

# *The Letter of Saint James'*

*St. James' Episcopal Church*

*Pray Hope Dream*

*The parish of St. James' ministers to all people in the name of Jesus Christ.*

**October**

## **Our Stewardship Kick-Off Dinner Went to the Heart of the Matter**

*From your Interim Priest-in-Charge*

As we know from our Sunday Gospel readings this time of year, Jesus speaks about money *A LOT*. He knows that money is a **heart issue** and that it is one of the most likely reasons for someone to not follow him or to give up on him.

### ***Why does Jesus seem to care so much about my money?***

Two truths that money reveals:

- 1) Throughout the Gospels, Jesus uses money as a tool to reveal our true priorities. If you think about it, our appointment calendars and bank statements tell the truth about what's really important to us.
- 2) Jesus understands that money hits our fears the hardest – fear of not having enough, fear of not being enough. And **everything** Jesus came to teach us and *be* for us is intended to lead us to know that **God is enough**.

So, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, we simply shared some stories about where this God of love has been experienced in our lives.

### ***Conversation starters***

- Jesus taught us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Think about a time in your life when you have asked God or another person for forgiveness? Did you feel forgiven? How did that change you?
- Think about a time when your faith – or being part of a faith community – got you through a particularly difficult time. Did you feel cared-for and “connected” to something more? In what ways have you “paid it forward”?
- Share a story about a time that a Scripture passage really “came to life” for you.



*(continued on next page)*

- Tell about a time when you used your particular gifts in a meaningful way to build God's Kingdom (in other words, share healing, reconciling, binding-up-the-broken-hearted love?).
- Christians often speak of God as loving "unconditionally". How have you experienced the unconditional love of God? What does that love feel like?

Naming such grace-filled moments in our lives helps us answer the questions around pledging, making a financial commitment to this particular faith community.

***Why does being a member of St. James' matter to me?***

***What value do I place on being part of this community?***

***Where do we have an opportunity to grow in our capacity to impact lives?***

***Where might I let go (rather than what do I have to give up) in order to respond to love, with love?***

For many of us, the struggle to align ourselves with God's will is played out in the realm of our finances. It's where the real battle happens for so many. As Martin Luther said, "There are three conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, the conversion of the mind, and the conversion of the purse."

Money spent helping others teaches us to live as God does, giving and giving to build the other up, to widen the circle of blessing, and catch a glimpse of that promised peace that passes all understanding. When we use money as a tool to invest in God's kingdom; money becomes a powerful instrument of good.

Stewardship isn't just an aspect of the Christian life; it is the whole of the Christian life. Stewardship is about deepening our faith, claiming the wondrous invitation to be a follower of Jesus and the even more awe-filled call to be participants in the Kingdom of Heaven drawing near. When we truly understand our roles as stewards, money is a tool we can invest into growing God's kingdom.

How will St. James' be participants in that? We await the answers to your prayerful considerations.

Please offer what *you feel called to do* and return your card for an All Saints Sunday celebration on November 3. No gift is deemed "big" or "small", just a response as best as we each can make it. And ALL are invited to join in a celebratory breakfast after the 8 & 10 am services on November 10, as we give thanks for the life we share together.

***With blessings and love,  
Rev. Lisa***



## RED DOORS CONCERT SERIES FALL DATES – Mark your calendars!

*Sat. Oct. 5 7pm Hans Uwe Hielscher*

Carillonneur and Organist from Wiesbaden, Germany will perform an Organ Recital in our sanctuary, preceded by several selections on our historic carillon. Hans has performed over 3500 organ recitals around the world and is a published composer of some 50 organ works!

*Sat. Nov. 30 7pm*

### ***St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble from Russia.***

We welcome back this amazing, award-winning a cappella quartet who will sing Russian Classic, Sacred and Folk Music. They will have CDs of their music and Russian Folk Art items for cash sale.

Both concerts are free to the public (invite your friends, co-workers and families). Free-will cash donations are gratefully accepted to help offset the artists' travel expenses. These two concerts are partially funded by the Danbury Cultural Commission and donations from previous concerts.



## OCTOBER MISSION DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY

Daily Bread's Thanksgiving expenditures/offerings will be limited this year in light of the renovation. Therefore, we will not be collecting specifically for Thanksgiving Baskets this year. However, we most gratefully will accept donations needed to restock the shelves for their ever-growing base of clients in need upon completion of their project. USING THE MISSION ENVELOPES or send a check made out to Daily Bread to our Parish Office. Thank you for your ongoing support!

