

St. James' Episcopal Church  
Hyde Park, New York

Annual Report for the Year 2023  
Presented at the Annual Meeting

January 28, 2024

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# Agenda

- 9:00 a.m. Polls open for Elections (Church)  
Holy Eucharist (Church)
- 10:00 a.m. Group photo (in front of the Church doors, weather permitting)  
Move to Parish Hall for refreshments
- 10:30 a.m. In the Parish Hall
- I. Opening of the Annual Meeting
    - A. Welcome and Opening Prayer
    - B. Resolution to Appoint a Recording Secretary
    - C. Resolution to Approve the Minutes for the 2023 Annual Meeting and 2023 Special Meeting
  - II. Reports
    - A. Priest-in-Charge
    - B. Wardens
    - C. Deacon
    - D. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of the 2024 Parish Budget
  - III. Resolution to Approve Proposed Revisions to Parish Bylaws (as presented to the parish at the November 12, 2023 Special Meeting)
  - IV. Election of Warden and Three Vestry Members, Part 1
    - A. Presentation of Nominees
    - B. Final Call for Ballots
  - V. Diocesan Mission Review Activity
  - VI. Election of Warden and Three Vestry Members, Part 2
    - A. Announcement of Election Results
    - B. Recognition of Departing Vestry Members
    - C. Commissioning of new Vestry Members
    - D. Appointment of the Vestry Nominating Committee for 2024-25
  - VII. Awarding of the St. James' Medal
  - VIII. Parish Transitions and Prayer
  - IX. Comments from the Floor
  - X. Adjournment & Final Blessing

# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Saint James' Church

Hyde Park, New York

Sunday January 29, 2023

## **Opening of Meeting**

Mother Meredith opened the meeting in prayer at 10:50.

Mother Meredith nominated Mike Glancey to be the clerk. Doug seconded. All approved

Mother Meredith explained the method for voting today both in person and on Zoom. Mother Meredith requested a motion to approve the meeting to be held in hybrid, both in person and on Zoom...Justin moved 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim. None opposed.

Meredith requested a motion to approve the minutes from last year. Lillian moved and Eric seconded. Mary Gabel mentioned that her last name was spelled incorrectly. It will be corrected.

## **Priest's Report**

Mother Meredith extended her thanks and appreciation for being at St James and thanked everyone for the part they played both in getting her and her family here but in also helping to keep St James thriving over the last few difficult years. Mother Meredith spoke about her report with emphasis on building relationships and re-building the church.

## **Warden's Report**

Andy Hall spoke on his report. He expressed his thanks for the work that Jim does extremely effectively as the treasurer of the church. Added that we will be looking to fill-in roles such as pledge clerk, ushers and greeters. Mentioned how far we have come with being able to record the services. He expressed his thanks for all the work that Doug has accomplished as senior warden.

## **Deacon's Report**

Deacon Gail opened with a collect for diversity to recognize the injustices that have been happening in the world as of late. Deacon Gail gave a shoutout of thanks to all the members of the outreach committee, especially to Joanne Lown for her work. She expresses thanks to

Deb Belding for the work that she does with the Community Garden, as well as Sue DeLorenzo for her work with the NY Hati project. She expressed her thanks to St James for all of our work at helping to extend God's mission. Deacon Gail continued to talk about the work that outreach plans to be involved in in the coming year. She asked us to be sure that we reach out to our local leaders to identify injustices and express our interest in current issues.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jim read his report to the congregation. He mentioned that although 2022 was a difficult year like most years, St James was blessed with good fortune due to the generosity of the congregation. He highlighted that due to the recent poor performance of the stock market our investments declined. He also highlighted that the generosity of the church helped us to exceed our budget for pledge income by 10% for the year.

Jim went on to talk about the budget for next year. The budget is a deficit budget of \$13,331.94. He spoke about the need to make an amendment to the by-laws to increase the expenditure limit from \$500 to 1500 to reflect the effects of inflation of the years. Jim mentioned that he would also propose a bylaws committee to review the bylaws.

Jim proposed that the budget be approved. Mike G seconded. Russell asked Jim to speak to the \$13000 dollar deficit. Jim said that he is completely comfortable with it in that we have ample reserves. All present members approved the budget.

Mother Meredith explained that we can hear the amendment to increase the expenditure limit at this meeting but that the parish will be able to approve this amendment in a future congregation meeting.

Jim asked to appoint a committee to review the bylaws and to propose any updates. Bobby Wells seconded. All members approved.

### **Vestry Elections**

Patty Glancey announced the candidates that are standing for the vestry.

- Mike Glancey for a 2 year for junior warden
- Melinda Harris for a first 3 year term for the Vestry
- Mary Jo Garlo for a first 3 year term for the Vestry
- Eric Zavadil for a second 3 year term for the Vestry

Mother Meredith recognized Andy Hall to announce the results. All candidates were elected.

Mother Meredith expressed her thanks for Doug Belding, outgoing senior warden, for all of the work that he has done for the parish.

Mother Meredith commissioned the newly elected members of the Vestry.

### **Appointment of Nominating Committee**

Mother Meredith asked for three volunteers to serve on the 2023 nominating committee as non-Vestry members.

Deb Belding, Walter Koch, Brain Rance all volunteered.

### **Presentation of St. James' Medal**

Doug Belding and Eric Zavadil presented the St James' Medal to all the members of the Search Committee:

Wendy Urban-Mead as the chair

Justin Bohlmann

Karen Gasparini

Patty Glancey

Irene Kipp

Lynne Koch

Jim Oppenheimer

Barbra Slegel

Charlessa Thatcher

Bobbie Wells

Patty Glancey said a few words of thanks to Wendy Urban-Mead for her leadership of the search committee.

### **Parish Transitions**

Deacon Gail read the parish transitions for 2022.

### **Comments**

Mother Meredith opened the floor for comments.

Deb Belding expressed her love and gratitude to John and Gloria Golden. Expressed their desire to keep the chapel vibrant and active in the community. She mentioned that she and Doug are looking to reinvigorate events at the chapel including the fireside chats as well as music events.

David Bender mentioned that he is no longer an active deacon at St James.

Justin Bohlmann moved to close the meeting seconded by Wilma Tully. Mother Meredith ended the meeting at 11:56 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Glancey

Recording Secretary

## Minutes of the Special Meeting of Saint James' Church

Hyde Park, New York

Sunday, November 12, 2023

Mother Meredith called the meeting to order at 9:09 with a prayer.

Jim Smyth made a motion, seconded by Lillian Peralta, to appoint Walter Koch as recording secretary. The motion passed.

Mike Glancey briefed the congregation on the reasons for creating the Bylaw revision task force, namely bringing the Bylaws up to date with various governing agencies, new technology, means of communication and general clarification.

Maggie McNamara then presented an overview of how the Task Force operated. The impetus for setting up the project was Treasurer Jim Smythe's request at the last Annual Meeting to amend the Bylaws to reflect the increase in cost of living in writing checks that do not need Vestry approval, namely from \$500 to \$1,500. The committee met six times and spent over 12 hours on the project. Sample Diocesan bylaws, Canon law, and NY State religious not-for profit laws were consulted in making alterations and additions. An effort was made to keep the original format of the church Bylaws intact as much as possible.

The results were presented to the Vestry in August and approved by the Vestry in October. The changes will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in January. A two-thirds majority of those present is needed to finalize the revision.

The floor was then opened for questions.

A clarification of quorum and parishioner was requested. State law says 10%, the Diocese requires 25%. A parishioner is defined as being over age 18 and is a regular church attendee

who contributes financial support to the church for the previous 12 months. The parishioner count is monitored in a database and recorded in the annual parish report.

Steve Gausepohl asked who drafts the budget. The Vestry appoints a committee or person to the task; the finance committee of the old bylaws was changed for flexibility.

Wilma Tully asked if the assistant treasurer was bonded. The assistant treasure is not required but if one were appointed, they would be bonded according to the bylaws.

Wendy Urban-Mead asked if there was a difference between Vestry person and Vestry member. No, but alterations were made for consistency.

There being no further questions, Mother Meredith thanked the committee members for their service. Mike Glancey especially thanked Maggie McNamara for her knowledge and hard work.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:20; the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Koch

Recording Secretary

## Priest's Report

Jesus tells us, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

We do!

2023 was our first full year of ministry together, and life has been abundant: joyful, challenging, hopeful. This church is full of life. We are full of contagious joy at the God who called us here and walks with us into the future.

I'm proud of us, and grateful to God.

This summer, as the last faithful folks were tidying up the Parish Hall after the funeral reception for our dear John Golden, Jr., I was alone, washing my hands in the restroom. I remember the moment so clearly. I thought of the day: of the faces of over one hundred parishioners and community members who had gathered here to mourn and celebrate. Of the folks who cleaned the church, set up chairs on the lawn, set up the AV equipment. Of the sound of our singing together. And I thought, "I can't wait to call up John, and talk about how proud we are of this church." And then I realized...

This, of course, is part of the pain and beauty of our abundant life together. We are constantly losing what we love, even as we gain what we had not known to hope for. There are so many new faces at St. James' this year (thank God!), folks who never got to know our saints like John. Your new priest never knew the countless saints like Gloria, or Allelu, or Fr. Kidd, except through your stories. But these saints who built the church we have are with us even now, and I believe they are cheering us on as we build what the next generation will receive with grateful hearts.

