



SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Report for 2013

Submitted for the Annual Meeting Held
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The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector

St. James' Episcopal Church
Fremont, CA

34051 Cabrillo Terrace
PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94536

510-797-1492 (voice)
410-795-4712 (fax)

<http://saintj.com>

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Clergy Reports

Rector's Report

2013 was a full year of routine and change, a healthy balance for a church seeking to maintain tradition and grow into new expressions of the Body of Christ.

Worship and Liturgy

2013 brought changes in our clerical staff. The Reverend Bob Dobbin retired as our parish Deacon, and the Reverend Bill Mosier stepped down from serving as a liturgical Deacon in order to focus specifically on developing a ministry to the deaf community in Fremont. On Palm Sunday, our new parish Deacon, the Reverend Ken Parris joined us, bringing with him a wealth of liturgical and pastoral experience. Ken was formally installed on September 8. I also invited the Reverend Brian Cochran (Presbyterian) to share in the preaching schedule. Brian has gifted us with several thoughtful and engaging sermons. The Reverend Canon Jim McLeod continues to serve as preacher and periodic presider. The Reverend Carol Cook took three Sundays during my vacation. The Reverend Tom Jackson served one Sunday. The addition of The Reverend Stephanie Green to our preaching rota brings a full pallet of creativity and voice.

Our liturgical schedule followed the routine of the past years. We celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6 with Sunday Eucharist and the anointing of congregant's hands for the work of 2013. We ended the year with the First Sunday after Christmas on December 29, with the Reverend Canon Jim McLeod offering a sermon on the Light of Christ.

We had 23 children and adults at the Children's Imposition of Ashes on Shrove Tuesday. Over three Ash Wednesday services, we gave out ashes to 88 congregants. Holy Week was somber, meaningful, and intergenerational. On Maundy Thursday we ate together, sang, shared communion, and stripped the altar. On Good Friday, we meditated for two hours with scripture and reflections (reflections given by Barbara Dabney, Laura Winter, Linda Nelsen, Ken Trant, Lynn Locher, Brian Cochran and Scott Whitaker). Following the service, we engaged in an interactive Stations of the Cross, designed by Jan Scrutton. These stations invited all ages to walk through each station and have a tangible and prayerful experience of the walk Jesus took towards Golgotha. For the first time, we offered a gathering of Holy Week for Children, an event created by Jan Scrutton that allowed the youngest members of our parish to experience Palm Sunday through Good Friday in an age-appropriate manner. Good Friday evening brought to us a Tenebrae Service performed by the Choir.

Despite the rain, which caused us to move from the patio to the Parish Hall, the Easter Vigil brought great joy and laughter with 106 people celebrating. Joyful skits were offered by the St. J Youth, The Giggle House Players (Patty Lacy, Barbara Lyon, Peter Norman, Chris Svenson, Nancy Svenson, Paul Svenson and Leonard), Gary Gearheart & Olivia Nabukeera, and The Blaocks, Perrys, Spencers, and Meg Amouroux. Our Easter Sunday service saw a full church with 212 parishioners and visitors.

We also had a fun-filled celebration of St. James' Day on July 21 with both congregations from the Philippine Independent Church. We held our annual VBS Sunday on July 28 and had a lively St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals Celebration on September 29. The Advent Season brought with it a Service of Lessons & Carols and the creation of Advent Wreaths. For Christmas, we celebrated a 4:00 Family Service that drew 100 participants, a Midnight Mass Service with 114 attending, and 24 congregants on Christmas Day.

Our Music Director, Jennifer Carini, continues to bring skill, creativity and joy to her position. As her own offering, she led the Vacation Bible School in music for the week and celebrated two memorial services with the choir. She continues to seek ways to further develop our musical offerings at St. James'.

We are also a church that has a solid, dedicated group of adult and youth servers at our Altar and our Lectern on Sunday mornings. Janet Fischer continues to do an amazing job with recruiting and scheduling the Eucharistic Ministers and the Lectors for both services (see her report for details). We also have a great group of young people serving at our services as acolytes: Ian Perry, Caylyn Ramsamy, Chanelle Francis, Tom Scrutton, Jordan Murray, Gloria Amadi, Ian and Bryneth Fuller, and Joey Carini have all done a great job with assisting with our services.

During the year, we baptized three children and one adult: Olivia Almond, Adam Locher, Gabby Perez, and Katie Cunningham. We traveled with 3 adults to Grace Cathedral to be received into the Episcopal Church: Bob Doherty, Lauren Doherty, and Adrienne Farrell. I officiated at two weddings: Patrick Baker and Lilia Kirchanski, and Megan Tiller and Monique Manjarrez.

We also held two funerals/memorials, one of which was for a past member, and the other for active member, Brad Hoffman. He continues to be deeply missed.

Office Staff and Administration

Sexton Art Gallardo opted to resign his position. Rather than hiring a person to fill the position, the vestry opted to contract with Fernando's Cleaning and Landscaping company to keep our buildings and grounds clean. As of this writing, the arrangement is more cost-effective and is working well. In February of 2013, Brenda Iodence's role as Parish Administrator ceased. In May of 2013, we hired our current Parish Administrator, David Goldstein. David brings to the role a great competency in trouble-shooting and administration. We hired Nonie Aluzzi as our Nursery Care Provider. Nonie offers a gentle presence to our youngest children during worship.

For 2013, the Vestry continued to do good, solid work. In October 2013, they hosted an All-Parish Retreat, inviting the Reverend Rob Moss to lead us in a discussion on being Disciples in the World. From that retreat (of which 60ish parishioners participated), the vestry has taken the brainstorming and feedback to help us move into 2014 and beyond. Treasurer Lynn Locher and Clerk Elizabeth Hart continue to do amazing jobs in supporting the vestry and parish.

Children and Teens and Families

The most significant change for 2013 was the hiring of the Reverend Stephanie Green as our Children, Teen and Family ministry. Following the excellent work of Jan Scrutton as the CTF Coordinator, Stephanie has continued to grow our ministry to this segment of our congregation. Her work is evident in the increased participation and the vibrancy of the whole congregation. Please see her report for further information.

Welcoming and Integrating New People

St. James' continues to work at welcoming and integrating new people. Dave Nelsen has taken over the lead for the Welcoming Committee and has worked closely with me to develop a Greeter Team. In June, we hosted over 25 new members at a lunch to welcome them into our parish.

Rector Housing

Following my commitment and vision of using our home in Newark for the ministry of the church, I hosted the June New Members' Lunch, a September Choir Wine and Cheese Party, and the December Altar Guild Brunch. I anticipate opening our home in 2014 for other functions that serve the ministry of St. James'.

Wider Church Involvement

I continue to serve as a presider for the Sacred Space Hayward congregation, an outdoor church that worships every Sunday at 2:00pm behind the City Hall building in Hayward.

In October of 2012, I was elected to a four-year term on the Standing Committee by the Diocesan Convention. For 2013, I served at monthly meetings and acted as the primary liaison between the Standing Committee and the Commission on Ministry, the body responsible for moving people through the process of holy orders.

Children, Teen and Family Minister's Report

The Rev. Stephanie Green

Nursery (Every Sunday: 10 am – 12 pm)

Nonie Aluzzo began serving as our Nursery Attendant in 2013. Her presence has been warm and gentle with both children and families. During a medical leave of absence for Nonie in the fall, adult and youth parishioners graciously provided care in the Nursery and made themselves available on an on-call basis as well while Nonie continued medical treatments. We give thanks for the attention of parishioner volunteers in the Nursery and for Nonie's return to our community. In the coming year we will be looking toward refreshing and building the collection of age-appropriate toys and supplying the Nursery with more efficient materials for the practical care of children as well. We will also need to build a base of on-call care providers for special events in the parish.

Sunday School (Every Sunday: from 10:15 – 11:45 am)

Attendance and Curriculum

We are enjoying a regular, average attendance of 10-12 children, ages four through ten, in our Sunday School. Last winter and spring the Sunday School, overseen and taught by CTF Coordinator, Jan Scrutton, with the assistance of Lauren and Bob Doherty, utilized the *Grow, Proclaim, Serve* curriculum. When I was called to the church as the Children's, Teen and Family Minister, I gleaned ideas from *Grow, Proclaim, Serve* to design a new curriculum for the Fall, "Young and Called." The program allowed us to organize lessons around the Feast of St. Francis and All Saints' Day and to engage in a sustained study of people from the Bible and the historical church who were called as young people by God and who grew into leadership ministries: Samuel (Judge and Prophet), Francis (Teacher, Preacher, and Founder of a religious order), and David (King of Israel). We progressed through the Godly Play curriculum for Advent and Epiphany, which enabled us to enter into the story of the Nativity by focusing each week on the figures who either point the way or gather around Jesus in the crèche at Bethlehem.

Method

Through the Fall I have been introducing components of Godly Play as a method in order to structure Sunday morning faith formation with the children. The ordering of the components of Godly Play mirrors the architecture of an Episcopal liturgy: gathering time, hearing of God's Word, response to the Word,

prayers of the people, and “feast”. We play gathering games on the lawn; we gather again in a circle for a sacred story and I greet each child by name in a song of “Shalom”; we tell a sacred story and the children respond by “wondering”; the children have work/play time; we join the congregation for Eucharist; and we continue in fellowship following Communion by praying together and sharing a “feast”. I am heartened by the readiness of the children to respond thoughtfully to sacred stories and to offer their thanks to God! I am learning from their insight and observations and am inspired by their big hearts!

