Saint James Episcopal Church

**In the historic village of Poquetanuck**

**95 ROUTE 2A - PRESTON, CT 06365**

**860-889-0150 E-mail: office@stjamespreston.org**

**286th Annual Report**

**of the 285th Annual Parish Meeting**

**held on July 12, 2020 at 11:00 am**

**Immediately after our Sunday service**



***The Reverend Kim J. Litsey, Priest in Charge***

***The Reverend Deacon Ronald S. Steed, Deacon***

***Gail Rigney & Kathy Buck, Co-Wardens***

**St. James Parish, Preston “285th” Annual Parish Meeting Minutes**

June 9, 2019 – 9:00 am Worship

Business Meeting: 10:22 am, Presiding Wardens: George Warner and Gail Rigney

Call to Order the “285th” Annual Meeting, 32 parish members present

1.Voting List reviewed: Asked “are there any corrections to the Voter List” Shalin Peck Mary Bawza

added to the Parish List. Motion to approve the Voter List as amended seconded and Parish Clerk

carried.

2. Minutes of the “284th” Annual Parish Meeting were read. Motion to accept the Mary Bawza

Minutes of the “284th” Annual Parish meeting seconded and carried. Parish Clerk

3. Priest in Charge Report

Reverend Kim spoke to her calling to St James and Grace Church, Yantic. She Rev. Kim Litsey

celebrated the holy friendship between the two churches and thanked the Priest in Charge

Wardens and Vestry for their work.

4. Wardens Report George Warner

George and Gail described this journey of transformation for St. James, a new Priest Gail Rigney

and holy friendship with Grace Church. George expressed his gratitude for the Wardens

opportunity to serve St. James as Warden.

5. Clerk’s report Mary Bawza

Review of Reports as printed, questions and answers Vestry Clerk

6. Report of the Nominating Committee

Slate for the Vestry was discussed with names of those who offered to take the listed open positions.

Are there nominations from the floor? This asked 3 times.

No other nominations: Nominations to be closed.

A motion to close nominations was seconded and carried

**Elected:**

Wardens: Kathleen Buck and Gail Rigney

Clerk: Elaine Hess

Treasurer: Steve Sawyer

New

Class of 2022: Janet Harris, Jane Leibert and Steve Sawyer

Continuing First Term

Class of 2020: Peter Labenski and Phillip Ludlow

Class of 2021: Sylvia Correia and Elaine Hess

Continuing Second Term

Class of 2021: Steve Holmberg

Diocesan Convention Representatives

Peter Leibert and Mary Bawza

7. Election of Parish Officers and Vestry members, and Representatives to the Diocesan Convention Moved to install, seconded and carried

8. Authorization of the newly elected Vestry members and Parish Officers, Delegates and Alternates to the Diocesan Convention: To act on behalf of St. James Parish until the next Annual Parish Meeting in 2020.

**Priest in Charge Report**

St. James has made a bold and faithful shift from pondering how we might survive to imaging how we might thrive, and much of that has occurred in the midst of the COVID pandemic, and we know why. We are Easter people who believe God's promise and we are here to provide hope to a broken world and lift up one another.

As we said goodbye to Joe Hockhousen, Mary Babcock, Alice Marciniak, John Ayres, and Mike Moore, and last year Walt Szocik, we became acutely aware that we are here on this earth for a very short time, and the stewardship of this community is in our hands. Our Vestry is passionate about embracing our future, hearing your thoughts, and leading the parish into new territory and preserving our heritage.

We learned from our Treasurer Steve Sawyer that we are in good financial shape, and yet we need to look at how we support the work of God going forward. It has been a wakeup call that we needed and I am grateful. The Vestry made good financial decisions. We ended 2019 with ample cash on hand to begin the year and under budget in expenses. So, in January we made plans to reduce the withdrawal from the endowment on a monthly basis. When the stock market dipped due to COVID-19, we stopped taking funds altogether in hopes that the value of the endowment would recover. We applied for a Payroll Protection Plan loan and received it this week, the loan of $13,295 will turn into a grant if stay the course. During the COVID pandemic, you have remained faithful and many continued to fulfill pledges. It is an inspiration to everyone.

This year more than ever we embraced the idea that Fish and Chips is really Friday night church 6 times a year in Lent. I am thankful to Warden Gail Rigney, who created documentation and systems that will be helpful every year. She did this while empowering others to increase their leadership and manage the various teams of Fish and Chips. Because of her leadership we were able to quickly make the decision and retool our operation to offer take out only on the 3rd and final evening. Gail had created a solid team that made the Drive Thru Fish and Chips possible that night.

