

# St. James Parish

## WITH ST. MARK'S MINISTRIES

# Epistle



JANUARY 2025

---

### Rector's Message

I was driving to a pastoral visit this morning, driving down Waterville Road toward Avon, then to Nod Road and places beyond. It was a frosty morning, crisp with a crystalline blue sky above. The bare trees that lined the road and extended into the woods were reaching upward, as if by extending themselves they might touch the heavens. I can barely describe how beautiful it was to me, serene and quiet, and I turned off the radio and the Spirit of God drifted into my consciousness. Suddenly, I began to call out Siri's name (that genie in our smart phones) and gave her one command after another to text this or that person: my sisters, my children, old friends I had not spoken to in a while, and a few people who I knew had been feeling down. After I felt there was no one else left, all became silent again, and my heart and mind turned again to God's creation, the trees and the sky.

Epiphany is about revelation, isn't it, the manifestation of God's guiding Star, Jesus Christ? The word epiphany – with a little “e” – means “to show forth,” “to reveal,” or “to make manifest.” On my drive in early winter December, God showed forth to me His love as I was reeled in to the beauty of His natural world and shown again how His grace can put people into my heart and mind. Jesus shows forth in the world, is revealed in the world, in more ways than we can often comprehend in our smallish, human lives. The Feast of the Epiphany, set on January 6<sup>th</sup> (commemorated by us on the 5<sup>th</sup> this year), brings Christmastide to an end. Jesus has been born, hallelujah, and now we must, like the wisemen of old, show forth His love, give Him honor and blessing, and witness to the world

who and what He is: the Lord of creation, author of salvation, and giver of grace and purpose.

We cannot command Christ to reveal Himself in our lives but perhaps it is in our desire to reveal Him, and to share His love, that He is most clearly “shown forth” in our shadowy, unhappy world. A star guided the wisemen to the place where Jesus was staying with his mother, a light that shone brightly for a specific purpose. Epiphany invites us to shine the blessed light of Jesus who is Himself the light of the world. During the early season of Epiphany, in January, we will share the stories from Luke of Jesus turning water into wine (His first sign in John's Gospel), and Him reading from Isaiah in His hometown of Nazareth, where He is ultimately rejected. Both stories have elements of revelation. Scripture reveals – especially the Gospels - Jesus as the Messiah, the Holy One who has come into the world to save us and set us free. The Gospels show us the child who fulfills prophecy, the child who grows in wisdom, and the Savior who will lay down His life at Calvary, and then take it up again in Resurrection.

Epiphany is a season of revelation and invites us to open our hearts for Jesus to enter in and teach us, show us how to reveal Him to the world around us. Prayerfulness, forming life habits of devotion to and worship of Almighty God, and looking for Jesus in all that surrounds us become self-fulfilling prophesies of Christ's revealed grace to us. The three wisemen came to see a king of prophecy and saw there much more: the face of God's love and mercy. They went away by another road, avoiding the

*[continued on next page]*

[Rector's Message continued]

tyrannical command of Herod and forging a new path of hope back to their own country, where no doubt they shared what they had seen and heard. God revealed in Christ comes to us and lifts us that we, by His powerful grace, may lift another (including ourselves!).

In Christ, Fr. George+

## Warden's Corner

Happy New Year! I can't believe that it is 2025. As the saying goes, the days are long, but the years are short. For me, the years seem to be flying by quicker and quicker, so I need to be very intentional at this time of year to slow down and reflect about how I want to show up in the various parts of my life. I encourage all of you to take some time in January to reflect and plan so you can prosper this year.

2025 is the first year of our newly merged parish and we are so thrilled to see our parish grow and thrive as we become one church. As we enter this new year, I encourage you to think about how you would like to serve God and how you would like to serve St. James Parish. There are so many ways to get involved at the church, each requiring a different amount of time and commitment. If you have any questions about how you can serve the St. James Parish in 2025, please reach out to Father George, the co-wardens or any member of the vestry. I wish you all the best for 2025!

Blessings,  
Kim Pereira, Co-Warden

## Join us for worship on New Year's Day: Feast of the Holy Name

On Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, at 10 a.m. we will hold our traditional service of Holy Eucharist to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. We mark the beginning of a new year and the blessed name of Jesus.



