



St. James's Church 2024 Annual Meeting

January 28, 2024



Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- Minutes of 2023 Meeting
- Vestry Election – Alex Zane, vestry member
- Deacon-in-Charge Comments
- Updated Mission and Values Statements
- Senior Warden's Report – Kristine Marcy
- Junior Warden's Report– Tad Wilbur
- Treasurer's Report – Julie Badger
- St. Claire's / Altar Guild Report – Delores Tyler / Cheryl Gresham
- Dos Santos Report
- Adjournment



St. James Church 2024 Annual Meeting

Opening Prayer



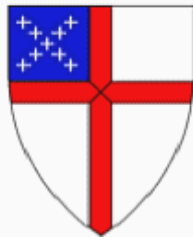
St. James Church 2024 Annual Meeting

Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting
Minutes



St. James Church 2024 Annual Meeting

Deacon-in-Charge Comments



St. James Church 2024 Annual Meeting

Updated Vision Statement

We believe Jesus Christ calls us to serve God to the best of our abilities by fully using the gifts bestowed on us all by the Holy Spirit. We endeavor to be shining examples of God's Love by wholeheartedly engaging with our fellow parishioners and the community at large with love, respect and honesty. We seek always to keep in our hearts the teachings of our Savior as we strive forward in this world, never forgetting His divine compassion.

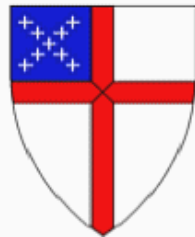
For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Matthew 16:26



St. James Church 2024 Annual Meeting

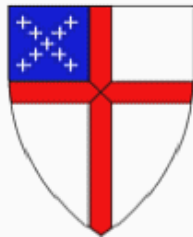
Updated Mission Statement

The mission of the Parish of St. George, grounded in Christ's love and surrendered to the Holy Spirit, is to serve God and to provide a safe and positive sacred space that encourages spiritual growth through the sharing of the Gospel, and that welcomes and serves everyone, especially those in need.



St. James Church 2024 Annual Meeting

Senior Warden's Report



2023 Accomplishments

- Introduce members of the St. James 'Vestry
- Significant steps to cope with financial shortfalls
 - Insurance Coverage
 - Joint Vestry Meetings
 - Consolidation of accounting functions
 - Lawn care provider
 - Transfer of funds into higher interest-bearing accounts
- Ongoing Generosity of congregants and ST. Clare's Guild – THANK YOU!
- Increased pledging from parishioners - THANK YOU!
- Rectory Rental – Thank you Cindy Nicolls!
- Open House Event
- Work done to prepare the Rectory – teamwork!
- Stewardship meetings with parishioners
- Successful Fundraising Events



Looking Forward

- NOW, really hard, existential work needs to be done. Our challenge is to grow the Church with new and younger members. Unless we grow, we WILL go out of business. I hope all of you will join me and the other members of our Vestry and our Deacon, in finding new members. I also hope you will let us know if there are specific projects you wish to undertake. We are small and mighty, but we could sure use some more help!