Our Holy Friendship with Grace Church grew stronger last summer when we worshipped together and had a picnic at the Rigney home. Our members helped with their Chicken Pie Supper and they helped with Fish and Chips. This year we joined their Shrove Tuesday celebration along with members of Christ Church. It was a fun gathering of the body of Christ, and again a sign of hope of the strength of God's witness in the region. Knowing that the St. James congregation was struggling with the fact that Ron and I could not stay for coffee hour, they offered to do Morning Prayer every 5th Sunday. Worship in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a good collaboration.

Sylvia Correia for several years has made the OWL lunch a "hoot!" to quote her directly. The monthly lunch is a wonderful place of joy and a source inspiration, and this year we had record crowds. The last OWL lunch took place just as the lock down was about to be announced; to our surprise most of the regulars were there for one last hoot! Thank you goes to Sylvia for creating community at the OWL lunch, and everywhere you go.

St. James has had a longstanding relationship with Scout Troop 75, and this year we were blessed to help Sean Hirt achieve Eagle Scout. I attended my first Turkey in Woods Thanksgiving dinner and it was an honor to be there. We are looking forward to sponsoring a Cub Scout troop this coming year. The Mohegan District Advisory Board now meets at the church every month. Sadly, the Trader Jack's scouting store of southeast Connecticut has closed due to the consolidation of BCA enterprises.

# STEPS, Inc. a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering girls and uplifting communities became a church tenant. They work in the Groton, New London and Norwich school systems and are having a tremendous impact in the community. The founder and administrator were going to join us on the Sunday just as the COVID-19 lock down was issued. We will reschedule when the restrictions are lifted. It is an exciting partnership opportunity for St. James.

The COVID-19 pandemic turned our world upside down, and through it all we have remained steadfast even though everyone is not gathering virtually or now in-person. The Vestry and a worship taskforce that includes folks from Grace have been helpful in shaping our worship and currently discussing how to make improvements. I am grateful for your patience with the experimental nature of everything we are doing. I am also thankful to our musicians, Mike LaFleur and Peter Leibert, as well as Alan McNeely from Grace, who has enriched our worship. I give thanks to God for Deacon Ron stepping in to be our "Digital Deacon & Master of Ceremonies" for our online worship. And, Bob Peck for stepping up to install WI-FI in the worship space and improve our microphone system. Thanks also to Myra Day our organist for her music last fall. She is now on furlough, and keeping us in prayer. Plus, Myra sewed a basketful of masks for visitors or members who forget their masks. We have the most beautiful masks in the region!

In the midst of all of this, we have revised our By-Laws, kept the building in shape with the help of volunteers; we have created a new website, and started a conversation on antiracism called Our Work, offered Dwelling in Word & Compline; and Guiding Healing Pray, and a healing prayer service with St. David's in Gales Ferry.

Very special thanks go to a few folks during this last quarter especially. I want to thank Bob Peck for keeping the body of Christ and our gathering space as the apple of his eye, and for Wendy Connal-Nicolaou for building our website, Phil Ludlow for picking up the mantle of carrying on with the Liz Harris Cannon Ball Run (Car Parade), which was a wonderful reminder of what is important to us, and for being a support to me as I worked remotely. Bill Day our bookkeeper has been a steady, balancing force for us in the past and especially during these fragile times. He is kept us on track and we are seeing the benefits. Dawn Perras, our administrator, has been working quietly at the church not only doing her tasks, but taking on additional responsibilities. Dawn is always willing to chip in to help when the church needs her.

This will be a year to remember, and it may change not only the course of history but also the future of the church. I give thanks to Gail Rigney for over three years of service as Co-Warden during the transition, for the wisdom and support of Co-Warden Kathy Buck, and for Phil Ludlow, whose preservation of our heritage and commitment to our future is inspirational. And, for Deacon Ron for his faithful support, inspirational preaching and growing leadership in advocating mission. Everyone at St. James has laid the foundation for which our hope is built upon and together we can rest in the fact that God is present in everything we do and all that we have. The Holy Spirit will lead us in the coming year to be the holy and life giving presence in the community near and far.

