



St. James' Episcopal

25 West Street, Danbury, CT 06810



PARISH REPORT 2012

AGENDA

Opening Prayers

St. James' Café Findings

Minutes of the 250th Annual Meeting

Judy Toth

Rector's Comments

Wardens' Comments

Reports: (Presented by title as found in Annual Report)

Rector's Report	The Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Krasinski
Wardens	Carolyn Flynn & Dan Cox
250 th Anniversary Committee	Joe Walkovich
Christian Education for Children and Youth	Christopher Ceccolini
Music Ministry	Jean Hassen
Faith Formation	Jim Tarrant
Worship:	
-Altar Guild	Marolyn Beschle & Yvonne Kiddoe
-Acolytes	Bob Pearson
-Ushers	Dan Cox
Pastoral Care	
-Stephen Ministry Report	Janet Brown
-Friendly Visitors	Janet Brown
-The Sacramental Rite	Judy Toth
-Hospital Visitation	Jana Draper
-Flower Ministry	Jana Draper
-Prayer Chain Committee	Kathy Sabbagh
Good News Committee	Christine DiMeglio
Building & Grounds	Mark Stirling
Parish Life	Judy Griemsmann
Episcopal Church Women	Leslie Johnson
Stewardship	Janet Brown
Global Outreach	Ryan Beaudry
Local Mission-Global Mission	Jehad Sabbagh
Appalachia Service Project	Linda Spaziani

Parish Register

Election of Officers and Vestry

Standing Resolutions: 1) Filling Vestry vacancies until next Annual meeting, 2) Short term borrowing up to \$50,000 if necessary, 3) Permit Vestry to invest and reinvest funds of the Parish.

Nominating Report

Financial Reports

Linda Spaziani

Old Business

New Business

Adjourn

ST. James' Episcopal Church
25 West Street
February 5th, 2012
250th Annual Meeting

The Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Krasinski called the 250th Annual Meeting of St. James' to order at 11:45 a.m. and opened with prayer.

Parishioners were provided with a copy of Parish Report of 2011, which contained Minutes of the 249th Annual Meeting, Committee Reports and a Financial Report.

Minutes of the 249th Annual Meeting:

A motion was made, seconded and passed to dispense with the reading of these minutes and instead time was given for all those in attendance to review them. Upon motion to approve and second, minutes were unanimously approved with thanks to Judy Toth by acclamation.

Rector's Comments:

Fr. Joseph began by referring everyone to his report in the Annual Report for a more detailed statement. He thanked those who often go unnoticed such as:

"The Boss"

She is **Yvonne Kiddo**. Every service is supervised by her, funerals, weddings, any service. When the doors are open, she is there to set up. All elements the clergy need are there. She gives millions of hours in the beauty of holiness.

Joan Linstrum

Joan is here every Sunday and is the one who hops up and runs to gather the church school children, reminding them it's time to come to church. We appreciate her faithfulness.

Nursery

The nursery was started about 2 years ago. These caretakers don't have children nursery school age at present and they faithfully man the Nursery every Sunday. They don't attend services, but listen to the hymns from the nursery. They make sure the nursery is staffed within Safe Church Standards. I commend, **Cathy Mould, Christel Davis, and Pauline Becker**.

Martha Galie

A little over 2 years ago, a wonderful transformation took place in our music, thanks to Martha. She challenges our Choir, lifts them up, started the **M&MM's**, our children's choir and her hope and prayer is they grow to be the size of a proper Children's Choir, vested, etc. (more and more children are joining.) Thank you to the **choir members** who practice weekdays and Sundays. Many people come to hear this Choir sing.

Vestry

Many thanks to this group of people who lead our congregation.

Carolyn & Dan

Thanks to these two, our Wardens. They are there to advise and meet with me off and on and are invaluable because they are so in tune with the congregation.

Jim Hughes

Special thanks to Jim, my spouse, who is always there for me and provides a home that is sane, calm, and wonderful. It makes my life easier.

Associate Rector's Comments:

Mo. Iris asked us to take the opportunity to read the Associate's Report in the Annual Report for details. She thanked all the people who step up when she calls them, the young people, the Confirmation Class, and the acolytes. She thanked us all for trusting her with them...they are the light and at times a challenge. She gave thanks also to the Rector and the Wardens for turning her into what she now is.

Wardens' Comments:

Carolyn Flynn and Dan Cox began their report with a question; Now that another year is past, one wonders what that first meeting was like. Did they, too, have budget problems? We at St. James have always cared for and reached out to others. Our Worship services continue to be beautiful, thanks to the Altar Guild's efforts. We've enjoyed a year of wonderful music, thanks to Martha Galie, Christel, and Deidra. There are plans to hold confirmation in April in the able hands of Mo. Iris. Thanks to Cathy, Alvin, Jim, and Adam our outgoing Vestry members. Adam updated our website, and our church computer network which was the result of much hard work. Alvin, we thank you for your leadership and contributions on the Stewardship Committee. Jim, thanks for your leadership on Faith Formation..Cathy we so appreciate your leadership in the Pastoral Care Ministries; Senior Luncheon, LEMs, Stephen Ministry, etc. and all the outreach to our own sick, shut-ins, etc. Gifts were then presented to the outgoing members. Welcome to Linda Harrison, Christel Davis, and Christine DiMeglio, our new incoming Vestry Members. Again, thank you so much to Fr. Joseph and Mo. Iris for so much and all you do to lead us. We also appreciate very much Sue and Joan in the office and what they do behind the scenes to help make our church office run smoothly. We thank the Vestry and all the committees for hard work and also all of you, the parishioners, who are here and care so much about St. James. May your dedication and love carry us through many years to come.

REPORTS:

Reports from all ministries are found in the Annual Report. We ask that you read them and study them....Building & Grounds, chairperson, Mark Stirling; Communications, chairperson Adam Kryiacou; Episcopal Church Women, Chairperson, Leslie Johnson; Faith Formation, Chairperson, Jim Tarrant; Global Outreach, Chairperson, Ryan Beaudry; Local Outreach, Chairperson, Jehad Sabbagh (Dorothy Day Meals, Ruth Cote); Parish Life, Chairperson, Judy Griemsmann; Stewardship, Chairperson, Alvin Tuck; Pastoral Care, Chairperson, Cathy Blasco; Worship, Altar Guild-Yvonne Kiddoe/Marolyn Beschle, Acolytes- Bob Pearson/Iris E. Peterson, Ushers-Dan Cox, Lectors, Intercessors, & Chalice Ministers- Iris E.Peterson, Prayer Shawl Ministry-Jean Hassen, Music-Martha Galie, Carillon-Christel Davis.

Motion to Decrease the Size of the Vestry:

Fr. Joseph explained to those present why this resolution was necessary. Sizes of other vestries were looked at and many larger congregations have 3 vestry members elected each year. St. James has found that they must go through up to 40 names at times to come up with 4 possible people to be nominated, and it is very difficult. The By-Laws need to be changed. The Treasurer and Clerk are also voting members and therefore increase the size of the vestry. The resolution is: Moved that the size of each elected vestry class be decreased from four to three members for the next three years, thus decreasing the Vestry size to 11 in 2012, 10 in 2013, and 9 in 2014, and 3 members per class, thereafter. A motion was made, seconded, and the above resolution was approved by those present.