# Animal Blessing

St. James' Episcopal Church  
25 West Street, Danbury CT

Celebrate St. Francis of Assisi  
in our garden  
on Sunday, October 6, 2019 at  
12:30 PM



Bring your  
pets to get  
blessed.  
All pets are  
welcome as  
well as  
pet-owned  
humans

## HAVE YOU VENTURED INTO OUR LIBRARY LATELY?

### A big thank you to Christine DiMeglio!

This past summer, Christine initiated the task of re-organizing the book shelves and it turned out to be a huge project. Many books were sorted, some were recycled, others were donated, and the book shelves were cleaned up. Christine plans to number the shelves and create a wall plaque describing what books are on the various shelves. The project should be completed within the next month.

In Christine's own words, *"The St. James' library is a treasure to those people looking to strengthen, challenge or expand their faith journey. There are Bibles in many translations, Bible study materials, worship support materials, guides to prayer and meditation, inspirational biographies and much more. **Take, read, return - that's the basic library policy.**"*

**And while you are browsing the Library Shelves . . .**  
***Grow in your faith, grow in your garden, grow with us at***  
**ST. JAMES' SEED SPACE**

Kudos and thanks to Buildings and Grounds member Alexa Larsen who has blessed us with the beginnings of our very own Seed Exchange. Saint James' Seed Space is a little station of seed packets and how to's for the urban environmentalist, and all seasonal organics. The Seed Space was created based on seed exchange concepts from many public libraries, and both seeds and informational material is ready for contributions and distributions.

So, attention gardeners! Do you have seeds to add to our offerings? Or might there be some seeds on the shelves that you would like to try in your garden? The seeds can include locally saved seeds, excess bought seeds, seeds brought back from another region or country, or excess seeds that a seed company donated — you decide what you want to swap.

We hope to advance with a digital cataloguing system, green publication lending & growing technique exchange center for holiday and seasonal greenery, florals, medicinals and aromatics. Help us create and share organic techniques for air purification specific to local efforts toward green energy and permaculture. Measure your faith in the form a flourishing abundant plant, garden, and knowledge base growing together at Saint James' Seed Space.

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION 2019**

**Sunday Oct. 27: ECCT-Wide Worship - Are you Joining Us?**

Come worship with your sisters and brothers at the Hartford Convention Center, and hear the Good News as proclaimed the **Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris**, the first woman to be consecrated a bishop in the Anglican Communion.

Registration is free however sign-up and tickets are required. If you wish to attend, there is a sign-up sheet on the ***Sign-Up Bulletin Board*** located in the Hall just outside the side door of the church. Or speak with your Convention delegates, Dan Cox and Mimi Herald, or call Rev. Lisa at the Parish Office. We are in conversation with Trinity Newtown about sharing a bus for transport.

Services of Morning Prayer will be offered that Sunday morning, with a live stream of the Eucharist and sermon in the Parish Hall beginning at 11 am.

# DWELLING IN THE WORD ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Mondays at 6:30 pm

First-timers and drop-ins always welcome

## Friday Night @ The Movies

October 18th. 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Come for the fun and join the short conversation about the movie at the end  
Popcorn & Beverages provided.

Brought to you by: **the Growing in Faith Committee**



***The Best of Enemies*** (2019) PG-13 Running Time: 2 hrs 13 mins.  
Summary: Biography, drama, history all rolled into one. The true story of the unlikely relationship between Ann Atwater, an outspoken civil rights activist, and C.P. Ellis, a local Ku Klux Klan leader. During the racially charged summer of 1971, Atwater and Ellis come together to co-chair a community summit on the desegregation of schools in Durham, N.C. The ensuing debate and battle soon lead to surprising revelations that change both of their lives forever. A powerful, must-see film!

Join us in the parish hall of **St James' Episcopal Church**

## Hospitality Ministry

This ministry was formed to serve those entering our doors as visitors and newcomers. We recently welcomed Barbara Torres and Virginia Benton as new members of the committee. Our "Getting to Know You" dinner was a big success! We shared what brought us to St. James' and where we have served within the church community. Everyone enjoyed delicious food and drink, great conversation, and the Sabbagh's gracious hospitality. There are already three parishioners signed up to attend a dinner in the near future! Please notice that there are updated visitor cards in the pews. If you are interested in this ministry, please join us on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the parish hall.

## Great Success for *Wings Over Maria!* And the Winner is . . . El Hogar



**WINGS OVER MARIA** is a chicken wing cooking competition that took place on Sat, Sept. 21 in our own Parish Hall. The Mission and Parish Life Ministries joined forces to organize this fundraiser in honor of Maria de Jesus Roque, a 10-year-old student at El Hogar and sponsored by the Parish of St. James'. Ten talented chefs offered their best interpretation of flavorful wings, and parishioners served as judges by voting for their favorites using purchased poker chips. Many of the more than 40 attendees brought side dishes and desserts to

share. Combined with the music, beverages, laughter and conversation, the evening proved an opportunity to share love on many levels, the foundation of our success as a people of God.