The Rev. Kim J. Litsey

Priest in Charge

**Deacon’s Report**

St. James did a lot this year out in the world, and in many cases, joined with our Holy Friends at Grace Yantic and other churches:

* Near St Francis Day in October, we established a more robust relationship with St Vincent DePaul Place, by co-hosting a Blessing of the Animals there with Fr. Bob Washabaugh of St Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church. Grace Yantic partnered with us in this event.
* We gathered household goods for people who have nearly nothing and donated them to St Vincent DePaul Place which has a large ministry for these materials. Homeless people who are being housed from the New London Homeless Hospitality Center draw heavily from SVDP.
* During the Gales Ferry Crop Walk, we had a great walk and raised money for the Church World Service’s international and domestic ministries as well as for the Gemma Moran Food Center, the main source of food for many of the region’s food pantries. We will participate again in this walk on Sunday, October 18.
* Our Lay Eucharistic Ministers delivered Eucharist to several parishioners who could not attend services. This year, we added a short prayer and sending for these ministers during Sunday Worship.
* Grace has a strong relationship with The Fitchville Home, an assisted living center not far from Yantic. They organize have several events during the year there, and for the Christmas Carol Sing, Peter Leibert accompanied us with his concertina. What a difference he made! Incidentally, members of Grace planted a vegetable garden at the home again this spring.
* We had a robust Bible Study on Tuesday evenings throughout the program year, with an emphasis on studying the next Sunday’s lessons and applying those lessons to our lives in the world. Many of the participants were called to provide materials for the New London Homeless Hospitality Center’s needs.
* We began joint monthly healing services with St. David’s Episcopal Church. Members of the SE Region Healing Prayer Network participated in those services.
* Some of us participated in monthly Norwich neighborhood cleanups with St Vincent dePaul’s Place. This also was done jointly with Grace, Yantic.
* We gathered dry and canned goods for the food pantry at Preston Congregational Church. Last month, we had a food ingathering that included donations from Grace, Christ Church Norwich, St David’s Gales Ferry, and St. Mark’s Mystic. These items went to the Preston Food Pantry, St Vincent dePaul’s Place, and the New London Homeless Hospitality Center.
* Our Wiser Older League monthly lunches continued to draw big crowds and supported a diaper ministry at Madonna House Norwich.
* Phil Ludow helped to organize holiday turkey dinners for several people in our extended community. And of course, the Phil Ludlow Golf Classic, and the Liz Harris Cannonball Run continue to raise funds to send children to summer camp. It was done a little differently this Spring to allow for social distancing, but the inventiveness and spirit of former years was still thriving!
* Our Discretionary Fund helped several members of the community with much needed emergency support.
* Jewelly’s card-making ministry continued to thrive. Although a lot of beautiful cards are made each month, the main thing happening is healing and friendship.
* And of course, our Fish and Chips dinners continued to draw many people to some of the best fish you will ever put in your mouth! For over 55 years, people have gathered from our village of Poquetanuck, from all over the region, and even from neighboring states; over 500 on many evenings.  This meal is a principle mission of our Parish, and a big part of who we are as a church in the community.  The Spirit is alive and thriving in the room.  Neighbors renew old friendships and new one are created... Boy Scouts and youth from our Parish and from neighboring schools serve it up... no one goes away hungry, physically or spiritually, and you can just feel the energy in the space!  Plates of homemade desserts sweeten the experience.  It is not a stretch to say that this is a Parish all its own that meets annually to share table fellowship.  There's no liturgy at this meal (unless "I need three baked fish!" shouted across the din of the kitchen counts), but healing happens here.  The funds we raise from these meals help us to do God's mission of healing, reconciliation, and restoration throughout southeast Connecticut.
* Both Grace and St James helped one another during Fish and Chips and during Grace’s Chicken Dinner events. Grace experienced a fresh new response from the community for their Chicken dinners (they sold out of dinners!), which may be a sign that the community is responding to their work. They were so grateful for all of you who volunteered, and they were really wowed by Fish and Chips!

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed a lot of these ministries and suspended some of them, but in many ways, it has caused us to think more creatively about how to engage in God’s Mission out in the community. Together with the rest of the nation, we seem to be getting a call to understand how systematic racism is wired into the fabric of our nation. Several of us have been in conversation about race, and currently we are doing book studies, both at St James and across the SE Region to understand racism more deeply. I’m excited about what the Spirit is doing, even in the midst of such great suffering. One opportunity we could grab with Grace is to participate annually in the Norwich Community Meal by preparing box lunches on one Sunday a year. There are several people at St James and at Grace who are interested in doing this. Where are you getting a nudge?

