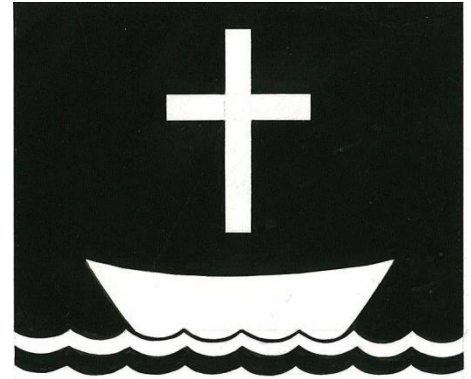


ST. JAMES EPISTLE



JUNE 2018

Rector's Message

In March or so of this year, the international humanitarian and service organization Food for the Poor invited me, along with parishioner Michael Slusarz, to visit the Central American country of Honduras. Like nearly every country in the region, Honduras has had its share of political and social strife and the level of poverty amongst many of its 9-ish million inhabitants is stunning in scope and depth. Following a visit here from an Episcopal priest on December 17, 2017, who spoke articulately about the plight of the poorest people in Honduras, several of our parishioners made the decision to pool their resources. These generous persons gave enough money (anonymously and through St. James) for us to build three houses in the El Roble neighborhood, in the Santa Barbara region of NW Honduras. The cost for Food for the Poor to build a concrete house to hurricane and earthquake code in Honduras, with three rooms, water hook up, a septic tank, and an outdoor oven for cooking is about \$3,600. So, on Monday, May 14th, off Michael and I went to San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

The main goal of our visit was to visit the 17 families who had received a gift of a home in El Roble. They were the winning names in a lottery with thousands of other families who have lived in deplorable (or non-existent) houses for years, even generations. But there were other things that we did while we were there and one of them was to visit a school in Choloma, a community near El Roble where 200 houses have been built by Food for the Poor, all through donors. Many of the children at this school are in families that have received these houses. The school was not in great shape by our "standards," with old desks, rooms, equipment, etc. But they were all waiting for us to arrive and had a ceremony where we were the guests of honor – Michael, myself, and representatives of the other 11 churches that were part of building the 17 homes in adjacent El Roble which also sends students to this school. There was a covered, open air space with a stage and we were directed through the students to a table where we would be seated. And we heard personal testimonials from people who had received homes through the generosity of the gathered churches represented. The testimonials were simple yet passionate; humble, but full of the Holy Spirit. And each person spoke easily, as with all the Honduran poor that we encountered, everywhere, of the grace and blessing of God. They spoke of gratitude and love and hope ... things that sometimes are in rather short supply in their world and in ours.



As part of the program, five female students, aged twelve or thirteen, dressed in traditional Honduran costumes, came up to the stage and did a simple, yet beautiful little dance. And when they were done, the "DJ" put on some up-tempo Honduran music and the girls grabbed five men in our group and dragged us out onto the stage to dance. I was one of them. I am not much of a dancer and was, at first,

[continued on next page]

very embarrassed. But, before long, she and I were spinning each other, prancing around, and the kids in the audience, several hundred, began clapping and cheering. And I remember that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said, "This commandment I give you: that you love one another, as I have loved you." And just how has Jesus loved us? With a love that shatters all boundaries between us, even the shadowy frontier between life and death. And as I danced (badly, no doubt), looking into the smiling face of this young, poor, Honduran teenager, I realized that Jesus' powerful command to love our neighbor means that we are called to engage. We are commanded by the Holy Spirit to seek and serve Christ in all that we are able, all that we can find, and all that we can minister to. I am not sure, at that point, who was ministering to whom: her to me, I expect. These young women, these humble people who spoke so easily of the presence of God in their lives, helped me come to a closer understanding of how God actually works in the world: between us, in relationships, in our desire and willingness to know each other more fully. The rest means very little: how much money we have, how tall or thin we are; how educated or where we live. God's first fruits of the Spirit and Kingdom of God are, for all of us, hope, love, and gratitude. May we eat of the fruit of that kingdom remembering part of that call is to share those fruits with the world, in and with love, hope, and gratitude.

