From the Interim Rector’s Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Please remember that Easter-tide continues until the Feast of Pentecost (Whitsunday) which falls on May 15, 50 days after Easter Day. It is on the Feast of Pentecost that we celebrate the coming of God, Holy Spirit, the Comforter, moving among the Apostles like a Mighty Wind, and alighting on their heads like “Tongues of Fire”, causing them to be understood by visitors, strangers from all the known world, each in his/her own language, as they shared the Good News of the Risen Lord.

We, at Saint James, will have an opportunity to share the experience of that first Christian Pentecost on Sunday, May 15, during the Eucharist, in the following way:

Do you, whether by heritage, through study, or by exposure, have the ability to speak a language other than English? If you have sufficient language skills to read two sentences from the account of the first Pentecost as written in the book of Acts of the Apostles in any non-English language, please add your name, the language you can use, and a contact telephone number to the list available in the parish hall. If you do so prior to May 11, I will provide you with the text from Acts in your chosen language prior to the Feast of Pentecost (May 15). On that day during the reading of the account of the first Pentecost, you will be asked to read, in your chosen language, Verses 5 and 6 of Chapter 2 of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. Those two verses will be read in as many different languages as can be spoken by the
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.

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

Please continue to forward your submissions to the Church Office or email them to: st.james.parish@snet.net

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

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Interim Rector’s Desk

people of Saint James. Please trust that I can find a copy of the text in your language of choice.

Through the years this exercise has revealed from among the people of parish churches where I have served a remarkable number of languages spoken. I am curious to learn how many languages we will hear in Saint James.

Faithfully in Christ,

Fr. Bob

Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on Tuesday, April 5, 2016. Highlights from the meeting include (1) An explanation and encouragement by Fr. Bob to participate in the Easter-Tide Home Communion events. (2) A celebration of the Seabury Deanery will be held at St. David’s on Tuesday, June 28, with a picnic to which all Parishioners and Clergy (past and present) are invited. As of July 1, 2016, the Seabury Deanery will be a part of a Region of about 15-20 parishes that will collaborate on various ministries (3) The Homeless Hospitality Center and the Covenant Shelter are investigating the possibility of merging to better service the needs of the homeless. (4) The Organist/Choirmaster interviews of three candidates are taking place with an offer hopefully to be made and accepted in the near future. (5) The Transition Committee is working on a survey to obtain Parish input in the Profile that is being developed as the first step in the Rector search. (6) Parishioners are encouraged to participate in Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 30.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Dargel
Clerk
50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

This special Episcopal Church in Connecticut event will be held on Sunday, May 15 at 3:00 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions regarding the celebration, please contact Suzanne at the Commons by email sdemerchant@episcopalct.org or phone 203.639.3501 ext. 108.

Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) moving forward...

Are you aware of or familiar with Ministry Networks? Mission Council? Regions?

♦ Not just new terms, new ways of ministry, of living out God’s Mission right here in Connecticut.
♦ St. James will soon be part of the Southeast Region (comprising 20 Episcopal parishes) that will collaboratively engage together and spur us on to deeper, more creative ministry with God and each other.
♦ Ministry Networks engage the work of God’s mission, bringing reconciliation and restoration to many outside and inside the Church. The Jumble Shoppe, Community Meal, and Lord’s Pantry are active examples that could define themselves as a Ministry Network.

May 20 – 21: Southeast Region Convocation at My Father’s House, Moodus, Connecticut. An exciting and informative gathering of all twenty parishes to discover together where God is calling us in this Region. Friday from 6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m. we will share supper, a campfire, and discussion. Saturday beginning at 9:00 a.m. we will “roll up our sleeves” and listen, share, learn together as we look at “what is God up to” in Southeastern Connecticut. We will end the program by 4:00 p.m. You can commute each day or spend the night; the event is free but there is a cost for lodging. All information can be found at southeasternregion.eventbrite.com or call Ellen at our parish office 860.443.4989.
May Birthdays

The names on this list reflect the information as recorded in the Church Database. Is your name (or a family member's name) missing? If so, please contact the Church Office and provide us with the accurate information!

