



St. James' Episcopal Church

25 West Street, Danbury, CT 06810



PARISH REPORT 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Minutes of the 248 th Annual Meeting	Beth Moeller
Rector's Report	The Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Krasinski
Associate Rector	The Rev. Iris E. Peterson
Wardens	Carolyn Flynn, Dan Cox
Committee Reports	
Building and Grounds	Mark Stirling
Communications	Adam Kyriacou
Episcopal Church Women	Leslie Johnson
Faith Formation	Jim Tarrant
Global Outreach	Chris Hayes
Local Outreach Dorothy Day Meals	Beth Moeller Ruth Cote
Parish Life	Jane McGarry
Pastoral Care	Cathy Blasco
Stewardship	Alvin Tuck
Worship	Jean Hassen
Financial Report	Linda Spaziani

St. James Episcopal Church
25 West Street
Danbury, CT
January 30th, 2010
248th Annual Meeting

The Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Krasinski called the 248th Annual meeting of St. James' to order at 12:00 pm.

- I. Father Joseph opened the meeting with prayer and thanked the Vestry & Parish Life for the refreshments.
- II. Parishioners were provided with a copy of the parish report 2009, which contained minutes of the 247th annual meeting, committee reports and a financial report.
- III. Eligibility of Voters, Canon I, Section 6, Diocesan Canons, was read by the Clerk, Beth Moeller.
- III. Minutes of the 247th annual report were reviewed. Upon motion to approve and second, minutes were unanimously approved.
- IV. Father Joseph , offered words of praise and thank you to departing Vestry members: Dan Cox, Carolyn Flynn, and Christine DiMeglio. He also offered thanks to the outgoing Wardens, Denise Holl and Kevin Morgan as well as Linda Spaziani for jumping in as Treasurer/Bookkeeper until a new paid staff member is hired.

The following people were nominated for the positions of Wardens, Carolyn Flynn for Sr. Warden, and Dan Cox (one year terms), Judy Toth for Clerk, Linda Spaziani for Treasurer (one year terms). There being no further nominations from the floor, all were unanimously elected.

The following people were nominated for the positions of vestry members: (These are three year terms) : Mark Stirling, Beth Moeller, Ryan Beaudry, and Joe Walkovich.

Upon motion to accept the slate and second, all were unanimously elected.

- VI Report of the Treasurer –Linda Spaziani presented on behalf of Sean Fanning.

The 2009 highlights from the financials that were distributed in the booklets were discussed:

The endowment – we have 1.5 million.

Pledges are down.

Our operating budget is in deficit and is projected to be for next year. The vestry had approved a deficit and has reinstated the positions of Music Director as well as Director of Christian Education.

Questions from the floor were entertained.

- There were a number of questions about borrowing from the endowment principal.
- The diocese recommends no more than 5% usage of the endowment fund to our operating budget.
- The reduction in current pledging is putting pressure on us to use more of the endowment than we would like.

- The cash position was discussed – This is the checking account money.
- When all questions were answered, upon motion to accept the financial report and second, the report was accepted.
- Linda requested the parish be allowed to borrow up to \$25,000 in the event of an emergency.
- Upon motion moved, and second, the motion was unanimously approved.

VIII Warden's Report - Denise Holl and Kevin Morgan

Denise reviewed the many events that have taken place this year. The many groups that work to make all of these things possible were recognized. Detailed information was given in the written reports from each committee.

Some highlights:

Parish picnic was a lot of fun with worship service.

Vestry met every month – Denise thanked all of them for their hard work.

Denise thanked the various committees for all their incredibly hard work.

Read the annual report to see what these committees are doing.

Office staff was thanked.

Ricky – keeps everything running – a gift and a blessing.

Iris - Her patient presence, creativity and love of St. James' is demonstrated in all she does. Thank you for all you do for us.

Thanks to everyone for the blessing you are to St. James'.

IX Clergy Report – Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Krasinski

Thanked the congregation for all the work that went in to preparing the Rectory for his and Jim's arrival.

Thanked the congregation for their love of St. James' and their witness to Christ during a long/difficult interim period.

The newly elected Vestry will be installed next week.

Staffing - Georgette has been let go from the office. Leo Ludwick will be filling in until a new Parish Administrator can be hired. Linda Spaziani will continue to do the bookkeeping function until a bookkeeper can be hired. During this time she will not be signing checks. Joseph also reviewed the Diocese policy of not hiring church members for paid positions with the congregation. A search for an organist and DCE will start shortly.

Installation service is scheduled for January 14th with Bishop Smith.

Any other business?

None.

The floor was opened for questions and comments.

Upon motion made to adjourn and second, the meeting closed with prayer at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Moeller, Clerk

RECTOR'S REPORT

2010 has been a very exciting year, especially in terms of staff, here at St. James' Episcopal Church. Starting in April, we had a full office staff. By doing some reorganization, the office is now open 5 days a week again, though the hours are somewhat limited. This has eased the administrative burden of both me and Mother Iris, not to mention the many volunteers who kept the office running in the interim. With the addition of Martha Galie as our Director of Music Ministry after Easter, our choir has swelled, our musical repertoire has expanded, and the variety of musical offerings has been significant. For a brief period of time, we did have a Director of Children's Education. Upon her resignation, it was decided to shift some of the work-load and have the clergy, in particular Mother Iris, along with the Vestry liaison Jim Tarrant, lead the Church School. The Church School is an area which is slowly growing thanks to the many people who volunteer as teachers. At this point, between the newly formed PreConfirmation Class which meets on Sunday evenings all the way down to Godly Play, we have about 20 young scholars.