## First Sunday Breakfast

**First Sunday Breakfast** once again hops to a different Sunday due to Thanksgiving weekend schedules– join us on December 8<sup>th</sup> Find delicious food and fellowship at the *First Sunday Breakfasts* cooked by a great crew of men of the parish, led by John McBride: French toast, sausage, bacon, eggs, juice and coffee as good as Mom made. Gluten-free pancakes or muffins will also be available. **Join us on Sunday morning, December 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am–9:45 am for a wonderful time of food and fellowship!**



## A special call for service in 2025 with our children of St. James

Don't you just adore seeing our church school children and their big, beautiful smiles pouring into church during the Passing of the Peace? Well, this is a special call for help and an opportunity for you to spend a little bit of time inspiring and nurturing them. We are always in need of teachers in our school room and wish to fill vacant slots starting in January. Have you been thinking about answering this call but not sure? Come join us! Come, sit with us on any given Sunday at 10 am and see how easy and rewarding it can be to lead these wonderful children full of hope and love. We always have curriculum material available, and lots of craft supplies. You can follow the laid-out lesson plan, tell a story, sing songs, help them create something special to take home, and pray with them. Each Sunday, we need one lead teacher and one assistant, so there are plenty of slots to fill. If you have questions, feel free to contact Brigitte Cadigan. You can also follow this link directly to sign ups: <https://bit.ly/StJTeacher25>



## Faith & Fries!

We usually come together on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at Puente American-Latino Pub at 81 South Main Street in Unionville. We will next gather on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, from 7–

8:30 pm. You can come for dinner, have a drink or snack, whatever is comfortable for you. We



invite all to come as they are able and please, feel free to invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker! For this month we will open up conversation about the “bleak midwinter” of January and

February. How do we navigate the dark months of winter, and do we have stories of hope and joy to share, too? Call the church with questions or more information on *Faith & Fries*.

## Epiphany Project

From December 2024 into early spring 2025 the Epiphany Project is available for viewing in the Parish Hall. The project itself focuses on the Gospels with the fulfillment of Christ’s divinity being revealed to all.

I’d like to thank the following artists for their time and commitment to this project. Without their contribution of endless hours of research, skill, talent, and labor to produce their pieces for us to view, this project wouldn’t have come to fruition.

Betsy Bailey  
Dee Vincenzo  
Debbie Wagner  
Dianne Antos  
Elizabeth McBride  
Grier Torrence  
Dr Janice Lee  
Linda Mason  
Neil Clark  
Tracey Roberts

Art is meant to inspire, provoke, question, provide an emotional outlet and an array of other things. Please enjoy the show at your leisure and let us know your thoughts.

Linda Mason



## New Year's Day Open House

Dianne Antos invites our church family to her home for a New Year’s Day Open House.

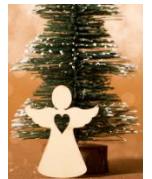
**Stop by anytime Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> between 9:30 am and 3 pm.** Enjoy a Bagel Brunch with church family and friends, “old” and “new.” We are asked only to bring non-perishable food items for the St. Mark’s Ministries Food Pantry.

RSVP to Dianne, please.

## Angel Tree thank you!

The spirit of caring and of generosity was again so evident at St. James this Advent! This parish fulfilled the Christmas wishes of children and adults at the Friendship Service Center and through Farmington Community Services with love and selfless giving.

It was evident that you made purchases with loving hearts. Two very full cars made deliveries to the two grateful organizations. The gifts were received with delight by their representatives. The St. James 2024 Angel Tree project was a huge success, and your co-chairs send a heartfelt thank you and a wish for a happy and healthy New Year!



*Dona Waugh & Linda Larkin*

## Prayer Team

Greetings from the Prayer Team! By the time you read this, it will be 2025! To start this new year, I thought it might be a good idea to offer a "refresher" of sorts, about the Prayer Team.

The Prayer Team exists to offer prayer support for the people of St. James Parish, and for any person or situation that is referred to us. What we offer is specific, continuing, daily prayer for an initial period of two weeks. This can always be extended if desired ... just let us know.

The members of the Prayer Team are Pat Clark, Carol Kirkwood, and Donna Paye. They can each be reached by phone or email and their contact information is below. Or one can speak to Father George, and he can refer concerns to us. In addition, there is a Prayer Request tab on the parish website.

