St. James Episcopal Church

The Net

August 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 the Priest-in-Charge

I am very excited to be writing my first submission to the parish newsletter and my biggest struggle has been what to call it. The name of my little column was always referred to as the “Rector’s Ramble” but as I am not yet the Rector, it seems inappropriate to use that title. So, as you can see, there isn’t one yet. If you have any ideas, please let me know as I am struggling to be creative today.

Doug, Gus (our not quite 2 yr. old lab/beagle mix, whom some of you have met if you have stopped by the office), Vinny and Harley (our two cats) are all settled in at the Rectory. We love this big, beautiful, historic house and feel very much at home here. We are still getting used to having an alarm system on the doors and have set it off a few times. We have managed to catch it before it summoned the police but it did scare a few layers of fur off the cats before we got the code in. We lived in a house for seven years where the door was rarely locked so this is a bit of an adjustment. Aside from that, we are loving living downtown and being able to walk to so many of the places New London has to offer.

A few things that have surprised us about New London are: how small a city it really is, that we can walk just about anywhere we want to go, (out to dinner, the library, the book store, the Fiddleheads Coop (which we have joined), the Garde, coffee shops and of course to church), how friendly people are and everywhere I walk people say hello. I stopped into Tony D’s Pasta Shop one morning and the lovely woman making pasta stopped her work to chat and then sent me home with pasta and marinara sauce! The last thing is that even though New London has problems like any city, there are lots of people trying to make a difference, and not just in a band-aid kind of way, but a real change. People seem to work together and know each other which is really pretty cool.

Now for St. James, Doug and I have felt completely welcome and a part of the community from our first day. You have been open and accepting of us. Doug was welcomed into the choir and made to feel like you were really glad to have him. Trust me, this is not always the case. I have been asked how I want to do things and have not heard, “Oh no, this is how we do it here”, once. I want to learn how and what you do so please feel free to
Priest-in-Charge’s Desk cont’d.

share your thoughts and ideas.

I am impressed by what happens here each and every week and by the impact St. James has had on the community at large. The history of this church is impressive and I don’t mean Samuel Seabury. I am happy to be stepping into its stream.

I truly want to get to know each of you, hear your stories and listen to your hopes for the future for this amazing community. I would love to have coffee, a glass of wine, lunch, go for a walk, just stop by or whatever works for you, so that we can get to know each other. If you are willing, please send me an email (rector@stjamesnl.org) or call the parish office (860-443-4989) and find a time to meet. I so look forward to meeting you.

Peace,
Denise+

Congratulations

Will Cooper & Young Lee

on your marriage

Saturday, July 30th, 2022
Dear People of St. James, New London,

Thank you for your generous gift on the occasion of my retirement. It was over the top. I had already planned on taking my 3 year old granddaughters on a mini vacation, but I used some of the money to upgrade our hotel to one with a pool. It was a good decision since it ended up being during the heat wave, and it was too hot to take them to a park as planned. I will use some of the money to support the new Re-Entry Welcome Center that OIC will open this fall. I will coordinate church financial support and items of personal hygiene for backpacks that they will distribute to returning citizens. I hope Faith in Action and The Jumble Shoppe will also support this worthy cause. I will give 10% to St. James in thanksgiving of the work you do to support the marginalized in New London.

I have written many drafts of this thank you letter and they all became theological reflections. I decided to use the image of the communion of saints to show how our lives remain intertwined even though we will not be seeing each other in person. The communion of saints is everyone that tries to follow Jesus to the best of their ability with the help of all the other people trying to do the same. It includes people who lived in the past, the present, and those who will live in the future. It includes the people who knew Jesus personally and people we know personally. It also includes people whom we will never meet, but have heard from or about. All these saints are sinners too just like us!

One of the neat things about my time at St. James was that I got to be part of the congregation twice; to know you in new ways, both as a gathered community and as individuals at two different stages of your life. I got to see Abigail grow from newborn to preschooler! Sharing your joys and sorrows and the pandemic has made a big difference in who I am becoming. I learned so much about accepting help from you all, something I still hate to do for the most part. I got to struggle with you as we come to terms with how we treat people of color and to find new ways to value them and treat them with the dignity they have a God given right to have.