3 Barbara Calkins 10 Arthur Boulanger
4 Martha Anderson 12 Carol Bunting
5 Rose Kydd 14 Margaret Murallo
5 Anne Carr Bingham 14 Barbara Skinner
7 Fred Driscoll 14 Thomas Goebel
7 David Percival 17 Elizabeth Traggis
8 Ginny Harper 18 Karen Hatcher-Sneed
8 Ellen Merrill 20 Ryan Brennan
9 William Sieburg 21 Donovan Dunning

25 Thomas Clark
25 Judy Benson
25 Caleb Sieburg
26 Gary Evans
27 Janet Kepner
27 JoAn Collins
28 Marcus Velez
29 Ainsley Pinkowitz
31 Theresa Bokoff

Baptisms

The next “official” date for Parish baptisms will be on Pentecost, Sunday, May 15. If you know of someone—child or adult—who is ready to become an “official” member of Christ’s Church, now would be an appropriate time. Anyone considering infant baptism, would need to have both parents and godparents attend a pre-baptismal counseling session, while adults being baptized are asked to have their sponsors attend with them.

The pre-baptismal counseling session will be Saturday morning, May 14, at 9:00 a.m. Please contact Fr. Bob for more information, or to schedule a place in the class.

Ascension Day Holy Eucharist will be celebrated in the Hallam Chapel at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 5

(in addition to Compline at 9:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month)
Our Transition Team has been meeting weekly, preparing a parish survey that will provide information and ideas that will lead to the publication of an updated parish profile. There are also a number of “narrative questions” to answer about the ministries we practice both within St. James and in the greater New London community. To help our team gather information about those ministries, we have scheduled a parish meeting on Saturday, May 14, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall, to discuss answers to the four questions listed below that get to the heart of where we have been as a faith community, where we stand now, and where we hope to be in the future:

1. Looking over the course of the past 10 years, describe a high point in the life at St. James when we were engaged in God’s mission and firing on all cylinders. What was happening?
2. Name the three things you value most about your parish.
3. Name the three things you hope for as an outcome of working together as a parish through the transition process.
4. Let’s imagine we’ve done our Transitions work and we’re now three years into our new rector’s leadership. Describe our parish’s three most exciting, energizing, significant accomplishments within those first few years of serving God together.

Please join the Transition Team on May 14 and take the opportunity to meet as a parish community to discuss our ideas, experiences, hopes and dreams regarding St. James. If you are unable to attend this meeting, feel free to communicate about these questions in writing or in person with members of the Team.

Respectfully submitted,

David Downes
Transition Team Member
We hope you will join us for Choral Evensong at Saint James on Sunday, May 22, when we will present John Stainer’s gloriously dramatic anthem I saw the Lord. This memorable work is set for double choir, with a beautiful interior section featuring a vocal quartet. Additionally, works of A. Herbert Brewer, Craig Phillips, and Hildegard von Bingen will be part of the service.

Our April 10 Evensong was dedicated to Marianna Wilcox, our Founding Director, and was very well-attended, with 210 in the congregation. Thank you so much, to all of you who were able to be there! We know this meant a great deal to Marianna, as well as to the Singers. At that service, we presented a work that was commissioned in honor of our 20th year as Artists-in-Residence at St. James: Praise the Lord, by young American composer Scott Perkins. This anthem, with text from Psalm 148, was described by parishioner and chorister Anne Bingham, in her wonderful notes, as “a majestic work, fully worthy of the occasion for which it was written. In this multi-colored tone poem, painted in both vivid and subtle hues, the voices and organ evoke, even imitate, myriad elements of God’s extravagant creation. Its several motifs reflect wonder and awe, from the shadowy, smoky opening bars to the exultant yet restrained conclusion.” We fell in love with the piece immediately, and very much enjoyed premiering it at St. James.

In an exciting development, we will be taking Praise the Lord to Washington, D.C. in a few months: The Anglican Singers are providing the music for the morning Eucharist and Choral Evensong services at the National Cathedral on June 5. Several of the Singers have had the opportunity to sing in this spectacular edifice, and it was unforgettable—we are truly blessed to be able to participate in the worship there. If you or any of your friends happen to be in Washington in early June, do attend one or both services.

We hope to see you on May 22, and have a chance to speak with you over some wine and snacks afterward in the Parish Hall!

