

*Summer, 2021*

# The Network



***St. James' Episcopal Church***

2584 Main Street, P.O. Box 206, Glastonbury, CT

## Service Schedule

### Sundays

9:00 am Rite II Holy Eucharist

*In church, in person and broadcast on YouTube*

### Wednesdays

9:00 am Morning Devotions *Facebook Live, ZOOM*

*Check the Wednesday e-blast for site links and password information.  
Watch for upcoming outside services held at 11:15 am, on some Sundays.*

## *St. James' Vision*

*We are a Christian community committed to our individual faith journeys through learning, sharing and listening to God and one another. We live this faith through hospitality and acceptance, challenging ourselves and one another to join God in God's mission in our neighborhoods and the world.*



# Rector's Ramblings

As most of you know, summer is not my favorite season. I just do not do well in hot weather and this summer has been hot and steamy. But the blessing of this summer has been to be back in our wonderful worship space at St. James' Church. It has been great seeing people returning and being so open and flexible to the ways that things are a bit different in our worship space as well as adjusting as we slowly bring something back to the service (singing in church, processing in, Communion trays). It fills my heart with joy to be a part of a community that is so open to trying new things whose main focus is gathering to worship God and not sweating the small stuff. Thank you to all of you, you make my life so much easier!

And having said that, my fear is that we may not be continuing on this track of "reopening." The CT Covid rate is up again. Although we are not at the levels we were, thank God, the fact that we are creeping up causes some concern for what the Fall will bring. My hope is that things will stay as is, at least. But if not, we need to be ready.

We have already had to return to all wearing our masks in church throughout the service but are able to stay with spacing at 3 feet. We do however need to be ready that this might change to more than 3 feet (meaning two pews between us not one), and any other precautions that might come our way.

One of the things we are working on is how to filter the air in the building, the church, offices, parish hall, Sunday School rooms, etc., so that we are as safe as we can be from this virus and any other contaminants that come through the air. We are blessed to have Don Gardner and Rich Connell with specific knowledge and contacts to make those assessments and plan our best course of action for this. Don will be sharing more on this to help us all understand what it entails.

I am not trying to depress or scare us, just prepare us. I ask that you remain patient as the Vestry and Reopening Task Force (who I know never thought would be still working on all this) do the very best to keep us all safe AND help us to return to whatever "normal" will look like in the future.

I ask you to hold us all in prayer as we navigate this unknown future and make the decisions that are best for us all.

Love & Peace,  
Denise+



Brynn Pramberger  
has been very  
helpful to Caryl  
Donovan to help  
maintain our church  
plants this summer.

## Music Notes

*"O for a thousand tongues to sing..." Hymnal 1982: #493*

Well, we may not be a thousand tongues [voices], but we are singing again. Protocols change rapidly and in late spring we were given the go-ahead to sing in church if we wore masks. As of July 4<sup>th</sup>, music has been 'live' using the organ and piano. It has been a joy these past few weeks to hear singing, ending the long silence.

I'm not sure even a crystal ball can predict how we will make music in the fall. I know the Adult Choir is ready to resume singing, and we have two new members. All we can do is keep being flexible and bring choir and programs (such as Celtic Vespers) back whenever possible.

*Oh, the future lies before me,  
And I know not where I'll be;  
But where'er my path be leading,  
Savior, keep my heart with Thee.*

Words: Jennie Stout, 19<sup>th</sup> cent.

Jim Barry, Minister of Music

## *Changes to the Way we receive Communion*

We have been trying to figure out how we would be doing Communion in the future realizing that we are not going to go back to drinking from one Chalice or dipping our fingers into one Chalice (intinction). So, in keeping with our Theology and understanding of a shared cup (Jesus said, "Take this cup..." not everyone take your cup), we will Consecrate a flagon (or pitcher) and then fill the small cups so that the initial Concretion is still done in one vessel before pouring it into the smaller serving cups for individual consumption.

We will begin using our new Communion cups and trays beginning on August 1<sup>st</sup>. We will also always have the small cups for grape juice for anyone requesting it. So, the process will be that we will fill the small cups that will be in the Communion trays and the Minister of Communion will hold the trays. You will then take a cup, step to the side, and consume the wine and then place the cup in the basket to the right in front of either the Pulpit or the Lectern depending on which side you sit.



On June 13, **Refuge** put together book bags with personal care items for girls in need. They were originally supposed to go to girls transitioning into or exiting group home settings, (e.g., The Village clients).