At last year's Annual Meeting, I had been your priest for just short of three months. I named three hopes: we'd build and strengthen relationships; we'd rebuild ministries disrupted by the pandemic; we'd begin to discover new ways that God is calling us.

Those hopes have been met, abundantly!

Hope shows up in the numbers, because we're growing. The number of people in church on Sundays increased 26% this year. We welcomed lots of new faces and celebrated six baptisms and five adult confirmations/receptions. And we took care of one another: visiting the sick, remembering one another in our prayers, writing cards and making phone calls.

Hope shows up in hard work done cheerfully. Thank you for decluttering our closets, emptying our attics, and organizing our files. The stage in our Parish Hall is clear, and being used once again for performances! Thank you for making the coffee and stacking the chairs. Thank you for polishing our brass and weeding our gardens. Thank you for reviewing our parish bylaws line-by-line and for preparing the financial reports. Thank you for coming in late at night, after work, to get the furnace fixed, and getting up early to edit the newsletter. Thank you.

Hope shows up in the programs and events, because we had a *lot* of fun together this year—and we also learned together, prayed deeply, and cared for one another in the hardest moments. We brought back and renewed beloved ministries, from acolytes and ushers to Lenten Breakfasts and the Mother's Day Tea. We ate well—remember the fabulous potluck in our Community Garden after the annual Garden Blessing, or the Candlemas Soup Supper with St. Margaret's? We traveled to the Bronx to join hundreds of others packing food for our siblings in Haiti. We cheered for our Youth Group as they planned monthly events, from a fall harvest festival day to a morning cooking a meal for our homeless neighbors. We had a blast doing our St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals in a new way (which had us meeting dozens of new neighbors) and we held space for broken hearts with special services like our Service of Remembrance for Pregnancy and Infant Loss, and our Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land.

We do have so much to be proud of—so much for which we give thanks to God.



Because all of this—the growth, the programs and events, the lives touched, redeemed, and transformed—wells up from our abundant, deep joy in one another, in our mission, and in God.

It's because we drink from the wellspring of **joy in Christ** that our hard work is not grim, but cheerful. We meet challenges not with anxiety, but with curiosity, even excitement. God is with us in all we do together. We know why we're here—to have life, together, abundantly.

The year ahead will challenge us and demand our best. We will be addressing a pattern of unsustainable financial deficit—and it matters that we do, because we want this joy-filled place to be here to welcome the generations of saints that God will call here long after we're gone. We will be offering hospitality in new and difficult ways: from challenging ourselves to make a real plan to get our bathrooms fully handicap accessible, to ensuring that we're incorporating new members' gifts, talents, and ways of serving.

With God's help, we can do this. We *are* doing this. We have the resources and the momentum. We are here. We are so very alive. And friends: **we have the joy.**

Faithfully,

Meredith+

The Rev. Meredith Kadet Sanderson

St. James' Episcopal Church

January 28, 2024

## Wardens' Report

We would like to start off saying a huge thank you and to express how proud we feel of everyone that has been involved in so many ways this past year. This past year we have been very fortunate to have so many people involved in the ministries and activities of the St. James' Church. It takes a lot to run all of the various moving parts of the church and all of our volunteers have stepped up in a huge way!!

Thank you to our wonderful AV club, Kasey Gaulin, Steve Woodcock, Grace Woodcock, Riley Hall. Our sometime substitutes Tanya and Braeden Hall, and special thanks to our head AV nerd Steve Gausepohl for setting the schedules and keeping us all informed of changes or special services that will need coverage. As our in-person attendance has increased our online views of Sunday service remain constant, averaging around 30 plus views weekly. Our live stream of special events like the Institution of Mother Meredith had 84 views and John

Goldens Funeral service had 693 views. The importance of our live stream ability cannot be understated. We have the opportunity to reach people virtually anywhere and share the Lord's love for them. This past year I had to be away from home doing some training for my job. Being able to watch Sunday service (not always on Sunday) gave me a feeling of connection with my St. James' family. This was a great comfort as hotel rooms can sometimes be very lonely. As we continue our journey of renewal and rediscovery here at St. James', I believe our AV club can and will become a more useful tool to help us "Know Christ and make him known." If you have any interest in serving in this mission or any questions about it, please reach out to any of us AV nerds.

Each year our infrastructure needs different amounts of care from light fixtures being installed to leaking pipes being repaired to boilers relit to emptying attics and having stuff hauled away. While we are not the ones always doing the work, many times we need to hire professionals. Someone needs to be present to unlock doors or supervise the work being done. To all who have helped this past year in that capacity we thank you. Thank you to our Sexton Kyle Imperati for the day to day maintenance that keeps our doors open. A special mention and thank you to Eric Zavadil for all the work he has helped to do or organize to make improvements to the dumpsters, obtaining quotes for tree work, remodeling the Wilks room and purchasing new kitchen lighting. All these things help to allow us to continue serving God's people.

We have a tremendous kitchen crew that has grown this year for our very successful Lenten Breakfast. We had a ton of fun planning and orchestrating our meals together. Cooking the food is almost as much fun as eating! If you are interested in helping out this year please listen for ways to get involved all are welcome.

A special thank you to Christopher Sanderson who has accepted the position of Building and Grounds Chair. We have four buildings and almost ten acres of property. The work is endless and at times tiring. You know the motto "Many hands make light work;" this could not be any truer for us here at St. James'. Please reach out to Christopher and let him know if you are willing to help in any way.

Thank you to our departing Outreach committee chair Joanne Lown. The energy and leadership you have brought to this important mission has been inspiring. Thank you to Lillian and Kerri for offering to co-chair. I know our Outreach committee is in good hands.

Thank you to Brian Rance and Joe Gasparini, for heading up the Graveyard tours this year. Along with the many members of the parish who sewed, lead, followed (herded), practice lines lit torches, parked cars and stepped in wherever they were needed to make yet another fun and successful year for the Graveyard tours.

A Huge thank you to our incredible Vestry. Each month our Vestry meets, and at these meetings many topics are discussed, ideas exchanged, and sometimes difficult decisions are made. Every so often something will come up and we cannot wait for our monthly meeting, so a special session will be called to discuss the issue. Some concerns require special committees to be created. All these duties have been and continue to be handled with great discernment, prayer, passion and sometimes humor by this sitting vestry. It has truly been a pleasure serving with them.

Many people this past year donated their time and talent to St. James'. While some of the work is tiring, and there is never a shortage of things that must get done, perhaps the real gift is that we get to do this work together. There are many ways that St. James' can reach out to us, but the work that brings us together is what keeps many of us coming back. Thank you everyone!

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Hall and Mike Glancey

## Deacon's Report

Go forth in peace, bringing the Light of Christ into the world. The Light that shines love, reconciliation, hope, justice and respect for human dignity into the dark corners of our community and the world.

On Tuesday, January 23rd, many Episcopalians from around the country will gather together in a theater near them to view the documentary: **The Case for Love: Bridging the Divide**, inspired by the teachings and writings of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

Last December, I had the opportunity to join an Episcopal Parish Network webinar for a preview and discussion of the documentary and how it came into being. The documentary reflects ordinary people from all walks of life and different ethnicities on how they are striving to live out their call to love their neighbors.

What stood out to everyone on the webinar was the t-shirt that each of the panelists wore.

Love over Hate  
Love over Indifference  
Love over Ego  
Love over Ignorance  
Love over Fear  
Love over Barriers  
Love over Borders

Love over and over and over again!

As Presiding Bishop Michael Curry continues to remind us each day: “As the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement we follow the Way of Jesus. His way is the Way of Love, and that love has the power to change lives and change the world.”

As followers of Christ, as Episcopalians, our baptismal covenant calls each of us to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being.

It is not easy to be a follower of Christ and to be the messenger of love that has the power to change lives amidst the constant sounds of fear and hate, the sounds of the devastation of war in Gaza, in the Ukraine and in other parts of the world including the sounds of human rights violations and injustices that constantly permeate our society.

Jesus expects us, as his followers, to actively engage in the world around us. We cannot hide behind closed doors that blinds us to our surroundings. We cannot be indifferent or remain neutral to issues of injustices that need our attention and our response; injustices that wipe away the respect and dignity of our neighbors. “I will, with God’s help” is our response as we work together to solve the many pressing injustices facing God’s beloved children.

As a deacon of the Church, one of my primary responsibilities is to interpret to the Church, the needs, concerns and hopes of the world. That means that I must traverse back and forth between the parish community and the wider community both near and far in addition to engaging in opportunities to broaden my understanding on various policy issues.

Zoom continues to provide us with the opportunity to connect, not only with our local community, but also with the wider community and for that, I am most grateful. Zoom gathers us for meetings, webinars and prayer services to learn, to listen, to pray and to engage in discussions on issues that need addressing in today’s unsettling world.

My responsibilities here at St. James’ not only includes liturgical responsibilities but also supporting the work of our Outreach Committee, attending Vestry meetings and participating in our Evening Prayer and Compline services each week.