The Rev. Deacon Ronald Steed, Deacon

**Warden Report**

When we started this year’s journey in July 2019, who knew we would be in the middle of a pandemic in July 2020. One that has changed the way we worship in community. Before the pandemic we continued business as usual; Owl Luncheons, Sunday worship with a Peace where most people leave their pew to greet each other, Card making classes, Yoga in the Vines, to getting ready to put a budget together for the new calendar year fast approaching.

In March of 2020 we closed our Red Church Doors not knowing for how long that we would not be able to be worshiping together. We needed to find another way to stay in community. Members called members to check in with each other, Rev. Kim and Deacon Ron found a way to live stream services on Facebook from the Parish Hall and adding the ability to Zoom the service as well. When we added Zoom we started a virtual coffee hour. Both St James and Grace joined in this new 10:00 service. We had found a way to be in community together. After several weeks of this and the pandemic going strong, Rev. Kim and Deacon Ron moved to doing the service from their homes, live streaming on Facebook and Zoom.

The vestry continued to meet by using Zoom, again a bit different than sitting around a table together. We continued to do the business of the church and find ways to move forward in the life of the church.

We added Wi-Fi in the church to get ready to open our doors on June 21, 2020 to worship in the pews and to still live stream to Facebook and Zoom for those parishioners who aren’t ready or able to join in a live service. We opened our doors again although a bit different, 6 feet social distancing, wearing face coverings, Peace from our seats - no touching each other, a very difficult thing for us at St. James. By following these new guidelines, we show the love we have for each other, keeping each other safe and that no matter what comes our way we do what we need to, to be in community. Our world is changing and so is the church, we have found a way to be versatile. God is in the midst of this and shining through each of us.

We pray that everyone continues to be safe and that sometime soon we can meet all together again.

In Love and Grace,

Kathy Buck, Warden

**Treasurer Report**

During this 2020 year, after a good stewardship campaign, with Rev. Kim serving as our Priest in Charge, in January 2020 at a parish meeting our budget was presented with some doubts whether our financial needs were living up to our proposed budget income. Members were worried about additional expenditures (salary, benefits, etc.) that we may incur as we move forward. We approved a budget with a Leap of Faith, which we have done in years past. To meet this, we said we would do four things. 1) Revisit 2019 pledge cards, 2.) Make additional communication with non-pledging families 3.) Create additional fund raisers if the need be, and 4.) We hope when there are new parishioners they will make a pledge. In addition to these 4 items we would increase Fish & Chips revenue to $16,000. Fish and Chips dinners in 2019 were a tremendous success due to the hard work of all the volunteers and netted over $15,000. Praise the Lord for the terrific weather. Our Finance Committee would focus on expenditures each month and discuss ways to make changes to remain fiscally sound. The finance committee meets the second Wednesday of each month. Annual Fish and Chip dinners started out with a fantastic turn out and projections of good profit. We were cut short by COVID-19 pandemic fears so on the third week we served take-out only.

Beginning in mid Feb. 2020 the country was struck with the COVID-19. Our World and community braced for the largest pandemic to hit the USA since 1919. A statement from our Connecticut Episcopal Bishops said “As many of you know, last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that Coronavirus Disease 2019, known as COVID-19, has been declared a heightened threat to public health. While the disease does pose a threat, it's not something that Americans should panic about as long as we follow the science, and use the best recommended practices to protect against contracting illnesses and spreading germs.”

Then on March14, 2020, it was recommended that churches should not worship in-person and should close its offices. Your vestry, Finance committee and parish members have stood tall and kept our parish budget on track despite these unfortunate times. We have stuck together and maintained a budget which can support us through these hard and difficult times. We reminded people that they could mail in their pledges while we were doing virtual services to keep our budget going. To date several people have paid their pledges in full and many have managed to mail in pledges either weekly or monthly to keep our budget strong.

A BIG Thank you to Bill Day, our Bookkeeper who ensures all the income is recorded and all the invoices are processed. A BIG Thank You to Steve Sawyer, Treasurer, who saw us through this year and kept us on track and looking at the budget each month.

Thank you to the St. James family who are so loving and generous in their service to the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Buck, Warden and Finance Committee.

