



SAINT JAMES'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Report for 2016

Submitted for the Annual Meeting Held
January 29th, 2017

The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector
The Rev. Anna Horen, Priest Associate
The Rev. Ken Parris, Deacon

St. James' Episcopal Church
Fremont, CA

34051 Cabrillo Terrace
PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94536

510-797-1492

<http://saintj.com>

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Clergy & Staff Reports

Rector's Report – The Rev. Lori A. Walton

The year of 2016 has been a challenging year for our country, bringing with it significant violence, division, and increased societal stress and anxiety. St. James' has served to be a place of connection, healing, and prayer during these trying times. It is through our common life and faith in Jesus Christ that our community has been strengthened and deepened.

Worship and Liturgy

In 2016, we continued to hear a variety of preaching voices. The Reverend Ken Parris and the Reverend Brian Cochran supported our preaching rotation. Our ministry intern, Anna Horen, agreed to stay on until her diaconal ordination, allowing us her preaching presence for the first five months of the year. We invited a few supply priests to lead us in worship: Karen Swanson, Corrie Lassen, and Stephen Trevor covered in my absence. All brought with them a clear and new proclamation of the Good News.

The month of January was covered by the Reverend Karen Swanson while I was blessed to take a mini-sabbatical to travel to Jerusalem and Nazareth. I returned in time for our annual meeting on January 31. Along with the regular services and liturgical calendar of Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Advent, we celebrated Scout Sunday on February 7, Earth Day on April 17, Volunteer Appreciation on June 19, St. James' Day on July 24, VBS Sunday on July 31, and St. Francis/Animal Blessing on October 2.

We had 46 children and adults at the Children's Imposition of Ashes on Shrove Tuesday. This is compared to 29 the year before. Over three Ash Wednesday services, we gave out ashes to 122 congregants and visitors (compared to 108 the prior year). Holy Week was somber, meaningful, and intergenerational. On Maundy Thursday we ate together, sang, shared communion, and stripped the altar. On Good Friday, we returned to a traditional Good Friday Service with our music director, Jennifer Carini chanting the Passion. The service was very well received. Following the service, Anna Horen led a group in walking the Stations of the Cross. A change from the prior year's Wednesday, the choir offered a Tennebrae service on Good Friday.

The Easter Vigil was lively and joyful with 77 people celebrating, an increase from just over 40 in 2015. It proved difficult to recruit groups to act out scripts, causing us to wonder if we move towards a more traditional Easter Vigil for 2017. Our Easter Sunday service welcomed 190 parishioners and visitors. This was a significant drop from over 250 the year before. On Pentecost Sunday we celebrated our many cultures and tongues by inviting parishioners to share their language in liturgy and favorite food in coffee hour.

We had great joy in celebrating St. James' Day on July 24 with both congregations from the Philippine Independent Church. We held our annual VBS Sunday on July 31 and blessed many animals and people on October 2 for the celebration of St. Francis. The celebration of Thanksgiving was held in the Little Church with 17 participants. For Christmas, we celebrated a 4:00 Family Service that drew 105 participants and a Midnight Mass Service with 93 attending. This year, Christmas Day fell on a Sunday. We gathered 65 congregants and visitors in celebration of the birth of Christ.

Our Music Director, Jennifer Carini, continues to contribute to the liturgical life of St. James'. Along with weekly rehearsals and Sunday worship, Jennifer also led our annual Vacation Bible School music and continues to work with our children to offer seasonal anthems at our 10:30 service. As a result of Jennifer's efforts, the choir has experienced some recent growth. Having a full choir on Sunday makes a great impact on our common worship.

Our altar servers continue to be a strong group. Janet Fischer has been extremely helpful by creating the bi-annual schedule of the lectors and Eucharistic ministers for Sunday services and for additional services. We have been able to recruit new lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for both our 8:00 and 10:30 services. Our Children's Minister Jan Scrutton continues to schedule the acolytes. Through her leadership, more children are involved in worship than in the past. The First Sundays have effectively

incorporated children as lectors, ushers and acolytes. The attendance on the First Sundays has grown as a result.

During the year, we baptized four children: Atticus, Caiden, Anastacia and Elvin. I officiated at the one house blessing, one marriage blessing and one blessing of a child. I officiated at one renewal of wedding vows for the Perry's.