St. James Church 2024 Annual Meeting

Junior Warden's Report



St. James Church 2024 Annual Meeting

Treasurer's Reports



Treasurer's Reports

St. James' Church Statement of Activity

January - December 2023

	Jan - Dec 2023	Jan - Dec 2022 (PY)	Change
Revenue			
201000 Plate and Pledges	32,925	30,226	2,699
203020 Memorial Gift Received	200	5,987	-5,787
203025 Contributions	4,500	521	3,979
203099 In Kind Donations	206		206
204010 Worship Supplies	102		102
206025 USE OF PARISH HOUSE	540	643	-103
207010 Interest and Dividends	1,065	137	928
207011 So Va Diocesan Fund Income	4,608	3,234	1,374
207025 Event Income	1,164		1,164
207028 Realized Investment Gain/Loss		284	-284
207098 Rental Income - Rectory	10,000		10,000
Total Revenue	\$ 55,311	\$ 42,603	\$ 12,708
Expenditures			
Total 1100 Rector Compensation	\$ 15,530	\$ 0	\$ 15,530
Total 1200 Rector, Rectory Expenses	\$ 1,902	\$ 0	\$ 1,902
Total 1300 Worship Expenses	\$ 2,780	\$ 0	\$ 2,780
Total 1600 Physical Operations	\$ 37,575	\$ 31,309	\$ 6,266
Total Diocesan Pledge	3,900		3,900
Total 1800 Other Parish Expenses	\$ 1,082	\$ 5,254	-\$ 4,172
Total St George Reimbursement 2022	4,995	32,192	-27,197
Total Expenditures	\$ 67,765	\$ 68,755	-\$ 991
Net Revenue	-\$ 12,454	-\$ 26,153	\$ 13,699

Note 1

Note 1 - 2022 expenses not broken out by account - see "St. G Reimb Line"



Treasurer's Reports

St. James' Church
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2023

	Total		
	As of Dec 31, 2023	As of Dec 31, 2022 (PY)	Change
ASSETS			
Bank Accounts			
101 New Atlantic Union Operating	8,868	7,275	1,593
102 Smith Trust Account	8,451	12,656	-4,205
107 Walker Funds - CD	55,673		55,673
108 Money Market Walker Funds	30,294		30,294
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 103,286	\$ 19,931	\$ 83,355
Pledges Receivable	17,680		17,680
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 17,680	\$ 0	\$ 17,680
Other Current Assets			
103 So Va Diocesan Fund	38,386	36,418	1,968
105 Wells Fargo #5920 - Walker	1,053	92,472	-91,419
106 Wells Fargo Advisors	95	95	0
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 39,534	\$ 128,985	-\$ 89,451
Total Current Assets	\$ 160,500	\$ 148,916	\$ 11,584
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 160,500	\$ 148,916	\$ 11,584
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Other Current Liabilities			
209 Deferred Revenue-Pledges	17,700		17,700
299 Rents in trust - Liability	2,500		2,500
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 20,200	\$ 0	\$ 20,200
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 20,200	\$ 0	\$ 20,200
Total Liabilities	\$ 20,200	\$ 0	\$ 20,200
Equity			
3001 Opening Bal Equity	20,556	0	20,556
3010 Unrestrict (retained earnings)	161,605	187,737	-26,132
3111 Unrealized Loss on Investments	-29,408	-33,703	4,295
Net Revenue	-12,453	-26,132	13,679
Total Equity	\$ 140,300	\$ 127,902	\$ 12,398
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 160,500	\$ 127,902	\$ 32,598



Treasurer's Reports

St. James' Church

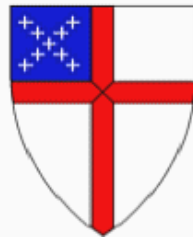
2023 Actuals vs. 2024 Budget

	Jan - Dec 2023	Jan - Dec 2024 Bud	Change
Revenue			
201000 Plate and Pledges	32,925	37,500	-4,575
203020 Memorial Gift Received	200	0	200
203025 Contributions	4,500	0	4,500
203099 In Kind Donations	206	0	206
204010 Worship Supplies	102	120	-18
206025 USE OF PARISH HOUSE	540	600	-60
207010 Interest and Dividends	1,065	1,650	-585
207011 So Va Diocesan Fund Income	4,608	4,700	-92
207025 Event Income	1,164	750	414
207028 Realized Investment Gain/Loss			0
207098 Rental Income - Rectory	10,000	30,000	-20,000
Total Revenue	\$ 55,311	\$ 75,320	-\$ 20,009
Expenditures			
Total 1100 Rector Compensation	\$ 15,530	\$ 17,200	-\$ 1,670
Total 1200 Rector, Rectory Expenses	\$ 1,902	\$ 2,230	-\$ 328
Total 1300 Worship Expenses	\$ 2,780	\$ 4,650	-\$ 1,870
Total 1600 Physical Operations	\$ 37,575	\$ 27,750	\$ 9,825
Total Diocesan Pledge	3,900	4,000	-100
Total 1800 Other Parish Expenses	\$ 1,082	\$ 1,950	-\$ 868
Total St George Reimbursement 2022	4,995	0	4,995
Total Expenditures	\$ 67,765	\$ 61,780	\$ 5,985
Net Revenue	-\$ 12,454	\$ 13,540	-\$ 25,994