In addition -

- Joined members of our parish for the New York Haiti Project Food Packing event held at the Haitian Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan in the Bronx in March
- Hyde Park Community Garden Award Ceremony at the FDR Home
- Prayer Service - Prayer for Peace for the Holy Land held at St. James’
- Interfaith Service for Peace held at St. Margaret’s Church, Staatsburg
- Blessing of our Hyde Park Community Garden

- The screening of the Documentary: “Philadelphia Eleven” and Prayer Service on the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

As a deacon, I make every effort to know what is happening across our Diocesan community by connecting either in person or via Zoom. During the year I participated in the following Diocesan/Regional events.

- Dutchess Clericus meetings
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Liturgy (Zoom)
- Absalom Jones Celebration (Zoom)
- We Are Complicit - Episcopal Diocese of New York Apologizes for the Endurance of Slavery Service (Zoom)
- Holy Tuesday Holy Eucharist Service with Renewal of Vows
- Diocesan Ordination of Deacons (Zoom)
- Clergy Time with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
- The Ordination of Matthew Heyd as Bishop of the Church
- Mid-Hudson Gathering of “Many Threads, One Fabric: Ministry in the Mid-Hudson”
- Diocesan Convention weekly roll-out meetings via Zoom
- Diocesan Convention
- Diocesan webinars via Zoom:
  - “When Privacy is Dangerous, Damaging & Deadly” - Domestic Violence
  - “Conversation and Prayer - Israel-Hamas War
  - “Realizing Beloved Community - Report from the House of Bishops’ Theology Committee”
  - “The Race to End Child Marriage by 2030”
  - “What Is an Asian View of How Colonialism has Shaped Our Church”

In addition, I completed my term as a member of the Episcopal Charities Advisory Committee in August, participated in Rural and Migrant Ministry events including RMM’s six month In-person Cohort - Transformational Hospitality: Breaking Down Walls and attended the Board of Director meetings for the New York Haiti Project.

As a deacon of the Church, I am a member of the Association of Episcopal Deacons. AED offered monthly interactive web meetings on a variety of topics which I joined when available.

I am a member of the Episcopal Public Policy Network. We gather weekly via ZOOM for updates on public policy issues that the Episcopal Church endorses through General Convention resolutions. We are advocates which means our mission work is advocacy. Advocacy means we contact our local, state and federal legislative members, including organizations connected to the issue, on issues that need addressing by making our views known to them. It is lending a voice for our neighbors whose voices are either not being heard or are being ignored by our leaders in power.

As a longtime advocate for farmworkers, for our environment, for refugees and for human rights issues, the following represents some of the organizations that I connect with on a regular basis:

- Conversation with Bishop Curry and Archbishop Naoum of Jerusalem
- Ecumenical Advocacy Days
- Conversations with Middle East Christians offered by Churches for Middle East Peace
- Religions for Peace USA
- Voices from the Holy Land
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem
- Episcopal Migration Ministries

As we reflect on this season following the Epiphany, we are asked to rededicate ourselves as Christ's followers by spreading Christ's light into the world, by bringing the message of love, hope and justice to God's beloved children, by seeing the face of Christ in each person we encounter and by using our talents and gifts to make a difference in the lives around us, both near and far.

The question we prayerfully need to keep asking ourselves - How are we being called to fulfill our baptism covenant both individually and as a faith community?

Go forth in peace, bringing the Light of Christ into the world!

Peace and Gratitude, Love, Hope and Justice,  
Deacon Gail

# Treasurer's Report

The major financial event of the year was the bequests of John Golden. They totaled \$700,000: \$200,000.00 for the chapel in a restricted bequest and \$500,000.00 for the general operations of the church. These bequests continued the great financial good fortune that Saint James' experienced over the past several years. I have stood before you many times and presented budgets that were in deficit only to have some unanticipated beneficial event/s lift us into the black. The last few years have been especially beneficial. The total of unanticipated gifts and bequests exceeds \$1,000,000.

The Church's financial position as of December is as follows:

Checking account balance .....	\$250,478.90
ICS account.....	\$396,765.13
Priority business account .....	\$10,319.24
TOTAL CHECKING AND ICS .....	\$657,563.27

## Invested funds

General fund.....	\$1,334,707
Churchyard fund.....	\$242,874.27
Chapel fund.....	\$526,812.22
TOTAL INVESTED FUNDS.....	\$2,104,393.63

Yield on invested fund.....7.8%

The church, for the immediate future, is on very solid financial ground. Beneath the surface, however, we are spending \$92,000 more than we are taking in. The church can run like this but eventually the endowment funds will begin to wither, and fewer funds will be available for the activities of the church.

A finance committee has been formed to explore the ways the budget can be brought into line.

Respectfully submitted,



James Smyth  
Treasurer

# 2024 Parish Operating Budget

## Executive Summary

### How We Will Fund Our 2024 Budget

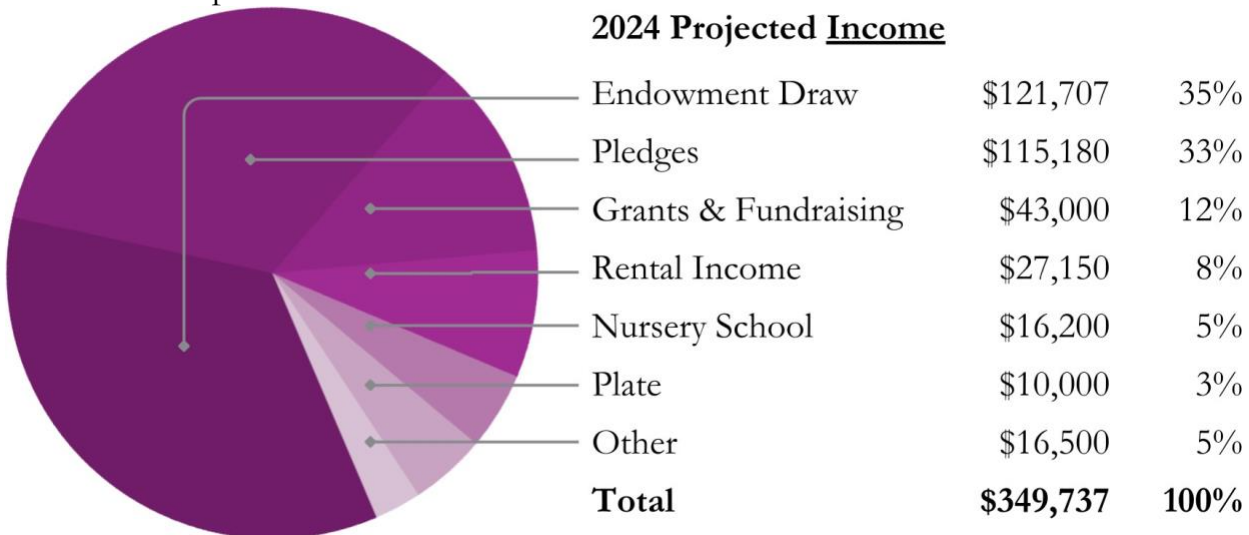
Like many communities of faith, **we rely on pledges and gifts** from our members to support our ministry. Here at St. James', the generous pledges we have collectively committed for 2024 will account for 33% of our annual income. Thank you for these!

We typically withdraw a prudent 5% from our several endowment funds annually, supporting our mission while allowing the fund to slowly continue growing. We are grateful to the parishioners who made these generous endowments part of their legacy.

In 2024, the endowment draw will make up 35% of our annual operating income. This is higher than in past years as new funds have recently been added to our investments. In 2023, the parish was blessed both by an unrestricted \$500,000 bequest and by a \$200,000 bequest restricted for support of our Chapel. The Vestry has placed the Chapel bequest into our restricted Chapel endowment and placed \$400,000 of the unrestricted bequest in our general endowment. (The Vestry has temporarily retained \$100,000 of the unrestricted gift as it evaluates 2024 priorities.) Together, the 5% revenue draw we have budgeted against the \$600,000 in new endowment funds will provide an increased capacity to draw measured income in 2024 for both unrestricted activities and for the maintenance and missions of our East Market Street Chapel.

Fundraising events such as the popular Graveyard Tours, occasional grants, special gifts, and income from space rentals are expected to comprise the remainder of our 2024 income.

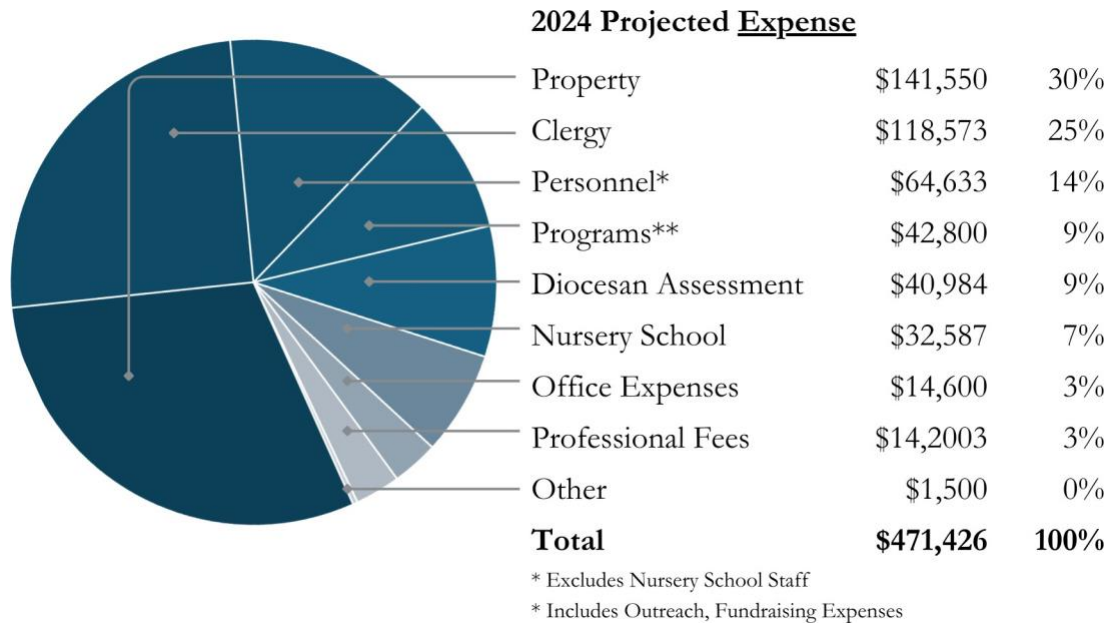
We are entirely self-funded. We do not receive financial support from the Diocese of New York for our operations.