I carry your love and your lessons forward. Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Rev. Ellen Adams,
Deacon
New Beginnings

Summer Schedule Comes to an End

Our Sunday Schedule will continue to be
8 AM (said) & 10 AM (music)

Children of all ages are encouraged to bring their parents to worship each Sunday. Children’s activity bags and bulletins (ages infant –12) are available at both entrances to the church.

Regular Office Hours resume on Monday, September 12th.

Monday—Friday
9:30—12:30
Lunch 12:30—1:30
And, afternoons:
1:30—3:30

Sunday Worship

Sunday worship is the central aspect of church life and it doesn’t happen without the help of the Altar Guild, Ushers, Lectors, Acolytes, Intercessors and Ministers of Communion. These are vital roles and ministries of the church and we need more folks to join us in each one. None take special skills, all come with training and there is at least one of them that you can do. Please consider these vital ministries, talk with someone that already serves to learn more and/or see Denise. Join us for the meeting on Sunday, September 18th at 9 AM.

Families at St. James

We have all heard the saying “If you build it and they will come”; an equally true saying in churches is “if you don’t have it, they won’t stay”. That is why it is so important that we anticipate having families with children in our church and provide some kind of Sunday School opportunity for them. If you are interested in helping to make this happen, please see Denise as soon as possible. No experience except the desire to welcome children into our community is necessary.
We are excited to begin the new Church School year on Sunday, September 18th!

Please complete the registration form and either place it in the Sunday collection plate or submit to Ellen in the parish office.

St. James Episcopal Church New London CT
Church School Registration Fall, 2022

Parent Name(s): ____________________________________________________________

Address(es): ________________________________________________________________

Home Phone(s): ___________________________ Email Address: __________________________

Cell Phone(s): _____________________________

Can you Teach/Assist: Yes No

Child’s Name: __________________ Birthdate: _______ Baptism Date: _______ School Grade: ___
Child’s Name: __________________ Birthdate: _______ Baptism Date: _______ School Grade: ___
Child’s Name: __________________ Birthdate: _______ Baptism Date: _______ School Grade: ___

Any food allergies that we should know about: _______________________________________

Any medical condition that we should know about: _________________________________

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study will begin on Thursday, September 15th from 6 -7:30 PM. We will meet both in person, in the parlor and on Zoom. We will begin with Evening Prayer and then jump into the Book of Ruth. We will discuss Ruth in two sessions, the 15th and the 22nd and then decide how we want to use this time – i.e. Bible Study, Adult forums, both? Meet weekly or every other week. Join us for this session on Ruth and to decide where we go from here!
The Supper Group of St. James

September’s event is to thank The Reverends Joan Phelps and Pat Hames for providing coverage during our transitional time.

Friday, September 2nd at 6 PM
Tony D’s Restaurant
92 Huntington Street, New London
To make a reservation, please contact Lori Sarkett at 860-287-5500.
or by email lorisarketthne@gmail.com.

The Parish Picnic

Join us at the Parish Picnic for fun, food, and fellowship!

Sunday, September 11th
Waterford Beach Park, Shelter #1
11 AM—Holy Eucharist
Picnic lunch to follow

Hotdogs, hamburgers, condiments, rolls and beverages provided.
Please bring salads, desserts, etc. to share.
$5 per person, $20 maximum per family,
children under 5 free

*Holy Eucharist will be offered in the Church at 8 AM if you are unable to attend the worship service at Waterford Beach Park.

Check for sign-up sheets and directions in the parish hall.

Choir

The St. James Choir is excited to get back to singing this fall. Our first rehearsal will be Thursday evening, September 15th at 7:30 PM and our first service back will be on Sunday, September 18th.