St. James Church 2024 Annual Meeting

St. Helena's and Altar Guild Report



St. James Church 2024 Annual Meeting

Dos Santos Report



St. James Church 2024 Annual Meeting

Adjournment



Epiphany IV **StJ ANNUAL MEETING Jan.28,2024** Parish of St. George
Deut. 18: 15-20, Ps.111, 1Cor.8:1-13, Mk. 1:21-28 Rev. L.F. Rogers, deacon in charge

Claim:

Focus:

Function:

Dear people of St. James', Accomac,

Here we are at another junction in our life in Christ. The yearly meeting is a time for reviewing how we are doing overall in all areas to which we are committed, that keep us going toward the future and the fulfillment of our purpose here. Kris, our esteemed and capable senior warden, to whom we are all indebted is going to document for you at the meeting the progress we have made together in the year since our last Annual Meeting.

Each one of you has taken seriously the need to do what you can do, and your generosity always pays off. Building and grounds, and the critical rectory rental, Kris and Tad and Pops. Sarah, for the power point presentations, that make our services musical, when we don't have David and Linda playing live, and Jessica and Anne who run the feed religiously, ministering to us each Sunday. Cheryl, Susie, Celia, Diana, Cindy, Sarah, Delores, Jessica, and Anne, many thanks for the critical altar work and reading, Delores for the coffee hour comeback, not just for refreshment but for an interlude of fellowship. For those who serve on our vestry, for Kris and Diana, who diligently records the business of the meetings, and Barbara who, in spite of health challenges,

is ever ready to offer her help as social secretary and more. And to our gifted musicians, Amy, Linda, and David whose talents and generosity of spirit embellish our worship more than we can say.

I'm grateful for this exciting progress which, through the prayerful contributions of all of you, and sometimes awareness of serendipitous appearances of God's merciful hand upon us have brought forth surprising enhancements that have kept St. James alive and afloat. I'd like now to speak on a high plain about our life together. Let me review what we all know, but may often take for granted.

Church is a place to which we go, a holy space like this that often uncannily draws us in. The world needs a sacred space, not only as a place to go for religion, but as a symbol to the world that there is a greater life we are created to live and church is for growing that way of blessing and grace in our hearts. Some have coined church as "a school for sinners." Many see it as a refuge from the harshness that the world can be, offering a hope and a way of living together that the world so desperately needs. We become the church when we transcend the idea that it is a place we go to do religion, for God asks us to BE the body of Christ. Becoming a Christian is a discipline that takes place within a community of fellow Christians, that mutually grows in

and through each other, but becomes a way of life in each of us wherever and whenever we are.

Being an active, serving, giving part of St. James is the investment you make, ultimately, the gift you are meant to receive is your own growth and joy in life. Worship is first, but growth in our love for God and each other gives purpose and life to our worship. Mission is second, spurred on by a vision, that we are dedicated to the values that Christ taught, everyday, and everywhere and that we aspire to follow. Fellowship is a close third.

In the early Church, believers spent time with each other, met each others' needs, and confessed sin to each other. Church in the Bible is always people, not only a place. You can't get the full extent of that by worshipping online, or listening to a podcast, and you certainly can't if sleep or nice weather is more important. Personal contact, conversations, and living life together broadens our perspectives. Being together, sharing together, opening up to each other, supporting each other, and taking risks with all can help each one of us more fully achieve our purpose in life. We're part of the Accomac outpost of the Kingdom of God.

Last week the greater church celebrated one of its foremost feasts: The Conversion of Paul, a staggeringly astonishing event given his earlier hatred of the budding Christianity, and which

arguably began the most significant and world changing event since the resurrection through Paul's contributions to spread the Word.