Our Worship experiences increased with the addition of a Contemporary Evensong every second and fourth Sunday of the month on a Sunday evening. This was due, totally, to Mark Arnold, who came up with the concept, designed the Service and the music, and solicited the volunteers to help make it happen. Each Service has an excellent array of musicians and vocalists who bring a new and different style of music to a St. James' Worship Service. Along with the Service, Sherry Kyriacou (who just happens to be Mark's Mom) organized a pot luck supper after each Service. (For 2012, this is now a dessert & coffee).

Budget wise, 2010 proved to be yet another challenging year. While the line items for a Director of Music Ministry and a Director of Children's Education were added, our budget for 2010 was a deficit \$40,000. As we did not have the Director of Children's Education for a full year, nor had to pay benefits to any of the office staff, we ended the year with a \$20,000 deficit. For 2011, by utilizing about \$30,000 of undesignated funds, we have a deficit of \$7,000. However, after 2011 those funds will be depleted.

2010 seemed to be a year when we said a lot of "good byes." A number of faithful parishioners were either transferred to, retired to, or chose to move to another area of our country. We wish them all God's blessings on their continued journey through life and miss them all. The Exodus will apparently continue in 2011, leaving us even more depleted of people involved in active ministry here.

Looking ahead, 2012 will be an exciting time in the life of our Parish as it will be our 250th anniversary. It is way too early to start making plans, but Joe Walkovich has been asked to be general Chair of the Anniversary, and he is already well underway in getting things in place. It will be a time for remembrances of the past, celebration of the present, and looking forward to the future.

Faithfully,

(The Rev. Dr.) Joseph A. Krasinski, Rector

From the Garrett The Office of the Associate Rector, The Rev'd Iris E. Peterson

Annual Report 2010

Annual Reports are a joy and a frustration. They are good for reflecting on accomplishments, losses, struggles and setting goals for future endeavors. The annual report is also a time of Thanksgiving. Let me begin with Thanksgiving.

I am thankful to God for my call into ministry. Each day brings something new to my ministry. The people I meet through ministry and the faith journeys I learn from awe me. I am thankful for being called into ministry at St. James' Episcopal Church. I have learned from Bishop Ahrens and am now learning from Fr. Krasinski the details of ministry. I have learned from the dear people of St. James' the humanity of ministry. Each time I am invited to hear about your lives, at times of grief as well as celebrations, I see God moving among us. And I am thankful for the invitation and the opportunity to see the light of Christ in each of you.

Throughout this annual report you will hear from many of the ministry teams at St. James'. I'll let them tell you about their ministry. I have enjoyed being the clergy liaison to Building and Grounds, the acolytes, parish life, local outreach, Dorothy Day kitchen crew and the ECW. I enjoy shared ministry with Fr. Joseph on Faith Formation, Pastoral Care and Worship. My thanks to everyone, who participates in these ministries.

Finally, thanks to the Wardens and the Vestry for their shared leadership and ministry at St. James'.

Continuing Education

Clergy are required by canon to participate in continuing education. In 2010, I returned to Union PSCE in Richmond, VA for a conference in Black Sacred Rhetoric. This was a writing and ministry workshop lead by the Rev'd Dr. Katie Cannon. The workshop was renewing and refreshing. I have a list of books to read as well as ideas and techniques for sermon writing.

I also attended two mini sessions on sustainable gardening and living. I enjoy gardening and these workshops were informative and provided ideas that will be useful should we expand the Daily Bread Garden.

The annual Clergy conference and clergy days are part of continuing education also. Last year, Bishop Douglas was with the clergy prior to his ordination and consecration. I have also taken advantage of some of the sessions offered by the diocese for associates, assistants and curates by the diocese.

I also completed a course on food preparation through the American Food Safety Institute.

Other education opportunities include Associate, Assistants and Curates Days, Higher Education Committee information Days.

Faith Formation

In fall of 2010, I began working with the church school and the PreConfirmation Class in particular. The class is lead by Mark Arnold. Preconfirmation is a three-year program which young people must participate in before entering the Confirmation Class as tenth graders or above. The class meets on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Exploration includes: Bible and Prayer Book Study, memory work, discussion of weekly scripture and current events happening in the church and the world. Participants are encouraged to explore the ministries of the church. Representatives are invited to come talk about their ministry at St. James' and encourage further exploration by the young people.

The Preconfirmation Class participates in 'Family Sundays'. They also get together with older youth of the parish for group activities. The Preconfirmation Class and Senior Youth were instrumental in the St. Nicholas Day event for the church School and their Families.