Communication issues led to the decision for the bags to be donated to the Salvation Army's Women's Shelter and/or the YWCA's shelter for women and families.

Thank you Clair Gadson!

## Building a Beloved Community team at St. James'

*Dr. King's Beloved Community is a global vision in which all people can share in the wealth of the earth. In the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood.*

<https://thekingcenter.org/about-tkc/the-king-philosophy/>

The newly named "Building a Beloved Community" team has held two meetings to begin planning and acting on ways to acknowledge and confront racism as individuals, in the St. James' community, and in the wider community. We have spent time reviewing what St. James' has done in the recent past to confront racism. We have considered what it means to be a Beloved Community and how to live into that at St. James'. Some team members have attended webinars, including the quarterly meeting of the ECCT Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation Ministry Network.

You are invited to participate in reading and responding to the "Weekly Message and Response" from the ECCT Reparations Task Force that arrives each Wednesday in our Parish News email.

In addition:

- The team is taking steps to discover and document historic complicity in racism at St. James' and in Glastonbury. Two resources that will help us in our work will be The Glastonbury Historical Society and a recent webinar, "Slavery and Abolition in Glastonbury," that was hosted by the Glastonbury Martin Luther King Community Initiative.
- We have reviewed the Sacred Ground curriculum, a dialogue series using readings and film based on race, grounded in faith. We are hoping to begin our first *Sacred Ground Circle* in early 2022. Please be on the look out for more information.
- We are gathering other resources--individuals and groups-- that we hope to learn about and work with as we reach out to the wider Glastonbury community.

Looking ahead, we will be brainstorming ideas for the work ahead of us, learning about the *Charter for Compassion*, and putting together a purpose, Mission and Vision statement, and forming the beginnings of a timeline.

We welcome your feedback! Please contact Becky Lee ([balee@cox.net](mailto:balee@cox.net)).

## The Rev. Don Hamer

*You were all blessed to get to know Don as our long term Supply Priest during my Sabbatical. Now, we are blessed to have Don and his wife, Debbie, join us at St. James' in a more long term capacity. Don will be what is known as a "Priest Associate." This is a title given to retired clergy who assist at a church with no stipend and are available to help out when and when she/he are able. Don has also joined the choir so we will see him signing on Sundays when the choir resumes in the Fall. We are blessed to have both Debbie and Don joining us.*

## Back to Two Services?

As we look to the Fall and what our worship schedule might look like, we realize that it is more than just a desire to return to our usual 8:00 and 10:15 am services. For as long as we need to socially distance (and with the new variant spreading we will be doing this for a while) we do have capacity issues. We have come up with one solution for as long as we have one service and that is to have an overflow space. Once the Nave (the place you all sit in church) is at safe distance capacity, ushers will lead folks up to the Parish Hall where we will have chairs set and the service "live-streamed." Communion will be brought up to the Parish Hall for folks up there, as well. In order to move to two services, we need to have several more volunteers in various capacities:

- We need to have two ushers at each service now, one at the door we use from the atrium and one at the front door of the church to help people find a seat. This is especially important as the church fills up and we need to keep our social distancing and perhaps have people go up to the parish hall.
- We need more Lectors and Intercessors. We have a hard time filling all the slots each month for one service at 9:00 right now, we do not have enough to cover two services.
- We need more Ministers of Communion to help administer Communion in the serving trays that have holes for cups (if you have attended worship in the Lutheran or Congregational or other Protestant Church you know what those look like). This person also helps with the slides during the Eucharistic prayer.
- We have a few folks who have volunteered to learn what John Korber does in the back, getting us on-line, and we would only live stream one service so that is in good shape.
- We need Altar Guild help, setting up and cleaning up before and after the services.

These are all the things we need help with, and we will only be able to move forward with two services if we have the help we need to do so. So if you are interested in helping in one or more of these ministries, please let me know at [rector@stjamesgl.org](mailto:rector@stjamesgl.org) or contact Jodi in the office by email [parishadmin@stjamesgl.org](mailto:parishadmin@stjamesgl.org). Thanks so much.



## St. James' Financial Future

*By Joyce Reynolds, Assistant Treasurer*

In keeping with our promise to inform you periodically on how your generous support is being responsibly managed by the Vestry, we are providing you with this update on where we are, currently.