Story Tellers and Companions

As the CTF Minister (and with a passion for faith formation!) I serve as the Story Teller on most weeks. Ami Locher has served monthly with me as a Companion and comes to the classroom with extensive experience in caring for children and great familiarity with the community. Lauren and Bob Doherty have also creatively and knowledgeably ministered with the children each month as Story Teller and Companion (respectively) through the Fall, engaging the children in special craft projects and group drama opportunities to further their learning. I am grateful that a total of five parishioners have served as Story Tellers (in addition to myself) and that twelve parishioners have served as Companions in the classroom (and two more for special events) between September 8 and January 12. The Sunday School is enriched by such expertise, enthusiasm, and faithful presence of family members and friends of the children!

Liturgy and Music

- a) Children gathered for a special story about Francis’ care for animals from the *Life of St. Francis* by Bonaventure (our first lesson for the day) and brought their pets to be blessed in our celebration of the Feast of St. Francis.
- b) As Ministers of the Word, the children helped tell the Nativity story at our Christmas Eve Family Service by building a crèche with figures and forming a “living crèche” in costume in response to the narration of the Godly Play version of the story by Pat Spaulding.
- c) Youth soloist, Joey Carini, and the Sunday School children led the congregation in “The Little Drummer Boy” on Epiphany.
- d) The Children’s Choir, under the direction of Jennifer Carini, sang regularly through the year and provided special offerings for feast days.

Children’s Service to Others

- a) The children made cookies at home with their families and in Sunday School we bundled together 52 bags of cookies for lunches at Sacred Space on November 10.
- b) Over a period of three weeks leading up to Advent I, the Sunday School children gathered from parishioners approximately 200 warm items (socks for women and men, hats, and gloves) for those without homes who worship with Sacred Space, Hayward. The collection took place during the Offertory in order to connect our giving to our Eucharistic fellowship in Christ. St. J Youth delivered and offered the warm items in their service to Sacred Space on December 1. Thank you, all, for your generous giving!
- c) Children created a festive wreath to be delivered to the staff of the Hillside Senior Center on the Hillside Ministers’ annual Christmas visit on December 5.
- d) Sunday School Children and other parishioners made 35 Christmas cards for the children of St. André’s Episcopal School, Haiti, a project of Amelie’s Angels of St. Mark’s, Palo Alto. Children’s card-making took place during Las Posadas and the Adult Faith Formation screening of *Chain of Love* on December 15.

Special Events for Children and Families

- a) Parish Retreat: A Day of Discipleship. Children’s day “retreat” of sacred stories about Jesus’ disciple, Peter; theme-based crafts; and group games. Designed and facilitated by the CTF Minister with two assistants recommended by the Diocese. Attendance: Four children, ages 8-10. (October 5)
- b) Halloween Costume parade and blessing of children for Halloween festivities. With some learning about All Saints! (October 27)
- c) Intergenerational trip to Joan’s Farm and Pumpkin Patch, Livermore. Coordinated by the CTF Minister. Attended by 26 people from three generations. A sunny afternoon with pumpkins, sheep, goats, a corn maze and more! (October 19)
- d) Advent Wreath Making for all parishioners. Coordinated by the CTF Minister. Many thanks to Lori Walton+, Dave Nelsen, and Linda Nelsen for assistance and expertise! (December 1)
- e) Las Posadas, organized by John Maloney. Fabulous fun for people of all ages with spiritual learning and worship. The Youth were of tremendous inspiration to the children! (December 8)

Vacation Bible School: Christmas in July

Submitted by Jan Scrutton

Thirty-two children, and almost as many adults, joined us for a week in the summer for our third Vacation Bible School. Our theme, "Christmas in July," was reflected in our crafts, music, snacks and decorations but was anchored in our daily stories. A chance to reflect on those people who "watched and waited" in the stories we know so well. We learned about Bishop Nicholas who visited families and helped them with gifts given in secret. We noticed the similarities between St. Nicholas and Santa Claus. Mary and Joseph trusted God as they watched and waited for the birth of Jesus while the shepherds watched their sheep on a dark hillside and the Magi watched the stars. Christmas images filled our week but amongst the copious quantities of glitter we were able to talk about the story of Jesus' birth. The candlelight in the quiet Little Church on our final morning reminded us that we all watch and wait for the Christ child, regardless of the time of year.

Thank you again to everyone who took part in VBS. The greatest thing we offer our kids is time and seeing the intergenerational relationships that develop during the week is special. We always welcome new volunteers. In 2014 we will be running from July 28 – August 1, so save the dates!

St. J Youth

Submitted by Mike and Jan Scrutton

Moving on from our confirmation course, St. J Youth has maintained a regular membership of nine members with attendance numbers of around six per evening meeting. At Easter the group appeared again at the Easter Vigil retelling the story of Adam and Eve. Then the group slept overnight at church and woke on Easter morning to walk the labyrinth before breakfast. A fun time was had hiding the eggs for the kids' egg hunt.

Twice during 2013, St. J Youth have served at Sacred Space in Hayward and in November Deacon John and Tracy came to share the story of Sacred Space with us. This was part of our series of sessions on why and how we care in the world. The themes of these evening are guided by the concerns of the group. We have also collected toiletries for the Love Never Fails project which Chanelle Francis brought forward to us from her school. Thank you for the donations toward that. Each month, three or four members of the group also serve at Abode Kidz Club and six teens joined the VBS team this summer.

In September it became clear that our group was getting older and we redefined the group being for high school and college age students. This leaves a need to cater for younger students that will need to be addressed in the next 12 months. Stephanie has been able to extend the offering to St. J Youth by the addition of a monthly faith formation class on Sunday mornings.

St. J Youth Sunday Morning Faith Formation

Continued by the Rev. Stephanie Green

The variety of topics we took up in Faith Formation were inspired in part by the liturgical year. On the Feast of St. Francis we looked at representations of Francis in art, literature and film. In preparation for All Saints we studied the origins of the feast in Rome (with the rededication of the Pantheon) and traced the development of Halloween (All Hallows Eve) in the US. In November, a month focused on service, we continued the conversation about sanctity and learned about the San Francisco Night Ministry. In preparation for service at Sacred Space, Hayward, we discussed parallels between the two ministries of our diocese that represent the "church without walls". Finally, in December, we matched ancient prayers for the Messiah, the O Antiphons, to our deepest concerns for others in the world. Themes of faith-motivated social justice and environmental care will help define the program in the winter and spring.

Deacon Ken Parris's Report

The Reverend Kenneth W. Parris, CMC

I had the privilege of being assigned to St. James' by the bishop after being called here by our rector, Lori, upon the retirement of the parish's much beloved previous deacon, Bob Dobbins. My first Sunday with you was in March for Palm Sunday. The following week I had the honor of fulfilling the deacon's role of chanting the *Exsultet* at the Easter Vigil, my favorite day on the church calendar.

Since arriving at St. James', I have been welcomed as a valued member of the ministry team. As the parish deacon I am scheduled to perform the diaconal duties for all liturgical services for which I am in attendance and have been added to the preaching rota for regular preaching assignments. The rector conducts weekly meetings with the clergy staff to ensure all are aware of the pastoral needs and concerns of the parish. These meetings also provide us an opportunity to explore how we might assist in enriching the worship experience of the members of the parish.

Under the rector's leadership, I have been asked to supervise the Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV) ministry. I have had the opportunity to meet with the LEVs and LEV candidates and we are putting together a plan to meet the needs of the parish's homebound members or those who might have a short term need to receive home communion. We will also be commissioning the LEVs during our regular worship services whenever they are going to be taking communion to a homebound person, enabling the entire parish to have a part of this important ministry of the church.

Additionally, I will be working with our other lay liturgical ministers (acolytes, lectors, lay Eucharistic ministers) as we continually seek to enrich and refine our work together in this sacred space we call St. James' Parish, Fremont.

As many of you know, my primary ministry has been to serve as a law enforcement chaplain for the Diocese of California. For the past 18 years I have served as chaplain to the Oakland Police Department and just this past year I was appointed a sheriff's chaplain for the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. I continue these very active ministries while assigned to St. James'.

As a deacon canonically resident in the diocese and assigned to this parish, I serve as a clergy representative of St. James' at deanery and diocesan convention. This past year's diocesan convention approved a resolution asking the bishop to establish a task force to examine the problem of gun violence in our communities. Because of my prior experience in dealing with the issue of gun violence as a police officer and my on-going ministry to law enforcement officers as a chaplain, the bishop appointed me as a member of the Diocesan Gun Violence Task Force. The task force members will be commissioned by the bishop in late January 2014 and will begin the work to try to understand the root causes of gun violence and what the church might do to reduce or eliminate this scourge from our communities.

Of interest to me is our relationship with other faith communities in the tri-city area. I enjoy exploring how God works through various faith groups to make his love known throughout the world. St. James' is a member of the Tri-Cities Interfaith Council (TCIC) which meets once a month to discuss issues of concerns to all faith communities in the tri-cities of Fremont, Newark and Union City. It has been my privilege to represent St. James' on this council. This not only enables St. James' to contribute to the important work of the interfaith community but also enables me as deacon to see and experience the hopes, needs and concerns of the larger community and share them with my St. James' family.