## How We Allocate Our Proposed 2024 Spending Budget

**Our preliminary spending budget for 2024 reflects our values, responsibilities, and to some degree our habits and customary expenditures.** We are stewards of a significant property and history. Care of our buildings and grounds—including our historic churchyard and East Market Street Chapel—accounts for 30% of our total budget. For 2024 this includes necessary repairs of the Parish House apartment which will allow us to rent it again. The clergy and paid staff who lead us in serving our mission account, together, for 39% of our total budget. Our 2024 proposed budget includes a 3.2% cost-of-living increase for lay staff.



## A Funding Deficit

The 2024 Proposed Budget reflects a deficit of \$122,000. This is sobering, but not a new reality; the Vestry has approved deficit budgets for at least a decade, ranging from a budgeted \$19,000 deficit in 2015 to a budgeted \$107,000 deficit in 2020.

In many recent years, anticipated shortfalls have been avoided by year-end, due to factors such as:

- Additional large annual gifts from generous parishioners (members of the largest of these leadership donor households are now deceased)
- An anonymous \$150,000 gift in 2021
- PPP Loan funding in 2020
- Significant reduction in expenses in 2020, 2021, and 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions on activity and a significant period of time without full-time clergy

- Bequests and special gifts from members, often between \$10,000 and \$50,000, have been a blessing, year after year. In 2022 and 2023, we received significant six-figure bequests (\$232,500 in 2022; \$700,000 in 2023)
- In some years, we have drawn greater than the recommended 5% from our endowments. Thankfully, recently this hasn't happened often.

## Working Together Toward Financial Sustainability

As you can see above, St. James' has been greatly blessed by the generous self-giving of our members. We hope this continues long into the future. However, we cannot rely on being "rescued" by some of the very extraordinary six-figure gifts which have balanced our budgets in recent years.

So the Vestry of St. James' will engage in rigorous discernment in 2024 about ways to both reduce expenses and generate income. Our goal is to trim where we can, expand revenue inflows, and in so doing move toward balanced budget proposals in future years.

We believe it will take the whole parish working together over time to respond with our time, talent, and treasure to meet the challenge of financial sustainability. We welcome ideas from all members of our congregation. Difficult cost-reducing decisions, as well as investment in key revenue-generating projects, need to be part of this story:

- We have significant responsibilities as stewards of historic property. How can we develop our property as an income generating asset, through rentals and more? How can each part of our property contribute?
- How can we work together to reduce the financial burden of our property? Mowing, tree work, and snow management costs are high. Maintenance demands never cease. And energy bills certainly add up. Where and how can we trim? Where can we invest in improvements which lower our operating and resource footprint costs?
- We will invest together in stewardship, exploring fundraising efforts, mini capital campaigns, and new property care initiatives. All ideas welcome!
- We are a church—Jesus, the incarnate love of God, is at the center of all we do. That means that our work together needs to be driven by and answerable to the mission of St. James' and our joy in Christ and one another.

## A New Beginning

St. James' Episcopal Church has served the Hyde Park community since 1812. In our first centuries, we have weathered many storms, raised up great leaders, and brought generations to Christ.

As 2024 begins, our church is growing. Love, care, and joy are evident everywhere we look.

**We know that God has great things in store for St. James' Church.**

By the grace of God, the work begun in 2024 will lay the groundwork for the next two centuries of worship and service in this place.

# 2024 Parish Operating Budget

Adopted by the Vestry on January 16, 2024

Budget Line	Description	2023 Budget	2023 Actual (as of 12/31/23)	2024 Budget
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>4000.00</b>	<b>PLEDGE/PLATE INCOME</b>			
4000.10	Pledged Support	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 99,572.47	\$ 96,180.00
4000.15	Plate and Occasional	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,406.52	\$ 10,000.00
4000.20	Prepaid Pledges	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 19,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>TOTAL PLATE/PLEDGE</b>			
<b>4000.00</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 152,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 120,978.99</b>	<b>\$ 125,180.00</b>
<b>4100.00</b>	<b>Income from Invested Funds</b>			
<b>4105.00</b>	<b>General Fund Income</b>			
4105.10	Draw from Briggs Educ. Fund	\$ 5,635.76	\$ 5,637.12	\$ 5,404.17
4105.15	General Fund Draw	\$ 54,032.56	\$ 53,032.40	\$ 71,812.19
4105.20	Draw from Brill Organ Fund	\$ 560.50	\$ 560.52	\$ 537.46
4105.25	Draw from Briggs Music Fund	\$ 1,408.27	\$ 1,408.32	\$ 1,350.40
4105.30	Draw from Will Jones Music Fund	\$ 2,608.28	\$ 2,608.32	\$ 2,501.10
4105.35	Draw from Misson/Outreach	\$ 2,718.10	\$ 2,718.12	\$ 2,606.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>TOTAL General Fund Income</b>	<b>\$ 66,963.47</b>	<b>\$ 65,964.80</b>	<b>\$ 84,211.73</b>
<b>4110.00</b>	<b>Churchyard Fund Income</b>			
4110.00	Draw for Churchyard	\$ 12,195.06	\$ 12,195.00	\$ 11,684.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>TOTAL Churchyard Fund Income</b>	<b>\$ 12,195.06</b>	<b>\$ 12,195.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,684.76</b>
<b>4115.00</b>	<b>Chapel Fund Income</b>			
4115.00	Chapel Fund Draw	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,811.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>TOTAL Chapel Fund Income</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 25,811.08</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME FROM</b>			
<b>4100.00</b>	<b>INVESTED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 79,158.53</b>	<b>\$ 78,159.80</b>	<b>\$ 121,707.57</b>
<b>4200.00</b>	<b>Interest Income</b>			
4200.10	Interest Income - Rhinebeck Bank	\$ -	\$ 622.21	\$ 5,000.00
4200.00	Interest Income - Other	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>TOTAL INTEREST INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 250.00</b>	<b>\$ 622.21</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>

<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Actual (as of 12/31/23)</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>
<b>4300.00</b>	<b>Contributions</b>			
4300.05	Outreach Contributions	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,947.00	\$ 1,500.00
4300.10	Hospitality Contributions	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 862.00	\$ 500.00
4300.15	Memorial Contributions	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,225.00	\$ 1,000.00
4300.25	Flower Contributions	\$ 750.00	\$ 771.00	\$ 500.00
4300.40	Music Program Contributions	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -
4300.55	Churchyard Tours	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
4300.61	Churchyard Tours Contributions	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -
4300.62	Spiritual Life Contributions	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -
4300.75	Community Garden Contributions	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,100.00	\$ -
4300.89	Outreach Adopt A Meal Contributions	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -
4300.90	Building Repairs Contributions	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
4300.91	Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4300.99	Miscellaneous Contributions	\$ 500.00	\$ 720.00	\$ -
<b>Total 4300.00</b>	<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 17,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,025.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,500.00</b>
<b>4400.00</b>	<b>Use of Space</b>			
4400.10	Parish Hall	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 750.00
4400.15	Church	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -
4400.20	Chapel	\$ 200.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 500.00
4400.25	AA Hyde Park	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 935.00	\$ 1,000.00
4400.30	AA Last Hope	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
4400.35	Skylkill	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4400.50	Apartment Rental	\$ 16,200.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
4400.55	Cemetery Plot Sales	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
4400.56	Cemetery Fees	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,500.00
4400.57	New Deal Creative Arts	\$ -	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 14,400.00
<b>Total 4400.00</b>	<b>TOTAL USE OF SPACE</b>	<b>\$ 21,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,935.00</b>	<b>\$ 27,150.00</b>
4500.00	Grant Income			
4500.05	Community Garden Grant Income	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 12,500.00
4500.10	Playground Grant Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
<b>Total 4500.00</b>	<b>TOTAL GRANT INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 17,500.00</b>
<b>4600.00</b>	<b>Fundraising Income</b>			
4600.05	Outreach Fundraising Income	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,154.00	\$ 2,500.00
4600.10	Church Fundraising Income	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ -
4600.15	Churchyard Tours	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 12,470.90	\$ 16,000.00
4600.20	St. Pauly Bin	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,671.16	\$ 4,000.00