People often ask, "What is the difference between the names we pray for in the Sunday worship bulletin and those prayed for by the Prayer Team?" The names in the Sunday bulletin are a public prayer list, and we offer these up as a community. But sometimes people want to keep things more private. In this case, one can speak privately to Father George only, or if more continuous "soaking" prayer is desired, the



names may be given to the Prayer Team. Any information is always held in strict confidence and is not shared with anyone else.

The Prayer Team invites anyone who may feel called to join this ministry, to speak with Father George or to any one of us. Our door is open!

Finally, I want to alert you to an upcoming event. The parish is hoping to offer a workshop on Centering Prayer to the parish, perhaps in Lent ... stay tuned!

In Christ,  
The Prayer Team:  
*Pat Clark*  
*Carol Kirkwood*  
*Donna Paye*

## Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, at 11:45 a.m.

An Annual Meeting is something that every Episcopal parish in the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA (ECUSA, the Episcopal Church) is required to conduct each year, via the Constitution and Canons of ECUSA. Annual Meetings do not sound like a lot of fun, I know, but they are vital to St. James Parish capably and responsibly managing our fiscal and common life together. Article III of our bylaws, accepted at the October 2024



formalization of our merger, require that we have at least ¼ of our voting membership in attendance to have a quorum. Our quorum is the minimum number of members necessary for valid voting to occur.

On Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our Annual Meeting, immediately following the 10:15 service. We will convene in the parish hall and invite everyone to bring food to share (an entrée, a side, or dessert) and we will eat potluck style. We will vote on the budget, elect new Vestry members, and report on the overall state of things at St. James Parish. Join us for worship and then the Meeting. Thank you for all that you do to be Christ's light in and from this place.

## Sunday morning Bible Study

Join us on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> as we begin a new Bible study of the Book of Revelation, the last book in Holy Scripture. Many are wary of Revelation as it contains strange prophesies, highly symbolic language, and a vision of future events that can make us uncomfortable. Take heart: Revelation has some of the most hopeful and beautiful passages in all of Holy Writ and isn't always what we expected. Join us and, if you would like a study guide, please let Fr. George know. All are welcome to join via Zoom on Sundays at 12:30 pm. Meeting ID: 815 4332 7235; Passcode: 982548. We hope you will join us!

## Winter reading recommendations

Once again St. James readers have offered a collection of titles that I hope will give everyone who is interested a good book to curl up with on these long, cold winter nights. Just like last time, there are more non-fiction than fiction. Also, there is one book for young adult readers.

The first, from Ed Preneta is about Mary Magdalene. The book is entitled *The Mary We forgot: What the Apostle to the Apostles Teaches the Church Today*, by Jennifer Powell McNutt and Esau McCaulley. Jennifer Powell McNutt is a professor of theology and church history at Wheaton College. Ed writes that in the book McNutt makes the case that Mary Magdalene is an Apostle but she has been confused, scandalized, and undervalued by the church, except in the French Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church. Mary Magdalene was not a whore and did not wash the feet of Jesus with her hair, but she traveled with Jesus and his male apostles, financed his ministry, was present at the crucifixion when the male apostles hid, and was the first to deliver the news to the male apostles that Jesus is risen.

Reading about this book reminded me of another book about Mary Magdalene by Margaret George simply titled *Mary: Called Magdalene*. This book is historical fiction and is quite long. But Margaret George is an award-winning author of several books of historical fiction, most notably one about Henry VII. She is an excellent writer who does a lot of research to produce her books. If you wish to know more about the woman who the Gospels have described as the “apostle to the apostles,” here are two choices.

Another book by and about a woman comes from Anna Whitby. She offers *The Lovely One: A Memoir* by Ketanji Brown Jackson. Brown Jackson is the first Black woman appointed to the Supreme Court. The book is about her family, her life as a student at Harvard, and the struggles she had early on in her legal career. Her story reflects what it was like to go from segregation to the Supreme Court in one generation.

Nancy Thompson submitted a book that was on the September list, but bears repeating as it is really a good read. That is Erik Larsen’s *Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak and*

*Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War*. Larson describes the period from Lincoln’s election in November of 1860, to his Inauguration in March, and the start of the Civil War in April. It centers on Fort Sumter and the debate around whether to maintain it or let the South have it after South Carolina seceded from the United States. Larsen is an excellent storyteller and good writer.