'Fifth Sundays' began in 2010. Children and youth take a more active role in the day's liturgy when there are five Sundays in the month. This began with Mary McInnis, our church school director and Jim Tarrant, vestry liaison to Faith Formation. Our first attempt was well received. Jim was the preacher for the Sunday. The children and youth were, readers, greeters, ushers and intercessors in addition to their participation as acolytes in the service. Their participation was well received by the parish.

Acolyte Ministry

There are seventeen participants in the St. James' Episcopal Church acolyte corps. The acolytes actively participate in the weekly liturgies as well as additional liturgies throughout the church year.

In 2010, two members of the corps graduated, Nick Kuell and Caitlyn Stauffer. We miss their presence and their service. Two acolytes have temporarily relocated: Meredith Fanning and Alex Kyriacou. We added one acolyte in 2010. Faith Mancuso joined the corps in September.

Young people are invited to join the acolytes in Sixth Grade and participate throughout their middle and high school years and beyond.

Robert Pearson reads the acolytes on Sundays and fills in when needed. Thank you.

Our thanks to Jana Draper for washing and repairing our vestments.

We are blessed to have these young people participating in our liturgies. We thank them for their service and encourage them on their journey with Christ.

The Saint James' Episcopal Church Acolyte Corps

Mr. Robert Pearson

Subryan, Chris

Giarratana, Kelsey

Spaziani, Anthony

Siergiej, Julia.

Consiglio, Marianna

Consiglio, T. J.

Cox, Scott

Cox, Madeleine

Pierce, Ashley

Nichols, Marissa

Marsico, Laura

Moeller, Ethan

Kyriacou, Jonathan

Kuell, Grace

Mancuso, Faith

Haskell, Ron

Confirmation 2010

St. James' Episcopal Church offers confirmation to young people in Grade 10 and above. This is in keeping with the guidelines established by the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut. During 2010, we had no young people seeking confirmation.

We now have a three year Preconfirmation Class, which youngsters are required to participate in before 10th grade entering the Confirmation Class and being confirmed by a Bishop of Connecticut. The Preconfirmation Class meets on Sunday Evenings at 6:30 p.m.

During Lent of 2010, I participated in two weekend Confirmation Retreats sponsored by the Diocese of Connecticut. The retreats were held at Camp Washington and led by Emily Perow and Linda Snyder of the

Christian Education office. In addition to adults from the sponsoring parishes and additional adults, each retreat had a bishop in residence. This was a positive experience for the young people preparing for Confirmation.

Faithfully submitted,

(The Rev'd) Iris E. Peterson

WARDENS

Joseph has been with us for over a year now. Thanks be to God. He has gotten to know us and we him. If you have not been to a 10:00am service lately, there is a new addition to it. There is a children's sermon which everyone enjoys.

We have had many things to celebrate this past year. Starting with the induction of Joseph as our Rector. It was a wonderful celebration.

Martha Galie is our new Music Minister. Martha adeptly leads the choir with beautiful music on the organ and piano. New music, keys we have not heard before, and encouraging others to showcase their ability has provided an opportunity to see the great talent within the parish. Her support and participation in Evensong service and the program she started for the youngsters, M&MMs (Music with Miss Martha), has been an additional blessing. We look forward to hearing more.

Sunday evenings have become a busy time at St. James' with twice a month a contemporary Evensong service followed by a pot luck dinner. Weekly preconfirmation classes and new adult faith formation classes have provided more opportunities for worship, fellowship and Christian education.

There was an auction and ethnic dinner sponsored by Global Outreach that was just was so well attended we had to set up more tables. The wonderful fellowship and gifts that we can provide to our global community are truly remarkable.

Iris as always has been a faithful, spiritual, and dedicated presence among us.

Before we know it our 250th anniversary will be here. Joe Walkovich is heading up that committee and will be reaching out to others to get all involved to celebrate our history and rich heritage. It is sure to be a special time.

Our thanks to all of you for being the people of St. James'. People who reach out to others in so many ways, like preparing a meal for Dorothy Day or buying a gift for an Amos House resident, providing funds for a child to attend ARC (Association of Religious Community) Peace Camp, spending a night with those less fortunate in the overflow shelter, and so many more, we are truly blessed. And, of course, by your financial support that allows us to support St. James' and the community beyond.

In peace and with gratitude,

Carolyn Flynn and Dan Cox

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Members: Craig Anderson, Allan Brown, Roger Cote, Dan Cox,
Carolyn Flynn, Rev. Iris Peterson, Dom Spaziani,
Mark Stirling

Meeting: 1st Tuesday of the month - Coburn Lounge at 7:00PM

Mission: To honor the trust that God and the congregation have placed with us by maintaining the buildings in good repair and 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.

As was reported last year, the B&G Committee continues being busy maintaining and caring for our buildings and their grounds. We've done everything from painting inside the church to weeding the magnificent garden that we all enjoy from spring until late fall. Allan Brown takes special care of this beautiful space.

This year's big project involved CL&P coming in to do a thorough inspection of our lighting situation and then recommending that all of our florescent bulbs be replaced and new ballasts be installed. In the long run, this will save us a lot of money. In conjunction with that project, our committee asked you to bring in energy saving light bulbs. We now have well over 100 bulbs of different wattage's. Thank you all!