<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Actual (as of 12/31/23)</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>
4600.35	Community Garden Fundraising Income	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,252.00	\$ 2,500.00
4600.40	Community Garden Leases	\$ 500.00	\$ 370.00	\$ 500.00
4600.50	Chapel Fundraising	\$ -	\$ 38.00	\$ -
<b>Total 4600.00</b>	<b>TOTAL FUNDRAISING INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 25,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 22,106.06</b>	<b>\$ 25,500.00</b>
<b>4700.00</b>	<b>Nursery School Income</b>			
4700.10	Nursery School Tuition	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 14,160.00	\$ 15,000.00
4700.15	Nursery School Fundraising Income	\$ 500.00	\$ 995.00	\$ 1,200.00
<b>Total 4700.00</b>	<b>TOTAL NURSERY SCHOOL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 20,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,155.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,200.00</b>
<b>4800.00</b>	<b>Bequests</b>			
4800.00	Bequests-Other	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
4800.05	Bequests-Unrestricted	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -
4800.20	Bequests-Restricted	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -
<b>Total 4800.00</b>	<b>TOTAL BEQUESTS</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 700,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
<b>4900.00</b>	<b>Other Income</b>			
4900.15	St. Margaret's Printing	\$ -	\$ 1,587.95	\$ 1,500.00
4900.25	Special Collection Income	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 714.00	\$ 1,500.00
4900.90	Miscellaneous Income	\$ -	\$ 650.55	\$ -
<b>Total 4900.00</b>	<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,952.50</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 327,808.53</b>	<b>\$ 973,434.56</b>	<b>\$ 349,737.57</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
<b>66900.00</b>	<b>Reconciliation Discrepancies</b>		<b>\$ (538.00)</b>	
<b>5010.00</b>	<b>Clergy</b>			
5010.05	Clergy Life Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00
5010.10	Cash Compensation	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 62,950.50	\$ 55,000.00
5010.11	Clergy Expense-Diocese	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5010.15	Supply Clergy	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,052.16	\$ 2,000.00
5010.20	Clergy Medical	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 37,907.46	\$ 40,992.00
5010.25	Clergy Dental	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,105.00	\$ 1,380.00

<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Actual (as of 12/31/23)</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>
5010.30	Clergy-Church Pension	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -	\$ 16,000.00
5010.35	Clergy-Conference Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00
5010.40	Clergy-Continuing Education	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 1,000.00
5010.50	Sabbatical Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
5010.55	Clergy Conference Expense	\$ 250.00	\$ -	
<b>Total 5010.00</b>	<b>TOTAL CLERGY</b>	<b>\$ 102,750.00</b>	<b>\$ 104,080.12</b>	<b>\$ 117,922.00</b>
<b>5020.00</b>	<b>Deacon Expense</b>			
5020.10	Conference	\$ 250.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 500.00
5020.20	Expense Reimbursement	\$ 150.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 150.00
<b>Total 5010.00</b>	<b>TOTAL DEACON EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 400.00</b>	<b>\$ 260.00</b>	<b>\$ 650.00</b>
<b>5030.00</b>	<b>Altar Expense</b>			
5030.10	Altar Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 804.20	\$ 1,000.00
5030.15	Flowers	\$ 500.00	\$ 299.75	\$ 500.00
<b>Total 5030.00</b>	<b>TOTAL ALTAR EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,103.95</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>
<b>5040.00</b>	<b>Repairs</b>			
5040.10	Church	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 593.67	\$ 1,000.00
5040.15	Parish House	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 910.96	\$ 1,000.00
5040.20	Apartment	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,323.79	\$ 20,000.00
5040.25	Chapel	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,414.63	\$ 1,000.00
5040.30	Rectory	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,854.00	\$ 3,000.00
5040.35	Grounds	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
5040.40	Capital Improvements	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total 5040.00</b>	<b>TOTAL REPAIRS</b>	<b>\$ 21,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,097.05</b>	<b>\$ 28,000.00</b>
<b>5050.00</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>			
5050.05	Parish House	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,163.89	\$ 2,000.00
5050.10	Church & Grounds Maintenance (excludes cemetery)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,415.27	\$ 10,000.00
5050.11	Rectory	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 249.95	\$ 1,000.00
5050.15	Chapel & Grounds Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 6,876.23	\$ 1,000.00
5050.20	Church Snow and Ice Control	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 5,000.00
5050.25	Chapel Snow and Ice Control	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 1,000.00
5050.30	Maintenance Supplies	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,533.46	\$ 2,000.00
5050.35	Kitchen	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,850.00	\$ 1,000.00
5050.40	Refuse Carting	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,519.56	\$ 2,000.00

<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Actual (as of 12/31/23)</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>
<b>Total 5050.00</b>	<b>TOTAL MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>\$ 25,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,183.36</b>	<b>\$ 25,000.00</b>
<b>5060.00</b>	<b>Utilities</b>			
5060.10	Electric-Parish/Apt/Rectory	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 16,353.79	\$ 16,500.00
5060.15	Electric-Chapel	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,349.39	\$ 1,400.00
5060.20	Propane-Parish	\$ 250.00	\$ 138.52	\$ 150.00
5050.21	Propane-Rectory	\$ -	\$ 39.00	\$ 50.00
5060.25	Water Usage-Church/Parish/Apt	\$ 500.00	\$ 332.89	\$ 350.00
5060.30	Water Usage-Rectory	\$ 500.00	\$ 684.24	\$ 700.00
5060.35	Water Usage-Chapel	\$ 350.00	\$ 146.11	\$ 150.00
5060.40	Water Tax-Church	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 932.04	\$ 1,000.00
5060.45	Water Tax-Chapel	\$ 500.00	\$ 466.02	\$ 500.00
5060.50	Telephone-Chapel	\$ 700.00	\$ 691.74	\$ 700.00
5060.55	Telephone-Rectory	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,912.33	\$ 1,950.00
<b>Total 5060.00</b>	<b>TOTAL UTILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 14,850.00</b>	<b>\$ 23,046.07</b>	<b>\$ 23,450.00</b>
<b>5070.00</b>	<b>Fuel/Burner Maintenance</b>			
5070.05	Fuel Oil			
5070.15	Fuel Oil-Parish House	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 17,751.51	\$ 18,000.00
5070.20	Fuel Oil-Chapel	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,759.37	\$ 7,500.00
5070.25	Fuel Oil-Rectory	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,970.00	\$ 4,000.00
<b>Total 5070.05</b>	<b>TOTAL Fuel Oil</b>	<b>\$ 34,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 28,480.88</b>	<b>\$ 29,500.00</b>
5070.11	Propane-Church	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,171.39	\$ 1,800.00
5070.50	Burner Maintenance			
5070.55	Church-HVAC	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
5070.60	Parish House	\$ 500.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 500.00
5070.65	Chapel	\$ 500.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 500.00
5070.70	Rectory	\$ 500.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 500.00
5070.75	Air filters for Church	\$ -	\$ 511.80	\$ 750.00
<b>Total 5070.50</b>	<b>TOTAL Burner Maintenance</b>	<b>\$ 2,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,811.80</b>	<b>\$ 3,250.00</b>
<b>Total 5070.00</b>	<b>TOTAL FUEL/BURNER MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>\$ 39,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 31,464.07</b>	<b>\$ 34,550.00</b>
<b>5080.00</b>	<b>Property/Liability Insurance &amp; Protection</b>			
5080.10	Property & Liab Ins- Church & Chapel	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,543.25	\$ 18,000.00
5080.50	Property Protection			



<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Actual (as of 12/31/23)</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>
5080.51	Alarm System-Parish House	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 337.05	\$ 450.00
5080.52	Alarm System-Church	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 337.05	\$ 450.00
5080.53	Alarm System-Rectory	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 337.05	\$ 450.00
5080.54	Alarm System-Chapel	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 337.05	\$ 450.00
5080.60	Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	\$ 750.00	\$ 587.00	\$ 750.00
<b>5080.50</b>	<b>TOTAL Property Protection</b>	<b>\$ 6,750.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,935.20</b>	<b>\$ 2,550.00</b>
<b>Total 5080.00</b>	<b>TOTAL PROPERTY/LIAB-INS &amp; PROT</b>	<b>\$ 23,750.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,478.45</b>	<b>\$ 20,550.00</b>
<b>5090.00</b>	<b>Music</b>			
5090.10	Music Program	\$ 500.00	\$ 22.25	\$ 100.00
5090.15	Supply Organist	\$ 600.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00
5090.20	Organ Maintenance	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
<b>5090.00</b>	<b>TOTAL MUSIC</b>	<b>\$ 3,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 522.25</b>	<b>\$ 3,200.00</b>
<b>5110.00</b>	<b>Parish Programs</b>			
5110.10	Spiritual Life	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,261.78	\$ 750.00
5110.20	Hospitality	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,371.10	\$ 6,000.00
5110.30	Vestry	\$ 200.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00
5110.35	Stewardship	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
<b>5110.00</b>	<b>TOTAL PARISH PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$ 2,450.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,932.88</b>	<b>\$ 7,500.00</b>
<b>5120.00</b>	<b>Professional Fees</b>			
5120.10	Payroll Service	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 732.00	\$ 700.00
5120.15	Bank Service Charges	\$ 120.00	\$ 11.00	\$ -
5120.20	Accountant	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
5120.25	Legal Expenses	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 2,517.50	\$ 5,000.00
new entry	Architect	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00
<b>5120.00</b>	<b>TOTAL PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>\$ 19,120.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,260.50</b>	<b>\$ 14,200.00</b>
<b>5130.00</b>	<b>Churchyard Expense</b>			
5130.10	Churchyard Maintenance	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,041.85	\$ 8,500.00
5130.20	Grave Opening	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
<b>5130.00</b>	<b>TOTAL CHURCHYARD EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 9,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,041.85</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
<b>5140.00</b>	<b>Office Expense</b>			
5140.10	Office Supplies	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 7,405.25	\$ 6,600.00