**Clerk’s Report**

Since our last Annual Meeting in June 2019, we’ve had 0 Baptisms, 4 Funerals (Burials/Memorial Services), and 0 weddings. We had Sunday 58 services, and 35 communion visits were delivered. Our average attendance on Sundays was 53 with 151 attending Easter services and 97 attended Christmas services. We sponsored 2 large families through the Christmas giving tree, and 4 Thanksgiving/Christmas baskets were given away.

Respectfully in Christ,

Elaine Hess, Clerk

**Stewardship**

St. James Stewardship for 2020 brought many spirit filled Highs and Lows. Our theme of a rainbow of color reinforced our FAITH from years past and increased our FAITH for the future. It was interrupted by times of uncertainty with the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our parish members were sent into a tailspin of financial disruptions, loss of jobs, social distancing and separation from meeting as a group in our little Church with the BIG Red doors. Self-Awareness, sense of spirit, balance in our personal life, creativity and passion kept us together as a community. Your Stewardship Committee worked hard in these trying times to stay focused, SMILE and stay positive to send a message of HOPE with a good attitude to all our members. Our ATTITUDE is part of our healing process as we move forward in 2020 and beyond.

Know we love you and you are NOT alone in this – We are all in this together.

GOD Bless You!

Your 2020 Stewardship Committee

**Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild is operating with five members, Marlene Santucci, Calista Green, Donna Miller, Sue Hockhousen, and Janet Harris. Marlene continues to clean the altar linens, which is a greatly appreciated labor of love. Anyone is welcome to join us in this peaceful endeavor.

The church was decorated beautifully for Christmas. I greatly appreciate all the help we had decorating, especially Ed Hess for leading the ladder crew to hang the greens. We had an abundance of beautiful poinsettias donated by Hart’s.

Calista Green donated the Pascal candle at Easter. A donation from Kathy Buck in memory of her son Ryan and brother Bill paid for glazing the second set of torches. As the brass pieces are glazed, it eliminates the time necessary to polish them each week. There are several more pieces to be done at various prices if anyone is interested in making donation

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Harris, Altar Guild Directress

**Organist / Music Report**

The church year of 2019-2020 is like none other. Covid19 changed how we worship at present and challenged us to be more creative. I went on furlough from my organist position in March since I could not play the organ in person for you. Upon reopening for Sunday service on June 21, we refrain from vocal music because of the latest guidelines about the spread of this dreaded disease.

Our Holiday choir performed a lovely Christmas anthem on Christmas Eve. I wish to thank each choir member for joining us to provide this wonderful gift of music. I gratefully thank Mike LaFleur for providing accompaniment with his guitar. The choir did not sing for Easter because the service was virtually online. I also thank Mike LaFleur and Peter Leibert for filling in for me on the occasions when I am unable to play for church and during the summer months when I am on sabbatical.

Alan McNeely tunes the organ twice a year. The organ has not presented any mechanical problems in the past year so it has not required significant repairs. I thoroughly enjoy playing our wonderful pipe organ for you, and I look forward to the day I return to play it on Sunday mornings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Myra Day, Organist

**OWL Report**

OWL (Older, Wiser League) continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month, weather permitting – except this year. When Covid-19 arrived it was deemed necessary to discontinue the luncheons until further notice. Luncheons were held in January, February and March.

There have been no changes to the format of this group and everyone seems to be enjoying themselves.

Generally, a group of 25 - 35 people gather for good food, many laughs and fellowship.

The meal is provided in many forms, from outright donation of the complete entrée to a few volunteers preparing the meal. Requests of side dishes and desserts are fulfilled readily. I would like to THANK everyone who contributes both food wise and financially *very, very much* for all of their contributions. I would also like to thank very much Gary Deveau and Charlie Maine for preparing Punderson Hall for these luncheons.

Free-will monetary donations to the OWL basket for the past year have been $1,088. Diapers were purchased and delivered to Madonna Place in Norwich through February 2020.

When Covid-19 arrived the Madonna Place in Norwich closed their doors. I took it upon myself with the approval from Rev. Kim Litsey to use monies that were still in the account to purchase 600 +/- diapers and donated them to the Soup Kitchen in Norwich.