Some of the other projects we've done include: the floors in Luckenbill Hall and the kitchen were repaired, stripped, and 3 coats of sealer applied; purchased some new tables for Luckenbill Hall; took down the large tree that was near the entrance to the back parking lot; repaired the church sign; cleaned and polished our St. Francis statue in the garden; created our first B&G tri-fold; and hung the Rt. Rev. Dr. Laura Ahren's picture in Coburn Lounge with the rest of our past Rectors.

Once again Allan Brown, along with our youth and children, planted and maintained a garden for the food pantry. How our clients loved the fresh vegetables!

Most of what this committee does you never see or hear about it. It is with great thanks and pride that I write this report. It's a pleasure working with such dedicated committee members and all of you.

God's Peace to you all and remember our motto, "Many hands make light work."

Mark Stirling - Vestry Liaison

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Committee has accomplished several tasks this year. *The Letter of Saint James'* is now being posted to our website and delivered via email as an alternative to receiving it by mail. Many in our congregation have taken advantage of this, saving printing and postage costs, as well as the time it takes to assemble, address, and prepare the hardcopy newsletters. Additionally, a weekly email update is sent to those on the newsletter list with our weekly church schedule and announcements for the week. If you are interested in taking advantage of this new delivery method, please sign up for the email delivered newsletter on our website (www.saintjamesdanbury.org).

Our committee was also responsible for updating the office and staff computers, as well as the communications network in the building. New computers in the offices, updated software, automatic off-site backups, power protection for all computer devices, remote access, and wireless networking were addressed – all at minimal cost to Saint James’.

The Communications Committee also continues to maintain and improve our website, assist with technology use in the office, and provide technological support to other ministries within Saint James’ as needed. We are always looking for people who would like to join us. There are plenty of things that we still need help with, from writing news releases and articles to checking our website for the things that constantly need to be changed and updated. If you are interested, please contact adam@saintjamesdanbury.org. Your talents will gladly be put to work!

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The Episcopal Church Women’s group meets 9 months of the year. At each meeting, we work on fleece lap blankets for the nursing homes and fleece bears for charity agencies that work with children. The bears also go to the nursing homes for some of the residents. This year we donated 138 bears and 111 blankets.

On Mother’s Day, we hold a bake sale for the parish during the Men’s Group Breakfast. This year we raised \$626.

We work with Parish Life to host the visit from the Bishop and any other large receptions. We also are available to host funeral receptions for parishioners and their families and friends.

Five members of our group took a day trip to Glebe House in Woodbury to learn about the beginning of the Episcopal Church in this area.

All ladies are welcome to join us on the 3rd Saturday of the month in Luckenbill Hall from 10am to 12pm.

Contacts are Leslie Johnson 203-792-2834 and Joan Tarrant 203-748-1044.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Johnson

FAITH FORMATION

The Faith Formation Committee has gone through a huge transition in the course of 2010. Yet through it all, we remained a small, yet strong united ministry. Led by Linda Harrison as chair, the ministry included Elaine Sleath, Pauline Becker, Denise Holl, Kevin Morgan, Mother Iris, Father Joseph, Beth Moeller, Dan Cox and Jim Tarrant (Vestry liaison). We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm in the library. This is open to everyone.

The beginning half of 2010 saw our attendance number dwindle for Chapel School as well as the adult forums. In May, we learned that we hired a Director of Religious Education. Finally, we had someone with a dedicated focus on educating everyone from the children to the adults. Then in September, before the program year could start, the Director of Religious Education resigned. We were not deterred because over the summer we redirected ourselves and made a firmer commitment in the religious education for all. The Chapel School was replaced with two Church School programs.

Godly Play is a hands-on, Montessori like program for the children in kindergarten through the second grade. This enabled the teachers to have the children interact in a child-friendly program while having them learn and understand different aspects of the Bible. Teachers for the first half of the program year were Jim Hughes and Jim Tarrant. We had assistants in Laura Consiglio and Sue Tarrant. Thanks to all.

The Intermediate Church School, for those children in Grades 3-5 is a lectionary based program. This program, an on line curriculum, is following the Living the Good News. This enabled the young children to learn more about God and His teachings, as well as the life of Jesus Christ. The dedicated teachers for this age group were: Joanne Siergiej, Vickie Crea and Donna Smith. These three also were active as assistants when they were not teaching. What a blessing to have them within our congregation.

The Nursery is still flourishing. This ministry was first reactivated by Pauline Becker. Pauline has handed the reins over to Kathy Mould. Both have been awesome in promoting the Nursery and getting volunteers there to help out. This is without a doubt has been a challenge. Parents with children from 1 year to age 4 have used this facility over the course of the past two years. Thank you to all those volunteers: Kathy Mould, Jo Hayes, Christel Davis, Sandra Lombardo and Pauline Becker to name a few. We look forward in growing this ministry.