On July 21<sup>st</sup> the Rev. Denise, together with the Vestry, met with staff of ECCT to discuss the ECCT's recent assessment of St. James' financial picture, findings and recommendations. The good news is that St. James' is "not in trouble" financially as some of the diocese parishes find themselves in today. However, we do want to be perfectly transparent and objective in our reporting to you. That information may cause some concern either now or down the road and may call for immediate remedies to remain solvent and sustain our parish as we know it and appreciate it.

It would appear at this point in time that at least \$290,000 of the *Joining Jesus* pledge money will not be received by the end of the 5-year pledge period due to unforeseen, unfortunate circumstances. That money had been identified to pay for major repairs to the church building, in addition to other expense items. Because of the pandemic and safety precautions taken to reopen the church, some of the funds had to be reallocated to cover expenses such as air filtration and technology upgrades.

Another area of the balance sheet that needs watching is whether we will be able to afford a full-time Rector after 2021, given the same level of pledging. Total pledges have been consistently decreasing over the past 10 years as our church population has decreased proportionately.

We are not sounding the alarm just yet, and the Vestry is in discussion with Denise to understand where St. James' future is headed and to take immediate action to re-adjust priorities within our budget, while at the same time aiming to meet the parish's goals and parishioners' needs.

We remain optimistic, however, that it will be possible to increase projected revenues by rolling out new pledge campaigns, capital campaigns, fundraisers, attracting new families, outreach activities, and by capitalizing on property assets and investments. ECCT has offered to support our efforts and will provide Rev. Denise with some references and valuable resources on non-profit fundraisers and grant applications.

A copy of ECCT's report is available to anyone interested in seeing the details. Please email your request to Joyce Reynolds, Assistant Treasurer at [jareynolds@snet.net](mailto:jareynolds@snet.net). Any questions can be directed to Treasurer Bob Dugger at [rcd49@aol.com](mailto:rcd49@aol.com). As further developments evolve, we will certainly keep everyone apprised.

Our sincerest thanks for your many ways that support St. James' community and keep its vision alive.

## St. James' Sanctuary Air Quality

As most of you know, the CDC continues to state that the most effective control for the spread of the COVID-19 virus is mask-wearing (source capturing), social distancing and hand washing. Indoors, proper ventilation is also important, which is why we have made some changes to our existing methods of circulating and filtering the air.

### Phase I (in place)

We have installed greatly improved filters (MERV 13) in our two forced-air heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems; the minimum recommended by ASHRAE (the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers). These filters are able to filter out roughly 85% of the COVID-carrying respiratory droplets that might get into the air when we talk,

sing, breathe or cough. In addition, we are running the fans, that force the air through those filters, in the “on” position at all times the sanctuary is occupied.

Prior to, during and for a time after the services, we are currently opening the lower portion of our stained glass windows to allow outside air to be drawn in through them. We set up a large exhaust fan in the bell tower to create the air flow out through one of the doors. The airflow is quite good, is adjustable and causes minimal distracting noise levels.

## Phase 2

We have contracted with an engineering firm who has designed a system to provide outside air directly into each of the two ventilation system units that are in the basement. If installed, that air will mix with the currently recirculated and filtered air to provide additional dilution of any remaining contaminants.

We will continue to evaluate what we need to do ventilation-wise to provide a safe environment for all those who attend our services in person. If you have any questions on the existing improvements or what we are continuing to pursue, please feel free to contact Don Gardner at [dbgardner@cox.net](mailto:dbgardner@cox.net).



*Okay, Colin is growing taller these days but not that much taller than Carl!*

Many thanks to

Carl Benker

for his “ushering” leadership to seat and move us safely in the church Nave (Sanctuary).

### **Church School and Refuge**

will resume in September. Please look for future updates via email. Registration forms for the new session will be sent out for completion in August.

# Contact Information

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*The Episcopal Church in Connecticut*

[www.ctdiocese.org](http://www.ctdiocese.org)

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian T. Douglas, Diocesan Bishop  
The Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

*St. James' Clergy*

The Rev. Denise Cabana, *Rector*  
The Rev. Don Hamer, *Priest Associate*

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Office Hours: *Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:00-3:00, in the church*  
*Mondays-Thursdays by telephone and email, 9:00am-2:00pm*

*Pastoral Emergency: Call the church office (860-633-8333) and dial 4 any time during the message. Your call will be routed to the clergyperson on call.*