<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Actual (as of 12/31/23)</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>
5140.15	Postage	\$ 250.00	\$ 444.00	\$ 500.00
5140.20	Copier Expense			
5140.21	Copier Lease	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,931.07	\$ 3,000.00
5140.22	Copier Overage	\$ 500.00	\$ 921.65	\$ 1,000.00
<b>5140.20</b>	<b>TOTAL Copier Expense</b>	<b>\$ 3,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,852.72</b>	<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>
5140.25	Internet/Phone	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,135.87	\$ 3,000.00
5140.30	Office Equipment	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
<b>5140.00</b>	<b>TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 9,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,837.84</b>	<b>\$ 14,600.00</b>
<b>5150.00</b>	<b>Personnel Expense</b>			
5150.10	Secretary Salary	\$ 19,800.00	\$ 19,800.00	\$ 20,433.60
5150.15	Sexton Salary	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 16,099.20
5150.20	Minister of Music	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 18,699.84	\$ 19,000.00
5150.25	Bookkeeper	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,634.50	\$ 3,000.00
5150.30	Payroll Taxes	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,354.21	\$ 5,000.00
5150.35	Lay Pension			
5150.36	Secretary Pension	\$ 840.00	\$ 1,988.80	\$ 900.00
5150.37	Sexton Pension	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>5150.35</b>	<b>TOTAL Lay Pension</b>	<b>\$ 840.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,988.80</b>	<b>\$ 900.00</b>
5150.40	Life Insurance			
5150.41	Secretary Life Insurance	\$ 200.00	\$ 177.00	\$ 200.00
5150.42	Sexton Life Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>5150.40</b>	<b>TOTAL Life Insurance</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>	<b>\$ 177.00</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>5150.00</b>	<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 55,840.00</b>	<b>\$ 64,254.35</b>	<b>\$ 64,632.80</b>
<b>5160.00</b>	<b>Diocesan Assessment</b>			
5160.00	Diocesan Assessment	\$ 39,701.00	\$ 40,021.00	\$ 40,984.00
<b>5160.00</b>	<b>TOTAL DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>\$ 39,701.00</b>	<b>\$ 40,021.00</b>	<b>\$ 40,984.00</b>
<b>5200.00</b>	<b>Non-Operating Expense</b>			
5200.10	Outreach Fundraising Expense	\$ 250.00	\$ 171.80	\$ 250.00
5200.11	Outreach Giving/Support	\$ 8,868.00	\$ 9,508.36	\$ 5,350.00
5200.12	Outreach Adopt A Meal	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,102.00	\$ 1,000.00
5200.15	Community Garden	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,492.75	\$ 15,000.00

<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Actual (as of 12/31/23)</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>
5200.20	Community Garden Fundraising Expense	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
5200.30	Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 500.00
5200.35	Churchyard Tours Expense	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,090.00	\$ 7,700.00
5200.40	Other Organizational Expense	\$ 300.00	\$ 273.40	\$ 300.00
5200.41	Priest Search Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total 5200.00</b>	<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 17,918.00</b>	<b>\$ 18,738.31</b>	<b>\$ 30,600.00</b>
<b>5300.00</b>	<b>Nursery School Expense</b>			
5300.10	Nursery School Teachers	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 16,657.00	\$ 14,303.52
5300.15	Assistant Teacher	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 12,023.97	\$ 12,384.00
5300.20	Substitute Teachers	\$ 300.00	\$ 586.25	\$ 900.00
5300.25	Payroll Taxes	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,621.70	\$ 2,500.00
5300.30	Payroll Service	\$ 350.00	\$ 192.00	\$ 200.00
5300.35	Program Expense	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,049.08	\$ 2,100.00
5300.45	Fundraising Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
<b>Total 5300.00</b>	<b>TOTAL NURSERY SCHOOL</b>	<b>\$ 33,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 33,130.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,587.52</b>
<b>5400.00</b>	<b>Special Collection Expense</b>			
5400.00	Special Collection Expense	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 914.00	\$ 1,500.00
<b>Total 5400.00</b>	<b>TOTAL SPECIAL COLLECTION EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 914.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 420,279.00</b>	<b>\$ 410,828.05</b>	<b>\$ 471,426.32</b>
	<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ (92,470.47)</b>	<b>\$ 562,606.51</b>	<b>\$ (121,688.75)</b>

# Nominating Committee Report

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting to fill the following expiring terms of office:

- Warden, 2-year term (Andy Hall): Joe Gasparini will stand for election to this office
- Vestry member, 3-year term (Jim Smyth): Russell Urban-Mead (eligible for a first full term) will stand for election to this office
- Vestry member, 3-year term (Steve Gausepohl): Margaret McNamara (eligible for a first full term) will stand for election to this office
- Vestry member, 3-year term (Joseph Gasparini): Deborah Belding (eligible for a first full term) will stand for election to this office

## Statements of Candidates for Office

### **Joseph Gasparini is standing for a 2-year term as Junior Warden.**

Members since 2020, Karen and I are pleased to have found our spiritual and communal home at St. James' Church, among loving and faith-filled people, where we have become active in various ministries. I have had the privilege to represent the congregation by serving on the Vestry these past three years. I can be found doing anything from flipping pancakes, to chairing the Nursery School Committee, to directing the Graveyard Tours, and pitching in where there is a need. In planning to re-up for Vestry, I was asked to consider running for Junior Warden. Respectfully, I accept this candidacy, and I ask for your support in order to serve you and the Church more deeply in these exciting times of challenge and change in the years ahead of us.

Respectfully yours,  
Joseph Gasparini

### **Russell Urban-Mead is standing for a 3-year term as a Vestry member.**

The Urban-Mead family began attending St. James in 2002. Russell has served previously on the Vestry and would be pleased to return to this service. In addition to being an active parish member fully supportive of St. James' worship and ministry priorities, Russell has a particular interest in our NY Diocesan commitment to carbon neutrality across our church facilities by 2030. At the pleasure of the Vestry, and if needed, he is also willing to be called to service as our St. James' Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Russell Urban-Mead

**Margaret (Maggie) McNamara is standing for a 3-year term as a Vestry member.**

Maggie is a life-long Episcopalian from Poughkeepsie, baptized at the now closed St. Andrews, confirmed at St. Paul's, and then a communicant at Christ Church. The McNamara family began attending St. James' Church about 10 years ago. Being residents of Staatsburg, St. Margaret's was our parish prior to moving to St. James'. While at St. Margaret's, Maggie served on the Vestry and as Clerk of the Vestry, and she currently serves as Board member and Treasurer of Hyde Park Food Pantry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret McNamara

**Deborah Belding is standing for a second 3-year term as a Vestry member.**

I have been a member of St. James' since 2003. During my time, I have been on the Vestry, joined our Outreach Committee a year later and stayed there until 2022. I also chaired Outreach for 10 years. I have been a lay reader for the 8:00 service for 13 years. I was a member of our Bicentennial Committee and assisted with the wonderful Fireside Chats that were held in our beautiful chapel for many years. My two gifts that I have received from St. James' are these: First, being able with others to bring to life the beautiful Hyde Park Community Garden, dedicated to my dear friend, Allelu Kurten. After my son, I have called this my second labor of love. And the last, and most important, is meeting Mr. Douglas Belding at a Lenten Breakfast 19 years ago. My husband and best pal, and I couldn't imagine my life without him! I'm excited to become a member of our Vestry once again.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Belding

# Commissioning of the 2024 Vestry

*Antiphon*

God grants wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to the upright. God is a shield to those who walk in integrity.

*Presider* O God, I am your servant; grant me understanding:

*People* **That I walk in your ways.**

*The Presider continues*

Friends in Christ, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose now is to commission these persons, in the Name of God, to serve as leaders on the 2024 Vestry of St. James'—as Wardens and Vestry Members.

*People* **Praise be to God, who has called you to this service.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

O Eternal God, the fountain of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon these your faithful servants and so guide their counsels and inspire their decisions, that in their leadership ministry they may seek your glory and promote the mission of this parish; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In the Name of God, we recognize you as the 2024 Wardens and Vestry of St. James'. May Christ be manifest in you, that in your ministries and in your lives, you may be a light to the world. **Amen.**

# Parish Transitions

One of the Christian Church's greatest privileges is to accompany every member of Christ's body across the arc of their earthly pilgrimage and to bless and sanctify them at key moments in their spiritual development.