In Christ, George+

Warden's Corner

I came across this quote the other day:

*There are many things that catch my eye,
But there are only a few that catch my heart-
It is those I consider to pursue. — Tim Raymond*

I consider myself fortunate to be among so many at Saint James who do 'good work' because it catches their heart. Consider the following; Father Roberts and Michael Slusarz recently spent a few days in Honduras working to improve the lives of an extremely poor family; the St. James Heelers once again participated in the Annual Foodshare Walk Against Hunger. In June St. James will once again participate in Church by the Pond in Hartford and a group will travel to the Dominican Republic to offer assistance in improving the lives of those who are less fortunate than we (donations are still being received to help defray the cost of this trip). Clearly it would appear that those who participate in these activities do so because 'it catches their hearts'.



I felt that way last evening at the Vestry meeting which included a brief presentation by our new Youth Minister, Amy Moffat. I immediately sensed that not only did she have a plan, but she also had a passion for her Ministry. When she completed her presentation, my reaction was that the entire parish, not just the youth, will benefit from her work.

St. James has several opportunities that may 'catch your heart.' There is always room for another. And a special thank you to those who currently give so generously of their time and talent.

Note: St. James & Vestry member Ann Monroe-Baillargeon, Ph.D. has accepted a position at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. We wish her well in her new endeavor; she will be missed.

Thought for the Day:

I am tomorrow, or some future day, what I establish today. I am today what I established yesterday or some previous day. — Harry Spencer Lewis

Blessings,
John E. Smith Co-Warden

Final *First Sunday Breakfast* coming in June



The St. James chefs are "hanging up their spatulas" for the summer season with the final breakfast for our spring church year to be held on June 3rd. Not knowing where you will get such a hearty breakfast in July and August, why not stop by and savor the aroma and taste of our delicious creations while there is still time! Our menu will feature scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon (a definite favorite!!), sausage, juice and coffee. "Be there or be square!" (Only those of us over 50 will understand this one!)

Summer Worship Schedule

Beginning Sunday, June 24th and continuing through Labor Day weekend, we will have a single Sunday worship service (Rite II) at 9 a.m. Nursery and childcare will be available. Wednesday Prayer & Eucharist services at 10 a.m. continue throughout the summer. Beginning June 29th the parish office will be closed on summer Fridays through Labor Day weekend.



Church school news

The first two Sundays in June we will have a special gathering for our Pre-K through 6th grade young ones in the parish hall. Some activities together will be in the offering, with June 10th being the official last day of Church School before taking a break until September. The middle school class will meet the first two Sundays in June as usual in the Youth Room upstairs. Blessings to all!

Youth Ministry updates

from Amelia (Amy) Moffat



In the month of May, eight youth, along with myself, Father George, and Trish Guglielmo travelled to NYC to experience *Nightwatch* for an overnight adventure learning more about each other and God. We had the opportunity to explore the magnificent St. John the Divine, learn about the church's century old organ, and worship alongside other churches from all of the country including New Hampshire and Maryland. We also hiked all over the city, stopping to pray for the lives lost at the 9/11 Memorial Pool and practiced meditative mindfulness and prayer at Battery Park Labyrinth.

We also participated in the Church of England's initiative called "Thy Kingdom Come" where youth practiced reflective prayer in a journal over the 10 days leading to Pentecost. We are looking forward to ending the church year on a high note by engaging in more getting to know you activities and finding new ways to pray.



We ♥ our children

Kyle Martin Clark, Neil and Pat Clark's grandson, graduates from St Andrew's School this month and this fall will attend Baldwin and Wallace College in Cleveland Ohio, majoring in musical theater

Rocco Guglielmo sang as part of the Elementary Honors Choir on April 20th at the CT Convention Center. He was one of four students chosen from all four Farmington elementary schools to participate. There were 250 kids made up of 4th–7th grade from all over the state.