Election of Officers and Vestry:

Fr. Joseph explained that officers (Treasurer & Clerk) serve 1 year, but there is no term limit. Wardens serve for a maximum of 6 terms. The new incoming Vestry members will serve a term of 3 years; Christel Davis, Christine DiMeglio, and Linda Harrison. Those present were asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the nominations and have the Clerk cast one vote for the slate.

Standing Resolutions:

1. Filling Vestry vacancies until next Annual Meeting.
2. Short Term borrowing up to \$50,000 if necessary
3. Permit Vestry to invest and reinvest funds of the Parish

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to allow any vacancies that occur before the next Annual Meeting be filled by the Vestry.

After answering questions concerning number 2 resolution, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to allow the Vestry to borrow up to \$50,000 if necessary.

After explanation to a few questions concerning number 3 resolution, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to permit the Vestry to invest and reinvest funds of the Parish.

Financial Reports:

Linda Spaziani, Treasurer referred to Vital Statistics:

Some highlights: 5 baptisms in 2011, 10 burials, and 1 marriage. 412 private communions
1 new member filled out papers to join the church, there were 10 letters of Transfer given. 157 people became inactive. (a question: explain "inactive". Answer: a member who hasn't attended for 5 years.)

From Income & Expense Comparison:

Regular Operating Income: 2011 Actual \$424,985, Budget \$429, 250

Operating Expenses: In 2011: \$451,518 , Budget \$465,498.

In 2012 there is a deficit of \$85,904.

Linda explained how appropriated funds were used and special gifts to balance 2011 budget. The Vestry at their January Meeting approved the withdrawal of \$190,000 of interest and appreciation to fund the deficit.

Cash Position - \$177,436 was total cash in 2010

\$147,243 was total cash in 2011

Pledge Comparison - 137 Pledges \$284,298, many increased pledges
18 have not been turned in, 8 won't pledge

Endowment Funds - Fr. Joseph explained that Endowments are housed with Diocese of CT. There are 2 smaller accounts, one at Bank of Danbury, and one at Webster Bank.

Explanation was given and parishioners were led through The Synopsis of Permanent Endowment Funds.

Book of Living Trust It was explained that this is for the departed and the book is housed in the Shrine ext to the pulpit.

Further explanation followed about the Permanent Endowment Funds. The Diocese recommends that we don't take 5 ½% or more from income. In 2012, we will be taking 11%. At the Parish Meeting we discussed the funding of the Associate Rector Position. At the January Vestry Meeting the Vestry decided we can no longer fund the Associate Rector Position after 2012. At the end of 2012, there won't be enough to take another \$200,000 without going into principal. Questions were answered and it was explained that the diocesan assessment is based on operating income and is 12 ½%. At convention in the Fall, it was decided the minimum is 10%. If we continue to fund the Associate Rector position, there is no room for growth in any other areas. \$90,000 is total package for Associate Rector. Questions about part time associate rector were answered that this would all be taken up with the new Vestry this year. It was stated that the Vestry is to be commended for working very hard not to go beyond budget.

Many questions were asked and answers given. With the many members who left, \$100,000 worth of pledges left. Fr. Joseph stated that Linda, our treasurer, has worked very hard and is to be commended.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report with thanks to Linda, our Treasurer. The motion was seconded and approval was given for the Treasurer's report.

New Business:

We need to focus on our Vision and the celebration of our 250th Anniversary and call upon our history to sustain us. Some members of our Vestry will be visiting other parishes and coming back with ideas on how to better welcome new members into our parish and also investigating creative processes for developing small group activities, books, prayer groups that could also include outside people, etc. We will be looking at how to function with one less clergy.

Carolyn stated that St. James future depends on us to continue looking for new ways to help us grow....think of what is God calling us to do? There will be a massive shiftwe will be looking at transition and at the same time grieving for what we're losing.

Alvin stated that he visited the Archives in the Diocese and found an incredible Document. He shared the information with those present and it was discussed.

Fr. Joseph stated that 2011 seems anticlimactic after it seemed to be overshadowed by January 15th Celebration of our 250th Anniversary. 2012 started with a bang. The Associated Press picked up the Presiding Bishop being here. Washington DC and Chicago Newspapers had articles about it. We hope to build on this wonderful excitement of Jan. 15th. We will be changing and change is scary, but we will manage. Thanks to Joe Walkovich for chairing the 250th Anniversary Committee. Jana thanked Fr. Joseph and Mo. Iris for all they've done this year.

Adjourn:

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 12:45 p.m. The meeting closed with prayer led by Fr. Joseph.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Toth, Clerk

RECTOR'S REPORT

2012 was an historical year for St. James' Episcopal Church. How does one top a 250th Anniversary opened up by the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church? Having the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Shori with us on Jan. 15, 2012 was probably one of the most exciting days in the history of our Parish. The Eucharist was a spectacular example of Episcopal liturgy with excellent music, well-tuned acolytes, ushers doing a wonderful job, and lots and lots of pictures. Being the 21st century, we are able to save the sermon and the event on computer so that 50 years from now our children will know how it's done!

All throughout the year, we were blessed with events and surprises that fed our spirits and helped us to rejoice that St. James' was founded. Between organ concerts, an interfaith Thanksgiving Service, and collecting well more than 250 canned goods for Daily Bread, we can be proud. Because of the work of Mo. Iris and the youth of the parish, we will remember our 250th anniversary in springs to come when the tulips and daffodils bloom on the side of our Church. Old friends came back to visit at our reunion Service. It was a blessing to see so many of the former clergy and those whom we sponsored for ordination here at our altar. Special thanks go to Joe Walkovich who chaired the 250th Anniversary Committee. Because of Joe's connections, we were blessed to have: A special commendation given by the State Assembly and presented by Assemblyman Joseph Taborsak, a visit from our US Senator Richard Blumenthal at the 250th anniversary luncheon, and a letter from the President of the United States, Barack Obama. I am also grateful to the many members of the Anniversary Committee who worked so hard to bring our history alive.

Like most parishes, especially in Fairfield County, we also had the sadness of parishioners either retiring and moving away or being transferred because of work. Unfortunately, some of those who left were stalwarts of the Parish and it will be hard to replace them. We also rejoice that others did come and join our happy throng as the old hymn says. It is always a joy to see new faces in the congregation.

A pall was thrown over 2012, however, by the knowledge that we would be losing our Associate Rector at the end of the year. It is hard enough just going down to one priest, but the Rev. Iris Peterson is one of the most gifted priests I've known and losing her leaves a giant gap in the fabric of St. James'. She will be sorely missed.