The new program year that started in September, had another change. We introduced a mandatory three year Preconfirmation class. This is led by Mother Iris and Mark Arnold. Those young adults from Grades 6-9 will be required to attend if they wish to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church. They meet in the Youth Room on Sunday Evenings from 6:30-8pm. Guidelines and rules are to be met each month as set forth by Mother Iris. This time frame gives Mother Iris and Mark Arnold more time to get through the required material. Adult Faith Formation is also taking place most Sunday evenings 6:30-8pm. This was done due to the very low attendance for the Forums between the two Sunday services during the first half of the year. The AFF has been better attended. The Faith Formation has been fortunate to have a few members step up to do a terrific audio tape series, Living the Lost Language of God. This is being done three different times this program year to encompass all the cd's. This is led by Denise Holl and Elaine Sleath. Theo Gammie, a fellow parishioner, had a book of poems published and she did a reading from her new book. What an inspirational night we had in November.

The "older" young adults, those from confirmation and up, are led by Dan Cox and Linda Spaziani. This group gets together every so often for fellowship, prayer and entertainment. They held a St. Nicholas gathering in early December and included the Preconfirmation class and invited all those in the church school and parents to join them. This was a very exciting and enjoyable time for all.

Submitted in God's name,

Jim Tarrant

GLOBAL OUTREACH

St James' Global Outreach Committee has had an active and exciting year. We have continued our active support of our mission project, St Stephen's School in Maputo, Mozambique. It is both gratifying and humbling to see how far our support goes in helping to keep this wonderful school continuing to do God's work. Our cash contributions to the school this year of \$2500 represents almost 4 months of operating expenses for the school – they do so much with so little!!

In addition, we were able to donate a fully – enabled, Portuguese language laptop computer to the school which will immeasurably help in their administration. Our cash donations, as well as the laptop, were faithfully conveyed to Maputo by Roger Lecompte from St John's in Essex who makes around 2 trips per year to

Mozambique on behalf of our joint mission there. Roger made a very compelling presentation to us in the spring, reporting on the situation in the country as well as the excellent progress being made at St. Stephen's.

With the earthquake in Haiti last winter, our attention was directed to the situation in that unfortunate country. In response, we were able to provide some very direct aid to the people there through the efforts of Brett Garamella, the son of Judy Greimsman, who travelled to Haiti to document the situation and conditions there. Brett travelled with a very large suitcase crammed full of toiletries and personal items, donated by our parishioners, that were distributed to people in need.

We were able to support our continuing mission activities this year through successful fundraisers. In June, we hosted an Ethnic Dinner and Silent Auction which was very well received by the Parish. As a result of its success, we plan to make it an annual event. (Tentatively scheduled for June 4, 2011). A second fundraiser, which was also sufficiently successful to make it to next year's calendar (December 4, 2011), was the Christmas Cookie Walk that netted approximately \$500 toward our mission activities.

Our financial summary for 2010:

Distributions: \$2863.26

Account Balance: \$1388.74

New members are always welcome to join the committee. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30pm. Beginning in 2011, Ryan Beaudry will be the Vestry Liaison to the committee.

LOCAL MISSION

The Local Outreach Committee at St. James' has a long history of helping our friends and neighbors in the community. We normally start each meeting with the following prayer:

Grant me, O Lord, a smile on my face, a kind word to share and a gentle 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.

The Local Outreach Committee 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 the continued support we provide, such as to Amos House, or in response to an emergency, such as the New Street fire, we are there to help in whatever way we can. There is always a way to get involved; the smallest of gestures can have the greatest impact. Below you will find just some of the various ways to become more familiar with the opportunities to serve on this wonderful ministry.

Dorothy Day Overnight Volunteers

St. James' needs to staff the overnight shelter two nights a month. Teams of two are responsible for arriving around 9pm, assisting in greeting the guests, getting them settled, doing whatever laundry may need to be done, wake-up, preparing coffee. Volunteers are provided training, and are teamed with experienced volunteers. If you are interested in this, speak to Elaine Sleath, our overnight volunteer coordinator.

Dorothy Day Meals

It has been a challenging year for this ministry. We had to deal with the intense heat of the summer, snow and ice in the winter, the ovens at Dorothy Day not working, the unexpected number of guests that were coming through the door, and a few surprises along the way. All of the volunteers faced and overcame these challenges. You have heard the phrase, "Many hands make light work" many many times but it's so true in this ministry. With the help of "many hands", we are able to peel, chop, saute, brown, and whatever else is needed to prepare the meal to be served on our third Friday of each month.

Many "hands and feet" helped setting up Dorothy Day dining room, making the bag lunches to be handed out, getting the meal into the ovens so it will be ready for when we open our doors, and of course, serving everyone who enters the Dorothy Day Hospitality House. Here is a re-cap of our year....

We served 1090 meals, 570 2nds, 945 bag lunches and made 300 PBJ sandwiches. We are up 94 meals or 10% and we are up 107 bag lunches or 12% over 2009. Some of the meals we prepared were, Chicken and Rice, Pepperoni Pizza Casserole, Turkey Salad sandwiches, Fish and Chips, just to name a few and of course our salads. We serve our meal at Dorothy Day on the third Friday of every month. We prepare our meal the Thursday before in Luckenbill Hall kitchen. As we enter our 7th year in this ministry, none of this would be possible with the leadership of Mother Iris and the coordinating help of Lisa Keller and Kevin Morgan. Please consider joining us either on a Thursday or Friday. Help is always needed. Come and be apart of this incredible ministry.