On a side note, the Owl Luncheon has a very active attendee that now resides at Masonicare in Mystic. She is involved with *The Knitwits,* a group of ladies that meet on Sunday afternoon to ‘knit’. The Owl luncheon group has been the liaison for some beautiful baby afghans that are donated to Madonna Places. Needless to say, Madonna Place is very appreciative.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Correia

**Ecuador Mission Ministry Report**

As we write this Ecuador Mission update, the Corona Virus is ravaging the country and people of Ecuador. In the 14 years we have worked in Ecuador they have endured: four viral epidemics, volcanic eruptions, devastating earthquakes, six governmental breakdowns, constant civil unrest, chronic poverty… and yet, the people not only survive but have a faith and ease of welcome and joy that defies western thinking.

Mission work is a living breathing experience, as any of our Saint James’ Mission Participants can tell you. Each Mission Trip mirrors the richness and uniqueness of the particular place, the people and the work we share together there, each is a jewel of it’s own making and beauty. What remains constant through them all are the Bonds and Relationships formed, and the Love of Christ shared.

We continue to maintain our connections with the Bishop and staff at the Diocese of Ecuador Central, as well as personal communications with many friends and families in the villages we lived and worked in.

Loving relationships in Christ, and shared Mission experiences of work and prayer, are the wealth and lasting legacy of our time in Ecuador. And this is the foundation from which new Missions will spring as world health and travel conditions allow.

Until then, we encourage your messages of interest and support. And we welcome any of you who might feel a call to participate now, and in the future. And finally, we ask for your prayers for the people of Ecuador, God’s children.

Respectfully submitted,

George Warner, Saint James’ Ecuador Mission Coordinator

**Fall Food Festival**

 The special event committee, Rev. Kim, and Dawn met to organize this event. This year we eliminated the basket raffle and decided on a Grandmas Attic instead. We had 11 vendors and made $205.00 from their fees. Even though we felt that the event was well advertised, the turnout was very small. Competition from other events might have affected our foot traffic. This in turn affected our bottom line. There was disappointment about the amount of money we made and the amount of work that went into organizing it. We made about $1,120.00. The positives included: the luncheon sold out, we had volunteers to help run the festival and all of the items left from Grandma’s attic were taken to local charities. Items donated by local businesses weren’t used for a raffle as planned. It was decided to raffle them off at the Fish Fry. The committee felt that we should not do another fall festival. We felt it might be better to focus on participating in other local events or have food related activities throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hess

**Yoga in the Vine**

St. James Church held their first Yoga in the Vine fundraiser. It was held at Preston Ridge Winery on Saturday September 21, 2019 at 9:30 A.M. We sold tickets both online and at the church for $15.00. This included an hour class of yoga and a glass of wine. We had 15 participants. Also, Preston Ridge graciously donated 5% of their total wine sales for that day. We greatly appreciated their support with this fundraiser. We made about $600.00 from this event.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hess

**Fish & Chips Report**

Our annual Fish & Chips dinner began on February 28 just as the COVID-19 pandemic was rising as a concern in the U.S. We managed to get three dinners done before circumstances required us to suspend the ministry for COVID. The last week, March 13, we did as take-out only. That Friday was a result of the remarkable inventiveness of many Parishioners who helped to brain-storm how we might transition from dining room service to all-take-out, while keeping the public safe from harm. Well done to everyone who helped with that effort!

Even without a full schedule of six Fridays, we brought in almost $14, 700 and served about 1300 meals. Our second week was a record attendance (570 meals) since 2018. This year, we netted about $3000 after expenses.

We have served up Fish and Chips dinners for over 55 years and it continues to draw many people from our village of Poquetanuck, from all over the region, and even from neighboring states; over 500 on many evenings. This meal is a principle mission of our Parish, and a big part of who we are as a church in the community.  The Spirit is alive and thriving in the room.  Neighbors renew old friendships and new one are created... Boy Scouts and youth from our Parish and from neighboring schools serve it up... no one goes away hungry, physically or spiritually, and you can just feel the energy in the space!  Plates of homemade desserts sweeten the experience.  It is not a stretch to say that this is a Parish all its own that meets annually to share table fellowship.  There's no liturgy at this meal (unless "I need three baked fish!" shouted across the din of the kitchen counts), but healing happens here.  The funds we raise from these meals help us to do God's mission of healing, reconciliation, and restoration throughout southeast Connecticut.

Thanks to our Holy Friends at Grace, Yantic who helped to volunteer this year. We were able to provide some able-bodies to help with their Chicken Dinners as well… just another example of our mutually beneficial relationship with one another.