Our Music Director, Martha Galie also left us at the end of 2012. Martha brought our music program back and beyond after a hiatus without a Director of Music. She lifted up the music ministry to astounding heights, bringing in extra musicians and singers, as well as challenging our own choir to greatness. The choir continues to amaze and inspire us – and new members are always welcome! By the end of the year, we had already contracted a new Director of Music Ministry, Mark Corbett. Although young, Mark is a gifted musician and more than talented organist. There is no doubt he will continue where Martha left off and do even greater things for our music ministry.

In the middle of the year we also lost our Parish Administrator, Susan Hull. Sue sadly went on to greater challenges (and higher pay!) and we wish her the best in all of her endeavors. Sue was replaced by Nneka Maiurro who does an excellent job, especially in keeping me in order! Completing our office staff is Joan Giarratano. Joan makes sure all of your pledges are recorded appropriately, all the deposits are made, all the bills are paid, and most importantly, that our paychecks are on time. It is a mammoth job which she is able to do in only 10 hours a week!

For Christian Education for Children and Youth, we were so fortunate to hire Chris Ceccolini. After graduating from Wesleyan with a degree in Religious Studies, he spent a year in the Episcopal Volunteer corps in KY. Chris works so well with the Church School and young adults in our parish.

Last but not least, we continue to have our Sexton keep everything clean and running as smoothly as possible. Although his legal name is Jose Lopez Sanz, we all know him as Ricky. His ministry at our parish is largely unsung – but at 3 o'clock in the morning, when the fire or burglar alarm goes off, it is Ricky who must get out of bed to check things out or to meet the fire or police dept. He very rarely gets a real 24 hours off, as he must “arm” and “disarm” the building every morning and evening. While no one is truly “indispensable,” Ricky comes very close.

This parish is also blessed with incredible lay leadership. At almost every ministry meeting you will find one if not both of the wardens. Yes, they do have families and “real” jobs so the time they give to Christ and His church is a gift to us. Thank you, Dan and Carolyn for being there. Again, saying “the Church would fall apart if it weren't for so-and-so” is a bit of an exaggeration – except for Yvonne Kiddoe! She gives new meaning to “Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” This past year was a real challenge of the entire Altar Guild, but Yvonne, as the head of the Altar Guild, got everything down so right that I never really had to think twice about it.

Our 251st year will surely be a challenge. With God's grace and trusting in the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we will continue being faithful in our ministry to Christ and to the world.

Yours in Christ,
(The Rev. Dr.) Joseph A. Krasinski, Rector

THE WARDENS

Carolyn Flynn and Dan Cox

In 2012 St. James' Church turned 250 years old. We started the year of celebration with a visit from the Presiding Bishop, the Right Rev Katherine Jefferts-Schori celebrating the Eucharist with us. She spoke of our history and our future. The service was followed by a lunch at the Amber Room. It was a truly special day and a wonderful occasion to celebrate the amazing accomplishments of this remarkable church.

There were special events throughout the year including a concert by Wooster School to celebrate our affiliation, hosting of the Interfaith Thanksgiving service (a truly remarkable occasion) and the joy in seeing some 250 plus flowers surface from the bulbs planted in the fall of 2011. Our reunion service in October was another highlight. A service attended by past clergy and those raised up from our parish. It was so nice to see our old friends. It was another wonderful event. The publishing of our St. James' Cookbook and the remarkable display of our history displayed in Luckenbill Hall are great testaments to the ongoing commitment of so many to St. James'.

The 250th committee was led by Joe Walkovich. Thank you Joe for a job well done. Ryan Beaudry is also going off vestry at this time. When he came on board he took on Global Outreach. He had some big shoes to fill. Thanks to Ryan and his committee we still helped support St. Stephan's School in Mozambique and also helped support Haiti. Thank you Ryan for your dedication.

Vicky Crea came on Vestry on the Welcoming committee, which merged with Communications and is now known as The Good News Committee. She helped put on a great newcomers dinner. Vicky filled an open

slot on vestry and was eligible to serve a full term of her own. So thank you Vicky for your past service, and for saying yes to serving again.

Mark Stirling has led the Buildings and Grounds Committee for the last three years. It is a very daunting task. You have all heard him make announcements about what is happening with our buildings and you may have heard him say that he doesn't know about plumbing and roofs and things like that, but I bet he knows a lot more now. Carolyn knows from firsthand experience Mark that your job wasn't easy, but you have done an outstanding job. Thank you for all you have done.

Judy Toth has kept us up to date on the minutes. It isn't always easy to put down the information from a meeting with a lot of people talking, but you always managed. Thank you Judy.

This has also been a year of significant change. Martha Galie retired. Thankfully we have hired a new music minister, Mark Corbett. He started in January.

It was with much sadness that we had to acknowledge that we could no longer afford to keep the associate position and at the end of 2012 we had to say our goodbyes to our much loved Iris. She is and will continue to be missed, but we are grateful to the many gifts she gave to St. James', our youth and to many individuals in their own spiritual growth.

We are still finding out how everything will work with only one priest, but we will get through this together. Our Transition Committee with Janet Brown, Dan Cox, Christel Davis, Lisa Keller and Joe Walkovich (along with Joseph) helped to understand the needs of the church with the realization of only one clergy. The ending of the Saturday evening service was a very difficult decision and we hope that the Wednesday service will continue to gain appeal.

We hired a Director of Religious Education, Chris Ceccolini. The Annual St. Nicholas Day event was lots of fun and we look forward to the annual Pancake Supper; just a few of the things going on with our children and youth. We thank the youth who continue to help enhance our worship by being acolytes and beyond.

We would like to thank all of the Vestry leaders for their hard work and dedication. We also thank each of you for your many gifts and appreciate all of you being here today. Thank you for sharing this journey with us.

REPORT OF THE SAINT JAMES 250TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

*Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph Walkovich, Chairman*

The 250th Anniversary celebration was an extraordinary yearlong event filled with many joyous occasions that reminded us all of our past and gave us renewed hope and anticipation for the future.

The celebration actually started in October 2011 with the planting of spring bulbs by our youth. Delayed by a freak October snow storm the plants blossomed in early spring of 2012.

On January 15th the celebration officially began with a glorious service with the Presiding Bishop The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Shori presiding over a full church. The music was outstanding and the Presiding Bishop's words filled all present with the Holy Spirit. A luncheon followed at the Amber Room with over 200 guests and appearances and greetings by Mayor Boughton, U S Senator Richard Blumenthal and Congressman Christopher Murphy.

The remainder of the year was filled with the following events:

- Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Stephen Ministry

- Publication of the Saint James' Pictorial Directory
- Special Chapel at Wooster School with The Rev. Dr. Joseph Krasinski
- Special Service at St. James' celebrating Wooster School with John Cheesman delivering the Homily
- Visitation by Bishop James Curry and Confirmation
- Unveiling of the Church History and Mural in Luckenbill Hall
- Organ concert by renowned organist George Mathew
- A special parish picnic
- Celebration of ECW and publishing of the 250th edition of the Saint James Cookbook
- Altar Guild food drive for Daily Bread
- Clergy Reunion Service and Reception
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service
- First Night Celebration with Linda Parker presenting Broadway Show Tunes

It was a year to remember. A more detailed presentation of the year will be catalogued and published later in the year. Thanks to all who served on various committees and participated in so many of these events.