Continuing in the non-fiction category, Mark Giulietti recommends *Saving Italy: A Race to Rescue A Nation’s Treasures* by Robert Edsel. The author describes the extent to which the Allies went to protect and save Italy’s priceless art treasures from the Nazi’s, including the treasures in the Vatican. This would be a good companion to a book that was on the September list by Eric Larsen, *The Splendid and the Vile*, also about World War II, but the early years featuring Churchill and the bombing of England.

Now on to the fictional world – Marlene Skonieczny suggests a series of crime fiction books by Belinda Bauer. The specific title she recommends is *Rubbernecker* about a student with Asperger’s syndrome who solves a murder in an anatomy class. Other books by the same author that are also good and are also crime fiction are *Snap*, *Exit*, and *Blacklands*.

Bob Sudell has a young friend who recommends a trilogy entitled *One of Us Is Lying*. The series is also a true crime and is appropriate for anyone 14 or older. The other two titles are: *One of Us is Next* and *One of Us is Back*.

I had a conversation with one of St. James’ most committed readers about the author Robert Harris. Based on that conversation, I am going to recommend *Conclave*. The story is a fictional but believable recreation of a Conclave of the Roman Catholic Church in the process of electing a new Pope. It is a good story – you may not want to put it down once you begin to read it. It has also been made into a movie that is in theaters now. I saw the movie after reading the book and loved it. The movie is very true to the novel and, having read it first, did not take anything away from seeing it on the big screen.

I would recommend anything that Robert Harris has written. There are three novels that focus on the end of the Roman Republic with the lawyer and orator Cicero as the observer and participant in the events that led up to the death

of Julius Ceasar and the civil war that follows. Harris is a great storyteller even when he is working with actual events. The titles of these three books of historical are: *Imperium*, *Lustrum*, and *Dictator*.

The final offering comes from Marge Litteral. It is different from the previous novels and non-fiction. The book *My Beautiful Broken Shell* is by Carol Hamblet Adams with paintings by D. Morgan. It contains words and images of hope to refresh the soul. Marge writes, "the heartfelt words and seascape images of this much-loved story wash over your burdens, your imperfections, your deepest pain, and carry you to the shore of renewal and healing. Here, a shattered spirit becomes a perfect vessel, overflowing with the goodness of grace. These tender reflections of hurt and hope share a great truth. There is profound beauty in our brokenness when placed in the hands of the Lord."

Happy reading!!  
Mimi Hostetter

## Celebrating January birthdays!

Anna Bongiorno  
Erik Ososki  
Dani Hawk  
Eli Johansen  
Barbara Preneta  
Marie Hartley  
Peg Trahiotis  
Bonnie Sudell



## Looking beyond ourselves: Farmington Food Pantry month!

Each year the St. James family commits to providing non-perishable food items and a monetary donation to the Farmington Food Pantry in the months of January and June. The Farmington Food Pantry and the nearly 350 local residents that it currently serves depend greatly on these donations. All clients are pre-qualified through Farmington Social Services. Each month the pantry provides families with 7,000+ pounds of non-perishable items.

Food and monetary contributions may, of course, be made any time of the year! If you wish to make a monetary contribution, write the check out to *St. James Parish with Farmington Food Pantry* in the note section. The Pantry has requested that we focus our donations on snack foods (pretzels, granola bars, crackers, etc.), rice, canned fruit, coffee, and jelly (preferably strawberry, raspberry, marmalade). Please bring your donations to the narthex to place in the box labeled *Farmington Food Pantry*. Please be generous and thank you in advance!



## Yearend notes from the Parish Office

If you pledged for 2025 and requested envelopes, the boxed envelope sets will be labeled and ready in the narthex for you to pick-up. Please contact the parish office if you would like your envelopes dropped off at your home.

The 2025 Altar Flower Chart is posted in the narthex. Please sign-up for a Sunday when you would like to donate and dedicate the flowers for the day's services. Note that there will be no altar flowers during the Lenten season.