Anyone interested in singing in the Choir should contact Will Cooper, our organist and choirmaster at wilhelm.fassbinder@gmail.com.
All-hands meeting

A meeting is scheduled on Sunday, September 18th at 9AM for anyone currently serving or having an interest in becoming an usher, acolyte, altar guild member, lector or chalice. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Anglican Singers Evensong

The first Evensong of the 2022-2023 season is at Pequot Chapel on September 18th and starts at 5:00 PM.
The address is 857 Montauk Avenue, New London, CT. We hope to see you there!

Save The Date

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 1st at 11 AM
Blessing of the Animals in the court yard.
All are welcome!
This is open to the community as well so please inform and bring your friends and neighbors with pets!

Flu Shot Clinic

We are sponsoring our annual Flu Shot clinic for all individuals, insured and uninsured in the parlor on Thursday, October 6th from 3:30 PM—5:45 PM. No appointment needed—just come and you will receive your vaccine. Medical insurance coverage is required for Pneumonia and/or Tetanus vaccinations.

Join us at the Rectory
Sunday, October 9th
12 Noon - 3 PM
More information to come!
**United Thank Offering**

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of the Episcopal Church for the mission of the world-wide church. St. James has traditionally supported this ministry through individual offerings ingathered in late fall and sent to the national office in December. Offering boxes for coins and envelopes for cash or check offerings are once again available at the rear of the church and on the table outside the parish hall entry. I urge you to participate in this important ministry. At the virtual triennial ingathering this summer over 4 Million Dollars was collected from parishes across the country. These funds are exclusively used to provide grants for crucial projects across the US and around the world. In 2023 grants will focus on what many consider to be a national and international incarceration crisis. Local programs working with prevention and intervention, prisoner support, prison reform work and post-prison re-entry are encouraged to apply for grants through the ECCT Bishop’s office. For information about grant application, please check the United Thank Offering website.

Dorothy Sieburg,
UTO Program Coordinator

**Security Grant**

The Security Grant funded by FEMA through the State of Connecticut installed panic buttons throughout the church, replaced interior cameras, installed exterior cameras on the north and south sides of the Seabury Center, installed LED lights on the east side of the Seabury Center [above the cross on Meridian Street], installed additional lights on the west side of Seabury Center [rectory driveway] and installed new lights in the parking lot [the parking lot is now significantly brighter in the evening]. We are in the process of obtaining approval to install cameras above the west and north entrances to the church and the first floor of the Seabury Center.

Ralph Anderson,

**Fall Parish Clean Up**

Our Annual Parish Fall Clean-Up Day will be held during the month of October this year—date to be determined. We’ll begin at 9 AM—yes, there will be coffee brewed and some goodies to eat. We anticipate finishing around noon—so we’ll provide some lunch, too!

A sign up sheet will be in the Parish Hall. Please, join us as we clean up our facilities both inside and out. We need everyone’s help to make our church, parish house, and grounds a more attractive and welcoming place!

Walt Chojnacki
Ralph Anderson
Buildings & Grounds

These items have been completed in the past few months:

- The broken fence surrounding the church has been repaired, the fence strengthened and the rectory and church fences have been painted.
- The liner for boiler one in the chimney has been replaced and Eversource has removed the red tag. We should have 2 boilers running for the cold weather this coming fall, etc.
- The cracks on the south and west walls of the Seabury Center have been repaired and sealed. There have been cracks in these walls for many years with water intrusion into the building. The windows have been re-caulked. These walls should be sound for many years to come.
- The exhaust fan in the kitchen has been fixed, the separation in the duct has been repaired and damaged ceiling tiles are being replaced.
- Damaged ceiling tiles in the main stairwell and the parish hall handicapped bathroom have been replaced.
- The lights in the glassware section of the Jumble Shop have been replaced. This has made the area better lit with a significant saving in energy. In the future we plan on replacing more of the lights.
- The exterior chimney on the east side of the rectory has been repaired, re-pointed and painted.
- The radiator on the 1st floor of the east stairwell will be repaired this month.
- Considerable work has been spent on the church landscaping with significantly more work to be done.