I officiated at seven memorials/funerals. Held at St. James: Robert Tomkinson, Merry Creed, John Becker, Eva Lamphear. Held offsite: Michelle Schwietz, Estrella Lomuljo, Jeanne Zoller. I officiated at one interment in the Memorial Garden: Loren Decena.

On August 13, we hosted the annual meeting celebration of the Philippine Independent Church, welcoming six of their bishops and our own bishop Andrus.

On November 18, in partnership with Abode Services and with the help of Jan Scrutton, we held our third annual candlelight vigil for those who died on the street. We welcomed several local politicians and officials along with neighbors and friends, with approximately 125 in attendance.

In response to the shootings at the Pulse Nightclub in Florida, I held a candlelight vigil and prayer service in the Little Church on June 17. In response to the police shootings in Dallas Texas, I led an informal prayer service and discussion in the Little Church on July 8.

Office Staff and Administration

We remain in contract with Fernando's Cleaning and Landscaping company to keep our buildings and grounds clean. This arrangement continues to work. Our parish administrator, John Trubina, remains a warm and welcoming presence in our front office. Our Nursery Care Provider, Nonie Aluzzi, retired from her position in September due to illness. We continue to hold her and her family in prayer. As of this writing, we are actively seeking a replacement.

May of 2016 marked one full year in which our Children's Minister, Jan Scrutton, has been employed. The children's program continues to grow, draw new families, and bring great joy to the entire congregation. Please see Jan's report for more news about our children and families.

In May, we said good-bye to our ministry intern, Anna Horen. Anna was instrumental in the areas of preaching, faith formation, and pastoral care. In June, several of us traveled to Grace Cathedral to witness Anna being ordained to the transitional diaconate. In December, we witnessed her ordination to the priesthood. As the Holy Spirit moves, Anna returned to St. James' in mid-December to serve as a non-stipendiary priest associate. We look forward to her continued ministry with us.

At the beginning of 2016, our faithful stewardship chairperson, Gail Blalock stepped down. We thank Gail for her years of excellent ministry. To fill the gap, the Vestry was tasked with focusing on stewardship for 2016. The Vestry has done an amazing job in elevating the concept of financial giving to the parish by writing newsletter articles, giving short stewardship talks, and self-examining their own practice of pledging. Their work has resulted in a substantial increase in our pledges. Treasurer Lynn Locher and Clerk Elizabeth Hart continue to do amazing jobs in supporting the vestry and parish. In order to alleviate some of the month-to-month work of the Treasurer, the Vestry has voted to hire a part-time bookkeeper beginning in early 2017.

As part of our stewardship program, I asked Mike Scrutton to serve as our Pledge Secretary. Mike has been responsible for gathering pledge data, doing trend analysis, and reporting to the Lead Team and Vestry. Mike's work has been extremely informative and helpful in painting a picture of our congregational giving.

In August, we welcomed the Diocesan Development Officer, Davey Gerhardt, to present a proposal to partner with the Diocese in a Capital Campaign. Later that month, the Vestry and selected guests gathered to discern whether this was desirable for St. James'. In October, the Vestry voted to decline the Diocese's offer.

The rental of our facilities has increased over the year to include additional 12 step groups, a homeowner association, Cub Scout pack meetings, and various one-time usage agreements. Our senior warden, Meg Amouroux, has been instrumental in coordinating new rentals, a task she will carry on after finishing her term on vestry.

Welcoming and Integrating New People

St. James' continues to work at welcoming and integrating new people. A new booklet called "The Way of St. J" was created by members of the Vestry. The intent is to communicate to new-er people the many activities happening at our church and ways to both be supported and to get involved.

As of this writing, we've added 15 members to our database (6 of which are children/teens) with the potential of six additional members soon.

Rector Housing

Following my commitment and vision of using our home in Newark for the ministry of the church, I hosted several gatherings. In February, we welcomed the Vestry for dinner and team-building. I hosted a hymn sing in April and the wardens for dinner in January. Our scheduled new-member's event for June was postponed to 2017 due to a scheduling conflict, and the annual altar guild brunch was cancelled due to a family death.