**Women’s Card Ministry Report**

At this time the women’s Card Ministry is going strong. With the pandemic and all the health concerns we are doing things from our homes. Each person is doing their part in keeping safe. As we miss getting together and being able to support each other in class, we have learned to do things in a different way. We are looking forward to getting together soon and being able to sit across from each other and make cards or just talk to a friend face to face. I’m hoping that we will be able to have a class in August or September while using our new safety practices. We all miss getting together and spending time with others. Hopefully everyone is staying safe and healthy.

Blessing to all and hope to see you all soon.

Jewelly Szocik

**Building & Grounds Report**

Buildings and Grounds spent the majority of 2019 assessing the physical plant and bringing it up to speed on annual maintenance. In early 2020, fixtures and systems that range from fire extinguishers to furnaces were all inspected and serviced. Minor repairs and service were performed on the Punderson Hall Boiler.

A recent collaborative effort has made improvements to the church by adding Wi-Fi and wireless mics to the sound system. God willing, we will be connecting Punderson Hall with a shared sound link to facilitate larger events. Additional systems like Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs are slated for upgrade this summer when Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed.

Warm weather has turned our attention to the exterior projects that fill the summer. Parishioners are engaged in repainting our RED Doors and the basement bulkhead is scheduled for a facelift. The gardens are in full bloom…when permissible we will gather to enjoy fellowship and some good old-fashioned yard work.

My thanks to everyone who help keep our church beautiful.

Faithfully,

Bob Peck

**Phil Ludlow Open Golf Classic Report**

The 17th Annual Phil Ludlow 2019 Pro-Am Classic was held on May 31, 2019. Thanks to all who participated and Jim Holzworth Photographer, Roger Geer, John Messier, Steve Majcher and Jed Carty, Event Organizers.

Income:

$3,750.00 (75 players @ $50 each)

$ 350.00 Donated by players who couldn’t play but gave money to the cause:

They were: Dan Lambert, John Moran, Jim Fletcher, Chris Ruest and Jim Ricciti

$ 275.00 Raffle $175 + $100 given back from Paul Bourke  
 $4,375.00 Total Income

-$2,480.00 Expenses: Gifts/Prizes, Supplies, Food, Cart fees, & Golf costs

**$1,895.00 Total 2019 Profit Donated to “Kids to Camp”**

The 2019 Phil Ludlow Pro-Am Golf Classic Shared ALL Proceeds to LHCB SJC “Kids to Camp”. Donation= $1,895.00**.**

**Unfortunately, due to the pandemic this Event was Canceled May 2020**

**Liz Harris Cannonball Run Road Race Report**

LHCB 2019 Financial and Highlight Report: 5-29-2020

2019 Race expenses. = **-$2,353.16**

2019 Expenses for **43** Camperships: = -**$6,270.00**

2019 Total Expenses = **-$8,623.16**

**2019 income = 12,457.02**

**2019 Expense = 8,937.82**

Balance brought forward for 2020: =**+$3,519.20**

Special Highlights:

1. LHCB S this year sponsored Four (4) High School Runner scholarships to the Green Mountain Running Camp (N.H.) in honor of Tim and Kris-Anne Kane.
2. TWO HS Boy finishers were Dylan McGuire and Digby Ludlow from Preston and
3. TWO HS girls Ally Tran in 6:32 (Ledyard) and Abby Dolphin in 7:11 (Gales Ferry).
4. For the fourth year we funded ($500.00) to the St. Catherine’s Church Running Scholarships. 1 Boy/1 Girl scholarship for their Annual 5K road race.
5. LHCB eight year to sponsor the David L. Cannon Award given to the first St. James Church child runner 10 yr.’s old or under. The 2019 award went to Austin Muench (8 yr. old) in the time of 7:12.

**The classic 29th running of LHCB road race June 18th, 2020 was canceled due to COVID-19 Pandemic:**

The St. James Vestry and Race coordinators, along with health officials worldwide, are actively monitoring the local and global health status of COVID-19. The 2020 Liz Harris Cannonball event coordinators are taking proactive steps to minimize health and safety risks to runners, parents, organizers and most important the community at large.