Christian Education for Children and Youth

From Director of Education, Christopher Ceccolini

(Please Note: this report begins upon my arrival at St. James' in August 2012 and does not discuss events or attendance prior to that month)

Church School Report

Church School is held on Sundays to do not coincide with a school holiday week/end from 10AM to roughly 10:30AM. Attendance at Church School varies week to week, but averages 8 to 12 students every Sunday. Students spent their lessons before Christmastide discussing and learning about stories from the Old Testament, such as Adam & Eve, Abraham and Isaac, and the Exodus out of Egypt. Since the start of Epiphany, lessons have shifted into the New Testament and stories from the life and times of Jesus. For Souper Bowl Sunday, students learned about issues surrounding hunger and food consumption in the United States. Lessons from the life of Jesus will continue through most of Lent until Holy Week. Later New Testament stories, relating to Easter and Pentecost, will begin after Easter Sunday.

Pre Confirmation Report

Pre-Confirmation class meets semi-monthly on Sundays decided upon by the students. In the fall, the pre-confirmation group grew to a size of 5 regular students. During that time, students and I discussed topics relating to "what it means to be an Episcopalian." We learned about how Episcopalians are proud to use not only scripture and traditions in our faith, but especially reason and experience. These elements, all in balance with one another, are essential to the Episcopal Identity. On Sunday, December 9th, the pre-confirmation students (and one volunteer from outside our parish) helped to put on the St. Nicholas Day Party, an event that drew over fifty in attendance, both from within the community and outside. After not meeting for roughly a month, the group plans to reconvene for regular meetings beginning on February 9th.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Music Ministry under the direction of Martha Galie continued to flourish during 2012. The year began with the preparation of special music for organ, choir, and brass for the Presiding Bishop's visit. The brass player returned to highlight our Easter Day services.

We were graced twice this year with visits by liturgical dancer Kate Taylor. We also welcomed Montage, the Wooster School Chamber Singers, recorderist Elise Jaeger, violinist Zoe Lonsinger, and Boyd Schlaefe and Michele McBride and their daughter Bronwyn as guest soloists.

The M & M's numbers have dwindled but they have kept going in hopes of increasing their numbers in the coming year.

The Saint James' Ringers, under the direction of Deidra Woodend, have added to new members allowing us to use the full three octave range of bells and increase our repertoire.

The annual carillon concerts took place in July with six international players. Our own players continue to provide music before and after weekly services and for special occasions.

Conchordance provided the music for the annual picnic and during the family services on those months with five Sundays.

After a year full of music the choir sadly bid farewell to Martha and Lou Galie as they start a new phase of their lives in Texas. Their contributions to the Music Ministry both musically and personally for the past three years have been immeasurable and a wonderful blessing to us all.

As the new year begins we look forward to getting to know and working with our new Minister of Music, Mark Corbett.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

The Faith Formation Ministry is led by Vestry Liaison Linda Harrison and Chairman Jim Tarrant. Members include Fr. Joseph, Mo. Iris, Denise Holl Pauline Becker, Dan Cox, Kevin Morgan, Danielle Franco.

The vision of this ministry is the education of all people from the nursery to all adults, done in the Episcopal tradition. We will also try to incorporate education outside this tradition when it is still in the realm of our core beliefs.

The Nursery is tended to by the core persons Pauline Becker and Cristal Davis. Kathy Mould and parent volunteers assist Pauline and Cristal as needed. We will work on getting those recently confirmed to assist. The nursery is a growing aspect of this ministry. Pauline stated that this is not just child care, but a nurturing atmosphere where the children excel and the adults give more than just a watchful eye on the most precious of our congregation. Sometimes no child is there and other times there are a dozen infants and toddlers in the nursery. During the first half of 2012, Mo Iris led the charge in the program church school. Her dedication to the proper readings and discussions were a great help. The volunteer teachers of Vickie Crea, Joann Siergiej, Laura Consiglio, Jim Hughes, Danielle Franco and Jim Tarrant kept the children motivated and involved in all aspects of the lessons and also the craft time. Church school attendance is still on the up hill climb, but we are not deterred. In the late summer, we hired a new Director of Religious Education in Chris Ceccolini. Chris came in with great enthusiasm and it is

continuing still. He over sees the nursery and is now the lead teacher of the church school program, as well as the pre-confirmation class and is the beginning stages of starting a youth program. Chris' background is a great fit for St. James'.

Adult Education this past year was multi part curriculum of "The Lost Languages of God" which was led by Denise Holl. We also did a Lenten Bible study. Our Benefits of Hospice/ End of Life Directive presentation was postponed to 2013. We will also have a Wednesday night bible study in early 2013. After the new Wednesday night Eucharist.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Tarrant

WORSHIP

Yvonne Kiddoe

The Altar Guild members are responsible for preparing the church for the services, polishing, dusting, cleaning, preparing the Altar to celebrate the Eucharist and for other special services offered.

With membership count down the few members on board were dedicated to the Ministry and we covered a lot of ground for 2012.

We started with the 250th Anniversary Celebration in January and getting everything ship shape for The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Churches Rev Katherine Jefferts Shori.

On June 2, 2012 we had the church decked out with 16 Pew Torches for Ryan and Kate Beaudry's wedding.

Thank you to all who assisted transporting what was needed for us to celebrate the Holy Eucharist at the picnic on 6/24/2012.

Oh what a glorious Reunion Service we had on October 26th for the Timothies.

As part of the 250th Anniversary celebration and linking the association with the Daily Bread Food Pantry's 28th Anniversary a Food Drive was done and thank you to everyone. We collected a bounty to present to them.

- 150 cans of soups
- 50 meals in a can
- 130 packages or Ramen Noodles
- 25 boxes of cereal
- 50 miscellaneous food items (pasta, tuna etc.)

This year the Interfaith Service was hosted by Saint James' on 11/19/2012.

In between we have the usual Services: Baptisms, Funerals, Memorial Services and Special Services in Lent, Holy Week, Pentecost, Advent and Christmas.

Dedicated Altar Guild Members:

- Marolyn Beschle
- Carolyn Flynn
- Janet Brown
- Jean Hassen
- Shirley Ferrarone
- Joan Linstrum
- Pat Pearson

- Barbara DeVeaux
- Ann Stephenson

At the moment we are very short handed, and we are looking for new Members for 2013.

Acolytes

The Acolytes had an exciting year in 2012, as we celebrated our 250th anniversary with the presiding bishop Katharine Jafferts-Shori, visit to St James.

I would like to thank all the acolytes for their commitment throughout the year. This past year we gained three new acolytes, and lost two, one due to graduation, and another left to pursue other interests. A special thanks to Mother Iris for her help with all the acolytes throughout her time with us at St. James. Acolytes that served us during 2012 were; Scott Cox, Grace Kuell, Ashley Peirce, Laura Marsico, Madeleine Cox, Jonathan Kyriacou, Julia, Siergiej, Daniel Nichols, Logan Sarkisian, and Melissa Schirmer.