New and Potential Ministries and Offerings

At the invitation of our Deacon, Ken Parris, Moina Shaiq offered her "Meet a Muslim" gathering at St. James' on March 13. Moina is a member of the Tri-City Interfaith Council and has been offering "Meet a Muslim" events throughout the Bay Area and beyond. Moina's presence at St. James' allowed a large gathering to ask questions about Islam and the Muslim faith and practice, to share stories, and to get to know members of the Muslim community better.

On May 7, Anna Horen, Janet Fischer, and I led a day retreat for women focused on Mary Mother of God. The day was rich in story, prayer, and connection. We will continue to offer a women's day retreat the day before Mother's Day.

Our relationship with our Cub Scout Pack 163 remains strong. Throughout 2016, we hosted their popcorn fundraisers, celebrated Scout Sunday, and took them up on their offer to put out the American Flags for Memorial Day. We continue to look for ways to increase our common life together.

Initial conversations have begun in preparation of our 150th Anniversary taking place in 2017. On the Feast of All Saint's, we will have a grand celebration with our congregants, past clergy, friends, and diocesan representation.

Congregational Development

During 2016, I completed the last of a two-year course in Congregational Development. This work, entitled "Center for Congregational Vitality" is a collaborative effort with the Diocese of Northern California to equip parish leadership in the area of organizational development and spiritual transformation. Joining me for 2016, and continuing into 2017, are Meg Amouroux, Janet Fischer, and John Butterfield.

Visioning Project

Under the leadership of Mike Scrutton, a group of five (me, Mary Casas, Mary Morkved, Jessica Stair, Ken Trant) completed a visioning process started in 2015. After data gathering, personal witness, demographic examination, and membership analysis, a final report was created and presented to the parish on November 13. Please see Mike Scrutton's report on the Visioning Team for more detailed information.

Wider Church Involvement and Personal Formation

I completed my service as the President of the Standing Committee for the Diocese of California in October 2016. The work was fulfilling and difficult and well-worth the commitment. As a default to being the Standing Committee President, I also served as a member of the Board of Trustees for Grace Cathedral. That commitment also ended in October.

In May, I participated in an Evensong at Grace Cathedral to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our bishop, Marc Andrus.

As part of my own continued formation and support, I helped create a new colleague group that I meet with on a monthly basis. As previously mentioned, I was blessed to take a mini-sabbatical of one month in January to travel to Jerusalem and Nazareth. I owe my gratitude to the wardens and staff for their assistance in allowing this trip to happen.

Deacon's Report – The Rev. Kenneth W. Parris, CMC

It's hard to believe but 2017 marks the end of my fourth year here at Saint James'. It has been a delight to work with all of you while I've served here and especially a delight to work on a ministry team with the Rev. Lori Walton and the other staff at the parish. As you know, I will be taking leave of Saint James' on March 1st, moving on to Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. While any change tends to be bittersweet, I am excited about my new ministry among the cathedral community. Certainly I will miss all of you but I will still be around the diocese and will likely see you at diocesan events or other times in the life of the church where you might find yourself at the cathedral. Whenever you are in the vicinity of Nob Hill, please take some time to stop by and say "hello."

As your deacon this past year I was scheduled to perform the diaconal duties for all liturgical services for which I am in attendance and regularly assigned to preach. The rector has conducted regular parish staff meetings to ensure I remained cognizant of the pastoral needs and concerns of the parish. Staff meetings also provide me an opportunity to explore how I might be able to assist in enriching the worship experience of our parish.

Under the rector's leadership, I continue to supervise the Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV) ministry. As the need arises, three trained and licensed LEVs are available to regularly visit homebound parish members.

During Advent, the rector and I presented a Tuesday evening adult faith formation class titled, "The Priesthood of All Believers: Discerning Your Call to Ministry." The presentation was well attended and I believe all who participated gained a better understanding of the roles of the various ministers of the church and where their own strengths for ministry lie.

I continued to assist our rector in the development of liturgical resources and have the opportunity to proofread the materials she works hard to develop for the enrichment of the parish's worship experience. As I mentioned last year, I have always been impressed with the time, effort and energy our rector devotes to our liturgy, ensuring it is theologically sound, spiritually enriching and welcoming to the pilgrim seeking a spiritual home.