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Brighty
Secretary, The Anglican Singers
Farewell dear friend …

Louise Drew
Sophie Martinson
Mary Thomas

Jumble Shoppe News

Volunteers have been busy sorting through spring and summer clothes and have the shop filled with great clothes for the warm weather that’s finally coming our way. Thanks to Glee Miner, our books are now displayed in a much more organized fashion. Come visit the shop any Tuesday or Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to check out our great bargains. We continue to have the lowest thrift store prices in the area!

We continue to accept donations of spring and summer clothing, jewelry, bed and bath linens, decorative items, and housewares. Please, no furniture or T.V.’s as we have no space to display large items. You may drop donations off during shop hours or call Dorothy Sieburg at 860.447.2896 to schedule a delivery time. Please do not leave items outside the Jumble Shoppe door or at the parish office.

Thank you for your continued support of this outreach ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Sieburg
Co-Manager

Hats, Mittens, Gloves, and Scarves

A generous donation of yarn has been made for this mission. If you would like to have some to make hats, mittens or scarves - please contact me at 860.440.3427 and I would be pleased to show you what we have.

As a reminder, I will take your work anytime it is completed. Several people have already given us a start on this year’s mission for the school children. Thank you for your continued support.

Sue Chojnacki
Chair
Please join John MacLeod and his family on Sunday, May 15th for a special gathering to celebrate John.

Time: 1:15-4:15 pm
Location: Crescent Point Assisted Living Facility
        417 Main Street, Niantic

Ecuador Update … the earthquake

It is with heavy hearts that we learn more and more of the devastation caused by the earthquake in Ecuador in April. And, it is with the awesome power of the human spirit reflecting God’s love that we learn of the response from around the world and certainly within Ecuador itself. There is one small parish in the Amazon (that your Seabury Deanery Ecuador Mission Group first visited in 2007) that is doing a clothing fund drive for those who lost everything.

Our mission partners of el Paraiso de Pupusa (where we will return this summer) first reported that all was fine, no one injured, and things were not bad. We later learned that homes had not only been damaged, but some had actually collapsed. Then it occurred to us that this loving, simple community was comparing themselves to the tragic loss elsewhere and saw things in el Paraiso as “not bad”.

This is where we come in. The homes need to be fixed or re-built. They have no resources, As usual, this community has asked for nothing. And, this is an opportunity for us to respond directly. If you are moved to assist our Ecuadorian brothers and sisters with the rebuild of their homes, knowing that all funds will be put to that use, donations can be made through St. James Episcopal Church (with Ecuador Earthquake Rebuild on memo line).

Many thanks.

God’s Peace, Your Ecuador Mission Group
New Farmer’s Market at St. James

At 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 9th, "Fields of Greens" along with the Ledge Light Health District opened a new Farmers' Market in the lower level of the St. James Seabury Center. Modeled on other regional farmers' markets, this one seeks to promote healthy living and to build community in our area with locally grown food, farm products, and artisan crafts for sale.

About 12 vendors were eagerly present to start off that first Saturday. One of the participants was outside with a tent, selling greenhouse grown salad ingredients, many starter plants, and lovely flowers. Then inside were booths: farmers selling their goat cheese and goat soaps, farm baked pies, a sweet treats bakery, a jewelry booth, a woodcrafter willing to do commissions, handmade clothing and accessories from a fair-trade store, and pottery from The Potters’ Circle (a new group of which Church parishioner Patty Anderson is a member), and more. Lots to see and enjoy!

The Spring Indoor Market will be open from 9-12 each Saturday morning from now through June 25th. Parking is plentiful and several street-level doors make an easy entrance from Meridian Street at the side and back of the Seabury Center wing of St. James Church.

This is a great way for us to re-purpose the lower level of the Seabury Center which 10 years ago was known as the location of the Choir Room, then the Homeless Hospitality Center, and now it’s the spring home of the community "Field of Greens" Farmers' Market.

United Thank Offering (UTO) In-gathering

Our UTO In-gathering is Sunday, May 8. Please convert coins into cash or a check memo’d U.T.O. Thank you! Envelopes and Blue Boxes are at both the entrance to the church and the entrance to the parish hall.