Thank you to *St. James Heelers* & our supporters!!

Thank you to all that supported the *St. James Heelers* and the Walk Against Hunger on May 5th by walking, contributing, or both. The Walk, organized by Foodshare, supports many regional charities including the Friendship Service Center

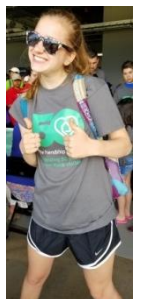


(FSC). Money raised by the *St. James Heelers* was

earmarked to go directly to the FSC. We Heelers met at the FSC table at Dunkin Donuts Park (home of the Yard Goats) and joined other FSC supporters for a picture and then we stepped off together. The "Walk" day was a glorious sunny day, just perfect for walking. Those that participated did a great job and had fun while doing so! At the time of this article, we have collected and donated a total of \$1,065, which exceeds my goal of \$1,000. Thank you, St. James Parish, for your continued support for Outreach and the Friendship Service Center!



Sheila Church
Captain, St. James Heelers



Church by the Pond – June 16th

On Saturday, June 16th, St. James will once again participate in Church by the Pond in Bushnell Park. Please contact Jessica Watkin with any questions! Here are some ways you can be involved in this important ministry:

- Sign up to make a financial donation to purchase the personal care and warm-weather items needed for the kits. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Make your check payable to *St. James Parish* with “Church by the Pond” in the memo line and include in the offering plate or mail or drop off at the church office.
- Sign up to attend Church by the Pond on June 16th at 2:00 pm, worship in Bushnell Park, and hand out the toiletry kits. This is a family-friendly event. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. These worship opportunities have become one of the most important events of our family’s year. We hope that those who have been missing the “sandwich crew” days will join us for this time of worship and service instead.
- Drop off new, unopened individual-sized toiletries from your travels in the blue bin that will be placed in the Narthex. We’ll give these “hotel goodies” to Christ Church Cathedral to hand out to guests at their soup kitchen.



Farmington Food Pantry June Collection

Every year the St. James family has committed to providing non-perishable food items, household items and cash to the Farmington Food Pantry for the months of January and June. The Farmington Food Pantry and the 200 local families that it currently serves depend greatly on these donations. Every month, the pantry provides deserving families with over 7,000 pounds of non-perishable food items. As we did in January, let’s collect over 1,000 pounds of donations for the month of June.



Specific items of need are tuna fish and other canned meat products, cereal, and personal care items. Throughout the month of June, please place your donations in the grey bin marked *Farmington Food Pantry* located in the narthex.

The donated items are delivered to The First Church of Christ, Farmington where the Food Pantry is housed. The Farmington Food Pantry is affiliated with Foodshare. That affiliation allows the Food Pantry to use any monetary donations to purchase supplemental food at a significantly reduced price.



All clients must be pre-qualified through Farmington Social Services (FSS) at 860-675-2390. Clients may shop at the Food Pantry twice a month by making an appointment through FSS.

The St. James Outreach Ministry thanks you for your generous and continued support of the Farmington Food Pantry. Deb Agrella and Bob Raupach are looking for assistance delivering the food. If you can help, please contact one of them.

Eight Years Old – Really?

In the IT world, every two- year period equals a “generational node.” Therefore, the St. James website that you have been enjoying for the past eight years has in some sense reached 32 in computer-world years. Any day now it will be replaced with a brilliant web site developed by parishioner Laura Vacca. Although it will contain much of the same information, its look will be modern and colorful.

8 years= 32!

Here is the history. In the spring of 2010, the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut (now known as the Episcopal Church in Connecticut or ECCT) offered a new communications option. Parishes could have access to a website template developed and supported by WebSolutions. Training for its implementation was led by Karin Hamilton, who then as now is in charge of ECCT communications. For St. James, this was a “perfect storm.” Our new interim rector, Hope Eakins, was looking for an experienced writer/editor to take on this challenge. When I arrived on the scene, looking for a volunteer role in my new parish, Hope had her answer. I became the webmaster.