## **Baptism**

Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the Church. God establishes an indissoluble bond with each person in baptism. In 2023, St. James' welcomed these children of God through Baptism:

Joseph Gabriel Palermo, Jr.  
Kristina Lastenia Palermo  
Andrew Coburn Demetriou  
Priscilla Alora Mann  
Brielle Nevaeh Lewis  
Ava Braelyn Lewis

## **Confirmation and Reception**

Confirmation is an individual's mature commitment to Christ. Individuals who have made such a commitment in another denomination may be formally Received into The Episcopal Church. In 2023, the following individuals were confirmed or received into The Episcopal Church at St. James':

Jess Vee Burgos (Confirmed)  
Colleen Anne Coburn (Received)  
Karen Ann Gasparini (Received)  
Catherine Ann Lane (Received)  
Christopher Carter Sanderson (Received)

## **Burial**

Christian burial is the commendation of one whose earthly pilgrimage has ended to God's surpassing peace and mercy, with sure and certain hope of their resurrection to eternal life. In 2023, St. James' Church commended these individuals to Almighty God:

Eugene E. Garnes  
Sandra Rita Braungard  
John Watson Golden, Jr.  
Arnold Toback  
August "Bud" Oetjen

Joan Oetjen  
Mary Elizabeth “Liz” Van Wagner  
Richard Soden

Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Altar Guild Report

The “Annual Report” of the Altar Guild of Saint James describes the purpose and the function of the Altar Guild at St. James’ Episcopal Church for the past year, 2023. Visitors and members come on Sundays and during the week when the church is open and view the church and the Altar beautifully appointed. Some people also come during the week to quietly pray and meditate. Others come to experience the history of the Roosevelt family parish and the church graveyard. Parishioners come for Sunday religious services and Fellowship. Most people are not aware of the preparations or the work the members of the Altar Guild do to keep the church and the Altar in pristine condition.

The ministry of the Altar Guild is to prepare for celebration of the sacraments, services and offices of this Episcopal Church. The Eucharist, Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings and Burials, must be conducted with order and beauty using the necessary vessels, Altar hangings and immaculate linens. Holidays and seasonal services take extra preparation. Vestments for all participants, including clergy, acolytes, and Deacons need to be laundered and dry cleaned. Duties include housekeeping of the sanctuary and the narthex at the main Church on Albany Post Road and the Chapel/Reading Room on Market Street. The Church’s Sexton, Kyle, works along with Guild members to clean, polish and vacuum each week. Members work under the direction of the Priest in charge, the Deacon and two Altar Guild Co-Chairs who function in a leadership role. There are currently three teams, rotating every two weeks for the 8 o’clock and the 10 o’clock Service. There is a sense of fellowship within the Guild, a communal, spiritual way to contribute to the community of St. James’.



The budget allocation for Altar Guild, allows us to purchase wine, wafers, candles, and replacement linens. Most recently, new vestments have been ordered for Mother Meredith, and should soon arrive. The Altar Guild welcomes anyone who would like to become part of this special ministry; we are always in need of new members. This volunteer effort is a way to extend service, giving back to the parish while spending enjoyable time with other members. At busy times, like Christmas and Easter or “Installations”, family members/husbands of AG members often help out. Grateful donations from Parish members have provided the Christmas trees and the wreaths on all the doors, as well as flowers at Easter time.

The Chapel on Market Street is also cared for by the Altar Guild. A generation ago, all 8 o'clock Sunday morning services were held at the Chapel. Before Covid, we had a quarterly service annually, which was well attended. For many years, Sue DeLorenzo and John Golden, hosted a Historical Community lecture series in the winter, inviting the entire town of Hyde Park to share memories of the development of the town and the Roosevelt era. The Altar Guild and the Church Sexton care for the Chapel in off times.

Altar flowers are an integral part of every church service year-round. To commemorate a loved one or anniversary, two floral arrangements for altar flowers cost \$30. Payment should be sent to the church office and the florist can accommodate special requests. Traditionally, we do not have flowers during Lent. If you have any questions or wish to order flowers, please call the church office @ 845-229-2820 or email at [stjames.hydepark@gmail.com](mailto:stjames.hydepark@gmail.com).

The annual AG schedule for both Sunday morning services is published in January for the entire year. Tis posted in the sacristy and emailed to all members and staff. Teams rotate every two weeks throughout the year and carry out extra responsibilities of Easter, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Advent, weddings and funerals. There are two teams for 8:00 and 10:00 o'clock. The 8 o'clock team sets up for Sunday services and the 10 o'clock team cleans up after the services. Gratefully, a Guild member from 10 o'clock service now distributes the Altar flowers to recuperating shut-ins and Nursing Homes in the Parish Family. Linens are laundered weekly by the Co-Chairs. The church Sexton, Kyle Imperati polishes, cleans and vacuums the chancel, the body of the church. A special note of thanks to Deacon Gail for all her help with the Altar Guild. She is our “guiding light” always there with assistance and grace.

When you come to services at St James' and everything is tidy and ready for worship, remember the hard, dedicated work of the Guild members. They, along with our Priest and Deacon, make our shared worship in this beautiful, historical church possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Koch, Co-Chair

# Building and Grounds Report

The Buildings & Grounds Committee of St. James' formed or reformed late in the year, met irregularly and worked in various subgroups to help maintain, preserve, and repair the historic church's physical plant, graveyard, and chapel. We met with mixed success and persevered. Notable achievements include the removal of the trees that were growing in the mausoleums and breaking them open, clearance of the dumpster area, gravestone cleaning (study, testing, expansion to church wall), assistance with the plant improvement and repair feasibility study, interface with sexton on issues, cleaning of the small barn for use (under way), independent fundraising operations, auditorium curtain replacement estimate and sourcing, outdoor leak repair, handicap parking area surface repair, find means to provide needed church truck (observe need, find resources, determine best option, fundraise, initiate, test), interface with Community Garden to assist with improvement and maintenance (fence-line tree removal, bee resource determination, feasibility study, budget, ordering), and daily prayer for God to deliver St. James' from the sin of deferred maintenance. Amen.

Christopher Carter Sanderson  
Chair

# The Historic Graveyard Tours Report

The twelfth season of the Tours occurred on Friday and Saturday nights during the first three weekends of October, 2023. There were four shows each night. A video compilation of the Tours appears on YouTube at the following address:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egmI5Z5IM84&authuser=0>.



The cost of an adult ticket was \$25. A child's ticket was \$15. Approximately 623 tickets were purchased online, and approximately 20 additional tickets were purchased through the Parish Office. Several large groups attended the Tours, and advance purchases were the principal driver in overall attendance. For most Tour evenings, at least 40% of the total attendance was driven by ticket sales during the calendar week preceding the Tour. I estimate that at least 70% of all ticket purchasers in 2023 had purchased tickets for Tours in one or more past seasons.

The characters portrayed during the Tours were: Dr. H. Sherman Hirst (1914- 1982); Mary E. Johnston (1798-1878); Nathaniel Pendleton (1756- 1822); Ruth Livingston Mills (1855-1920); Sara Delano (Roosevelt) (1854-1941); and Fr. Sturgis Allen (1850-1929). Reviews by those who attended were uniformly positive.

Actors who portrayed these characters are (in order): Glen Morrice; Zoey Morse; Zachary Veith; Natalie Bunta; and Robert Cogliati.

Members of the Parish who assisted in bringing the Tours together are:

Tour Coordinator	Brian Rance
Director	Joseph Gasparini
Writers	Bev O'Halloran, Deirdre Mae Micker, Zach Veith and Dyan Wapnick
Costumes	Deirdre Mae Micker
Publicity, Sales and Research Support	Dyan Wapnick
Tourguides	Wendy Urban-Mead, Paul O'Halloran, Valerie Gaulin, Russell Urban-Mead, Karen Gasparini, Joanne Lown, Glenn May, Steve Gausepohl and Meredith Kadet Sanderson
Tourguide Assistants	Bev O'Halloran, Maggie McNamara, Russell Urban-Mead, Patty Glancey, Jeff Fishwick, Tanya Hall, Charlessa Thatcher, Susan Gausepohl, Lillian Peralta and Janet Bright
Parking Supervisor	Mike Fenwick
Parking Attendants	Braeden Hall, Riley Hall, Kasey Gaulin and Tom McNamara
Stage Crew and Technical	Andy Hall and Mike Glancey

The 2023 Graveyard Tours raised \$8,037.50, which is a decrease of \$4,168.03 from 2022. As the comparative profit and loss statement below demonstrates, the decrease was principally attributable to (a) three additional professional actors (which raised actor salaries by \$1,240) and (b) a reduction in ticket sales by 65 tickets (\$1,625 at the adult ticket price of \$25).

	<b>2023 GYT</b>	<b>2022 GYT</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Total Tickets Sold	643	708	-65	-9.18%
Total Tickets Sold (as % of Total Sold)	76.55%	84.29%		
Tickets Sold prior to first show	385	402	-17	-4.23%
Tickets Sold prior to first show (as % of Total Sold)	59.88%	56.78%		
Gross Revenue	\$15,700.00	\$17,585.00	\$(1,885.00)	-10.72%
Eventbrite (Ticket Site) Costs	\$(4,237.50)	\$(3,191.66)	\$(1,045.84)	32.77%
Actors' Salaries	\$(3,120.00)	\$(1,880.00)	\$(1,240.00)	65.96%
Parking Attendant Salaries	\$(305.00)	\$(150.00)	\$(155.00)	103.33%
Publicity Costs	\$(1,150.00)	\$(700.00)	\$(450.00)	64.29%
In-Kind Contribution of Publicity Costs	\$1,150.00	\$700.00	\$450.00	64.29%
Miscellaneous Expenses	-	\$(157.81)	\$(157.81)	-
Net Profit	\$8,037.50	\$12,205.53	\$(4,168.03)	-34.15%

Best regards to all who assisted in making 2023 another successful year for the Tours.