While you might not be able to physically participate in all the ministries of your parish family, you can contribute immensely through your supportive prayers. I ask your prayers for the ministries in which I am involved as well as all the ministries the people of St. James' engage in this next year. Through your support we can work to make Christ's redemptive love known among those with whom we live, work and worship.

Deacon Bill Mosier's Report

The Rev. Dcn. William Mosier

At the beginning of the year I met with The Rev. Lori Walton and Arch Deacon Carolyn Bolton to discuss my work at St. James'. I was asked to cease liturgical presence there and seek to find my place in the Deaf Community. It was stressed that I would still be a deacon but not serve the church liturgically as deacon. This meant that I would cease preaching, and serving at the altar, but continue community outreach as a deacon from St. James'.

In 2013 I have greatly expanded my contacts in the Deaf Community. In the process I have come to understand that the Episcopal Church the diocese of California seems to have lost interest in ministry with Deaf People. Christian worship in the Deaf Community has basically been left to other denominations or even non denominational churches. I have encountered a great spiritual vitality in the Deaf Community of

the East Bay that the Episcopal Church seems basically unaware of. Being a deaf Episcopal Deacon who arrived from active ministry among deaf people in the diocese of Oregon, I am hopeful that something might be done to remedy this situation.

My activity so far has been to develop painting and drawing sessions at Fremont Oaks Garden. (This works well as I am a retired art teacher.) I also participate in the Lutheran Bible Study and the Fremont Deaf Seniors group that meets there.

Other religious experiences have been attendance at an inter denominational deaf picnic and family camp. Bev, my wife and I attend Mission Springs Community Church about twice a month. Bev serves on the Vestry of St. James' and reports on my activity in the deaf community.

Efforts to find existing Deaf Episcopalians in the Diocese of CA have met with only partial success. I was able to locate four people from the Mission of the Holy Spirit, all very elderly. Indeed one person died shortly after my visit with her. (Holy Spirit was an Episcopal Mission Parish in the Diocese of CA.) Holy Spirit was begun by The Rev Roger Pickering in Berkley (1963?) and carried forward by the Rev Fielding Rogers, The Rev. Elsa Pressentin and The Rev. Marcia Engblom.

Our outreach efforts have involved inviting deaf guests for dinner and board games. We also have a new Deaf Border living in our home. (He is Roman Catholic.) Christmas Eve featured a dinner for foreign deaf students from Ohlone College.

As part of my discussion with Arch-Deacon Bolton and the Rev Lori Walton I agreed to write monthly reports on my activities. This I have done. I have stepped back from any religious leadership role at St. James' with the possible exception of reading the Gospel lesson for occasional Wed morning Eucharist. Now as the year 2013 comes to an end and 2014 has arrived on angels wings, I have to ask God -- "What is the new year to bring?"

Lead Team Reports

Senior Warden's Report

Janet Fischer

It has been my honor to serve as Senior Warden for the past two years. This position has given me a unique perspective on the issues facing our parish. I would like to address two of those issues. Be not afraid! These are GOOD things, as you will see in a moment.

First: congregational involvement. For the past several years the vestry has held its annual retreat at Bishop's Ranch along with the other parishes in our deanery. At last year's retreat a Sr. Warden from another parish told me that they can't get anyone to do anything in their parish unless they are actually on the vestry; in other words, the vestry members are expected to do all the work.

This is NOT how St. James' works! This parish has so many people who are involved in so many areas of the parish, not just to be busy, but to be engaged in this community, its people and its mission. Not only are vestry members *not* expected to do all the work, but sometimes the vestry is thought to be in the way of what individuals want to do! This can be frustrating. Some people don't understand how the structure of leadership works in the Episcopal church, some just try really hard to bring others around to their point of view, and others just want to do their own thing! You know what? This is a good problem to have! I would much rather try to herd cats than sloths any day.

Second: parish finances. The vestry passed a deficit operating budget for 2014. A cursory look might tell you that we're in financial trouble. We are not. We have money. We have funded the renovation of the Little Church. We have money in reserve for general building improvements. The Rector is due for a sabbatical at the end of 2015, and we have money in reserve for the temporary clergy we'll need to hire during that time. We set aside money in reserve to help fund the salary of the Children, Teen & Family Minister. We still have almost \$40,000 remaining from the Schader Fund that is unallocated. We ended 2013 with a surplus in our checking account which actually covers the deficit amount in the 2014 budget.

I served on the vestry in the 1990s, again in the 2000s, and this is my third term. I can remember the vestry struggling over how we were going to make payroll. I remember building repairs done with a band aid and routine maintenance kicked down the road. Now we "argue" (discuss) over what account we're going to store our extra funds in. Do you see, can you appreciate, what a delightful problem this is? This is not to say that we don't need everyone's pledge, because we do. We are slowly, slowly working our way back to having two full-time clergy on staff, and we need everyone's financial contribution to do that. We can't fund salaries out of special gifts; salaries are part of the operating budget. How wonderful has it been to see the children's programs revitalized! Even if you don't have young children, I think everyone has been energized by the activities of our children and youth. This parish is alive, and if you like that, then we need your pledges to keep it going.

One more thing. I am personally very excited about the new Sunday morning class beginning in February, Contemplative Practices. A number of people have discerned a need to put some energy and emphasis into these practices and the feedback so far has been exciting. We are a busy parish, but we need to know *why* we are being busy, and we need to be fed and led by the God we are serving. That means we need to take time to be quiet and listen.

At our last vestry meeting Lori told us about a parish church in San Francisco that has had to post the following signs on all of its doors: "This building is structurally unsound. Enter at your own risk." Mike Scrutton suggested that we post on our doors: "God is moving here. Enter at your own risk." Indeed.

I am so grateful to Lori for asking me to serve as Sr. Warden. Lori has been kind, gracious and affirming. It has been a pleasure to work with her and to be part of the new directions in which our parish is moving. I am also grateful to Mike Scrutton, our Jr. Warden, and now our Sr. Warden, who helped keep me on track this year and has been the voice of calm in difficulty. I love all of you on the vestry, and I know that 2014 will be a fabulous year under your leadership. Thank you.

Junior Warden's Report

Mike Scrutton

The role of the warden is largely one of service and support of the Lead Team, the Vestry and the St. James' Community. This year, I've summarized the discussions of the Vestry for The Window newsletter, and worked to ensure that the Parish Calendar on the website is up to date and clear, in order to make it a first-stop destination for visitors and parish members alike.

Working with David Goldstein, our Parish Administrator, we continue to ensure that our campus is a resource for the wider community. Our brothers and sisters of the Philippine Independent Church use our Little Church on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and occasionally make use of the main sanctuary for large events and celebrations. Narcotics Anonymous now hold meetings on campus on four evenings a week, and are particularly grateful of our hospitality. Other groups, such as Overeaters Anonymous, the Washington Township Women's group and the Youth Champions' Art group are also regular guests.

It's been both rewarding and fun to serve as Junior Warden this year. I'd like to thank the Vestry for their support and particularly Janet Fischer as Senior Warden for her wealth of experience and wisdom. Working alongside her, and our Treasurer Lynn Locher and Rector Lori has been a true pleasure.

Counters' Report

Gail Blalock

Four counting teams assist the Treasurer each month by counting and documenting pledge and other contributions and income. Each team is comprised of two persons who spend several hours each week counting and recording offerings from services and funds received in the mail. In addition, they make weekly bank deposits and assist with the printing, folding, and stuffing of quarterly pledge statements and volunteer as "cashiers" for special events such as the annual pancake dinner.

The counters are faithful behind the scenes workers who understand accuracy and confidentiality. It is a monthly commitment which they take pride in doing.

This was a particularly sad year with the loss of Joan Roberts, who had been a team member for many years. Joan was instrumental in developing and designing the forms used each week to record and track income. We will remember her fondly each week as we reach into the forms file to begin our task.

Altar Guild

Ruth Poole, Chair

The Altar Guild is made up of 15 women who work in four teams. Ava Moore sets up for Wednesday Services. Each of the teams, once a month, prepare the Altars for both services on Sundays. The Guild also prepares the Altar for Memorial Services, weddings or any other special services during the year. The linens are laundered and cared for by another member of the church. A yearly brunch is held with the clergy in December.

This year the Altar Guild was fortunate and a new Sacristy was built in the Little Church. This was made possible due to reconstruction of the Little Church and money approved by the Vestry. It is beautiful! If you have not yet seen it, go by the Little Church.

It is with a sad heart I announce the loss of one of our Guild members in December. She was a wonderful and dedicated person and will be dearly missed.

We always need and are looking for new members. If you are interested please contact Ruth Poole or Dorothy Balderston.

Endowment Report

Marnie Hartman, Chair

The Endowment Board has 5 members. Our fiscal year began in April when we recognized Dave Nelson (6 years) and Joan Roberts (5 years) for their service. During this period the Endowment Fund almost doubled and we moved to the professional management of the Episcopal Church Foundation. The current Board: Tom Blalock, Jan Brandt, Scott Whitaker, Sylvia Ma, secretary, and Marnie Hartmann, chairperson.

There are 51 members of the Shell Society. These people have remembered St James' in a will or trust or have established another form of planned giving to St. James'.