About 15 of us representing maybe 10 parishes spent a full day at diocesan headquarters, then in Hartford. I went home with a thick manual and began to teach myself the website ropes. Like many of you, I grew up in a pre-computer land. When I worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston after college, giant IBM machines were fed information on punch cards. Even when I returned to the work force at Aetna, “Big Blue” computers were housed in specially built air-conditioned buildings and were used mainly for batch runs of insurance claims. PCs did not exist. Over my 23 years at Aetna and UBS, we gradually moved through several iterations of desk top computers that even senior executives had to learn how to use! Still, design remained with the experts and any problems were solved by the “IT guys.”

For me, formatting for our St. James’ website was a challenge. Photos had to be reduced proportionally and then cropped to fit in specific size spaces. Page headers were confined to 100 by 493 pixels, thus demanding long skinny photos. And copy, typically typed in Word, sometimes changed its font size because of imbedded coding in Word that we couldn’t see. With my daughter’s help, I learned how to cope with the mechanical issues and set forward on this new adventure.

For all these complications, I loved being webmaster. It kept me current with most of the parish activities and I became aware of so much that I would not have known. By taking pictures, I began to remember the names of many parishioners. Even when I did not feel like it, I showed up at parish events so I would have photos for the website and to share with the office for brochures and the St. James Facebook page.

I feel as if I am graduating after four years of high school and four years of college. I am a bit nostalgic yet even more, I am excited for St. James to have and use your new website. Thanks for your support.

Harriet Odlum,
Retiring Webmaster

And soon a new look ...

Greetings St. James!! We are very excited to announce that on June 1, 2018 we will launch a new website for the Parish. Our new website will be a bit more contemporary in feel and look and we believe will be easier to use. Why a change, you might be asking? One of the main reasons we are going with a new website is that the Episcopal Church in CT has ceased its contract with WebSolutions, who was the platform hosting our website for the last 8 years. So, we were going to eventually need to move to a new platform/host, and we thought now seemed like a good time. Second, we have talked a lot about how we project St. James' image into the community and wider world, so a web design that is more versatile, colorful, and can do more seemed to be in order.

In addition to a new website, St. James is going with a new logo. The logo is a bit more modern and, quite simply, a fresh look. The logo will ultimately be on all correspondence, letterhead, business cards, etc. It gives us the image of a boat, which has been St. James' "trademark," coming toward us in a very active way. We would like to project ourselves as a parish on the move, looking to new horizons while, at the same time, continuing to hold onto and treasure many of our traditions. A logo does not indicate for us a seismic shift in philosophy, simply a new way of looking and thinking about ourselves moving into the future. The logo was unveiled to the Vestry earlier in the year and, after some conversation, it seemed appropriate for who we have been and who we aspire to be as a congregation. **I would like to begin by thanking Harriet Odlum, who took on the work of webmaster about 8 years ago** and has capably kept us up to speed since then with creativity, patience, diligence, and kindness. I owe her an unending amount of gratitude and much praise!!! Our new logo and website were designed by Laura Vacca, a St. James member who knows a thing or two about web design. Laura, as a kindness to our parish, has spent long hours building the new site from scratch on a Wix platform. Thank you, too, Laura, for your dedication and work! I am really excited about the new website and new look and hope you all are as well!



Your picture in a brochure or on the website?



St. James Parish uses candid photos of various church activities on our website and in publications (like this *Epistle*). If you prefer that your photo NOT be displayed, please contact the parish office; we maintain a list of members whose likeness is not to be shared.

Prayer Team

From time to time, the Prayer Team shares something that we have found helpful in the life of faith, in the hope that you may find it helpful, too.

Jesus didn't offer an ideology ... he offered himself.