## Minutes of the Transitional Vestry Meeting of November 21, 2024

**Present:** Fr. George Roberts, EJ Ososki, Carol Kirkwood, Kathy Bullard, Bob Sudell, Bonnie Sudell, Skip Mason via Zoom, Jim Wilke, Kim Pereira, Stephen Hard, Mark Giuliotti, David Tompkins, Bob Kissel, Molly Sherman, Barbara Campbell via Zoom.

**Absent:** Deb Butler, Chris Butler, Susan Holland, and Leonard Nelson

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:07 pm

### Minutes

MOTION - Bob S made a motion to accept the minutes of October 17, 2024, as submitted. Seconded by Skip on windows.

Discussion – 3 corrections to note on the 10/17/2024 minutes.

1. Kathy Bullard recorded as both present and absent. She was absent.
2. Under Building and Grounds typo at 5<sup>th</sup> bullet should be millions at windows not millions
3. Typo last bullet under Building and Grounds Dillion is spelled Dylan.

Motion accepted unanimously with above noted amendments.

### Ministry Reports

*Finance/Treasurer's Report – October 2024*

Summary of Report by EJ Ososki

- On the income side, we are doing well. Our pledges are ahead of plan by \$13K and the income from invested funds are ahead by \$7K.
- Our overall income is \$30K ahead of plan. Our total expenses are \$3K favorable to our budget.
- Overall, we are in good shape. We are \$34K favorable to our budget.

MOTION - Jim made a motion to accept the October financial report as submitted, seconded by Bob S.

Discussion –

- Stephen commented that that all the financial reports are well done and Kudos to EJ and Jerry.

Motion carries unanimously.

*Merging Finances Info*

- John Pilla, St Mark's and Jerry Hess, St James have met to discuss treasury reports.

- Merging of accounts is in process. Will continue to with use bank set up with St James.
- St Mark's investments are with Donations and Bequests a fiduciary agent of the Episcopal Church in CT. St James' investments is overseen by the Investment Committee of St James Parish.
- November 26, 2024, a Zoom meeting will be held at 11 am with Donations and Bequests (Vestry is invited) to get information and see how it all works.
- To withdraw monies for D & B a spending plan letter of justification is sent.
- St Mark's monies in D & B are unrestricted. Smith fund is only fund with legal restrictions.

MOTION – EJ made a motion to continue to do what St Mark's has done in the past with the Donations and Bequests, which is to withdraw the maximum amount allowed by the Diocese. Bob S seconded

Discussion – None

Motion carried unanimously.

*Building and Grounds Projects*

- The driveway / sidewalk going to the church is dug up and being prepared for paving; should be completed in next 2 weeks.
- Sign on front lawn will be modified to include St Mark's Ministries and as of tonight was approved by the Town of Farmington Historical Commission. St Mark's covering the cost of signage addition.
- CT Water did an assessment, and questions lead pipe from road to church – their recommendation is to put a filter on sink in kitchen – if no filter, allow water to run 1-2 minutes before drinking.
- Solar light will be put in the parking lot at a cost of \$178.
- In the past, Chandler installed wiring for lighting in the front of the church which has not been working. Conduit will be placed prior to paving and Chandler will rework wiring into conduit so all will work again.

*South Church and Food Pantry report*

- The lease is being reworked at South Church since just the food pantry area is the only area used since the merger. Lease in the past was \$1K for church area and

\$500 for Food Pantry. Hoping to go to a 6m lease then to a 1m and look at other areas available in New Britain that could better suit needs.

- St Mark's did a weekly breakfast for the homeless called a *Mingle* – at this time South Church space not allowing for it. Looking at space at St John's on Arch St in New Britain as a possibility. Mark met with Cheryl who oversees Food Pantry and they both have concerns about St John's – no one is around as they are at South Church / would need internet services that is included at South Church currently / office is a closet and not conducive to working in the space. Mark and Cheryl looked at ways to improve space at South Church – switch Cheryl's current office area to storage room and have Cheryl's office in the food pantry.
- St Mark's Ministries Committee will form and be charged with looking further into leases and places.
- St Mark's will be moving their items over to St James – they had a moving service who now wants \$1,500 more. Will continue to get other estimates.

MOTION – Stephen made a motion to authorize up to \$3,500 for move of St Mark's property to St James. Seconded by Dave.

Discussion – None

Motion carries unanimously.