The fund also grows through individual gifts. Thirty seven donations were made totaling \$30,029. Gifts can be designated to General Endowment, Memorial Church Fund or the Little Church Fund. Gifts remembered Tim Koonze, Brad Hoffman, Marshall McCoy, Joan Roberts and Doris Whitaker; and recognized Margaret Broun, Dave Nelson, Joan Roberts, Sylvia Ma, Bruce Roberts, and Jim Cunningham.

Distribution for 2012 totaled \$4,555: \$2,288 to vestry, \$1,311 to Memorial Garden and \$951 Little Church.

An informational coffee hour was held in September and articles placed in the Window. Endowment transactions are now computerized. Paper copies and historical records are securely stored at the church.

Fundraising Report

Janet Fischer, Sr. Warden

Each year St. James' conducts several fundraising events to support our outreach efforts and to supplement our operating fund. These events are carried out by dedicated parishioners and involve a great deal of time and effort to be successful. We did not hold the Walk-a-Rock-a-thon in 2013, which had been held to raise funds for Winter Relief. The old "Winter Relief" program of Abode Services has changed into the Homewarming Program. Funding for the Homewarming program is solid, and energy to continue the Walk-a-Rock-a-thon has waned.

During 2013, the congregation organized and generously supported the following fundraisers:

- McCutcheon Concert – held annually in January.

- Abode Shoes – donations of cash so Abode Services can purchase new shoes for children attending school in the fall.
- E-Script. Those who use e-script designate St. James' as a recipient.
- Ducks For Bucks - an annual community fundraising event held at Lake Elizabeth in Fremont.

Information Technology Team Report

Mike Scrutton, IT

This year we have continued to invest in our equipment on campus. A replacement PC for the Treasurers has been purchased and will go live at the end of the 2013 financial year. A new Mac laptop and printer for our new CTF Minister, Rev. Stephanie, together with backup hard drives for Stephanie and Lori have been sourced.

Spring was a frustrating time for IT on campus as we had frequent problems with our internet connection. After several visits and meetings with the engineers from Comcast, these problems seem to have died down and we can report that the last six months of the year were problem free.

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

Janet Fischer, LEM and EM Scheduler

During 2013, 20 Lectors and 15 Eucharistic Ministers served at over 150 services at St. James'. These dedicated parishioners handle holy things by reading the scripture lessons and assisting in the liturgy and at the altar. They work hard to make each church service a worshipful experience for everyone, and have been wonderfully flexible as schedules change. I am honored to work with such dedicated people.

Members of the 2013 teams include:

Lectors: Tom Blalock, Bob Doherty, Vicky Greening, Portia Hopkins, Joan Kimber, John Kimber, Patty Lacy, Peter Maina, Jim McConnell, Linda Nelsen, Betty McCoy, Pegeen Perry, Raelene Ramsamy, Bruce Roberts, Jack Rux, Mike Scrutton, Brad Smith, Pat Spalding, Ken Trant, and Jackie Whitehouse.

Eucharistic Ministers: Lea Marie Ave, Barbara Dabney, Janet Fischer, Gary Gearheart, EJ Hilliard, Lynn Locher, Ralph Locher, Greg Miller, Caylyn Ramsamy, Marilyn Rose, Connie Rux, Alison Saichek, Bud Spalding, and Laura Winter.

Little Church Committee

Sylvia Ma & the Little Church Renovation Committee

The Little Church Renovation Committee was commissioned by the Vestry in 2012 to study and recommend repairs/maintenance/renovation of the Little Church. We have been meeting once a month and we submit written reports to the Vestry on a regular basis. The Vestry reviews each repair/maintenance /renovation proposal and approves each funding. The Committee consists of The Rev. Lori Walton, Sylvia Ma (chair), Scott Kennedy (emeritus), Patty Lacy, Jim McConnell, Mary Casas, Chris Perry, Tom Blalock, Jan Brandt, Bobbie Tomkinson, Laura Winter, Bruce Roberts and Jim Cunningham. Repairing and renovating our beloved Little Church is a multi-year endeavor. We are happy to report that we have made considerable progress in 2013.

Some of the tasks we have completed in 2013 are:

- Thanks to Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts and Greg Miller, a new audio system has been installed in the Little Church.
- An Evaluation for Historical Status of our Little Church has been submitted to the City of Fremont. Bruce Roberts and Jim Cunningham have been in conversation with the Fremont City Historian on our repair plans.
- Bruce Roberts put together the Scope of work and Jim Cunningham drafted the site plans for our campus and for the new roofs. We obtained 4 bids for repairing the roof, mold and dry rot repairs, electrical upgrades and furnace ducting repairs (all are Health and Safety issues noted by ESI in the Structural Report). The Vestry approved to hire Cowan Construction.
- We now have new slanted roofs above the Little Church Sacristy and above the Electrical Room (on the Memorial Garden side)
- Extensive dry rot /water damage above, in and around the Sacristy and the Electrical Room has been repaired.

- We have new shelves and hanging rods in the closets in the Sacristy. Thanks to Jan Scrutton, the rods are covered. Thanks to Dave Nelsen, the shelves are painted.
- With the inputs from Ruth Poole and the Altar Guild, new cabinets (made by Viny's Custom Cabinets in Newark) are now installed with a new sink in the Sacristy.
- Thanks to the generous donation by Patty Lacy, the Sacristy now has new flooring.
- The Fremont Historian advised us that the window in the Sacristy did not match the period of the Little Church. Now we have a "new" window that meets the City's approval.
- Electrical upgrades have been done in the little Church as well in the Sacristy. They are all up to code. We now have 100 amps of power in the sub-panel.
- There are new lights in the Sacristy and new lights above the Columbarium.
- Beautifully custom made Sanctuary light and Ambry (donated in memory of Brad Hoffman, designed by Bruce Roberts and made by Fremont Cabinets) have been installed in the altar area.
- A new seismic gas shut-off has been installed on the Memorial Garden side of the building.
- Our furnace has been insulated. Venting has been improved and made quieter.
- We received the engineering plans and calculations for the crawlspace seismic retrofit from ESI.
- We obtained 4 bids for the crawlspace seismic retrofit work and the Committee recommended and the Vestry approved to hire Anderson-Niswander Seismic Retrofit Inc. to do the work.
- The Crawlspace retrofit work has been completed according to the plans drawn by ESI: Simpson foundation tie down plates, metal post caps and metal framing clips were used to tie the foundation to the building frame. The framing under the sacristy raised floor was reinforced with studs and blocking before it was covered with pressure treated plywood.
- We have obtained a cost estimate from ESI to draw up engineering plans for crosstie bracing the walls

The funding for the repairs was from the Schader Fund, the distribution from the Little Church Endowment Fund and the generous donations of parishioners into the Little Church Special Interest Fund.

In 2014, the Little Church Renovation Committee will continue to work on the proposed repairs in the Structural Report from ESI and which were approved by the Vestry. The next phase will be tackling the repair of the buttresses and the bowing of the walls.

We would like to thank the Lead Team and the Vestry, especially Bud Spalding and Al Casas from Facilities, for their support throughout the year and for their approval of funding on the repairs completed in 2013.

McCutcheon Concert

Sylvia Ma & the McCutcheon Concert Team

The 2013 John McCutcheon Concert on Monday Jan 21 was a great success. We had over 240 in attendance, with over 40% non-parishioners. Ticket sales totaled \$5930. John McCutcheon gave us another very entertaining evening. The prize drawing during the concert intermission brought in an all time high of \$876. The snack bar also did really well, bringing in \$184. The concert had reimbursable expenses totaled \$3455.91. The McCutcheon Concert Team recommended and the Vestry approved to donate \$1000 from the concert proceeds to ABODE Services. In addition, we raised \$2534.09 for the Operating Fund!

This fundraising and community outreach event could not have happened without all your help. There were more than 60 people who contributed time, talent and treasure not only on Jan 21, but in the few months before that date. They wrote, sent out and uploaded publicity notices/articles/blogs; designed, printed and posted flyers and signs; updated, hung and took down banners; set up email address and phone message for this special event; printed tickets; took messages; sold concert and drawing tickets; bought concert and drawing tickets; invited their family, friends and neighbors to the concert; donated the advertisements in the Tri-City Voice; cleared the facility calendar for the concert; got contracts signed; booked hotel rooms for John McCutcheon and his Road Manager; borrowed and returned the stage (from Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park) and the extra chairs (from Harbor Light); wrote and made verbal announcements, donated all those marvelous prizes for the drawing; cleaned up the campus; put up lights and a canopy on campus; helped with parking lot and crowd managements; set-up before the concert and cleaned-up after the concert; baked dozens of delicious cookies; made coffee; helped with

the snack bar; cooked and served a wonderful dinner for the crew before the concert; donated wine and soda for the crew dinner; washed all the dishes; cleaned up the kitchen; set up and took down the dressing room; ushered; sold CDs for John McCutcheon; created and printed the programs; showed great hospitality; showed off our wonderful Little Church; did a wonderful job as MC/announcers; took photos; took John McCutcheon to the hotel; waited for the sound folks (from Tesser Audio) to set up the sound systems and the lights before the concert and to pack everything up after the concert; did all the accounting and analysis; gave all the in-kind donations ...as well as countless people who offered prayers and encouragements along the way. Thank you. We appreciate all your supports and ministering.