Henri Nouwen

St. James Prayer Team ... Praying together for you

Always available, always confidential

Armen Slusarz
Carol Kirkwood
Donna Paye
Pat Clark

Celebrating June birthdays!

Matt Brockman
Liam Chekas
Olivia Paré
Owen Wahl
Rocco Guglielmo
Wendy Ives
Marisol Pereira
Josh Martin



Sarah Torrence
Ed Preneta
Joey Guglielmo
Tanny Clark
Tracey Roberts
Gideon Pereira
Lisa Solomon
Mark Riemer

Summary of Vestry Minutes – April 16, 2018

In attendance: Fr. George Robert, Chris Roach, Rebecca McFarland, Dona Waugh, Bill Raymond, Cathie Martin, Jessica Watkin, Julia Grieco, Todd Root. (Absent: John Smith, Ann Monroe-Baillargeon.)

MINUTES FOR MARCH, 2017

Bill moved to accept the minutes, Cathie seconded, unanimous vote to accept the minutes.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Finance/Treasurer's report – March 2018

EJ writes: "...pledge income is improving. Last month pledge income was off by \$13.1K. This month that gap has narrowed to \$9.5K and that doesn't include Easter. ... Income is down about \$12K, but it's likely just timing as timing of expenses are also helping us out. The total budget vs. actuals is off about \$7K which is acceptable at this point in the year. You'll see on the income side that we budgeted \$4200 in dividend income. Two of the three funds distributed dividend checks for a total of \$2500 but the payment won't hit our statement until April. Therefore, if those checks hit a few days earlier our income statement would be improved by at least \$2,500 and possibly the full \$4,200 (depending on the dividend payment from the 3rd fund)."

What is goal for DR trip? \$10,000 and we should get there. Current balance represents what was carried over, team members' deposits, and grinder sale. For future trips should we do a little bit at a time all year rather than focusing closer to travel time. Or should we do an annual event that supports the upcoming trip, even if there is not a trip every year. Or multiple small things like bottle slips or change in a jar or a little bake sale on a Sunday morning or a small concert.

Discussion about Diocesan contribution and making the Parish more aware of what it is, what it is used for, and the fact that we always make our targeted apportionment.

Julia moved to accept the financial report, Todd seconded, unanimous vote to accept the report.

Exploring capital projects to be done

Fr. George reported out for John. There is a group of four working on a list of capital projects at the church and at the Rectory. We are getting some quotes for paving and siding, talking to the town about the historic district for siding at the Rectory. Also getting quotes for the water damage and the work can start as soon as the weather settles down. Also have a quote for painting work to be done on church interior spaces.

OLD BUSINESS

RenewalWorks

Workshops 2 and 3 have happened. The 4th and final workshop is on April 23. There will be a summary report to the Vestry in May with a fuller report in June.

A small group of people is writing a draft report that Vestry will look at in May and agree on what will be reported out to Parish: Why did we start this, what did the inventory say, and where do we need to expend some energy as a Parish. The work has been fun and illuminating so far.

Question about whether this is something that parishes do in multiple years. It already feels like we've gotten a lot of thoughtful reflection and vitality out of a \$500 investment. Julia recommends that if we were to repeat, we do it every 3 or 5 years, this is not something that you would do every year. The workshops are very structured and it is hard work; the program is well designed to keep the group on target. We have done various projects before, whether visioning or reflection. If we are

going to try to repeat something it would make sense to stick with *RenewalWorks* so that we can compare results longitudinally.

Use of the Parish Hall

Look at Miss Porter's School sample contract. We have frowned on events with a ticket price but would we be open to other non-profits holding fundraising events here? The general feeling is yes. How often does it happen that someone rents the space? Not a lot. Would we decide to let outside groups serve alcohol under certain parameters? It is something to consider. We currently stipulate a Certificate of Insurance, but that is too vague; look at Porter's Schedule A for a more specific idea. Do we provide staffing? No. Is that something we want to think about, do we want to have St. James eyes on an event, our own person to serve as "security" – and might that have to be more than one person depending on the size of the crowd? We need more specifics about a deposit, the exact parts of the facility that are available, where you can go and not go, under what conditions you forfeit your deposit, etc. Send your thoughts on inclusions and exclusions to Fr. George.