As you know from my previous annual reports, my primary ministry is to serve as a law enforcement chaplain for the Diocese of California. For the past 21 years I have served as chaplain to the Oakland Police Department. I also serve as a sheriff's chaplain for the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and police chaplain for the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Police Department. In October of this year, my BART PD colleagues selected me to serve as their senior chaplain. In this role I now lead and manage all the BART PD chaplain activities under the supervision of the Chaplain Coordinator. All of these law enforcement chaplaincy ministries are volunteer positions, meaning I receive no compensation for the services I perform. In fact, it costs the volunteer some significant personal resources to perform these duties, paying for professional association dues, continuing education, uniforms and equipment, transportation and other related expenses. The continuing education and professional expense stipend the parish provided me was much appreciated in defraying some of these costs. If you want to learn more about what a law enforcement chaplain does, please visit the International Conference of Police Chaplains website at www.icpc4cops.org.

I participated in the following continuing education opportunities this past year:

- Diocese of California Clergy Conference and Retreat, El Rancho del Obispo, Healdsburg, CA
- Civil Air Patrol Pacific Region Chaplain Corps Staff College at Camp Pendleton, CA
- International Conference of Police Chaplains Annual Training Seminar in Albuquerque, NM

Another chaplain related activity I participate in is serving as a Character Development Instructor (CDI) for a local Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadet squadron. CDIs are non-chaplain members of the CAP Chaplain Corps who provide education and training in the areas of values, ethics and character. As part of the cadets' training, I lead a monthly discussion group at the local squadron. Cadets range in age from 12 to 21. As a CAP CDI, I am also an associate member of the Military Chaplains Association of the United States. You can learn more about the squadron I serve and the Civil Air Patrol at the following websites: <http://sq18.cawgcap.org/> and www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

As your deacon and canonically resident in the Diocese of California, I serve as a clergy representative of St. James' at deanery and diocesan convention.

I continue to represent St. James' on the Tri-Cities Interfaith Council (TCIC), meeting once a month to discuss issues of concerns to all faith communities in the tri-cities of Fremont, Newark and Union City. TCIC is responsible for coordinating the annual Tri-Cities Thanksgiving Service that was hosted by the Roman Catholic Mission San Jose. St. James' was well represented at this fun and informative event. Information about TCIC may be found at <http://tcicouncil.org/>.

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.

Children's Minister Report – Jan Scrutton

2016 was my first full year as a staff member at St. James' and it felt like we were all getting used to the difference in my role! While on Sundays I am focused on Sunday school my time is split between serving the children in Sunday school, church families, VBS, and outreach as well as being part of the staff team at St. James'.

In February/March I worked with Deacon Ken to take some of Cub Scout Pack 163 through their God & Me/God & Family program. The boys were then presented with their emblems in church. In the fall I assisted Rev. Lori with the preparation of two Sunday school age children for baptism, having chance to discuss the meaning of baptism and the promises that they would make. I celebrated the anniversary of me starting work by returning to the Cathedral for another night on the stone floor with 3 of our students!

The Sunday school year was concluded in the summer with a barbecue for 50 people and a bounce house was enjoyed by the smallest and largest among the group!

I have continued to work on keeping our classroom useful, accessible, inspirational and interesting. Some time has been spent with Rev. Lori starting to sort and catalogue older resources. I have expanded our book collection to include books on loss and grief for young people. New cork boards have been mounted inside the classroom as well as the addition of an outside noticeboard for Sunday school and community notices.

Our Easter Egg hunt was enjoyed by 24 children while 14 arrived in costumes for Halloween.

Our Christmas pageant costumes have been sorted, washed, mended, updated and added to – thank you to everyone who helped. Twenty children dressed up to take part in our Christmas Pageant, an original script that combined Bible readings with a simple story as the children came up to stage.

During 2016 I have taken part in regular staff meetings and spent a day undertaking continuing education at a Diocese Equipping the Beloved Community Event. The course I took was about child protection and all the participants were Children's Ministers, we recommended to the diocese this was offered regularly to staff as it covered significant area of need.