Faith in Action Committee

The Faith in Action Committee meets monthly to review communication with/and or visits to homebound members of St. James. The committee also designates recipients for funds from Jumble Shoppe sales. The committee has determined that half of all funds should be distributed to missions and service projects in Connecticut, with the remaining used for national and international charitable organizations. The committee welcomes suggestions for disbursements, which may be given to our Priest-in-Charge, Denise, or to any committee member.

At Denise’s suggestion, the committee has decided to broaden our outreach to members who are ill, returning home from hospitalization, or celebrating the birth of a child, by providing meals for a period of time to be determined by the intended recipient. Committee member Kathy Harrington has volunteered to organize this new outreach program and is asking for volunteers to contact for meal preparation and/or delivery. Anyone interested in participating in this should contact Kathy at 860-514-3125 or by email at easternpoint@hotmail.com.

The next meeting of Faith in Action will be on Monday, September 26th at 5:30 PM. New members are always welcome and may participate in person in the Parlor or by Zoom. If interested in joining by Zoom, please email the committee chair, Dorothy Sieburg, at dorothysfolly@gmail.com.
Parish Outreach

Book Drive

St. James is supporting the Rotary Club’s Free Library program which provides books in the community with the little lending libraries around the city. Anyone can take a book to read from these libraries.

We will be collecting books, fiction, non-fiction (please no text books, magazines, etc.) and children’s books over the next month. There will be two white bins, one in the Narthex and one at the entrance to the church at the parish hall. Please leave books beginning August 28th – September 25th. Thank you!

Ongoing Outreach Project

Gift cards of any denomination from grocery stores, Target and Walmart are needed to assist individuals and families within our community to purchase items that they are unable to purchase with their EBT cards. Gift cards and monetary donations should be delivered to the parish office.

St. James Quilters

Our quilting group makes baby quilts for the Visiting Nurse Association and other organizations such as the Veterans Administration in need of quilts.

We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 10 AM - 2 PM in the parlor. Each person brings a bag lunch and we break during lunchtime and enjoy our meal together.

We would love to have you join us! No prior experience required, we will teach anyone with an interest in quilting.
**Jumble Shoppe News**

The Jumble Shoppe will be reopening from summer break on Tuesday August 23rd. Hours will continue to be 10 AM to 12:30 PM on Tuesdays, Thursdays and 1st and 3rd Saturdays. We have continued to accept donations through the parish office during the summer break, but we ask that donations be brought during shop hours when we reopen. If an alternate drop-off time is needed, please call Dorothy Sieburg at 860-710-1649 or email her at dorothsfolly@gmail.com to make arrangements.

We have recently installed new and improved lighting in the housewares section of the shop and plan to replace other outdated lighting in the near future. This will not only brighten up the shop but will also save on the cost for electricity and be more environmentally sound. Thank you, Ralph Anderson, for working to find the answer to our lighting problem! We also have new shelving in the housewares section thanks to the work of Matt Pinson.

We are working on a collaboration with the Salvation Army to help neighbors who previously used vouchers at the now-closed Salvation Army Thrift Store and look forward to this partnership in serving the community.

All proceeds from sales continue to support local, national and international missions and charities. The Faith in Action Committee vets appeals for funds and makes decisions about recipients.

We welcome all donations of clothes, kitchen wares, jewelry, decorative items, and small household appliances. At present we are greatly in need of infant and children’s clothes.

Dorothy Sieburg

**Hats, Mittens, Gloves and Scarves**

It is hard to believe that it is that time of year to start thinking of cold weather but we are!

Please keep your eyes open for hats, mittens, and scarves. We will officially start our collection in October but we will gladly take any contributions at anytime! The items may be handmade or store purchased.

If you are unable to do either of these then consider a monetary donation and we will shop for you.

A big thanks for all the knitters who have already been generous with their handiwork. Thank you.

Sue Chojnacki (860 440-3427)
The Drop-In Learning Center

The teens have had an effective summer at the Drop-In Learning Center held at St. James Church. The youth volunteers have assisted with the Lord Pantry during the summer. During the eight week summer enrichment program, the children were provided with a multitude of educational opportunity through our community partners (Expressiones, High Hopes, New England Science and Sailing, Ocean Beach Park, the New London Public Library and Peace Work). They also learned how to tend and nurture the community garden at St. Francis House.