Lilly Grant

New application sent April 9th. Now we are in the waiting period.

NEW BUSINESS

We've lost a person who had thought about joining us because no one spoke to them during coffee hour. We all should take our cues from the ideas of hospitality and welcome and be leaders by example.

RECTOR'S THOUGHTS

Youth to *Nightwatch*, in NYC, May 4-5

Fr. George to Honduras May 14-17 with Food for the Poor

Sunday, May 20, is *Pentecost* with picnic to follow, wear red; consider helping with setup/cleanup

Next Vestry meeting, **Monday, May 21, Evening Prayer** at 6:30

The Good Book Club continues in Eastertide with Acts

First Sunday Breakfast Sunday, May 6

Nametags – Vestry leads the way; new Vestry members should have new tag.


Bill moved to adjourn, Todd seconded, unanimous vote to adjourn. We closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Watkin, Parish Clerk

JUNE 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 6:30 AA	2 10 am–4 pm Farmington Historical Society Tours (ticketed event)
3 HE 8:00 & 10:15 9:00 <i>First Sunday Breakfast</i> 10:00 Nursery 11:30 Coffee Hour	4	5	6 HE 10:00 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal	7 10:30 Eucharist at Touchpoints	8 6:30 AA	9 7:00 Recital
10 HE 8:00 & 10:15 10:00 Nursery 10:30 Amberwoods Ministry 11:30 Coffee Hour	11	12	13 HE 10:00 2:30 NWS Teachers' Ice Cream Social 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal	14 9:30 Prep & serve lunch at Friendship Service Center 4:00 Duncan family Committal	15 <i>Summer Epistle submission deadline</i> 6:30 AA	16 Tag sale 2:30 Church by the Pond
17 HE 8:00 & 10:15 10:00 Nursery 11:30 Coffee Hour	18 6:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Vestry	19	20 HE 10:00	21	22 <i>DR Mission Trip begins</i>  6:30 AA	23
24 HE 9:00 9:00 Nursery 10:30 Coffee Hour	25	26	27 HE 10:00	28	29 Parish Office closed 6:30 AA	30

View the entire calendar of events at our webpage: www.stjamesfarmington.org upcoming events.

ST. JAMES PARISH

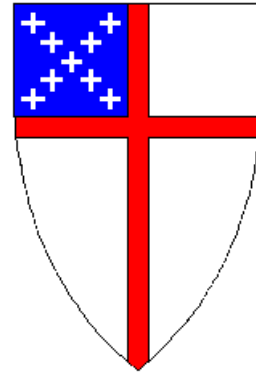
3 Mountain Road
Farmington, Connecticut 06032

Phone: 860-677-1564

Fax: 860-677-8219

Email: st.james.church@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.stjamesfarmington.org



MISSION STATEMENT:

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

STAFF

The Rev. George C. Roberts	Rector
Amelia (Amy) Moffat	Youth Minister
Blake Hansen	Director of Music
Susan Deming	Parish Administrator
Kelly Nauss	Sexton
Kimberly Tuttle	Nursery Supervisor

OFFICERS

Cathie Martin & John Smith, Wardens
EJ Ososki, Treasurer
Jerry Hess, Asst. Treasurer
Jessica Watkin, Parish Clerk

VESTRY

2018

Bill Raymond
Chris Roach
John Smith

2019

Cathie Martin
Ann Monroe-Baillargeon
Todd Root

2020

Julia Grieco
Rebecca McFarland
Dona Waugh

ST. JAMES PARISH

3 MOUNTAIN ROAD
FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06032

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