In place of our Annual Liz Harris Cannonball Road Race we had an Auto Parade to honor over 1,000 volunteers who have made our Race a success over the years. [1992-2019] On June 18th, 2020 (the night of the LHCB 29th Annual Road Race). All participants met at the Preston Community Park Liz Harris softball field at 6:30pm. At 6:45 the Auto Parade proceeded out on to Route 117 and headed west. The parade entered School House Rd from the Route 2A end then headed North along Road Race route. At 7 o’clock sharp the traditional Cannonball Canon was fired to signify the start of the parade. Autos then blasted their horns for 2 minutes continuing on the road race route until they intersected at the Route 2 traffic light. All participating vehicles then went home to be safe. We raised $2,155.20 money for camp scholarships. T-shirts for 2020 are still available for $20.

Race committee: Dawn @ SJC, GR-TK&KAK, Rev. Kim and PL 5-29-20

**St. James Episcopal Church, Preston, CT Voter List 2020**

**Bill Archambeault**

**Carol Bacon**

**Joseph Balint**

**Judy Balint**

**Lynn Barry**

**Mary Bawza**

**Cathy Brosnan**

**Ellen Browne**

**Larry Browne**

**Mary Browning**

**Peter Browning**

**Kathy Buck**

**Keith Buck**

**Andrew Cannon**

**Jolea Cannon**

**Rev. David Cannon**

**Andreas Connal-Nicolaou**

**Wendy Connal-Nicolaou**

**Sylvia Correia**

**Connie DeSouza**

**Wally DeSouza**

**Fred Eddy**

**Debra Eddy**

**Thomas Evans, Jr.**

**Maureen French**

**Fred Graf**

**Karen Graf**

**Calista Green**

**Janet Harris**

**Ed Hess**

**Elaine Hess**

**Susan Hockhousen**

**Steve Holmberg**

**Tara Hurt**

**Juanita Johnson**

**Mike LaFleur**

**Valerie LaFleur**

**Jane Leibert**

**Peter Leibert**

**Melissa Loizou**

**Sara Loizou**

**Phil Ludlow**

**Sherry Ludlow**

**Sarah Minei-Ludlow**

**Wess Ludlow**

**Heidi Magro**

**Peter Labenski**

**Rhonda Labenski**

**Charlie Maine**

**Kyle Majewski**

**Lisa Majewski**

**Loretta Maplesden**

**Ed Marciniak**

**Cliff Marks**

**Donna Miller**

**Robert Miller**

**Nancy Palmer**

**Delores Peck**

**Robert Peck**

**Shalin Peck**

**Mark Perrin**

**Marie Perrin**

**Ron Ranes**

**Gail Rigney**

**Jim Rigney**

**Gary Rogoff**

**Linda Rogoff**

**Cindy Roy**

**Greg Roy**

**Mark Santucci**

**Marlene Santucci**

**Ann Sawyer**

**Steve Sawyer**

**Patricia Schoennagel**

**Ian Sharpe**

**Lisa Sharpe**

**Daniel Smith**

**Susan Smith**

**Ronald Steed**

**Carol Steward**

**Jewelly Szocik**

**Sandie Szocik**

**Walter Szocik, Jr.**

**Allison Terpe**

**Andrea Terpe**

**Barbara Terpe**

**Barbara Terpe (Jr.)**

**Raymond Tessier**

**Alisha Towpasz**

**Wendy Warner**

**George Warner, Jr.**

**Gayle Wisniewski**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Included on this Voter List are active parishioners who give for the work of the church and attend church at least three times in a year; you need not be Episcopalian.**

**THIS VOTING LIST MUST BE APPROVED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING-A MOTION**

**The 286th Annual meeting of July 12, 2020.**

**Agenda**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Reading of minutes from the 285th Annual meeting 2019
3. Parish Rector/Deacon Reports
4. Parish Wardens Report
5. Parish Clerk Report
6. Parish Financial Report
7. Parish Mission/Committee Reports:

Worship; Altar Guild; Music; Building and Grounds; Ecuador; Owl Lunch; Card Ministry; Pastoral Care; Stewardship; Special Events: Fish and Chip, Liz Harris Cannon Ball Run, Ludlow Golf Classic, Yoga in the Vine, Fall Festival.

* 1. Motion to accept ALL Parish reports as published.

1. Open meeting for voting
   1. 2020 revision to Parish By-Laws
      1. Vote on amended 2020 By-Laws
   2. Report of Nomination Committee
      1. Election of Parish officers & Vestry Members
2. Authorize newly elected slate of officer to act on behalf of St. James Parish until the next Annual meeting, January 24, 2021
3. Special Gifts and recognitions
4. Motion to adjourn the 286th Annual meeting.