator. Since the pandemic, she has been overseeing both the Sexton and pantry support of running and coordinating the food distribution.

In her new role which began on Monday, October 24, Diane will be overseeing the entire operation which includes adding all administrative duties.

Please contact Diane if you are interested in supporting this important ministry as a volunteer. Her email is dmt101@aol.com.

The Lord’s Pantry

When I retired from educational administration last year, I was tired of bureaucracy, being bogged down in paperwork that kept me disconnected from the teachers and children I was supposed to be serving. I wanted to find volunteer work that was simple, to the point. The Lord’s Pantry was looking for help. What could be simpler or more to the point than feeding the hungry? I looked forward to an opportunity to do important work while making direct human connection; I have not been disappointed. Wednesday mornings at the Lord’s Pantry have helped me to see our clients not as a sociological subgroup, but as individuals – each with their own story. Last winter, there was an elderly woman standing in line in socks and flip flops when the temperature was below freezing; a volunteer went to their car, pulled out a pair of boots and gave them to her. One day in the spring, a gentleman who had been coming regularly arrived in a suit and tie; he was on his way to a job interview. He wound up getting the position and sharing the good news with us the following week. I did not anticipate how much I would love the physicality of the work that we do. I find joy and satisfaction in the sweating and freezing and huffing and puffing that result from the sorting, carrying, lifting, depositing, and refilling the bags and boxes that need to be distributed. In short, Wednesday mornings are one of the best parts of my week. I leave the Lord’s Pantry feeling physically spent, but spiritually renewed.  

Kris Drew

continued on next page
In John 21:15, Jesus makes one of his last post resurrection appearances. After preparing and serving the disciples’ breakfast, he asks Peter, “Do you love me? Peter of course does, and Jesus replies “feed my sheep.” Jesus says this three times to emphasize this critical action of love.

When I became aware that the Lord’s Pantry needed volunteers, I raised my hand. What a JOY it has been to help meet the needs of our food insecure neighbors, with such a dedicated group of folks. There is truly a sacredness in giving and receiving. Without a doubt I receive more than I ever give in this sacred circle.  

*Hildy Zeigler*

**Blessing of the Animals at the Parade**

**The Drop In Learning Center**

The Drop-In Learning Center celebrated its 53rd Anniversary on October 16th, 2022. A proclamation was received from the City of New London acknowledging the afterschool program and the service the Drop provides to children within our community and recognition of the fifty three years of service in Southeastern Connecticut.
The Tercentennial Committee at 16 months

The Tercentennial Committee, established by Fr. Ranjit Mathews and organized in July, 2021, is now rounding first base and preparing for its second full year of preparation for the 300th anniversary of the founding of St. James Church in June, 1725. We have a full agenda which will involve the entire parish, and so we will be calling on you to be active participants in this exciting effort.

The committee, co-chaired by Anne Bingham and Fred Smith, consists of the following members: Rev. Denise Cabana, Will Cooper, Deb Downes, Kathy Harrington, Erik Ing mundson, Mary Lycan, Carol McCoy, and Will Sieburg. We meet monthly and Minutes are taken at each meeting, copies of which go to the Junior and Senior Wardens.

We have tasked ourselves with developing programs and events both to draw the entire parish body into our ongoing efforts and to raise awareness (and funds) within the church community and beyond. To that end, we have three major projects in mind: a) adaptation of a respected and popular program called Story Corps, which trains interested persons in interviewing skills so that they may collect stories and reminiscences for limited or public airing (in developing this for adaptation to our church and community constituencies, we have been greatly aided by Emma Palzere-Rae); b) refurbishing Hallam Lounge as an interactive focal and starting point for church tours beginning next year; c) a revised parish cookbook, updating and adding to the one which was published to high acclaim in the early 2000s.

We plan to publicize in other ways our journey from June, 1725, to June, 2025—by word of mouth; by developing and distributing an updated brochure to attract the attention and interest of the community; and through timely pieces in local news outlets. The latter has already begun with a marvelous essay in The Day written by local historian Carol Sommer (Sunday, October 2: “The first hundred years are the hardest”), which will be succeeded by two more articles about the subsequent 200 years of our parish.

A date has been set for the church’s culminating, celebratory service: Saturday, June 7, 2025, after which there will be a gala dinner, location T.B.D. We have already invited our current bishops, Laura and Jeffery, as well as retired Bishop Ian Douglas; the Bishop of Rhode Island; the Presiding Bishop; the Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney; and the Rector of our sister parish, St. Margaret’s, Aberdeen. The invitation list will grow as time goes by, for we want as many as possible to share in this signal event in the life of our beloved parish.

We cannot, nor do we wish to, do this alone. We will be asking all of you in the months ahead to assist us in this work, whether it be to help committee member and parish historian Mary Lycan set up Hallam Lounge, conduct tours of the church when the time comes, submit recipes to the reprised cookbook, and/or to share your reminiscences of your memories of and experiences at St. James.

With its rich history in the Episcopal Church of the United States, the colorful characters that have peopled the pages of this remarkable story, and most of all, with God’s hand on our beloved community of saints, we have much both to reflect on and to celebrate. Please join us in this effort—this journey of faith, remembrance, gratitude, and purposefulness.

Anne Carr Bingham, Co-chair, Tercentennial Committee
Christmas Memorial Flowers

Please join us as we prepare for Christmas with the Greening of the Church on Sunday, December 18th after the 10:00 AM service. There are a number of ways that you can participate in this tradition, but one way is by giving memorial or thanksgiving donations for friends and family. These donations are used to purchase the Christmas flowers, wreathes and greens. Memorial envelopes are available at both entrances to the church and also in the parish office. The deadline for inclusion in the Christmas list is Monday, December 12th. Thank you.