Respectively,

Ruth Cote

Overflow Shelter

The overflow shelter was established about five years ago to make sure everyone has a place to stay in the winter. From November – April, once Dorothy Day is full, guests can go to the overflow shelter at the First Congregational Church. The overflow shelter is staffed by 4-6 teams from different churches and organizations. St. James' is responsible for 4-5 weeks during the winter months. If you would like to learn more about becoming involved in this ministry, please speak to Lew Westfall.

Overflow Shelter Laundry Brigade NEW

Would you like to assist in washing linens that are used at the overflow shelter? We are looking for perhaps 2-4 people to take this on – machines and supplies would be provided at Dorothy Day. Please speak to Ruth Cote if you would like to learn more.

Daily Bread

The Daily Bread Food Pantry is located right next to Luckenbill Hall and has been serving the needs of the community for over 25 years. Each week, we encourage all to bring contributions for the food pantry and fill the baskets during the offering. Would you like to get more involved with this ministry – perhaps by having a monthly food drive for specific food items that are needed, by assisting in the pantry, or on Monday or Friday during food distribution? Daily Bread will also collect donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets and support during holiday times is most welcome. Contact Debbie Christiana via the church office to learn more on ways to help with Daily Bread.

Coat Drive

Last year, Local Outreach and our Middle School youth collected over 150 coats for Danbury Project Homeless Connect. We would love to be able to exceed that number this year.

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, as well as hosting a Fall Pumpkin Party and Easter Baskets to the children of Amos House. Please see Joe Walkovich if you would like to get involved.

Thanksgiving Meal

Help as we open our doors and host our community neighbors as St. James' once again will host the community Thanksgiving meal. There is much to do, and many hands will make light work. We will need shoppers, kitchen assistance, someone to organize volunteers, people to set up, clean up, host and many, many cooks and bakers. Planning will start in the next few weeks. If you would like to get involved in this ministry speak to Linda Spaziani.

Advent Wreath Making

For the past few years, Local Outreach has hosted an Advent Wreath Making brunch following the 10:00am service on the first Sunday of Advent. Proceeds from the free-will offering will go towards a local mission project. If you would like to assist with this event of fellowship and mission speak to Mo. Iris.

Association of 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. ARC will be holding their annual Breakfast on October 22nd. Please see Fr. Joseph if you would like to join fellow St. James' members to attend and learn more about the work ARC does in our community.

There are so many other ways to help and get involved, but only with the support of the parish and the work of the committee members. Local Outreach sponsors the **Christmas Angel Tree** (*see Kevin or Pat Morgan*), interested in getting more involved in assisting homeless neighbors get a new start, look into **Off The Streets**). Would you like to get involved with *partnering with our youth on Mission Projects*? Speak to one of our Youth Leaders or Mo. Iris. Would you be able to assist in coordinating the monthly mission offering? Speak to Beth Moeller. Faith Formation and Local Outreach will be hosting an upcoming Sunday night forum to explore ways you can get involved as we reach out to our neighbors in need.

Local Outreach meets the first Tuesday of each month in the Coburn Lounge at 6:00pm. If you are interested in hearing more of what we do, or becoming involved in any of the many opportunities, please join us.

PARISH LIFE

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.

Members: Amy Anderson, Ruth Cote, Dan Cox, Vera Fakouri, Linda Harrison, Denise Holl, Lisa Keller, Wally Liston, Jane McGarry (Chairperson/Vestry Liason), Kevin Morgan, Ellie Scott, Joanne and Julia Siergie, Linda Spaziani

2010 was another busy and wonderful year for Parish Life. We gained a couple new members and held a number of successful fellowship events. We met once a month – changing mid-year from the last Thursday of the month to the second Wednesday at 7:00pm in the library. All meetings lasted approximately one hour.

We kicked off the New Year with a Chili Cook-off in January. We had over 30 different chili entrees and awarded the Golden Maraca to the chili that received the most votes (cans). The cans were donated to Daily Bread. The response to this event was overwhelmingly positive and we will hold this event annually based on this response. We kept warm later in January with a Hawaiian Shirt Sunday and a Hawaiian themed coffee hour. We also helped the Vestry with set up, clean up, snacks and punch for the January 31st Annual Meeting.

In February and March, we hosted themed coffee hours: Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day.

In April, we hosted the Easter Vigil, serving punch and finger foods for about 30 people. We assisted with food and beverages for the Dorothy Day movie showing. Also in April, we began our monthly meeting by preparing 40 PB&J sandwiches for Dorothy Day.

In May, we supported a Global Outreach event with set up and clean up. We switched our meeting date and time in June and focused this meeting on the planning of the annual picnic.

On the last Sunday in June, we returned to Bennett Park in Bethel for our annual picnic and outdoor worship (not in that order). The weather cooperated again and it was a great kick off to summer. Sunshine, prayer and food were plentiful. The Worship Ministry did a fantastic job coordinating the 11:00am service. The picnic was well attended and a positive experience all around. We decided we liked the Annual Picnic in June to kick off the summer, rather than August at the end of the summer.