The 2014 McCutcheon Concert will be on Jan 20. We have been busy organizing another wonderful evening for our communities. Part of the proceeds from the 2014 concert will again go towards ABODE Services.

Music Ministry

Jennifer Carini, Music Director

I celebrated my second year of working at St. James' at the beginning of September! I am very happy working with the wonderful people of St. James'. Thank you for being so welcoming to me and my family!

Music is provided at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. At the 8:00 a.m. service, the congregation sings two hymns, a sequence, and the doxology each week. There is instrumental music provided during the offertory and communion. The 10:30 a.m. service has many hymns and songs for the congregation and choir.

The Adult Choir meets to rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. We sing at the 10:30 Eucharist on Sunday mornings, rehearsing prior to the service at 10:00am. The choir is open to all parishioners.

Adult Choir: There are 12 current choir members. They are: Josephine Amadi, Joey Carini, EJ Hilliard, Greg Miller, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, Alison Saichek, Don Rose, Elaine Vallecito-Miller, Pat Vlastilica, Jackie Whitehouse, and Rod Whitehouse. We have also had guest singers during the year, including Isaiah Lute and Anthony Prickett.

For Easter and Christmas Eve, members of the congregation were invited to join the choir. Singers from the congregation that chose to join the Adult Choir include: Leslie Almond, Paul Cudlip, Robert Fairchild, Barbara Lyon, Donald Razzolini, Philippa Slayton, Nancy Svenson, Paul Svenson, and George Vlastelica.

On Easter Sunday, flautist Diana Gomez and cellist Alison Roth joined us. Alison Saichek played the flute, Sandra Moore played the oboe, and Matthew Volkar played the bassoon on Christmas Eve. Guest singers for Easter were Kristine Berg, Jason Frederick, Linda Frederick, James Leyba, Adam Miller, and Susan Nace,. Christmas Eve guest singers were Kristine Berg, Joseph Rodriguez, and Mayo Tsuzuki.

The Children's Choir meets to rehearse for 10 – 15 minutes directly after the Sunday 10:30am service. All children are welcome to come and sing!

Children's Choir: There are 6 current choir members. They are: John Michael Butterfield, Olivia Carini, Olivia Nabukeera, Luke Schueffele, Isabella Slayton, and Sophia Slayton. The children's choir sang during the Epiphany and Lenten seasons, on Easter Sunday, during the months of May and June, on St. Francis Day, All Saints' Day, and at the Las Posadas celebration.

I was blessed to be a part of Vacation Bible School at St. James' for the second year. It was fun teaching the children fun songs about God, bible stories, and love. The kids enjoyed the singing, and I hope that they will remember the fun they had singing for years to come.

The Adult and Children's Choirs enjoyed performing as part of the annual Stewardship show and at Las Posadas.

I had a wonderful time being the choir director of the Interfaith Choir for the Tri-City Interfaith Council's Thanksgiving service for the second year on Monday, November 25th. Directing a choir of people from

many different faiths was a great opportunity for me, and a great opportunity for St. James' to be a part of such a moving service within our wider community. Thank you to Josephine Amadi, Joey Carini, Isaiah Lute, Greg Miller, Linda Nelson, Alison Saichek, Elaine Vallecito-Miller, Pat Vlastelica, and Laura Winter for being a part of the Interfaith Choir!

Parishioner and St. J Youth member Anthony Prickett coordinated two Summer Chamber Recitals held on July 15 & July 28 in church. Anthony, a graduated senior at Mission San Jose High School worked with a group of students, including MSJ Saxophone Quartet to bring two varied programs to us. The church provided a great venue for these young musicians to perform. The second concert included pieces from a mixed Junior High and High School group being mentored by Anthony and friends. It was great to see young musicians working and learning together.

The St. James' music program is an integral part of worship on Sundays and other services. All are welcome to be a part of it! Please see me or email me at music@saintj.com and we can figure out the best way for you to be involved!

Stewardship Report

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Committee Chair

The Stewardship Team for 2013 was comprised of Sandra Motley, Ruth Poole, George Vlastelica, and Gail Blalock. Brad Hoffman was on our team for the first part of the year, and we miss his presence with us. We were fortunate to have Adrienne Farrell join us later in the year. The team met most months throughout the year to plan stewardship-related activities. Our mission focuses on "year" 'round stewardship and being mindful that all things come from God and of our responsibility to be faithful disciples, caring for and managing all that God has given us.

This was accomplished through the "Stewardship Corner" articles in each issue of *The Window* newsletter and also by including a brief "Stewardship Moment" message in the St. James' weekly email and the Sunday bulletins. In April, we focused on Earth Day and being stewards of the environment. Following both services on Sunday, April 21, parishioners were given pencils inscribed with *reduce, reuse, recycle*, and *respect* the earth. Messages regarding the environment were included each week in the Sunday bulletins during April and an insert providing information on the Fremont Recycling & Transfer Station was included on Sunday, April 28.

The Fall Stewardship Program began with the inclusion in the Sunday bulletin for six weeks the *Flourish in Faith Stewardship Narrative Series* intended to plant the seeds of stewardship and faithful giving in connection with Luke's Gospel (October 6 through November 10). A letter from the Stewardship Committee was sent to the Parish in mid-October inviting everyone to experience the joy of giving through a pledge and, if possible, to consider an increase in 2014 pledges. A second letter from our Rector, Lori Walton, along with a pledge form for 2014, was sent out in early November. The Parish also received an invitation for November 16 to attend a play entitled "*The First Thanksgiving at St. James*" followed by a traditional Thanksgiving dinner prepared by the Stewardship Team assisted by Bob and Lauren Doherty. The play recalled the early beginning of St. James' Church and how life today is more alike than different than it was in the 1860s. Thank you to the cast – Meg Amouroux, Cathy Knotts, Ruth Poole, Adrienne Farrell, Pegeen Perry, Pat Spencer, Tom Blalock, Bob Doherty, and the Ghost of Bishop Pike, George Vlastelica; the Choir joined by Jan Pearson; and Music Director Jennifer Carini – for a magnificent performance. After the play, Treasurer Lynn Locher reminded us of what our gifts to St. James' accomplish and reassured us that the Vestry provides diligent oversight of our finances. Our Rector spoke about the importance of pledging and the desire to have 100% participation in the pledge drive this year. The following morning (Sunday, November 17) Brian Cochran presented a thoughtful stewardship sermon at both services.

On Pledge Sunday (November 24, 2013), 65 pledging units responded, compared to 53 the previous year. As in past years, we lost several members in 2013, but we were also blessed with the arrival of new ones. As of the writing of this report (January 12), pledging units total 88 compared to 92 at this time a year ago. I am hopeful more pledges will be turned in before the end of January.

	<u>for 2014</u>	<u>for 2013</u>
Total Pledges:	88	92
Operating:	\$240,446	\$243,622
Other:	\$600	\$600

Thank-you to the many, many people who participated in making this year's Stewardship Event an enjoyable evening. As I invited last year, if anyone is interested in helping plan another *rockin'* event for fall 2014, please let me know. More hands and ideas are always welcome - join us for one meeting or come to them all -- we'd love to have you join us! Give me a call at 490-7565 or just show up!

I would like to thank the members of the Stewardship Team for their support, dedication and hard work. The Stewardship Team is grateful to Lori for her guidance and encouragement throughout the year. And to the St. James' Community, *thank you* for being cheerful givers (time, talent, and treasure) all year long!

Ushers

Burtin Hart, Head Usher

The ushers' ministry ended 2013 with 25 ushers, 21 of whom are full-time, and 4 of whom are alternates. This year saw both profound sadness in Brad Hoffman's passing from cancer and great joy in Karen Watkins' rejoining the ministry after surviving cancer. God bless and keep them both. Evelyn Martinez has transitioned from trainee to regular usher at 10:30 on Team 1. As of this report, at least one other parishioner is considering joining the ushers.

The 8:00 service still needs a team captain, and the 10:30 service (Team 1) still needs a team captain; however, Tim Young has accepted the 10:30 service (Team 2) captaincy. Due to weekend-work commitments for Peter and Steve Maina and Evelyn Martinez, it will be necessary for the ministry to step up recruitment efforts in order to cover the openings.

As last year, one of the alternate ushers, Bob Bell, continues to serve at 8:00 a.m. (Second Sundays) full-time. The ministry is grateful for Bob's continuing full-time support. Bob Reed continues to usher at 8:00 a.m. (First Sundays), and Bud Spalding continues to usher as an alternate if the need does not conflict with his LEM duties. The ministry is also grateful for their ongoing support.

It is the steady commitment of such people that makes such a difference in our church lives, and we thank them for their dedication to making St. James' services run so smoothly. The ushers' ministry still has positions open for the two vacant captaincies as well as for additional ushers. Youths would be most welcome to usher at St. James' services, and a call for volunteers has been logged in The Window and a recruiting poster has been posted in the parish hall for some time. The outlook for 2014 is good, if a little challenging due to the impacts of weekend-work commitments.

One of the topics that has come up pertaining to the ushers is the issuance of keys to the church. Ideally, one of any two ushers at a service should have a set of keys. Moving forward, in order to be issued a set of keys, an usher must have completed Shield the Vulnerable training (<http://www.shieldthevulnerable.org/>).