The United Thank Offering, a mission offering of the Episcopal Church, was begun in 1889 by two women who combined the idea of giving in thanksgiving with the mission outreach of the Church. The offering was promoted by the Women’s Auxiliary. The Women’s Auxiliary became the Episcopal Church Women and the offering expanded to include all members of our church.

UTO grants are given on an annual basis to projects which represent ministries and programs. Grants both large and small, provide money to parishes who want to provide needed services in their community. The U.T.O. makes us more aware of God’s daily blessings. Even in hard times and with troubles in the world, all of us are surrounded by God’s love and protection.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dean Hantzopoulos, UTO Coordinator
Building and Grounds Committee

The newly formed Building Maintenance and Grounds committee (Walt Chojnacki, Fred Driscoll, Lori Sarkett, Jerry Miller, and Bruce Skinner) met with Father Bob Miner March 2. Our first task was to define the committee’s role. We envision it as follows:

♦ Oversight of routine maintenance.
♦ Long-range planning (capital-intensive projects requiring vestry or parish action).
♦ Projects fitting in between the two above.

As a practical matter we expect to be able to develop priorities, respond to emergencies, oversee preventive maintenance, and develop long-range plans to be accomplished as funds permit. There is a budget for routine maintenance managed by Walt Chojnacki and largely executed by the sexton with input from the rector. Beyond that, small projects of critical need will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

At the meeting, we listed problems in the rectory that needed to be addressed: stairs to the second floor need painting and the front hall woodwork needs to be refinished. Three other jobs identified at the meeting have already been completed. We have installed a handrail along the basement stairs, reglued the sheet vinyl in the master bath, and installed a grab bar in the master-bath shower.

St. James received a $10,000 grant from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation for plaster repairs in the bell tower and northwest corner of the church. The amount of work to be accomplished will depend on bids. We are confident that we will see substantial improvement, but more work will be required in the future. Lastly, although our stained glass restoration was largely completed during the capital campaign, there remain some smaller, less critical areas that need attention. We have some flexibility in timing this work, but we intend to stay on top of it and hope to address the remaining items within a year or so.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Skinner
Chair

Some Giving Opportunities

Each Sunday we adorn the Altar with flowers (except during Lent), 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 wafer, $10 donation. 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 the Parish Office or an Altar Guild member for more information.

As always, more than one person can make their offering in any given week. If you’d like more information, speak to any member of the Altar Guild, or contact the Parish Office.
Parish Financials

ST JAMES CHURCH
TREASURER’S REPORT
April 5, 2016

This report covers from January 1, 2016 through February 29, 2016.

Total Income:
Budgeted Amount: $45,922
Actual Amount: $48,403
Amount Actual is Over Budget: $2,481
The primary contributor to budget overrun is Pledge Income, which is $2,291 above the budgeted amount.

Total Expenses:
Budgeted Amount: $67,745
Actual Amount: $62,511
Amount Actual is Under Budget: $5,234
The primary contributor to this expenditure underrun is Clergy Benefits, which is $7,626 under the budgeted amount.

Net Ordinary Income:
Total Income: $48,403
Total Expenses: $62,511
Net Ordinary Income: -$14,108
Endowment Income Applied: $21,842
Net Income: $7,734

Summary: Through February 29, 2016 we are $7,734 ahead of where we expected to be based on our 2016 budget.

Investment Summary:
Balance 12/31/2015: $3,039,202
Balance 02/29/2016: $2,888,157
Total Value Change: -$151,045
Withdrawal 5%: $21,842
Withdrawal-Loan Payment $24,000
Change Pre-Withdrawal: - $105,203

Summary: Our pre-withdrawal investment value has decreased by $105,203, about 3.5%, through February 29, 2016. After factoring in the 5% withdrawal and the monthly payment on our capital improvements loan, our investments are down $151,045, about 5.0% through February 28. We have not paid $120,000 of the $240,000 capital improvement loan.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald F. Miller,
Treasurer

Vestry’s Stewardship Statement

The Episcopal Church teaches the biblical tithe as the standard of stewardship. The Vestry of St. James believe that they and all parishioners strive to understand and meet that goal as they personally are able.

Adopted by the Vestry
November 15, 2004
On this Memorial Day (May 30) we honor those who have served our country, as well as those currently serving.