We were able to raise \$535 for to support Maria, and we have now met and exceeded our goal for 2019. This success reflects our love for God, for St. James' and for this child whom God has brought into our family. Maria lives in Honduras at a residential school called El Hogar. The mission of El Hogar is to improve life in Honduras, one child at a time. El Hogar was founded in 1979 by members of a local Episcopal parish in response to the desperate need of abandoned, vulnerable children. It has grown from a rented home housing five abandoned boys to an organization with four different campuses including an elementary school, a technical school, an agricultural school and a high school. Today, more than 200 children a year are provided with a loving home, an education, medical care and a church family rather than starving, being victimized by crime, or becoming members of a gang in order to survive.

Before coming to el Hogar, Maria and her sister Hylda were found on the streets of a small city where they were searching for their mother. Their mother had left home to find medical help for their youngest brother. A week passed, but she never returned. The police officer who found the girls sent them to a government agency, and that agency contacted el Hogar. Although desperately sad when they arrived, Maria and her sister are now doing well at el Hogar where that have been living since 2015. We began supporting Maria in 2017, and our sponsorship of \$5400 per year provides our child with food, clothing, housing, medical and dental care, education and spiritual formation. We have successfully shared the love, providing a 3<sup>rd</sup> year of full support.

So who won the **WINGS OVER MARIA** contest? Carolyn Beschle with her dynamite parmesan-garlic wings, followed by Chris Kuell in second place, and former chicken-wing royalty, Jim Beschle, in third place. Great cooks and a great cause.

**We are one parish, supporting one child, celebrating one God and Father of us all.** For more *el Hogar* information: Christine DiMeglio 203-730-8884



## **Caravan of Faith**

Four years ago, parishioner Beth Cox approached PJ Leopold, Executive Director of the Association of Religious Communities (ARC), with an idea to create an interfaith program for adults based on ARC's Peace Camp for kids. Since 2015, 80 people of different faiths have explored the basic tenets of Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and Buddhism. A typical evening (held at each place of worship) includes an overview of that faith, a time for questions,

refreshments, and a craft. This handmade craft not only symbolizes that faith, but also helps to create a bond among the group, as people relax and chat with each other. The last evening of the program is held at ARC's Interfaith Service, where previous groups have bonded so much that they sit with each other!

This fall, another series will begin again on October 28. Registration forms and the schedule are both on the bulletin board at the back of the church. If you have any questions, please contact Beth at 203-743-9979 or at [cox4000@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cox4000@sbcglobal.net).

## **SECOND SUNDAY AT CAMP WASHINGTON**

**Sunday October 13 4:30 pm**

Join Rev. Lisa and members of the Holylanders Ministry Network as we share stories from our **ECCT June Pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine**. See amazing pictures of the land and its peoples. Hear how Holy Scripture came alive in new ways--through sights and sounds and smells and tastes. Bishop Laura will celebrate the Holy Eucharist, followed by a Middle Eastern dinner (cooked by Camp Chef, Ben) and fellowship. \$10.00 suggested donation for dinner. Call to register. 860.567.9623



## **IN CASE YOU MISSED THE NEWS!**

### **From the ECCT Clergy E-Newsletter**

*“We are now receiving applications for the full-time rector position  
(with a rectory) at St. James’ Danbury. Deadline is Oct. 31.”*

### **Prayer for our Rector-Recruitment Phase**

O gracious Lord, all praise and glory are yours! We long to know you, love you, and do your will. You know the challenges and opportunities we face, and we know you will guide us, and provide for us, if we listen. We have a passion to serve you, and so we pray for your help to find a rector who will shepherd your people at Saint James’ and in the Danbury community. We pray that our next rector be filled with joy and faith, eager to communicate your love, and cares for our parishioners and our neighbors. Bless our parish, our transition teams and all those whom you have called to apply. You are in our midst, we are called by your name, and we pray for your guidance. Amen.

### **Excerpts from Parishioner Theo Gammie’s**

***“Marbles, Shooters, and Pee Wees”*** (reprinted by permission)

*A commentary on life commemorating Theo’s 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

## **A**

### **AFTER**

There is no after  
If there is no first  
There can be no first  
If we don’t dream  
So dream  
And create a new idea  
That you can share after

### **ALONE**

The artist sees beauty everywhere  
The actor can be almost anyone  
The alone person needs to  
Change the scene

Find the beauty  
Be who they are  
Or want to be

### **ANGELS**

Are often friends  
With a Message  
Sometimes a rescuer  
When you feel trapped  
They are always God sent.