The training is not necessary in order to serve as an usher, but it is worthwhile because it increases awareness of what child victimization might look like. It also allows the Church and Diocese to educate people on an issue that they might not otherwise be educated on. The training does trigger a background check; however, only the Rector (i.e., Rev. Lori Walton) would be contacted if there were something in the background check that warranted it, and how to handle it would be at the Rector's discretion. No one else at St. James' would see anything in relation to the background check.

Burtin Hart is presently taking the courses in order to comply with the Diocese's recommendations. All ushers who complete the Diocese-recommended courses should let Lori and Burtin know when they have completed the training. For more information, contact Lori Walton (lori@saintj.com) or Burtin Hart (burtinh@gmail.com or at 510-795-0472).

St. James' ushers are: Bob Bell, Bob Bynum, Karl Drescher, Gregg Feeney, Ashley Francis, Burtin Hart (Usher Coordinator), Cathy Knotts, Ralph Locher (Captain, 10:30 Team 3), Sylvia Ma, Peter Maina, Steve Maina, Evelyn Martinez, Dave Nelsen, Jan Pearson, Chris Perry, Marco Ramsamy, Donald Razzolini, Bob Reed, Mike Scrutton, Bud Spalding, Ken Trant, Penny Trant (Captain, 10:30 Team 4), Dean Valentine, Karen Watkins, Tim Young (Captain, 10:30 Team 2).

Vestry Clusters

Christian Formation Cluster

Alison Saichek, Vestry Member

Adult Faith Formation, Bruce Roberts, Chair

Overall Faith Formation classes at St. James' in 2013 spanned the gamut from practical to spiritual, sometimes in the same class. In an attempt to find classes for folks of different needs and desires we offered a wide range of classes.

In the spring we offered two classes in music for those who wanted to know more about the music in the Hymnal 1982 with Jennifer Carini. Touching on the edges of racism Bruce Roberts and Jim Cunningham offered a class on Abraham Lincoln followed by one on the "Aftermath of Slavery." Ellen Cuozzo, R.N. held a serious class on Medical Directives and hospice care. Janet Fischer reviewed the book Revelations by Elaine Pagels. "Filling Your Spiritual Toolbox" featured George Vlastelica, Barbara Dabney and Brian Cochran touching on different kinds of prayer. Bruce Roberts presented a class on the faith of Jimmy Carter. In May Janet Fischer presented a class on Vestry with Mike Scrutton and Donald Razzolini giving their insights on governing the church. Bruce Roberts presented a two part class on the mystic Rumi in June to close out the Spring Season.

In the spring Lori led evening classes on Anglicanism during Epiphany. Lori led a five-part class on Reading the Bible in a Year, with individual sessions also led by Janet Fischer and Bruce Roberts. Did you read your Bible in a year?

The Fall Season started with Ken Trant asking the question, "What are you going to do with your Faith?" EJ Hilliard informed us of the Diocesan Resolutions for the upcoming convention. Bruce Roberts presented a class on Brother Thy. Janet Fischer discussed Feminist Mysticism and Images of God. Jeanne Morris presented a conversation between Krista Tippett and Joan Chittister on Obedience and Action. The big section of the spring season was the seven session Animate Faith series including presentations on God, Religion, Jesus, Salvation, Cross, Bible and Church. A second Vestry class for the year included discussion with EJ Hilliard, Dave Nelsen, Al Casas and Elizabeth Hart. The year closed out with a two-part presentation of the movie "Chain of Love" and discussion of the emigration of people to foreign lands with the aim to provide for their families, a world-wide trend separating families.

For the spring 2014 season Faith Formation will split its efforts into two parts, the first to center on meditation in the Sunday 9:30 AM to 10 AM between services, and the second to concentrate on longer, more involved topics on Tuesday evenings. Stay tuned for more information.

Thank you to Ava Moore, Jeanne Morris, EJ Hilliard, Janet Fischer, Alison Saichek, The Rev. Stephanie Green, and The Rev. Lori Walton for your contributions to Faith Formation for 2013.

Communication and Evangelism Cluster

Jack Rux & Dave Nelsen, Vestry Members

This cluster is charged with keeping St. James' parish and the wider Tri-City communities up to date on the events, news, and ministries at St. James'. It also is given the joyous task of trying to make all newcomers to St. James' feel very welcome.

Email

An e-mail is sent each Thursday from St. James' office with a summary of upcoming events and news. If you're not receiving this regularly, you can [complete the sign-up form](#) on the website or [ask the office](#) to add your address to the mailing list. This forum is also used to alert parish members of special events or

urgent news. We also maintain a group e-mail list at saintj@yahoogroups.com. Anyone subscribed to this e-mail list may generate a message to the entire list. This e-mail list is used for prayer requests and non-official requests and notifications, while official news is sent via the Thursday weekly e-mail list. If you would like to have your e-mail address added to the Yahoo! Groups e-mail list, please [send an e-mail to the office](#).

St. James' Newsletter – The Window – Ralph Locher on behalf of the Editorial Staff

We have tracked that the number of [web views](#) of The Window averages around 65 copies a month. Our average printed circulation remains around 50. Mailed copies are up to 10 a month.

Three people share the responsibility of editing the newsletter rotating each month; Ralph Locher, Marilyn Rose and Penny Trant. They take dozens of articles, artworks and photographs and piece them together for this wonderful publication.

The editorial staff has continued to implement changes to the master template to ensure consistency and to improve its appearance and readability. And lastly, kudos and thanks to all the authors for their insightful articles and all the photographers for their great pictures.

Website report – Janet Fischer, Webmaster

The St. James' website at saintj.com continues to be a major communications tool for the parish. Content is updated regularly and new pages added as needed for new ministries, such as Sacred Space and Deaf Ministries. Regular content updates include monthly issues of [The Window](#), our [online calendar](#), [audio recordings of sermons](#), and keeping [contact links](#) up to date. During the past year, the site has had an average of 475 distinct visits per month which represents 314 unique users; slightly less than half are new visitors to the site each month. Many thanks go to Mike Scrutton for his technical support of the web site.

Outdoor Banners

We have many banners which are displayed at appropriate times during the year to advertise special events and celebrations. One new banner was purchased this year for the Vacation Bible School themed "Christmas in July."

Advertising and Publicity

Due to the high price of print advertising (which traditionally required us to place adverts in papers that covered all regions of the Bay Area), we experimented with a change to "community adverts" (i.e. free) in the local community publications, and an increased emphasis on online, social and banner advertising. We'll continue to monitor this program.

St. James' Logo Merchandise

A selection of St. James' emblazoned clothing and merchandise is available via the website; <http://saintj.com> By selecting "St. James' Swag" under "About Us" you will be re-directed to <http://www.cafepress.com/saintj>

Welcoming Committee and Greeters

The Welcoming Committee was formally established in April of 2012. Dave Nelsen has been chairing the committee this year. Members include the Rev. Lori Walton, EJ Hilliard, Penny Trant, Gail Blalock and Donald Razzolini. Also on the committee and acting as greeters each Sunday before and after the 10:30 service are: Adrienne Farrell, Alice Johnson, Gregg Feeney, Jan Pearson, Jeanne Morris and Scott Whitaker. The email "group" welcome@saintj.com can be used to contact all members of the committee.

The purpose of the committee is to ensure we have practices in place which help visitors feel warmly welcomed and new members are integrated into the life of the St. James' community. A new member luncheon was hosted at Lori's house in June when 21 of the newest members of our community mingled with several established members.

Facilities Cluster

Bud Spalding & Al Casas, Vestry Members

The primary responsibilities of the Vestry Facilities Cluster of St. James' are to support the Clergy, Staff, and other clusters in carrying out the goals and activities of the Church, by coordinating the care,

maintenance, and necessary repairs to the property and facilities of St. James'. To facilitate these goals, two committees have been organized to work in specific areas; **The Little Church Restoration Committee** led by Sylvia Ma and Bruce Roberts; The **Memorial Garden/Columbarium Committee** led by Ruth Poole. (Separate Reports submitted) A Monthly Work Party Committee to deal with special Maintenance and Repair is led by Chris Perry and Tim Spencer and will be discussed in this report.

In the past, routine or regular maintenance issues have been by an onsite employee or an available parishioner. However, in 2013 the maintenance program underwent a change. Early in the year, Brad Hoffman, a parishioner of several years, passed away. Brad had been a regular presence at St. James' and performed many ongoing yard and maintenance functions. His absence has been very noticeable in that some tasks now fall to others. Then, in late July, another change in the ongoing maintenance workload occurred when the Sexton terminated his service. In order to compensate for both vacancies, contracts were signed, with a Janitorial Service in August, and a modified Yard maintenance contract in September. Both contracts are augmented by parishioners and staff as needed.

Work Parties—St. James' has a practice and tradition of holding Work Parties, usually on the third Saturday of every month. Typically, most of the work centers on yard cleanup and maintenance, vegetation and flowerbeds, and tree trimming in April. In 2013, participants in the work parties repaired the lighting of the signs on Thornton Ave, found and repaired water leaks, repaired some broken doors and door jambs. In August, the Bell Tower was power washed with the intent of re-painting the Tower. Unfortunately, this project was unable to be completed at the time. The unusual weather at the end of the year has created an abundance of routine maintenance issues.