Ushers

Our ushers continue to play an important role at St. James' as they welcome visitors and regular parishioners to our services. In addition to collecting the offerings, they count the size of the congregation and ensure that the church is straightened up after everyone leaves. In addition to the regular services, this past year they added their assistance at many of our special services ensuring the people are welcomed, have a bulletin and can feel comfortable within our worship space.

Thanks to the following for their roles at the 10:00 service:

Dick Rausch, Sally Roscoe, Anthony Marsico, Dan Cox, Jihad Sabbagh, Doreen Gilliland, Frank Giarrantana, Mike Cummings, Don Owens, Carolyn Flynn, Craig Anderson, Jim Hughes, Tony Sanches, George Bogart, Lew Westfall, and Donna Tuck

Thanks as well to those that provide the same guidance at our weekly 8:00 service albeit a bit more informally.

PASTORAL CARE

Stephen Ministry Report

Stephen Ministry continues to meet twice a month for supervision; a time for our Stephen Leaders and Ministers to check in with each other for support and fellowship. One weekend in February 2012 we celebrated our 10th Anniversary during our services and commissioned our newest Stephen Minister, Elaine Sleath. We received a letter from the founder of Stephen Ministry, Dr. Kenneth Haugk, congratulating us on our 10 years and encouraging us to keep serving our parish family in this way.

Our Stephen Ministers give one to one Christian care to parishioners who are going through a difficult time. At the present time our Stephen Ministers are actively giving care to five members of our parish family.

In the Fall of 2013 we are hoping to begin a new training, in collaboration with churches in Ridgefield, for those interested in becoming Stephen Ministers

Our current Stephen Leaders and Ministers are Jeff Chowanec and Janet Brown, Karen Davidson, Yvonne Kiddoe, Linda Harrison, Elaine Sleath and Ray Beaudry

Friendly Visitors

Our Friendly Visitor program involves active parishioners visiting members of our parish family who are not able to come to Church any more. We are always looking for members who would be willing to pay a friendly visit to someone who is housebound maybe once or twice a month for an hour or so. This ministry requires no skills but brings great rewards, not just to the person being visited but to the one visiting.

Please speak to our Rector, Joseph Krasinski, or to Janet Brown if you would be interested in joining this ministry.

The Sacramental Rite

From Judy Toth, Chairperson

The Sacramental Rite of Healing at St. James Parish is offered on the first Sunday of the month at the 8:00 a.m. service and on the third Sunday of the month at the 10:15 service. Those wishing prayers for themselves, for others, or for any kind of need, spiritual, emotional, physical, or relational may come to the altar and be anointed with oil by the clergy and receive laying on of hands and healing prayers by clergy or trained lay ministers in the name of the church and our Lord Jesus Christ. Healing ministers are: Kevin Morgan, Judy Toth, Cathy Blasco, Joe Walkovich, and Denise Holl.

While many parishioners have taken part in this opportunity for prayers for Healing, our goal is to promote awareness and understanding of this ministry so those who have not come to the altar as yet may feel more comfortable doing so. Sometime in the future, the clergy and Healing Ministers hope to offer an informational session for the children of the parish to help them to better understand the Sacramental Rite of Healing. Our hope is that the children will then feel more comfortable coming forward to ask for prayers of their own.

Hospital Visitation

A hospital visitor checks an email from the hospital on their assigned day. If a patient in the hospital has indicated St. James as their church, the visitor will make a short visit to bring greetings from the parish and pray with them. A quick email to Fr. Joseph keeps him up to date. Unfortunately, we only have one person doing visits.

Flower Ministry

Eighteen people participated in the Flower Ministry in the past year. One person arranges the beautiful flowers from our altar into small arrangements, then another person stops on their way home from church on Sunday to give an arrangement to someone who was not able to come to church. Thank you to all who helped with this ministry during the past year. You are angels for our shut-ins.

Prayer Chain Committee

Submitted by, Kathy Sabbagh, Prayer Chain Coordinator

We have eight individuals on the prayer chain committee; Jana Draper, Beth Cox, Yvonne Kiddoe, Elaine Sleath, Kathy Mould, Denise Holl, Peg Mirabito, and Kathy Sabbagh.

Currently, there are 31 groups/individuals that we pray for indefinitely. There are five additional individuals receiving prayers for a short amount of time (anywhere from six weeks to six months). The prayer chain is always changing. The person placing an individual on the prayer chain can call any time and change the status of the person being prayed for by lengthening the prayer time or removing them from the chain.

Following is the process: A church member gets permission from the person he/she wants to place on the prayer chain. It is called in to me. The church member informs me what they would like us to pray for and for how long. Next I begin the chain by sharing that information with other member of the prayer

chain committee. Each member emails or calls the next person on the list until everyone is contacted with the information.

Yearly the list is updated and a hard copy is sent to each member of the prayer chain committee.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any additional questions about how the prayer chain works. I can be reached at 203-748-4042.

St. James Meals 2012

August

Jim Beschle

Meals provided by Janet Brown & Cathy Blasco

September

Lewis Westfall

Meals provided by Christel Davis, Beth Cox, Glenna Tagliavento & Torey O'Connor

GOOD NEWS COMMITTEE

Christine DiMeglio

The Good News Committee consists of the Welcoming and Communications subcommittees. Our ministry is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ by inviting all people to participate in worship, service and community. We do this by communicating our events, plans and other news to our congregation and neighboring communities through many modes of communication: photos, articles for the Newsletter, Epistle, Sunday Bulletin, advertising in the Danbury NewsTimes and the Danbury Patch, electronic bulletin boards, Facebook, Twitter, press releases, and newcomers' dinners.

The committee is co-chaired by: Vicky Crea and Christine DiMeglio (christine@saintjamesdanbury.org).

Our members include: Dan Cox (Warden), Vicky Crea (Vestry, Welcoming), Christine DiMeglio (Vestry, Communications), Denise Holl (Press Releases) Adam Kyriacou (Webmaster, computer technology, video sermons), Jonathan Kyriacou (Facebook, Posters), Joseph Krasinski (Rector), Laura Marsico (Photography), Nneka Maiurro (Parish Administrator, ePistle, Sunday bulletin, Newsletter, Website), Dick Rausch (Welcoming).

We are assisted by: Cathy Blasco (Bring a Friend Sunday), Chris Ceccolini (Director of Religious Ed, Twitter), Jane McGarry (Bring a Friend Sunday) Anthony and/or Linda Spaziani (Facebook). **A special thanks** goes to Kathy Mould for helping me with all mailings related to Bring a Friend to Church.

We meet the second Monday of the month at 7 pm in the lounge, which can be accessed by entering from West Street, using the Chapel Door. Please join us.

In 2012 our major activities included:

Promoting Church Events

We promoted church-wide events and services by using Newsletter articles, postings on the website, Epistle announcements and Sunday bulletin announcements. We also used press releases and free/paid advertising when appropriate (indicated in parentheses below).