In addition to working at Abode Kids I was able this year to spend a morning in one of our elementary schools offering a craft activity to two third grade classes, thanks to Jill Buono for opening up this

opportunity for me. I also worked with Fremont Unified School District to see how we might be able to impact those in need in our local schools. The congregation at St. James' looks for opportunities for outreach and I continue to seek ways for the Children's minister to serve outside our own campus.

Sunday School

In Sunday school I am supported by a roster of 5 other teachers, Caylyn Ramsamy, Penny Trant, Sherea Westra, Monique Manjarrez and Julie Guzior. The group is regularly divided into two classes although some projects, including our Thanksgiving Tree and Advent coloring are best completed in a larger group. The pool of young people who attend Sunday school and/or church has grown to around 32 with 10-14 attending Sunday school each week.

We continue to teach a Lectionary based program. We started the year using a program produced by the Episcopal Church while for the second half of the year we are using a new curriculum from Children's Illustrated Ministry. This was chosen because of its lectionary base, simple but impactful teaching and modern artistic images. We will continue to draw from the resources available to best suit our students. Our music director Jennifer continues to come in to Sunday school to prepare for the children to sing in church or to learn new songs. We have also shared our Pentecost Ribbon prayers, Pavement chalk prayers and Easter gardens with the congregation (among other things).

During Lent I challenged the children to attend at least 5 of the events/services put on at St. James' from the Ashes for Children Service to the Easter Vigil. 15 of them completed the challenge and got their St. James' cups at Easter. I was able to track 40 individual children who took part in services and events during Lent. Nine children performed in a skit at the Easter vigil.

In the spring and early summer the children grew seeds and asked the congregation for plant donations towards a plant sale for Episcopal Relief and Development. A donation from Pack 163 helped us meet and exceed our target to donate for farm animals, farming tools & seeds for families overseas.

Nursery

We were sad to say goodbye to our nursery care provider, Nonie, in September, she has been a safe pair of hands and welcoming face to the children who have been in the nursery for the last few years. We have advertised and have been actively looking for a replacement but have not yet appointed anyone. Thanks go to Lauren Zarovy who has stepped up to help cover the nursery and to all the parents who have helped out in the last few months.

Sunday Breakfast Club

With the culinary support of Lauren and Bob Doherty and with Tom Scrutton helping out Sunday Breakfast Club has continued to meet this year. The group is for students in 5th grade and above and gathers on the first Sunday of each month in the Vestry room at 9:15am. After breakfast and some time to catch up the young people prepare to serve in the 10:30am service. We have lectors, ushers, oblation bearers and acolytes. Encouraging the youth to follow along with a service, to be involved as full participants and to serve others is an important step in their faith that cannot be taught in the Sunday School classroom. I am grateful to all those who step aside, support and direct them as they learn and contribute.

Acolytes

Our new acolytes now serve regularly in church. While Caylyn is still our lone representative at the 8am service duties at 10:30am are taken by Bryneth, Olivia, Tom, Malorie, Stacia, Lilia, John, & Luke. Tom Scrutton has stepped up to lead and guide this team as many of them are still learning the role.

Vacation Bible School

Our busy VBS week in July (25-29th) was titled 'Shine' and we concentrated on the stories of light in the Bible. An outside story telling of the Prophets of Baal (with fire!) and the story of the ten bridesmaids were among our stories while we completed the week being reminded Jesus is the light of the world. Forty-three children, along with 24 adults came along and for the second year we welcomed under 4's for one day and had 3 extra guests. Nineteen children returned for the service and celebration on Sunday July 31st.

Back to School Drive

The success of previous years backpack appeals led us to offer donations to both TriCity Volunteers and Abode Services who both have lists of young people in Kindergarten through to college who they strive to equip for the new school year. Yet again the St. James' congregation came through with over 30 filled backpacks, piles of notebooks, hundreds of pencils and boxes of assorted supplies which were delivered in time for this year's early return to school.

Abode Kids

I continue to visit Sunrise Village two nights a month to help lead the kids club. A change in leadership at their end has led to us going on new nights (Monday/Wednesday). I am grateful for the continued support of Gail Blalock and Ruth Poole as we stick, paint, sew and mould our way into conversations with the children resident each month in the shelter.