In July, the Church, and some of our neighbors, suffered some major vandalism issues. A car that was parked in our parking area was broken into. A day or two later, the tool shed was entered and we lost almost \$750 of Yard Maintenance equipment. This loss definitely affected the yard maintenance program.

Attendance of parishioners on Work Party days is approximately nine to twelve. Pending projects could utilize at least fifteen or more workers. We encourage parishioners to come and enjoy the friendship and camaraderie on Work Party days.

As 2013 started, the Facilities Cluster was overseeing the completion of the installation of carpet in the Main Church. Poor workmanship and faulty materials had delayed the programmed completion from November. Facilities Cluster was also overseeing repairs to the flat roofs of the Little Church, again, the result of poor workmanship.

In March **four cabinets** were purchased and installed on an open wall of the Vestry Room. This acquisition made space available in the Choir room, and also provided storage space for a food pantry and vital papers. We also acquired 40 **new folding chairs** and a rolling storage rack for chairs, at a cost of under \$1200. In order to honor and facilitate a commitment to ABODE, a bin was acquired to store furniture and items for helping some homeless families get a start. The storage bin is a surplus cargo container that has been cleaned up, primed, and will be painted later this Spring.

In April, we commenced the longest project of the year ---**Termites**. We initiated the process by requesting inspections of the all Church buildings except the Little Church. Five Reports were received in May, but none addressed repairing damage found. In June All five were asked to rebid and include repairs. Only one company rebid. Thus, in August, the Termite project and repairs to the damaged areas was completed. Cost \$10,000.

In April, May, and June, all rolling or gas powered equipment was serviced and repaired, and in the case of the burglary, some was replaced. The equipment referred to are two vacuums, one lawn mower and one Lawn Tractor. In December, we became the recipient of two new eight foot resin tables.

During the latter months of 2013 we have had to replace several floor tiles in the Parish Hall. In a great part, the maintenance of the Parish Hall has been to wet mop it regularly. Unfortunately, too much wet mopping causes the tiles to lift and become subject to cracking when weight is applied. Also, the construction of that type of floor allows some flexibility, which adversely affects the adherence of the tiles to the floor base.

Routine Maintenance is an ongoing issue. There are always lights that need changing or replacement, a timer to be adjusted, a table to be relocated, a sign or note to be posted, a broken chair or two to be repaired, or some other issue. St. James' is 59 years old at its current location. Pipes, sewers, gas lines, electrical wiring are all designed for a different time and load. We need to protect what we have, carefully.

Memorial Garden – Ruth Poole

The Memorial Garden Committee had another busy year. The garden was maintained to keep it looking great. We hosted the Memorial Day Coffee Hours for both services. On appropriate holidays flags were put out on each grave. This year we had one person interred in the Memorial Garden, none in the Columbarium. We had one person disinterred from the Columbarium. During part of the reconstruction of the Little Church new lighting was installed over the Columbarium. This makes it much easier to read the names. Also, the listing "Helping You Find Your Loved Ones" was updated and is hanging back by the Columbarium.

After much thought and help from many, the Ambry was completed and is now in the Little Church. Brad was the person who suggested this a couple of years ago. This was given in memory of Brad Hoffman by the Hoffman family.

As a committee we are always looking for new members. We meet the first Sunday of each month. We meet at 9:15 in the Vestry Room. You do not have to have a green thumb to be on the Committee. Come visit us at one of our meetings and see if you might be interested in becoming a member. If interested please contact Ruth Poole or any Committee member.

Parish Life Cluster

Ralph Locher & Robert Bynum, Vestry Members

2013 proved to be another year filled with continued Transformation and Renewed Memories.

Friend and Fellowship Dinners *Report by Ralph Locher*

Food and Fellowship Dinners enjoyed another year in 2013 of friendly socializing in homes of our parishioners. In late spring, Jack and Connie Rux hosted the first dinner, late summer found us at the Lochers (still too cool to eat outdoors) and finally a Halloween (costumes optional) party hosted by Debbie and Bob Czerwinkis. These dinners have become a very enjoyable way to socialize with your fellow parishioners outside the church. We plan to schedule three to four such dinners this year as well. These gatherings normally start around 5:30 pm and go to 9-10 pm. Typically, attendance has been around 20-24. The event is open to all adult parishioners.

Kitchen Crew

Responsible for the set-up as well as cleanup of Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship hour, inventory and shelf-life accounting of refreshments offered, this group is lead masterfully by Sandra Motley. This amazing crew also plays a key role in many of the special events and celebrations at St. James' which may or may not involve food and/or drink as well as space planning and clean-up. Thank you for all your dedication and efforts.

Available For Lunch *Report by Sylvia Ma*

The Available for Lunch Ministry's aim is to organize informal luncheons and events to promote fellowship within the St. James' community. This is also a wonderful time together with great food and great fellowship. In 2013 we celebrated the Lunar New Year (Year of the Snake) with some delicious Chinese food at Newark Buffet in February. If you have any suggestions of what to do or where to go for lunch, please let Sylvia Ma or Meg Amouroux know. Watch for announcements in the Weekly Bulletin, the Window, and the sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall. Do join us if you are **Available for Lunch**.

Easter Egg Hunt

For the second year the Youth Group oversaw the preparation and all aspects of this activity. As in years past, there was one service at 10am. Approximately 30 1-gallon plastic Ziploc bags each containing 24 empty plastic Easter Eggs were handed out to parish members, filled and returned to St. James'. The Youth Group hid them during the service.

Ladies Flatlanders Report by Mary Casas

This year's event was held on September 5– 8, 2013. The ladies of St. James' rented two lovely beachfront homes in Pajaro Dunes near Watsonville. The weekend was filled with great meals and conversations. There were twenty-one women in attendance, for a few it was their first time attending and for some ladies it was their return after many years. Homes have been reserved for next year's event, September 4th- 7th. We welcome all St. James' women to join in the future.

Las Posadas Report by John Maloney

Held on December 8, 2013, Parish Life took over responsibility of the meal portion this year and will continue to do so in the future. The PL team was given a book of guidelines and an overview of the Las Posadas mindset. A formal copy will be given to the Las Posadas meal coordinator and a copy placed in the Parish Life handbook for future reference.

The meal took place in the Parish Hall. A reported 95 of the 105 people signed up were in attendance, making good use of the Parish Hall space. As in years past, Penny Trant coordinated the food set-up and has agreed to head this part of the event annually from this point forward.

The overall success of the event was the result of many people doing many things and pitching in to help.

- Dave Nelson lead a team of volunteers to set-up the tables and chairs
- Adrienne Farrell spent a lot of time setting the place settings at the tables.
- Penny purchased the table cloths and various other items. She also ordered the food from Tortilla Factory.
- Evelyn Martinez and Griselda Prater picked up the food from The Tortilla Factory in Newark.
- John Maloney directed the actors
- Greg and Elaine Miller did the non-table decorations
- Many other people, too many to mention in this report, also preformed numerous tasks

Men's Group / Men's Trip Report by Gregg Feeney

The Men's Group at St. James' is a loosely knit group of guys willing to help at St James' in just about any needed capacity. In January and February we review what areas we would like to venture to and do our planning. The Men's Trip celebrated its sixth year in the Blue Lake Springs district of Arnold, CA from Aug 15-18. One of our goals is to have at least one new member join us but this year, due to illnesses and scheduling conflicts, it did not happen. Thirteen guys attended this year and we broke even by renting just two homes. The cost was \$135.00 per person including meals. I lucked out by having the houses only about 500' away from each other. The only thing I had not realized is the large number of stairs to climb at one of the houses. We will not make that mistake twice.

The group started off with a nice tostada dinner on Thursday night prepared by Al Casas. The Friday dinner was a steak barbecue and Saturday was pasta night. We had all the trimmings and beverages to compliment the meals. Breakfast was the usual eggs, bacon, pancakes, fruit, juice and coffee. A request was made for some chocolate desert on Saturday so I made a chocolate mayonnaise cake which, almost everyone enjoyed.

During the days, the group split up to play golf, hike, fish, wine taste and mainly relax and enjoy each other's company. There still is a talk of shifting the group to a new area and it could be in Twain Harte for the 2014 Men's trip. Mike Dearborn, Al Casas and I will be reviewing to make sure it meets all of our needs. Golf, hiking, fishing are the main priorities and with a new area, there are more areas to explore. We want to keep the price as close to \$135.00 per person. A decision will be made in January or early February and a sign up list will be circulated. The group welcomes suggestion and other input from interested parishioners. **The tentative date for 2014 will be Aug 21-24.**

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Supper)

Once again the Men's Group, this year lead by Gary Gearheart, combined their time and talents to continue this much loved and anticipated celebration. Shrove Tuesday is an annual event and feast when we celebrate the blessings of the past months and prepare for Lent.

St. James' Feast Day Celebration Report by Greg Miller

The theme for this year was "Family Fun Faire". Set-up crews arrived at approximately 08:30 AM and were greeted happily by Sandra Motley with hot coffee, tea and assorted Danish to begin the day. A BIG

thank you to Sandra for all she does for the St. James' community.

After a sumptuous pot-luck lunch, there were games for everyone's expertise – from athletic to mind puzzles to team contests, such as:

- 3-legged races
- Bean bag toss
- Water balloon toss
- Spoon race

For ALL participating ages 0-100 as well as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons with assorted "participation" buttons were given to winners and participants of any/all activities of the day

Tai Chi Class Report by Sylvia Ma

Tai Chi class, a part of the Parish Life Ministries, is held in the Parish Hall every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30pm. All are welcomed and there is no fee for the class.

