Standing In The Whirlwind: The Riveting Story Of A Priest And The Congregations That Tormented Her by Nancy C. James

My Personal Review:
This spiritual autobiography focuses on Jamess tumultuous tenure as a rector of two rural Episcopal parishes in Virginia after working at a Washington D.C. jail and teaching at Lorton Reformatory.

Initially, both of Jamess parishes support her charitable idea of inviting homeless African American persons from Washington D.C. to join church socials. This acceptance, however, quickly changes to a malicious plot of a few parishioners who begin to mercilessly harass her, kill her pets, damage her property, and even attempt to arrange her accidental death. Some members of local law enforcement even take bribes, turning their backs on her cries for help.

As a counterbalance to these horrific experiences, James finds solace and spiritual strength both in fondly recalling her childhood in Alaska and in the mystical theology of Madam Guyon, incarcerated by Louis XIV for being a female religious thinker.

NANCY C. JAMES is priest associate at St. Johns Lafayette Square in Washington D.C. and a professor at American University in Washington D.C. She received her M.Div. from Virginia Theological Seminary and her Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.

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