We had planned to have a Cruise on the Hudson potluck event in July, but it was cancelled because the boat was not available. Instead, a few of us attended a free concert on the Danbury Green. We did not have a monthly meeting in July.

In the Fall, we developed and published our brochure and shared our ministry with the Parish at Celebration Sunday. We assisted with the Blessing of the Animals service in October where we invited the community to bring their animals to our garden for a service. At the service, we collected items for Danbury Animal Welfare Society. We also assisted with the light supper for the Safe Church Recertification and the Stewardship Breakfast in November.

In closing, Parish Life continues to be moved by the Holy Spirit and to spread the gift of fellowship throughout Saint James. We are encouraged by the clergy and congregation and thank all those who have participated in our mission. We look forward to 2011 and we welcome all suggestions and, of course, new members in any capacity.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane McGarry

PASTORAL CARE

Lay Eucharistic Ministry

LEM's bring the Eucharist to shut-in's and those who request this. Our LEMs are Karen Beaudry, Cathy Blasco, Janet Brown, Midge Burns, Korb Eynon, Bob Flynn, Jack & Ginny Murphy, Mark Stirling, Judy Toth, Alvin Tuck, and Lew Westfall. During the summer, the Murphy's and Korb Eynon are not available. In December 2009, we were seeing 8 parishioners. In December 2010, we are seeing 13 parishioners. It's a pleasure to visit our parishioners. They appreciate the visit.

Stephen Ministry

As we entered our 9th year of Stephen Ministry, we began with training a new Stephen Minister, Linda Harrison. The training took place at Jesse Lee Memorial Methodist Church in Ridgefield, beginning in January and finishing in May. Linda, Jeff and Janet travelled down together on Monday evenings and joined with parishioners from Jesse Lee, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, First Congregational Church of Ridgefield and shared in the training together. Nine new Stephen Ministers were

trained. Linda was commissioned in September at all three services and has joined our Supervision Group on Wednesday evenings.

Jeff Chowanec and Janet Brown are Stephen Leaders and Yvonne Kiddoe, Karen Davidson and Linda are Stephen Ministers. At the time of this writing we do not have any care receivers but continue to meet on the first and third Wednesdays each month for Supervision and Continuing Education.

Friendly Visitors

Under the guidance of our Pastoral Care Committee, we have several parishioners who make “Friendly Visits” to members of the parish who don’t get to church too often. Visits are made once a week at a time and day convenient to the member of the parish being visited and the “visitors”. We work in teams so that the “friendly visitor” is scheduled to visit approximately once a month and the member being visited gets to see several different faces each month. The program is working well and some of our parishioners are making unscheduled visits as they are enjoying spending time with someone they would not get to see in church. A wonderful ministry that brings joy and fellowship to all involved!

Glen Hill Prayer Service

On every Saturday morning at 10:45am, members of St. James’ and some fellow parishes in our area conduct a Morning Prayer service at Glen Hill assisted living in Danbury. There are usually about 20 residents taking part and they are always so happy to see us and thankful for us bringing the service to them. Actually, I believe we folks doing the service get more out of it than the residents because seeing those folks, greeting them, and brightening their day warms our hearts more than I can say. We are always looking for more volunteers for this, so if that is something you think you might like, please contact the parish office and they will direct you to the organizer, Alvin Tuck.

STEWARDSHIP

Mission Statement: We are part of God’s universe and all that we have comes from God. God calls each of us to love, protect, and nurture this world and its people. We are stewards of God’s creation. Stewardship is the way we use what we’ve been given from God to carry out our mission.

Our Stewardship is a joyous responsibility. In giving of ourselves and our resources, we grow in grace. As Christian stewards, we commit to respond individually and as a parish to the needs of the world and its people. Our individual resources may be limited, but collectively we gather strength and ability to do God’s work. So, as Christian stewards, we willingly and joyously give our love, time, talent, money and energy.

In giving our treasure, we strive to give in proportion to what we receive. The Biblical tithe, 10% of our income, has been and will remain our tradition and desired goal.

Members: Rev. Joseph Krasinski, Joe Walkovich, Janet Brown, Linda Spaziani, Carolyn Flynn, Dan Cox and Alvin Tuck.

Meeting time: 1st Thursday of the month 6:00pm in the Library.

After our very thorough “Every Member Visitation” last year, we decided not to do one two years in a row. This year we spent a lot of effort trying to make ourselves and the parish aware of how Stewardship is woven into the fabric of all aspects of St. James’, and its importance. All of our many missions and ministries are the result of time, talent and energy being given by our parishioners. Our professional staff and the operation of the building are totally funded by the offering of our money. In short, Stewardship is a part of all that we are and do as this parish of St James’.

We asked each committee and ministry to write a summary of their efforts for our monthly newsletter one month at a time, along with how parishioners can join with their time, talent and energy with these efforts to broaden the work of St. James' in our world. We had parishioners give talks during services of how St. James' has influenced their lives and helped direct and fulfill their efforts of doing God's work in the world. We put together a flyer mailed to all that shows how Stewardship is tied to all our ministries, and how the giving of our money helps support them all.