The classes are led by Sylvia Ma, a certified SiFu (Master Instructor) in the TIMA School of Internal Martial Arts. We gather to do stretching and warm-up exercises, to learn the relaxing breathing exercises of Qi Gong and to practice the fluid movements of Guang Ping style Tai Chi. The exercises are not strenuous and could be done sitting down or standing up. No prior experience is necessary.

Our classes are growing over the years but are still small. We held 47 classes in 2013 and averaged about 3 students per class. In December, we lost a dedicated student and friend, Joan Roberts. She will be dearly missed. I am sure she is with us in spirit when we practice.

If you are interested in finding out more about these ancient Chinese internal martial art forms, please come and join us on Wednesday night at 6:30.

Social Ministries & Congregational Care Cluster

Beverly Mosier, Donald Razzolini, Gary Gearheart, Vestry Members

ABODE SERVICES

Members of St. James' have been active supporters of Abode Services (formerly Tri-City Homeless Coalition) since its inception. This is an organization whose mission it is to eradicate homelessness. St. James' has continued to be involved with Abode Services this year in the following ways:

- Dinners at Sunrise Village: Three teams of volunteers led by St. James' members purchase, prepare and serve dinner at the Sunrise Village Shelter every month. Additional help is always welcomed. If you are interested in participating in this important ministry, please contact any one of the team captains listed below:
 - 1st Saturdays (Even Months), contact Cathy Knotts or Dorothy Balderston; 1st Saturdays (Odd Months), contact Mary Casas;☐
 - 3rd Saturdays (Even Months), contact Lynn Locher.
- New Shoe Outreach (Cathy Knotts): Thanks to the generosity of St. James' parishioners, we were once again able to purchase new shoe gift cards for the kids in Abode Services relief programs including Sunrise Village. A total of \$907 was raised for the purchase of Payless gift cards and delivered to Abode Services in 2013. We hope to continue this tradition of helping to provide for new shoes to replace outgrown or worn out shoes for local homeless children next fall.
- Abode Kids Club (Jan Scrutton): The team from St. James' currently working with the children at Sunrise Village consists of 4 adults (Jan Scrutton, Ruth Poole, Gail Blalock and Laura Winter) and 4 teens (Beth, Tom, Chanelle and Ami). Two evenings each month we run craft activities, provide snacks and work with the kids and volunteers there. Some crafts are seasonal. We also have regular crafts we repeat in cycles, since the children at Sunrise Village are usually not resident for more than 4 months. Some of the children's favorites are tie pillows and bead

making. Parents often like the flower arrangements, too. Funding from St. James' has enabled us to plan ahead and create art that the kids not only enjoy making but can also keep when they move into their new homes. Thank you for your support.

- Home Warming Program (Gregg Feeney and Scott Whitaker): The St James' community has continued to support the Abode Home Warming program via cash contributions, donated household items and gift cards. This year a man was re-housed on December 10th, 2013, after a long period of homelessness. St. James' and Harbor Light were his co-sponsors. Many of the items in the storage unit on our campus, in addition to more recently donated items from a list compiled by Gregg Feeney were supplied to make his transition successful and comfortable. Anyone who would like to help in the future should contact Gregg Feeney or Scott Whitaker. Ongoing donations of cash or household items to the St James' Home Warming Program are also always greatly appreciated

AEMCH (An Episcopal Ministry for Convalescent Hospital)

St. James' has been a faithful supporter of this charity since 1981. St James' donated \$1200 in 2013, which was used for programs that support and comfort those in convalescent hospitals in the Bay Area.

COMFORTERS (Janet Fischer)

The Comforters are a group of crafty people who knit or crochet items to give away. This year we made over a dozen prayer shawls and are well-stocked for the present. We also created over a dozen blankets of various sizes for The Linus Project, a national organization that coordinates the distribution of donated hand-crafted blankets to children in hospitals, ages infant to teenager. While the group does not meet regularly, we gather as needed and continue to work on our projects at home.

DEAF MINISTRY (Bill & Bev Mosier)

Deaf ministry has blossomed this year in several venues. The Rev. Deacon Bill Mosier is now teaching two art classes (painting on Mondays and drawing every other Friday) at Fremont Oaks Gardens (FOG), a residential community for Deaf seniors. He is also involved with other activities there, including a Lutheran Bible Study and weekly game days, as well as seasonal events such as the Christmas potluck. In addition, he has taken Eucharist to a number of elderly Deaf Episcopalians in San Francisco, Berkeley and Fremont and together with Bev, visited Deaf congregations of a variety of denominations in the East Bay and went on a weekend retreat co-hosted by several of these churches. In this way, they are familiarizing themselves with what's happening in this area and building a network of contacts. Bev and Bill have also been hosting groups of Deaf individuals for parties and game nights at their home.

HEALING MINISTRY (Barbara Dabney)

On Sundays there is someone present to pray with you once a month at the 8:00 service and most Sundays at the 10:30 service. For individual prayer requests, a member of this group is available at the healing station during communion. Of course, the healing stations can also be used at any other time and a candle lit. The Healing Team meets regularly to meditate and pray for those whom we have promised to pray for.

HILLSIDE SENIOR CARE (Sandra Motley)

The Hillside Senior Care facility is located at 38650 Mission Blvd., Fremont 94536. It has an average, long-term care population of approx. 65 adults; ambulatory, wheelchair-bound, and bed-ridden. St. James' made 2 visits in 2013. A visit on March 14th was prior to Easter and each resident was given a small wind-up "Hopping Bunny" that they had fun with. Our Christmas visit was on Dec.5th and Santa & Mrs. Claus handed out lighted "Snow-Globes". Arrangements can be made for visits to read to a resident or just have a conversation. We know some residents do not have family in the area.

SACRED SPACE (Janet Fischer)

Sacred Space is a ministry of the Diocese led by the Rev. Dcn. John Trubina that provides a Sunday worship service and a bag lunch to the unhoused at parks in the East Bay. Priests of the deanery, including our Rev. Lori, alternate leading the worship service and parishes take turns providing bag lunches to those members of the Sacred Space congregation in Hayward. St. James' members contribute lunch once each month by providing sandwiches, water, cookies, fruit, etc. St. James' has often stepped up to provide a hot lunch as well. Others attend the worship service at a park in Hayward and help distribute the food. Late in 2013 the City of Hayward passed an ordinance prohibiting the

distribution of food in public parks, but we continue to provide lunches by distributing them from John Trubina's car. In 2014 we will continue to roll with the punches, and do what we can to minister to the Sacred Space congregation.

Deanery Report

Jan Brandt, Alice Johnson, Jim McConnell, Scott Whitaker, Deanery Representatives

Submitted by Jim McConnell

The Southern Alameda Deanery is made up of the clergy and representatives from the following churches: St James' and St Anne's in Fremont, St Bartholomew's in Livermore, St Claire's in Pleasanton, All Saints in San Leandro and Holy Cross in Castro Valley. Meetings are held quarterly at the various churches to discuss church matters on a regional basis, get updates about wider diocesan concerns and review matters to come before the convention. In addition to the business meetings, the deanery:

- Engaged in several discernment sessions and interview process to select an agency or activity to receive a \$10,000.00 grant from Episcopal Charities. The grass roots organization, Big Heart Wellness Center, at St Bart's was selected. Our deanery was the only deanery which had not yet selected a recipient.
- Prior to the 164th Convention in October 2013, we reviewed the agenda, the budget and discussed the various resolutions. The convention delegates approved resolutions as follows:
 - **2014 PEACE, JUSTICE & ENVIRONMENT** supporting a yearlong program to call attention to 1) Human Trafficking; 2) Environment; 3) Economic Justice; and 4) Immigration
 - **SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE INVESTING** 164th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of California instructs Executive Council and its Investment Committee to work towards incorporating sustainable and responsible investing practices in the management of the Diocesan endowment; That these practices be consonant with the following principles outlined by our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori:
 - § § 1. Avoidance: Not investing in companies whose activities are contrary to our social and moral values,
 - § § 2. Affirmative Investing: Investing in institutions that can provide financial resources to underserved communities,
 - § § 3. Advocacy: Voting proxies and activism that focus on constructively influencing corporate behavior;
 - **COMMEMORATION OF THE REV. PETER WILLIAMS CASSEY AND ANNA BESANT CASSEY**
 - **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS** 164th Convention of the Diocese of California directs all congregations, diocesan institutions and offices within the Diocese of California to have current disaster preparedness plans;
 - **GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION** all congregations in the Diocese of California are encouraged to study the causes of urban gun violence, and to pray for peace in our streets
 - **GUANTANAMO** 164th Convention of the Diocese of California calls upon the President and the Congress to act to close the Guantanamo Detention Facility as quickly as possible, releasing to their home countries those detainees already cleared for release and transferring to federal prison facilities in the United States those detainees whose cases are still to be adjudicated

The convention delegates also selected new members for several diocesan committees and new clergy were introduced. Our deanery members have elected Richard Patenaude of Holy Cross to serve as our new President, Scott Whitaker to serve as Vice President and Jim McConnell to represent our deanery on the Executive Counsel.