**(B’s coming next month)**

**The ministry of the people of St. James' Episcopal Church  
is led by the Wardens and Vestry  
and assisted by the Clergy and Staff.**

**Wardens**

Joe Walkovich

Janet Brown

**Treasurer**

Linda Spaziani

**Clerk**

Sandra Nichols

**Vestry**

**Class of 2022**

Deborah Kaufmann

Jehad Sabbagh

Gary Rogers

**Class of 2020**

Beth Cox

Susie Sarkisian

Victoria Woody

**Class of 2021**

Carolyn Flynn

Lyn Meyers

Jeanne Todaro

**ECCT Convention Delegates**

Dan Cox & Mimi Herald

**Southwest Region**

**Leadership Team Members**

Mimi Herald

Rev. Lisa Hahneman

**Interim Priest-in-Charge**

The Rev. Dr. Lisa D. Hahneman. Tel. Ext. 14

ldhahneman@sbcglobal.net

**Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper**

Dilsa Quade. Tel. Ext. 10

welcome@saintjamesdanbury.org

**Director of Music**

Joanne F. Archibald. Tel. Ext. 16

joannearchibald@saintjamesdanbury.org

**Sexton**

Jose Lopez Sanz

## **PARISH CYCLE OF PRAYER – OCTOBER 2019**

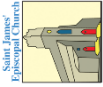


*"I urge that supplications, prayers,  
intercessions and thanksgivings be  
made for everyone"*

**I Timothy 2:1**

Each month in our newsletter we include part of our alphabetical listing of the members of our congregation in the Parish Cycle of Prayer. This month you are asked to hold the following members in your prayers:

Deidra & James Beschle & Family; Lloyd & Patricia Best; Agnes Uvanga  
Cathleen Blasco; Robert Bloss; George Bogart & Jana Draper; Nancy Kinkade;  
Mildred Boughton; Allan & Janet Brown; Mary Lou Brown; Nancy Haplin  
Rita Butler; Jeffrey & Nicole Callan; Mimi Herald; Rev. Lisa Hahneman  
Suzanne Carley; Valentina Carrasquillo; John & Vivien Cheeseman  
Jeffrey Chowanec; Charles & Linda Clapp; Stephen & Amanda Huntley  
Robert & Laura Consiglio & Family; Tiwana Council, Beth & Dan Cox & Family  
James Cooks; Michael & Pamela Cummings; Wendy DaCosta; Danielle Franco  
Kathleen Dannenhoffer; Karen Davidson; Ruth Davis; Jeffrey & Denise Day  
Barbara DeVeaux; Anthony & Nanci DiPerrio; Emily Disney; Clair Rundhaug  
Joe Dobbins; Bridgett Downer; Roderick & Alexandra Edwards; Sandra Nichols  
Elizabeth Egan; David & Marcella Emerito; Margaret Emerito; Wendi McCabe  
Sean & Rebecca Fanning & Family; Anne Felizardo, Eugene & Shirley Fernekes  
Shirley Ferrarone; Randall & Elizabeth Fescoe; Joseph & Sally Fiorita  
Etura Fleming; Robert & Carolyn Flynn; Michael Shellman; Joanne Siergiej & Family  
Scott & Dawn Ford; Lorraine Sautner; Francis & Judith Toth; Jane McGarry  
Theo Gammie; Tancy Gemza; Madeline Franco; Walter & Louise Liston & Family  
Carole Conaway; Lillian Heering; Ernest Smith; Kevin & Debbie Smith  
Frank Giarratana & Family; Melissa & Nicholas Gieda & Family; Doreen Gilliland  
Vanessa Grant & Family; Scott & Michelle Grayson & Family; Jody Armstrong  
Barbara Greene; Russell & Judith Griemsmann; Dianne Fleischer; Barbara Torres  
Cheryl Harewood; Ernest Harrington & Lyn Meyers; John Morris; John Pena  
Linda Harrison, Mark & Kathryn Harrison & Family; Jean Hassen; Bill Florian  
William & Vicki Hutchinson; Linda Immarigeon; Delores Ireland; Lillian Heering  
Catherine Jaber-Kreiger; Edith Janesky; Carl & Susan Johnson; Catherine Johnson  
Amanda Johnson; James Johnson; Robert Johnson; Robert & Leslie Johnson  
Deborah Kaufmann; Denise Kaufmann; Carol Kelly; Margaret Kelly; Mona Thomas  
Christopher Kuell & Cristine DiMeglio; David & Ingrid McCarthy; Denise Holl  
Nicholas Kuell; Grace Kuell; Harry & Jill Kuhn; Adam & Sherry Kyriacou & Family  
Kevin & Susan Lally; Sheila & Richard Landis; Pat Larsen; Lillian MacBain  
Ethel Leahey; Laura Lee & David Katz; Daniel & Marion Liberati; Kerlen & Letty Lim



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