Music Ministry – Jennifer Carini, Music Director

I celebrated my fifth 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 7:0 to 8:00 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 11 current choir members. They are: Josephine Amadi, Charles Hall, Melissa Mallory, Greg Miller, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, Alison Saichuk, Don Rose, Jessica Stair, Elaine Vallecillo Miller, Pat Vlastelica. The choir has a fun time rehearsing and being in community with one another each Wednesday and Sunday! Come join us!

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, Joey Carini, John Maloney, Nancy Svenson, Paul Svenson, George Vlastelica, and Laura Winter.

We have been blessed to have professional instrumentalists and vocalists join us on Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve.

The Children's Choir practices during Sunday School. All children are welcome to sing! The children's choir sings approximately once per month. I really enjoy singing and working with our kids each week!

I was blessed to be a part of Vacation Bible School at St. James' for the fifth year. It was fun teaching the children 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 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!

Wardens' Reports

Senior Warden's Report – Meg Amouroux

Thank you for the opportunity to serve St. James' as Sr. Warden in 2016.

Thank you to the vestry members who have served with me since 2014, and the stellar examples of junior and senior wardens I've tried to model myself after. I offer gratitude for our brilliant Jr. Warden this year, Vivienne Paratore-- her wit, smarts, articulation, and great joy have been invaluable. I have loved the vestry retreats when I've joined forces with friends I already knew and also met brand new people. I love the growth in friendships as the weeks and months have gone by. I have made lifelong friends by being on the vestry, and I am richer for knowing and working with you all.

Many of our vestry members have connections to more than just serving on the vestry. Many of us are involved with the countless ministries in and around St. James'. I am grateful every day for the coordination of the schedules among so many ministries, and so many people, making our community vibrant and strong.

Thank you to our clergy leadership: to Rev. Lori, Deacon Ken, our former ministry Intern and now Priest Associate Anna. Thank you for your presence, your strong and steady voices and guidance. I have asked lots of questions, and your patience is immense. I'm amazed by the knowledge you're all able to share with me and the parish. Seeing your smiles and compassion from the front of the church on Sundays and around campus, hearing your words and taking them to heart, I've learned more from you all than words can express.

Thank you to my St. James' family. I use the word "family" very intently. While I was born and raised in Wisconsin, those of you at St. James' support and encourage me in just the same way. Together we celebrate and mourn, we take care of our surroundings and buildings, we budget ourselves wisely and cautiously, we laugh and remember and plan for tomorrow. Just like a family. Thank you to you all who have listened to my Sunday announcements and reminded me to speak louder, to all of you I've shared a class with, to those who've talked with me over coffee.

When I was considering taking on the role of junior warden for the 2015 vestry year, I knew I could put my organizational skills to use. It worked out well, and I got a chance to contribute to the group in a way that made me feel helpful. With this past year as senior warden, I was able to expand a lot of the same skills from the year before. With the help of clergy and fellow vestry members, I'm glad to have been helpful in some of the more business-type aspects of St. James', as well as the celebratory events. I feel a sense of accomplishment when thinking about being able to teach newer vestry members how to navigate the group and bring their own strengths to the vestry for the betterment of our church.

At the vestry retreat last February, we looked at St. James' year ahead-- how can we lead and coordinate the flow of events and ministries throughout the year? Throughout the year in small groups and sometimes individually, the vestry was able to coordinate and run many existing and new activities. We're proud to have recognized our many volunteers at a special event in June. We were able to celebrate in great joy (and with our friends at the Philippine Independent Church) at our St. James' Day celebration in July. The vestry has spent time coordinating a gathering for our newest parish members, an evening gathering in January 2017. We've had a group preparing take-aways for first-time visitors to our Sunday services. We have tracked finances, and have planned a sound budget for the coming year.

In 2016, two projects really stood out for me: (1) The creation of a booklet for new members, "The Way of St. J", and (2) our year-long approach to stewardship and pledging.

During my 2015 year on vestry, I was part of a small group tasked with looking at how we welcome guests, visitors, and new members. Another group was tasked with looking at our existing ministries to help identify and clarify their roles, to help those ministries become more open and permeable to new members. That work of 2015 rolled deliberately into 2016, where those two groups' tasks were merged into booklet called, "The Way of St. J." It currently is part of a packet of welcoming material given to our newest members. The publication covers the vast expanse of ministries that make up St. James' with easy-to-understand categories and paragraphs, opening the world of our church to those just getting to know us. With chapters called "Grow Your Faith," "Make Friends," "Be Part of a Team," and "Serve Others," our church becomes more accessible to others.