Since money as well as time talent and energy is needed to keep us going, we have also spent considerable effort asking for pledges. Pledging is more important than just giving because it allows us to plan on how much of all these efforts we will be able to support in the coming year. Yes, even doing God's work in the world as this parish of St. James' requires a budget. And since we have been and are operating under a deficit budget, increasing pledges is vital to our survival.

In 2011, we will be keeping the thought of Stewardship alive in our hearts by publishing articles periodically in our monthly newsletter and Sunday bulletins. We will also be emailing out interesting sermons by a renowned priest on this subject that may be watched as wanted. And of course, we will be asking for pledges.

The Stewardship committee is totally dedicated to the supporting of the work of our wonderful members of this parish of St James', and we share their love being given out to the world by gathering the support to help them fulfill their efforts. On behalf of all the Stewardship committee members, thank you to all that you do and all who have pledged to support our efforts.

Yours in Christ,

Alvin Tuck

WORSHIP

The Worship Committee began the year with the preparations for the installation service for Father Joseph and has been going at full speed since. We continue to provide support for our weekly worship services in addition to special services including the service of Light and Hope, Saint Francis' Blessing of the Animals, Evening Prayer during Advent and Lent, Holy Week services Easter and Christmas.

Altar Guild – Yvonne Kiddoe

The Altar Guild members are available at all times to prepare the church for weekly services, holy days, special services, and weddings and funerals. In addition, they worked in partnership with Parish Life to make a place for our worship at the parish picnic at Bennett's Park. They have done an extraordinary job making our place of worship a place of beauty in spite of losing several long standing members who are no longer able to actively participate.

Acolytes – Bob Pearson

Under the direction of Bob Pearson and Mother Iris, the acolytes are an integral part of our worship services. We are exploring options for the coming year with several of our experienced members graduating and currently not having enough replacements to fill the gap.

Lectors, Intercessors, and Chalice Ministers – Iris Peterson

We have added several new members to the ranks of these ministries. We are also working with the youth to act as lectors and intercessors during Family Services.

Ushers – Lew Westfall

We are in need of additional teams to assist those who are new to or visiting Saint James'.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Jean Hassen

With the help of pastoral care, we have continued to distribute prayer shawls and lagans to those who are ill, suffered the loss of a loved one, or are unable to attend worship services. In addition, we have begun presenting Baptismal candidates with baby blankets and shawls.

Music – Martha Galie

The music department has been flourishing under the direction of Martha Galie. Besides the Chancel choir which has gained several members, we now have the M & MM's children's choir, a recorder ensemble, a flute trio, and many instrumentalists providing music for our worship services. The guitar choir, now known as ConChordance under Mark Arnold, is providing leadership for a contemporary service twice a month on Sunday evenings. The handbell choir under the direction of Deidra Woodend is growing both in members and number of bells. We have completed our third octave of bells with a donation from the McCauley trust. The carillon is being played for weekly services and special occasions by students of George Bogart and Christel Davis. December brought another wonderful concert by Betsy Bergeron's students from the Greens Farms Academy and students from New Fairfield High School. And not to forget we had a return appearance of the Saint James' Kazoo players thanks to Mark Stirling.

St. James' has a wonderful tradition of volunteering, and the numerous people who come forward to offer their voices or instruments to the music ministry. Let us go on from strength to strength and find a place and meaning in God's kingdom!

My deepest thanks goes to all who have worked so hard this past year to make Saint James such a wonderful place to worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Hassen, Worship Chair

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Music Ministries have flourished at St. James' this year:

- Martha Galie was hired in May as Organist and Director of Music Ministries in May, 2010.
- The guitar choir chose a new name, "ConChordance" and has been offering a Contemporary Evensong twice monthly as well as playing for Sunday morning services.
- A children's choir was begun, called "M&MMs" (Music with Miss Martha) and has 6 members.
- A small recorder ensemble was established and has performed for the Senior Christmas Tea.
- A flute group is rehearsing weekly.
- The Carillon continues its historic tradition under the capable leadership of Christel Davis and George Bogart.
- A Liturgical Dancer, Kate Taylor, danced for Christ the King Sunday in November, inspiring our worship in a wonderful way (and she danced to a piece played by our own Grace Kuell). You can now watch Kate on our website under "Photos" at www.saintjamesdanbury.org.
- Richard Brooks, violin, played for our late Christmas Eve service adding grace and depth to the music.
- A third octave of handbells was purchased this year, and will expand the possibilities of music choices in the years to come.



BAPTISMS

**Joseph Wiliam Mondello
Kiya Patricia Beschle
Gabrielle Allison Anderson
Evan Fiske Anderson
Tyler John Grayson
Dylan Richard Robinson-D'Imperio
Indigo Pasato
Marissa Marie Carrasaquillo
Juliette Paige Callan
Daejah Aniah Alexander**

BURIALS

**Elizabeth Mae Hatshon Burdick
Doris Jean Gemza
Sally G. Holomany
Bernice Gomoll
Cynthia Faye Pomeroy Beransky
Arthur P. Daube
Gerald F. Rickert
Francis Euvrard
Ethel Lucille Lown Montesi
Rebecca Jean Barton
David Caruba
Emilie M. Dosch
Beatrice Mary Ginty
Florence Laughlin**