Reona Dyess, Executive Director

The Covenant Shelter

The Board of Directors will not meet in August, but the Shelter is active. Our Current Census includes ten singles and five families (7 adults & 8 children).

Board Chairman Fred Smith and Executive Director Peggy Micelli attended a United Way Job Fair on August 2nd & 3rd as part of an effort to find new staff members. Recruiting and retaining staff in the current economic conditions is a problem for many non-profits.

Several Board members and staff have been sorting donated clothing. Plans to prepare for distributing it effectively in the coming months through our “Community Closet” are being discussed. In addition, Board members have been preparing Sunday meals for residents of the Shelter.

Infrastructure issues are being addressed, particularly repairs to bathrooms/showers, installation of more and newer security cameras, and some rodent problems.

Finally, we are happy to welcome new Board members Ana Ortiz and Ex-Officio the Reverend Denise Cabana, Priest-in-ChARGE at Saint James. If any Saint James parishioners are interested in joining, please contact Fred Smith (engteach2003@yahoo.com).
The Lord’s Pantry

Our pantry has been busier than ever with providing fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy, meat, bread, canned goods, diapers and personal hygiene items to nearly one hundred families a week.

Teenagers from the Drop-In Learning Center have volunteered each Wednesday to assist our regular helpers. What a difference they have made with helping to get the food out to our clients.

Tom Clark researched and secured all of our grants over the past several years thus allowing us to expand our program and offerings. He will be missed by all of us. Rest in peace, dear friend.
Diocesan News

ECCT’s Safe Church Training

Safe Church is a mandatory training requirement for all Vestry members, anyone having oversight responsibilities for events, programs, or others engaged in ministry and ministerial roles.

The training includes an online course followed by a 3-hour live session on Zoom. Recertification is required every three years to keep in compliance with the policies and guidelines established without our diocese.

Registration dates are updated regularly on the ECCT website under the Safe Church heading.

A copy of all certificates of completion needs to be submitted to Ellen in the parish office.

Consecration of Connecticut’s 16th Bishop

The Rev. Jeffrey William Mello will be ordained and consecrated the sixteenth Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut on Saturday, October 15th, 2022 at the Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT. Doors open at 10 AM and the service begins at 11 AM.

Chief consecrator is the Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church.

Please save the date and plan to join us for this very special event in our common life in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut! A formal invitation that will include registration and live stream links will be forthcoming.

Support St. James on Amazon Smile!

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.
Parish Financials

TREASURER’S REPORT
August 2, 2022

This report covers from January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

Total Income:
Budgeted Amount: $143,075
Actual Amount: $146,492
Amount Actual is Over Budget: $3,417

Income is $3,417 more than the budgeted amount through June 30, due to Beneficiary Income being $12,500 over budget.

Total Expenses:
Budgeted Amount: $243,522
Actual Amount: $214,952
Amount Actual is Under Budget: $28,570

Expenditures are $28,570 under budget, primarily due to Clergy Salary and Benefits, which are $56,076 under budget (due to having no Clergy in place). Plant Maintenance and Operations are $28,784 over budget, primarily due to high maintenance and repairs on the Rectory.

Net Ordinary Income:
Total Income: $146,492
Total Expenses: $214,952
Net Ordinary Income: -$ 68,460
Endowment Income Applied: $ 100,446
Net Income $ 31,986

Summary: As of June 30 we are $31,986 ahead of where we expected to be based on our 2022 budget.

Investment Summary:
Balance 12/31/21: $4,341,882
Balance 06/30/22: $3,553,714
Total Value Change: -$788,168
Withdrawal 5.76%: $100,446
Change Pre-Withdrawal: -$687,722

Summary: Our pre-withdrawal investment value has decreased by $687,722, about 15.8%, through June 30, 2022. After factoring in the 5.76% withdrawal for church operations, our investments are down $788,168, about 18.2% through June 30.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald F. Miller, Treasurer
God's Handiwork!