In modern times, Theodore Roosevelt remarked, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

But I think it is safe to say that a certain first century luminary named Paul would agree to the same words. In many ways, this is the same thing he was trying to tell the Corinthian Christians, when he similarly wrote to them, "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." From today's epistle reading from I Corinthians, Paul didn't dispute the argument by some that because there really are no such things as other gods, then it really doesn't matter if you eat food that has been sacrificed to them. He agreed with their point, in fact. But Paul disagreed with their enthusiasm for being "right" over needed concern for those less enlightened in their approach to food offered to idols. As he said, "If food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall." Since this is not a situation we have to deal with today, we could easily miss the crucial point that the apostle is making—that my fellow believers matter far more than my need to be right or wise, or in the know. No, we don't have to deal with meat sacrificed to idols today, or the plethora of OT purity laws, but the fact remains that all we Christians today still often put our need to be impressive or "right" above our interest in the vantage points of others around us. Oftentimes we're obviously more invested in

what we think, and in what we're going to say, than we are attuned and genuinely ready to listen to the thought processes of others. If we truly mean to follow that second great Commandment of Jesus to love others as we love ourselves, then instead of tuning out the matter another is sharing with us while, having heard a few words, we may be inclined to escape into our own thoughts, preparing to redirect the conversation back to ourselves, our needs, our wisdom, and especially our perhaps subconsciously held superior opinions which, once we get started, sometimes may be hard to interrupt, either by others, or indeed by ourselves. It's uncanny how well-meaning people like ourselves can do that.

So, this is one important thing we all can take away from today's epistle reading how we, as individual Christians, treat each other and think of each other. In the earliest days of the church, it was said, "You may know they are Christians by their love." One of the most powerful arguments for the power of the Gospel was the deeply caring, genuinely respectful way in which believers approached one another, but as Paul goes on to say in a later chapter (13), "If I have not love, then I am no more than a clanging gong or a noisy cymbal."

We're fast approaching Lent. As a Lenten discipline, can you imagine starting each day by re-reading 1 Corinthians 13:4f. as a prayer, replacing the word "love" with the phrase "I will be"?? "I will be patient, I will be kind, I will not be jealous, etc.

The milieu for the readers of Paul's letter was that wealthy commercial and cultural center of Corinth, its diversity much like that of today's largest cities, its people dividing into contentions and cliques. Likewise, the Christian community tended to reflect its many differences of opinion, based on past personal connections, affiliations, and leadership. Some stemmed from ethnic or socio-economic differences. But many difficulties were caused simply because some of the Christians put their own certainties above their relationships with one another.

But if we take another look at the reading, I think it offers one powerful way to show our love. There are so many of us today, and Lord help us, sometimes I am one of them, who are so convinced that they are sure they know what is right, so convinced that they know what others should do, more spiritually virtuous, that they look down on others, Christians included, who are clearly in the wrong. The Church has, through the later centuries, had a pretty dismal track record of showing our love for one another, as we have threatened, condemned or killed each other, excommunicated or shunned each other, spoken maliciously behind someone's back, and other self righteous but cowardly acts over differences in churchmanship and other biases, all because 'we are right, and they are wrong.'

With the truth of that background, and the popular agreement of

many who remain outside the church, is there any wonder the church for many lacks credibility?

How we treat one another is probably the most powerful drawing point we have in the church, and we can all stand to take another look at how we can share with a world as divided as we in the church often are. Let us pray for the grace not to transmit the damaging dynamics we often see in the world today.

And, I am personally reminded, I can't do it without daring to let go of my own willfulness, not worrying about whether I'm right or wise, or living up to a standard I seek, but instead looking out for my neighbor, no matter who that person is.

The powerful slogan used by oldest summer Church camp in the US is "The other fellow first," If kids can do it, and if all could learn to do it, we can do it too.

It's a choice we all are challenged to make every day:

Do we choose to be right-minded or big-hearted? Amen.