#### *Stewardship / Annual Appeal*

- Copier issues caused letters and postcards to go out late. As of now approx. \$112K has been pledged.
- Brunch to be held Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup> to celebrate annual appeal and the merger of St Mark's and St James.
- Lots of thanks and gratitude go out to Kim and Dave Faubert for the Water Well and all they have done for the campaign.

#### **Old Business**

##### *Good Shepherd – Bristol*

- The Vestry of Good Shepherd has met and decided not to go through with the formal merger process. Their church is closing with a final service to be held at 10 am on Sunday December 29, 2024.
- Many parishioners from Good Shepherd have been worshipping at St James and others may come once they have closed.

- A few weeks ago, Good Shepherd brought earth from their Memorial Garden and placed it in St James' Memorial Garden.

#### *Smith Fund Parameters and Committee Background*

From the St. James Bylaws (adopted October 27, 2024): "St. Mark's Ministries Committee shall be a standing committee of the Parish to continue and expand the charitable work of the former St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain. As far as possible, at least two members of the Committee will either be residents of the City of New Britain, and/or have been members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church prior to its merger with St. James Parish, Farmington. This Committee will promote and manage Parish outreach efforts to the sick, elderly, homeless, incompetent, helpless, poor, unfortunate, and infirm. Its efforts will be supported by the funds regularly received from the estate of Charles F. Smith, and by other funds designated for this by the Vestry. The Priest, or in the absence of assigned clergy, the Wardens, may disperse funds for the aid of individuals of the Parish as directed by the Vestry. Regarding the support of organizations doing charitable work, funds from the Smith bequest will be provided only to organizations with a connection to the City of New Britain.

MOTION – Stephen presented the following motion with a second by Mark.

The following procedures are established for the operation of the St. Mark's Ministries Committee.

1. David Tompkins is appointed to chair the Committee until it meets.
2. A budget will be developed by the Committee and approved by the Vestry.
3. The budget will include discretionary funds for the use of the Rector (or in his absence the Wardens) for the assistance of parishioners in need. Any grant to an individual (one time or cumulative) in excess of \$1,000 requires the approval of the Vestry.
4. The Committee will establish application and reporting procedures for grants to be made to New Britain organizations that work in the areas specified by Mr. Smith in his will.
5. Any expenditure more than \$4,999 not specified in the Vestry-approved budget, must be approved by the Vestry.



6. The Committee will report to the Vestry quarterly and include an accounting of expenditures.

#### Discussion

- Fr. George reiterated that currently St James outreach is 2% of the budget, Motion carried as submitted unanimously.
- The following have agreed to be a part of St Mark's Ministries Committee: Fr George, Dave, Carol, Kathy, Jim, and Mark.
- Mark reported that recently St Mark's was named as a beneficiary of the Howey family of OKAY Industries and received \$50K designated for food pantry use.

#### *St James as a "regional" church and implications for Outreach*

- Need to discuss in near future as more people join us from various parishes, cities, and towns.

#### *Re-establishing of committees*

MOTION – Fr George made a motion that the following ministries are established for the good order and proper functioning of the parish: Altar Guild, Education, Finance and Stewardship, Outreach and Mission, Social Communications, Building and Grounds. Seconded by Jim.

#### Discussion

Many voiced additions of Pastoral Life, Worship Committee and Parish Life

Motion carried as amended to also include Pastoral Life, Worship Committee, and Parish Life.

#### *Blake potential raise approval*

MOTION – Bob S made a motion to raise Blake salary to \$30,252 Seconded by Mark.

#### Discussion

- Research was done by a vestry member and his salary is in line with others doing the same job. It was noted that Blake is an exceptionally talented musician.

AMENDED MOTION – Bob S amended the motion to state that Blake's salary be adjusted to \$25,000 as of January 2025. Seconded by Mark

Discussion – None

Amended Motion carries unanimously.

MOTION - Bob S made a motion that Blake get a 4% match put into a retirement fund seconded by Bob K .

Discussion – None

Motion unanimously carries.

#### *Cheryl and approval of line item*

MOTION – Bob S made a motion to maintain Cheryl's same rate of pay of \$23.63/hr. with a 4% match into her 401K. Seconded by Bonnie.

Discussion – some felt she should get a raise.

AMENDED MOTION – Bob S amended the motion to increase Cheryl's pay to \$25/hr. with a 4% match to her 401K. Bonnie seconded the motion.