- Anniversary Celebration of Stephen Ministry (February, Press Release)
- Lenten Book Study (Barbara Brown Taylor, author; February,)
- Wooster School Service (Press Release, March)
- Blessing of the Palms (April,)
- Recital of Russian Organ Music (Ad Danbury NewsTimes and Press Release, May)
- Carillon Concert Series (July and August, DanburynewsTimes)

- Bring a Friend to Church Sunday (September, free and paid Ads, Danbury NewsTimes)
- General Sunday Services Ad (Danbury Patch August, September, October)
- Department of Labor Speaker for Job Networking Group (Press Release, October)
- Clergy Reunion Service (DanburyNewsTimes, October)
- Movie Night (The Way with Martin Sheen, November)
- Saint James Book Club (November)
- Christmas Services Advertising (Danbury NewsTimes, December)

Electronic Communications:

- migrating to a newer version of Joomla
- adding video sermons to our website
- adding Twitter and Facebook to our communications repertoire
- adding videotaped sermons to our website

Photography:

- St. Nicholas Day and Senior Tea and Cookie Walk (December)
- Thanksgiving and Deacon Service (November)
- Blessing of the Animals (October)
- Clergy Reunion Service (October)
- Bring a Friend to Church and Apple Picking (September)
- Parish Picnic (June)
- Wooster Celebration and Bishop Curry Confirmation (April)
- Chili Cook Off (February)

Special Events:

Two of the premier events in 2012 were the Newcomer's Dinner, held in April, and Bring-a-Friend-to-Church Sunday, on September 9. The well-attended Newcomer's Dinner was held in the Library in mid-April. With the help of several generous and talented volunteers, the GNC served a great meal to twenty guests and welcomed seven newcomers and their families to our parish. The Bring a Friend to Church event in early September was arguably the most successful event promoted and supported by the GNC in 2012. The church was brimming with visitors on that day, some of whom continue to visit our church periodically.

An invitation to the parish

We welcome new members and GUEST members of our committee. We are especially interested in bloggers, social media whizzes, and old fashioned essay writers who would like to write articles about the goings on here at St. James'. Please contact Christine@saintjamesdanbury.org or adam@saintjamesdanbury.org or vicky@saintjamesdanbury.org

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Wm. Mark Stirling

Members: Craig Anderson, Dick Becker, Allan Brown, Roger Cote, Dan Cox, Carolyn Flynn, Amanda Johnson, Rev. Iris Peterson, Dick Becker, Rick Rausch, Dominic Spaziani, Mark Stirling

Meeting: 1st Tuesday of the month in Coburn Lounge at 7:00pm.

Mission Statement: To honor the trust that God and the congregation have placed with us by maintaining the buildings in good repair and by keeping the grounds aesthetically pleasing. We hope to provide our parish with a safe and beautiful place to worship in our downtown community with lovely gardens where they might rest and contemplate the nearness of God.

What's been happening? As is always the case, we spend much of our time cleaning, maintaining, painting, and repairing our home – St. James'. Lots of this work is done during our WSS (Work Shirt Saturdays) when many members come together to help us accomplish our mission.

Some of this year's bigger projects included: the replacement of cracked pipes; installation of a valve in the condensation tank; modernizing the lower half of 1 Terrace Place; once again we spent time and money on the outside wall leading up to the Youth Room; painted the block portion of our building; painted the lower soffits of the church building; stopped the leakage in the Chapel ceiling; and thanks to an anonymous donor, we renovated the Ladies' bathroom – to name a few.

There are many big items that remain on the agenda for next year. We still are waiting for them to service the large stained glass window in the Chapel; to perform the maintenance on the Ascension window; to come to some sort of resolution on the Active Indoor Grease Trap saga; and to find a tenant for 1 Terrace Place.

Someone who I spend an awful lot of time with at the church is Allan Brown. He is the guy I usually turn to after I've gotten off the phone with Father Joseph. His talents are extraordinary. His knowledge of the church is SO helpful to me and this complex.

As you have read before, most of what we do you never hear about. Someone seems to always show up to lend a hand. In fact, 67 different people have volunteered their service to the B&G Committee over the past three years. We now have experts at painting fences, plastering walls, vacuuming carpets, laying tile, repairing windows, planting shrubs, fixing kneelers, etc. It is indeed a pleasure to work with such wonderful people.

God bless you all for making our motto come true - "Many hands make light work."

Iris – thank you for attending our meetings for the past three years. We love you and wish you well. WE WILL MISS YOU!!

PARISH LIFE

Respectfully submitted by Judy Griemsmann

Mission Statement: St. James Parish Life Ministry seeks to provide adventurous fellowship and the opportunity to be part of a family of faith. Together we learn and grow, through laughter and conversation, and work for the greater service of our Lord.

Committee Members: Ruth Cote, Dan Cox, Danielle DeFranco, Judy Griemsmann (Chairperson/Vestry Liaison), Russ Griemsmann, Linda Harrison Lisa Keller, Wally Liston, Jane McGarry, Kevin Morgan, Ellie Scott, Joanne Siergiej, Barbara Spahn, Linda Spaziani

Throughout the past year, Parish Life planned activities that were intended to appeal to a broad range of ages and interests. Our committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 pm, in the Lounge. We welcome new members anytime, whether they want to join the committee and attend meetings or just volunteer to help with one or two specific events. We appreciate all ideas/questions given to us for committee discussion.

This past year was a special one indeed for Saint James. Parish Life is pleased to have been able to contribute to the 250th Celebration that left us with wonderful memories of people and events that shaped the life of our parish in Danbury.

January began with a "Ring in the New Year" coffee hour on the first Sunday of 2012. Parish Life provided a small reception for Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori on January 15th, prior to her attending to the 250th Year Luncheon at the Amber Room.

Parish Life assisted the Vestry for the Coffee Hour held during the Annual Meeting on February 5th. We also sponsored a "Heart Healthy" coffee hour on February 26th to reinforce that health topic's focus during this month.

On March 17th Parish Life teamed up with the Youth Ministries of Saint James' to sponsor a dinner/movie night. A showing of "Rio" followed a tropical potluck dinner.

Parish Life served finger food after the Easter Vigil Service on April 7th. Later that month, on the 29th, our committee teamed up with ECW to host a coffee hour celebrating the Bishop's visit and Confirmation.

On May 13th Parish Life once again sponsored a Mother's Day Breakfast served between the 8:00 and 10:00 services. Parish Life assisted the Choir in serving refreshments after the 250th Celebration organ concert held on May 16th.

Spring activities culminated with the Annual Parish Picnic held once again at Bennett Park in Bethel on June 24th. The weather was perfect for the worship service, followed by enjoyment of good food, fellowship and recreation.

Over the course of the summer, Parish Life invited parishioners to enjoy each other's company at various local concerts and shows. Invitations went out for three of the many free Danbury City Concerts on the Green. Parishioners also attended a performance of "Hair" at The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts" on July 27th and "Brigadoon" (Musicals at Richter) on July 13th.

Parish Life is pleased to have been part of "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday" on September 9th by offering help as needed by the planning committee for this event.