Brian D. Rance, Tour Coordinator

## Hyde Park Community Garden Report

The Hyde Park Community Garden had a wonderful 12<sup>th</sup> season.

We are at full capacity with 35 gardeners taking spots in the garden with a requirement of providing at least one vegetable or flower to be grown and then donated to the Hyde Park Food Pantry.

Along with our Young People's sections, we once again provided thousands of pounds of assorted vegetables for the pantry.

We completed the Learn, Play and Create program with the entire second grade classes at North Park Elementary School. The students, teachers and parents were invited to the garden in Fall 2022 to learn about composting and the importance of good soil health for growing. They returned in June to plant their seeds for the food pantry (beans and tomatoes), did a scavenger hunt, and an art project in the Parish Hall. The Librarians from Staatsburg Library also provided a module that day reading to the students about the importance of pollinators.

In October, the garden was awarded two Beautification Awards from the Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee. They were for “green” and “landscaping”. Many of our gardeners joined me that evening to attend the ceremony and they took great pride in our combined accomplishments.

Now on to an exciting 13<sup>th</sup> season where we have some pretty big ideas!

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Belding, President, Hyde Park Community Garden

## Music Report

The six pm Christmas Service began, as in years past, with the two Slegel brothers, Craig and Dalton, playing their beautiful clarinet arrangements of Christmas Carols. Thank you Guys. Love it.

The adult choir members this year were: Sopranos; Wilma Tully, Carol Bender, Audrey Horne and Wendy Urban-Mead. Altos; Barbara Slegel and Deirdre Mae Micker, Tenor; Russell Urban-Mead and Base; Jim Oppenheimer Crawford.

Russell added two new instruments to his clarinet, an Alto and a Tenor Sax. Nice Man!

Mother Meredith has brought us to a whole new level with her ethereal chanting. Much appreciated!

We really miss the loss of Bev Tas since she sold her Hyde Park house and moved to Rhinebeck. However, Charlotte Sloan, is lending her powerful voice as a Soprano to our praise of God.

Our new placement arrangement of choir members where part of the choir is downstairs to boost and support the congregational singing and the rest of the choir is in the loft. This seems to be boosting the singing all the way around.

The harpsichord has been removed in the hope of making room for a small modern piano. Any offer will be considered.

It was a true joy to have Sister Helena Marie, CHS, join us as a much needed and appreciated supply organist. We were also quite happy to have The Rev. Suzanne Guthrie bring her glorious flute for the installation of Mother Meredith. This was a great chance for our small but mighty choir to be shine.

A special thanks to Dyan Wapnick, our Office Manager, for her help and support of the music at St. James.

Let us Lift Every Voice and Sing.

“All music should have no other aim than to the Glory of God and to the refreshment if the soul”—J. S. Bach

To God be the Glory.

Soli Deo Gloria.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn May

Minister of Music

## Nursery School Report

We have had a great start to the year. The children are settling in very well and they seem to be happy and enjoy their time at school.

We have a total of seven children. One child is going for five days. We have two 4 year olds and the rest of the group are 3 years old. We have 2 students who are coming early for a fee for before care.

The children were welcomed to an ice cream social in September where they got to meet their new friends at school.

We have introduced “morning meeting” with the children where we sing hello and they get to discuss what they did the night before. We have introduced the days of the week, the month, day and the weather outside. We are also introducing letters. The children love to make crafts. We are always busy finding different things for them to make or create.

We were able to have a field trip to Kesicke Farm which they all loved. The Hyde Park Fire Station was able to visit the school which was a fun and educational morning.

The Nursery School has brought back their craft fair which was a success and well attended.

The children took a walk over to the church with Mother Meredith a couple of times to see the inside of the church. They adore Mother Meredith and love when she comes to read to them. They often ask her to come and play. Some of the children were able to participate in Mother Meredith's installation. The children were so excited to be a part of the celebration and the parents were very appreciative of the invite.

We are so grateful to have St. James' Nursery School and have this time with these wonderful children.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Dobbins and Melissa Montgomery

Teachers





# Outreach Report

This year, the Outreach committee members of St. James' Episcopal Church were Deacon Gail Ganter-Toback, Joanne Lown, Wilma Tully, Mary Gabel, Sue DeLorenzo, Shirley Ferris, Deirdre Mae Micker, Janet Bright, Lillian Peralta, Jillian Foster, Karen Gasparini, Kerri Palermo, Leslie Quick, Susan Gausepohl and newcomer Wendy Barrington.

We began the year by continuing the Adopt A Meal program, which provides one meal and dessert to 60 residents in the Homeless Shelter, once a month. This program, that began in 2021, has remained successful. Kerri Palermo took on the role left by Deb Belding to oversee the coordination.

St. James' Outreach had a frank discussion on our role in 2023. *What are we looking to support so it spreads Gods word and share his love with the community and the world at large?* We talked about how food shortages and costs are impacting our communities. It is affecting low waged employees, students in the colleges, the homeless and unemployed.

In 2023, we are directing our energy and support towards programs which are resources for people to go to. Local food pantries, Hope on a Mission, DCC, Hyde Park Food Pantry and Bard college. The collection would be non-perishables and include toiletries.

Our monthly collection, which included the parishioners' support, was successful. We also gave each agency a \$200 donation in the month we collected for them and \$1,000 during Christmas.

Our first fundraiser for 2023, we were able to resurrect our Annual Mother's Day Tea! People were excited to participate, and the attendees were so appreciative of it being a lovely time for gathering, chatting and enjoying the scrumptious food and tea.

Our second fundraiser for 2023, we held our St. James' Annual Cookie and Candy Sale in December. Of course, we sold out!

During Thanksgiving we supported the Hyde Park Food Pantry by donating turkey, gravy, and butter for distribution to families. For the Christmas Star program, our support for Anderson School children, Renaissance Nursing home clients and Episcopal Relief and Development international program was supplemented by Outreach funds. Our parishioners were very generous by picking a Star or more to help supplement our Outreach to these worthwhile agencies.

This year we extended our arms to encompass so many people! And we couldn't do it without the support of our family, friend and neighbors. I am humbly grateful to be the Outreach

Chair for over 10 years and giving the role to others. We wish our best to Lillian and Kerri for sharing the role as 2024 Co Chairs!

**Outreach Income:**

Fundraiser – Mothers Day Tea	\$ 2,009.00
Fundraiser – Holiday Bake Sale	1,338.00
Donations – Misc.	715.00
Donations – NY Haiti Project	1,067.00
Donations – Rural and Migrant Workers	714.00
Adopt a Meal	300.00
Carryover 2022	5,291.01
Draw from Endowment (5%)	2,718.10
<b>Total 2023 Income</b>	<b>\$ 14,152.11</b>

**Outreach Expenses:**

Thanksgiving support	\$ 376.11
Christmas gifts (to supplement donated gifts)	329.00
Fundraising & Misc. Expense	1,093.75
Pantries additional support	6,308.59
Rural and Migrant Workers	714.00
NY Haiti Project	2,067.00
Adopt A Meal	1,102.00
<b>Total 2023 Expense</b>	<b>\$ 11,990.45</b>

**TOTAL NET PROFIT, Dec 31, 2023**                      **\$ 2,161.66\***

\*Of this amount, \$1,160.37 should be available in 2024 for Adopt A Meal and the balance of \$1,001.29 be carried into 2024 for Outreach.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Lown

# Sunday School Report

## Spring 2023:

We finished the first full year of regular, in-person Sunday School, since 2018-2019! Valerie Gaulin and Patty Glancey co-led a combined elementary and middle school class to finish Year One: Weaving Our Faith curriculum. The kids colored an Alleluia themed banner during the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, which was then used at the starting line of the annual Easter egg hunt!



## Fall 2023:

Valerie Gaulin and Riley Hall led the elementary Sunday School class and Patty Glancey led the middle school class. Many Sundays though, we came together for shared prayers, stories, or activities! We used the Year Two: Weaving Together the Family of God curriculum of *Weaving God's Promises*. The lessons cover the story of how we become God's people and part of the household of God, the Communion of Saints.

Sunday School was able to reach out to the larger community by participating in Hyde Park Community Day in September, holding a coat drive for Dutchess Outreach in October, and

playing games and passing out candy to over 400 children at New Deal Creative Art Center's Annual Trunk or Treat.



The children also painted rocks to be used at St. James' Prayer Service for Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

In November, the Sunday School kicked off the Stewardship campaign by acting out the story of Stone Soup, as retold and narrated by parishioner Bobbie Wells. Bobbie and the kids made delicious Stone Soup to share with everyone at coffee hour at the end of the campaign. We also celebrated 2 of our own students' Baptism!!



For Advent, the Sunday School hosted an advent wreath making project that parishioners could make during coffee hour or take a kit with them to make at home.



In our last class of the year, the older Sunday school kids planned a birthday party for baby Jesus and invited the younger kids to watch a skit, play games, paint ornaments and eat cupcakes!





Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Gaulin and Patty Glancey