Discussion – None

Amended motion carries unanimously.

#### **New Business**

##### *Housing resolution – Resolution of the Vestry*

MOTION - Bob S made the following motion. Motion read by EJ: Whereas the Rev. George Roberts is employed as a minister of the Gospel by St. James Episcopal Church, Farmington, CT, which although providing a residence for him does not provide the full cost of maintaining and furnishing such a residence, the Vestry resolves that of the total compensation of \$103,150 to be paid to the Rev. Roberts during 2023, that \$7,200 be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986 as amended, but in any event until further notice the parsonage allowance shall be \$600 per month. Seconded by Bob K.

Discussion – None

Motion carried unanimously.

#### *Church Bell*

- In 2012 when Fr George arrived as the new rector at St James the bell did not work. ChimeMaster of Ohio came out to assess and a striker was put on the outside of the bell for more stability and the system was electronically programmed to when the striker hits the bell. In last year bell not working properly on a consistent basis and bell tilting not allowing a clean striker hit.
- Bell is now not working at all – striker needs to be redone and possibly an electronic repair. A new kit with striker and electronics plus visit from vendor would be about \$3500. Concern is that there may be other variables or cupola issues.

MOTION – Bob S made a motion to spend up to \$5,000 to repair the Bell with a second by Skip.

#### Discussion

- Where is the Bell on the list of priorities?
- An assessment is certainly needed.
- Bell important as it is the call to the community, and it sounds welcoming all.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION - Bob S made a motion to adjourn. Mark seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

Adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

*Carol Kirkwood, Clerk*

## Coffee Hour Ministry

Many thanks to who have hosted our time of fellowship following the 10:15 worship service. The 2025 signup is now on the parish hall ramp bulletin board, offering you the opportunity to host a Coffee Hour in the New Year! On your day, you will make regular & decaffeinated coffee and then clean up after Coffee Hour. You may signup for as many Sundays as you'd like – or just one! Signup to work alone or with a friend or two! Providing simple snacks (cookies, cupcakes, maybe a small gluten-free option) is nice, but not necessary to volunteer for this ministry.

## Emergency Closing Info

In the event of an emergency, most often weather-related, parish closing information will be available on WTIC-AM 1080 radio and on WFSB-3 and WVIT-30 television stations. Whenever possible, a notice (e-flash) will be sent and the website updated as well.

## St. James Parish

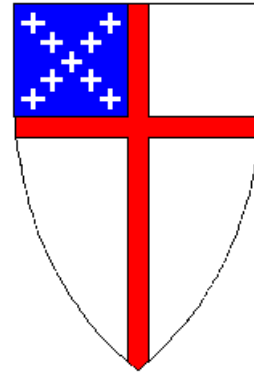
3 Mountain Road  
Farmington, Connecticut 06032

Phone: 860-677-1564

Fax: 860-677-8219

Email: [st.james.church@sbcglobal.net](mailto:st.james.church@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.stjamesfarmington.org](http://www.stjamesfarmington.org)



### MISSION STATEMENT:

*We welcome all to worship and nurture spiritual growth through faith, grace and reason.  
We reach out to those in need as a caring community  
and live Christ's teaching to love one another.*

#### STAFF

The Rev. George C. Roberts      *Rector*  
Blake Hansen                      *Director of Music*  
Brigitte Cadigan  
   *Children & Family Ministries*  
Susan Deming                      *Parish Administrator*  
Cheryl Rusczyk  
   *Admin., St. Mark's Ministries*  
Ray Smith                              *Sexton*  
Kim McLaurin                      *Nursery Supervisor*

#### OFFICERS

Stephen Hard & Kim Pereira, *Wardens*  
EJ Ososki, *Treasurer*  
Jerry Hess, *Asst. Treasurer*  
Carol Kirkwood, *Parish Clerk*

#### VESTRY

Kathy Bullard	Mark Giulietti	Skip Mason	Bob Sudell
Chris Butler	Stephen Hard	Lenny Nelson	Bonnie Sudell
Deb Butler	Susan Holland	Kim Pereira	Dave Tompkins
Barbara Campbell	Bob Kissel	Molly Sherman	Jim Wilkie

## St. James Parish

3 MOUNTAIN ROAD  
FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06032

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