The Blessing of the Animals took place once again in the Garden on the afternoon of October 7th. This event is enjoyed equally by those who participate and by DAWS (Danbury Animal Welfare Society), which receives donations from those attending with their pets. Parish Life assisted the Stewardship Committee by helping with the "Apple Coffee Hour" on October 14th. Our committee assisted that of the 250th Celebration by planning and contributing to the potluck dinner served after the Former Clergy Service held on October 26th. This was a special evening indeed, during which all attending, clergy and parishioners alike, seemed to be bursting with the joyful reunions that continued until the last person had left.

Parish Life sponsored a movie night on November 3rd preceded by a pizza dinner in Luckenbill Hall. Viewing of "The Way" was followed by discussion of the film. Everyone attending agreed it was well worth seeing and might be shown again for those who missed it. In honor of our 250th Celebration, Saint James hosted the annual Danbury Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 19th. Those who attended agreed it was an extraordinary experience. The service theme this year was "The Golden Rule through history and many faiths." Parish Life assisted the 250th Committee with its preparations for the reception that followed. Saint James' sanctuary was full and most came to the reception in Luckenbill that followed.

Many parishioners attending commented on the extraordinary experience of witnessing the animated conversations among those of so many faiths.

December events for our committee were poignant. We planned two events that were to honor and say good-bye. On December 16th Parish Life and ECW hosted a luncheon to celebrate the time that Iris Peterson shared her love and faith with our parish. In a few words, one can only say that it was a special and beautiful event for someone dearly loved by the people of Saint James'.

On December 30th Parish Life assisted the Choir with a coffee hour that bid farewell to Martha Galie, with thanks for the gift of her music.

Finally Parish Life would like to note heartfelt thanks to Iris for the support and thoughtful counsel given to us over the course of the past year.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

Leslie Johnson

The Fleece Bears and Blankets are spreading their Love and Peace to many in the Danbury area and the Appalachians. During 2012 we delivered 176 Bears and 141 Blankets. They have gone to Rehabilitation Care Facilities, Danbury Hospital, and Healing Hearts Grief Counseling.

Parishioners, including our teenagers, took them on their Helping Hands trip to the Appalachians.

STEWARDSHIP

Members of the Stewardship committee are The Rev. Dr. Joseph Krasinski, Rector, Dan Cox and Carolyn Flynn, Wardens, Linda Spaziani, Treasurer, Janet Brown, Chairperson, Alvin Tuck, and Joe Walkovich. The Stewardship Committee meets every month on the 3rd Thursday.

Our Stewardship theme for 2012 was "Bearing Fruit for Jesus" where we were asked to look at ways we could "bear fruit" for Jesus. We began our fall drive by visiting an orchard and picking apples which were then handed to parishioners at the services the next day. For three Sundays we were asked to think about how we could share our time, our talent and our treasure to "bear fruit" and to further the Kingdom of God at St. James'. During Advent our Rector hosted a bible study asking the question "What does the Lord require of you?".

As we go in to 2013 the Committee will continue to look at ways in which we can all be the best of "stewards" of all that God has given us personally and as members of this parish family called St. James'.

GLOBAL OUTREACH

Ryan Beaudry

Deepening our connection to brothers and sisters in Christ in Haiti and Mozambique

2012 marked a year of focus, passion, and determination as the Global Outreach Committee reaffirmed our support for St. Stephen's School in Mozambique and expanded outreach efforts in Haiti. Through fellowship, fundraising and discerning prayer, the committee allocated \$700 towards school supplies, supporting 120 children at St. Stephen's School in Mozambique. Additionally, working with Rev. Judith Alexis at L'Eglise de l'Epiphanie in Stamford, CT we identified a mission partner, St Croix in Taifer to

establish a mutually beneficial connection through Christ by extending \$1,800 to fund a teacher's salary for one calendar year, purchase desks, and provide school supplies. Each year, the connection between St. James' and our mission partners grows stronger with a bond that's more deeply routed through Christ.

Learning from others

Despite geographic and cultural differences, our mission partners are connected to St. James' through the body and blood of Jesus Christ. This bond has ignited a passion within parishioners of St. James' Danbury to learn how others in remote parts of the world experience the love of Christ.

In 2012, eight parishioners represented St. James at the Annual Diocesan Mission Conference where we heard from laypeople, priests, and mission leaders about the value of cultivating relationships through local and global outreach. This experience enabled St. James' to learn how other parishes approach mission to incorporate learnings as we focused on expanding our outreach programs. It also provided valuable connections, specifically with The Rev. Carlos Matsinhe, Dean of the Cathedral, Diocese of Lebombo, Mozambique.

In March 2012, St. James' hosted a dinner with Rev. Carlos Matsinhe and Matsinhe, of the Cathedral in Mozambique and Mrs. Elizabeth Sikoya, seed producer, President of the Mothers' Union for Pumbe district, Founder of the St. Simon of Cyrene church in Katanditath. The passion and excitement for developing a personal connection with Carlos and Elizabeth was evident for over 25 guests who attended. They shared their personal stories and spoke about our outreach partner, St. Stephen's School.

Enabling Fellowship to Reap the Harvest

Fellowship continued to be a critical focus in 2012 as the committee hosted the Annual Ethnic Celebration and Cookie Walk. Both events are fun ways for all parishioners and friends of St. James' to engage in conversation and support outreach efforts.

This year, the Ethnic Celebration focused on our mission with Haiti. Rev. Judith Alexis and members of her congregation joined along with a Haitian Jazz musician to share experiences about the severe need and financial hardship in Haiti. As in prior years, the food selection was diverse and bountiful, as were the donations. Collectively, we raised \$2,765 to support outreach efforts. This is a true testament to the dedication the parishioners of St. James' feel towards outreach.

The cookie walk, held in December offered another opportunity for parishioners to join in fellowship by supporting outreach. This event raised \$280 to support outreach

Supporting all our brothers and sisters in Christ

As the committee gears up for 2013, we've decided to integrate global and local outreach committees to focus on a single mission of supporting our brothers and sisters in Christ in our community and the world. This connection is designed to strengthen the bond and commitment across all outreach efforts and advance the collective outreach goals. Jehad Sabbagh will serve as Committee Chair, but the focus of global outreach and the committee composition will remain the same.

Initial plans are underway for a mission trip to St Croix in Taifer, Haiti to develop a personal connection with the children, spiritual and lay leaders of the community. We will finalize plans in early 2013.

Our financial summary for 2012:

\$700 to fund school supplies at St. Stephen's School in Mozambique

\$1,800 to fund a teacher's salary for a full year, purchase new desks, and books at

Available Account Balance: \$2,661.17

Note: Funds allocated to support outreach in Haiti and Mozambique will be distributed in Q1 2013

Thank you!

I would like to extend a special "thank you" to the committee for the endless support and commitment to ministering to the needs of children in Haiti and Mozambique. This year, I'd like to especially recognize Christel Davis for her dedication to Global Outreach by offering her time, talent, and treasure to ensure we're delivering our mission.