Christmas Service Schedule

Christmas Eve
5:00 PM Holy Eucharist
8:45 PM Chorale Prelude
9:00 PM Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day
9:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Volunteer for Flower Delivery to Homebound

If you would like to help brighten Christmas for members of our Parish Family who are homebound or in healthcare facilities, how about taking one of our poinsettia plants after the Christmas services to him or her? Select someone who is near to your home or office, and it won’t take much time at all!

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.
Parish Office Holiday Schedule

The parish office will be closed in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays from Monday, December 26th until Tuesday, January 3rd at 9:30 AM when the parish office reopens after the Christmas break.

New Year’s Day Worship

Join us on Sunday, January 1st at 9:00 AM for Christmas Lessons & Carols followed by a Wassailing Party of breakfast foods and beverages at the Rectory.

Additional information and a sign-up sheet will be forthcoming.

Twelfth Night—January 6th

On Friday, January 6th we will be celebrating Twelfth Night, the end of the Christmas Season, the coming of the Maji and the Epiphany! Please join us for dinner at 6:00 in the Parish Hall. Roast Pork will be provided as well as dessert and beverages. Please bring a side dish to share and a gift for the Christ Child. It should be something for one of our ministries, a food item for the pantry, yarn for the knitters, white socks for the homeless, etc.

Additional information and a sign-up sheet will be available during the month of December.
Annual Parish Meeting

Parish Committee Reports Due

It’s that time again — time for Committee and Activity Chairs to produce their annual reports in preparation of the Annual Parish Meeting. While there’s never a lack of activity in the parish office, we hope to schedule the work we need to do — to complete and compile the report — between the holiday rush and all that needs to be done in preparation of the annual meeting.

Therefore, all reports are due in the Parish Office by Friday, January 13th. Any report not received by that date will not be included in the annual report.

The date for the St. James Annual Parish Meeting will be announced soon. There will only be one service that day, at 9:00 AM, so that we may all gather together as a single Parish family, and transact the “business” of our Parish.

That day, immediately following the service, Parish financials will be presented, an annual report of the various committees and ministries of St. James will be distributed, and new officers of the Parish will be elected by members in good-standing.

The following is a canonical (“legal”) description of a member in good-standing:

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

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

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

We welcome
The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Mello
as our new Bishop
Diocesan of Connecticut

Some Giving Opportunities

Each Sunday we adorn the Altar with flowers (except during Lent and Greenery only during Advent), light a Sanctuary candle, and consume bread and wine. The Altar Guild pays for these from gifts given by members, family, and friends of St. James. If you would like to assist one week, an altar flower donation is $45; sanctuary candle, $5; and, communion wine or communion wafers, $10. Your donation can be made as a memorial honoring someone deceased, or as a thank-offering to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or other special event in your life. Contact Edna Miskell at emiskell@yahoo.com or by calling her at 860-303-3937 for more information.

Support St. James while shopping on Amazon

If you make purchases on Amazon.com, please select the Amazon Smile: http://smile.amazon.com homepage instead of amazon.com. You will be prompted to select a charity to support and St. James is now one of those choices. Please scroll down the list to page 2 and select St. James, New London. A small contribution will be made by Amazon.com for each purchase. We received a donation of $24.68 from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of purchases made between April 1 and June 30, 2022.

Charitable Contribution—Tax Deduction

Tax Credit for Pledges. Did you know that you may or might be able to take an itemized charitable deduction for your pledge payments to St James? If you are pledging, you receive a year-end statement for tax purposes.

If you support our Parish with cash in the Offering Plate, we would be happy to give you a set of pledge envelopes for 2023 for your cash so we know who to credit. That way we can send you a year-end report for tax purposes. Please contact Ellen in the parish office if you would like to receive pledge envelopes.
Parish Financials

TREASURER'S REPORT
October 12, 2022

This report covers from January 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022.

Total Income:
Budgeted Amount: $190,767
Actual Amount: $195,705
Amount Actual is Over Budget: $4,938

Income is $4,938 more than the budgeted amount through August 31, due to Beneficiary Income being $16,353 over budget and actual Pledges being $2,698 more than budgeted. Plate income is $8,425 less than the budgeted amount.

Total Expenses:
Budgeted Amount: $324,697
Actual Amount: $303,372
Amount Actual is Under Budget: $21,325

Expenditures are $21,325 under budget, primarily due to Clergy Salary and Benefits, which are $54,741 under budget (due to having no Clergy in place until July). Plant Maintenance and Operations are $30,687 over budget, primarily due to high maintenance and repairs on the Rectory and Church.

Net Ordinary Income:

| Total Income: | $195,705 |
| Total Expenses: | $303,372 |
| Net Ordinary Income: | -$107,667 |
| Endowment Income Applied: | $133,928 |
| Net Income: | $26,261 |

Summary: As of August 1 we are $26,261 ahead of where we expected to be based on our 2022 budget.

Investment Summary:

| Balance 12/31/21: | $4,341,882 |
| Balance 08/31/22: | $3,600,329 |
| Total Value Change: | -$741,553 |
| Withdrawal 5.76%: | $133,928 |
| Change Pre-Withdrawal: | -$607,625 |

Summary: Our pre-withdrawal investment value has decreased by $607,625, about 14.0%, through August 31, 2022. After factoring in the 5.76% withdrawal for church operations, our investments are down $741,553, about 17.1% through August 31, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald F. Miller, Treasurer