For more information about the mission projects or to get involved, please email us:
globaloutreach@saintjamesdanbury.org

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Beaudry
Global Outreach Chair

Local Mission-Global Mission

❖ **As of February 2013 Local Outreach and Global Mission have become one committee.**

Local Outreach at St. James' has a long history of helping our friends and neighbors in the community. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month except for the month of July. The meeting takes place in the Coburn Lounge and starts at 6 PM.

We thank Ryan Beaudry for leading Global Mission for three successful years and welcome all those who attend the meetings to join with Local Mission and continue the great tradition of outreach at St. James'.

We welcome everyone who has an interest or an idea that they wish to express to the committee. You are welcome at our meetings.

We start our meeting with the following prayer:

Grant me, O Lord, a smile on my face to share and a gentile touch. Grant also to those you have blessed me to serve this day, the chance to be fed, a place of warmth and a moment of safety. As all goodness comes from you alone, O Lord, may I serve you as I serve those in need. Amen

Local Outreach acts as a conduit between the church and the local community. We seek to become aware of the needs of others, to lift those needs up to the parish and help identify resources to assist in meeting those needs. Whether it is continued support we provide, such as Amos House, or in response to an emergency such as the New street fire in 2010. We are there to help in any way that we can.

If you would like to assist in coordinating the monthly mission please contact Jihad Sabbagh.

Jihad Sabbagh is Vestry liaison and can be reached at (203) 470-2812, by email: j.sabbagh@snet.net

Below you can read about some of the missions that go on during the year.

Dorothy Day Overnight Shelter

St. James' volunteers one night per month at the shelter. There needs to be at least one man to stay over night and the start time is 9 PM. The volunteers' responsibilities are to wash and dry guest's clothes and bedding, and to make coffee in the morning. Wake up time is 5:30 am, although volunteers have the option of allowing guests to sleep later if their schedule permits. If you are interested in participating in this mission please contact Elaine Sleath, (203) 740-8304, the St. James' overnight coordinator.

Dorothy Day Meals

This is the 10th year for St. James' volunteers preparing and serving a meal on the third Friday of the month at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House on Spring Street. It is a big undertaking and many hands make light work. Food prep takes place at 10 am in the Luckenbill Hall kitchen on the Thursday before the meal is served and we can always use more volunteers.

Annually over 1,000 meals are served, 600 seconds, 900 bags distributed and 300 PB&J sandwiches made. A typical menu may include Chicken and Rice, Pepperoni Pizza Casserole, Turkey Salad Sandwich, and Fish and Chips just to name a few.

None of this would be possible without the help of Coordinator, Lisa Keller.

Mission chairperson is Ruth Cote.

Daily Bread

The Daily Bread Food Pantry is located next to Luckenbill Hall at the end of the driveway. It has been supplying needed food staples for over 25 years. Food is distributed every Monday and Friday at 10 am. St. James' parishioners, as well as other community minded groups, give generously to stock the pantry. The pantry has a part-time Coordinator that is paid a stipend and she may be reached through the church office.

Daily Bread, with the help of parish contributors and others gives, out over 300 Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets with enough ingredients to make a holiday meal

Amos House

Amos House was founded in 1986 to serve homeless families of Greater Danbury. Credited as the vision of former St. James' Rector Michael Coburn, Amos House continues to offer hope to single mothers looking for shelter and a program that leads to independence and self-sufficiency. Our local Outreach Committee provides spiritual and financial support to Amos House.

To learn more, please contact Joe Walkovich, Amos House board member and St. James parishioner.

Thanksgiving Meal

By far the biggest undertaking is the Thanksgiving Dinner made and served by St. James' volunteers and others that have heard about the offering through word of mouth. Always a big hit in the community, dinner is served to about 125 to 150 people. Sometimes people dine with us so that they do not have to eat by themselves on this holiday.

Most of the meal is made from contributions from parishioners and donations from people outside of the church that have heard about the wonderful offering that St. James' makes every year.

The driving force behind this mission is the Spaziani family; Linda, Dom and Anthony. Please consider helping in 2013 in any way that you can by contacting Linda Spaziani.

Association for Religious Communities (ARC)

The mission of ARC is to "alleviate the causes of violence, suffering and hate while advancing peace, justice and human dignity". St. James' has a historical partnership with ARC. We sponsor a table at the annual breakfast which is usually held in October. Fr. Joseph Krasinski sits on the board of directors.

Local Outreach sponsors the Christmas Angel Tree (*see Kevin or Pat Morgan*), where several organizations are selected to receive a gifts for their clients. The Angel Tree ornaments are posted in the library; make your selection and return it to the church office.

Financial Contributions made to:

Hord Foundation, St. James' Discretionary Fund, ARC, Church World Services, Wooster School, Episcopal Relief Fund, Bishops Fund for Children, Diocese of Connecticut, United Thank Offering, Amos House, Daily Bread

APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT NEWS

Linda Spaziani

Again this year our group traveled down into the Appalachia Mountains to help make houses warmer, safer, drier. Bob Pearson, Anthony Spaziani, Catherine Johnson, Kelsey Giarratana, Grace Kuell, and Laura Marsico spent a warm week helping others. The group grew this year and they all came back with a greater understanding of God working through them to help others. Many thanks to all who have supported them through stock sales, car washes, and wreaths and poinsettias. The 2013 trip is scheduled for June 29th – July 7th. They anticipate growing again with 60 volunteers headed to Kentucky. Please continue to pray and support these persons in this important mission project.

BAPTISMS

Cole Bradley Fletcher
Alexander Joseph Ascone
Joseph Michael Grant

CONFIRMATIONS

Madeleine Amelia Cox
Vanessa Marie Grant
Laura Annabell Marsico
Julia Clara Siergiej
Carnell Cornelius Woody
Jeffrey T. Butler (received)
Jacqueline Fountain (received)

MARRIAGES

Kathryn Lynn Smietana and Ryan Raymond Beaudry
Sarah Elizabeth Berheide and Jonathan Andrew Lamphier
Kathryn Elizabeth Margaitis and Mark Robert Harrison

BURIALS

Betty Lorraine Hulbert
Madelyn Ethel Polubinski
Malva Dorothy Williams Martin
Raymond A. Miller, III
Joan Ziolkowski
Arnold Hill
Theodore A. Gemza
Richard L. Zinser
Marjorie M. Owens
George Jugis
Barbara Davis
Margaret E. Stevens
Barbara Clara Huss Davis
Edson Dwight Reynolds
Bradley Jordan Klecha
Earl C. Ireland, Jr.
Charles "Chuck" Landry

Linda Ann Westfall
David Edward "Hank" Hancock, Jr.
Betty L. Stieber
Wm. Ronald Belansky
A. Pauline Johnson
Dorothy Liston

NOMINATING REPORT

Wardens

Carolyn Flynn
Dan Cox

Parish Clerk

Jane McGarry

Treasurer

Linda Spaziani

Vestry (Three Years)

Vicky Crea-Schirmer
Lewis Westfall
John Zahner

Deanery/ Convention Delegates (Three Years)

Jana Draper
Linda Harrison

Alternate Delegates (Three Years)

Deidra Woodend
Ellen Scott