Also in 2016, the vestry took a new approach to Stewardship. Starting in February and continuing each month throughout the year, a different vestry member would share a personal reflection in St. James' monthly newsletter, The Window. We entitled the series, "Why I Give to St. James'," and it allowed each of us to share a personal perspective of why we give to our church. It quickly became evident that each one of us has unique and very personal reasons for giving. All the reasons were genuine, all were sincere. Over the course of the year, readers were given insight into why pledging and giving to St. James' is important, and these messages were coming directly from people they know-- people who sit beside them in the pews and share hospitality at coffee hour. These articles, as well as messages by vestry members delivered on Sunday services in the autumn months, allowed parishioners to think more

deeply about their own pledging and giving to St. James.' While exact numbers are still coming in, this approach to stewardship and pledging using personal stories coupled with contemplation about giving is already yielding incredibly positive results for our budget and future abilities for outreach and ministry.

When asked to be senior warden, I did have to think about it, as I don't consider myself a natural leader. I talked to a lot of people about it-- people at St. James' and people outside of our church. One of the strongest voices came from my dad. He was the one who encouraged me since I was a child, to always try. When I got frustrated with grade school math, he would help me work through it. He was the one who encouraged me to move away from home for college and see a new world. He was the one who was most excited when I moved to California 20 years ago. Active in his own church over the years, he knew I could do well as a Senior Warden, no matter what the role entailed. I had a lot of support from him and my family, and my church family here, when making the decision. And throughout this whole past year, the support and encouragement was always evident.

Thank you to everyone at St. James', for your friendship, confidence, and support. In the years to come, I look forward to seeing St. James' continue to support and encourage everyone in our communities, and will do my best to pitch in.

Junior Warden's Report – Vivienne Paratore

2016 was a great year for St. James' and I am extremely grateful to have been a part of Vestry. I would like to start by thanking Rev Lori for allowing me the opportunity to be St. James' Episcopal Church's Junior Warden and Meg Amouroux for her countless hours of support. It has been a pleasure to work beside the 2016 Vestry; Nancy Castaneda, Ashley Francis, Charles Hall, Karen Koonze, Bruce Roberts, John Butterfield, Penny Trant, Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, Evelyn Martinez and Scott Whitaker, as well as Rev Lori Walton, Deacon Ken Parris, Treasurer Lynn Locher, Children's Minister Jan Scrutton, and Vestry Clerk Elizabeth Hart.

One of my tasks as junior Warden has been to compile the monthly vestry packet which has taxed my computer skills as I am not very proficient at combining documents and making pdfs. Meg was at hand to help me numerous times and I am very grateful for her gracious help in answering my simple questions. A huge thank you to all of the contributors to the vestry packets for adjusting to the new timeline as I was asking for the submissions earlier than previous years so that the vestry could receive the packet on Saturday before the meeting to give them more time to read the packets and formulate any questions they may have. Elizabeth Hart took wonderful minutes at every vestry meeting which made my job easier. After the meetings, I compiled a brief synopsis for the newsletter.

Lori and the vestry decided to approach the stewardship drive from a different angle this year. That process started at my house with a special vestry meeting where we examined our own attitudes about giving and answered many deep questions regarding our personal beliefs. Each of us wrote and delivered reflections on a variety of topics related to stewardship which were published in the bulletin and delivered at every service for several weeks. This was a wonderful experience which led us all to a deeper connection to God and each other.

We had major ministry projects which focused around being more welcoming and creating documents that introduce new comers to our wonderful church family. One of my projects was to get a replacement freezer for the kitchen as the old one had been leaking for some time. We (Dave Nelsen, Bruce Roberts and I) also made a start on re-organizing some of the office files and changing the way that maintenance issues are reported. Finally, we considered the capital improvement campaign, spearheaded by the diocese. Vestry and selected guests attended presentations and discussions regarding this proposal but ultimately decided that now was not the right time for St. James' to participate.

It has been a special pleasure for me to work with Meg Amouroux and get to know her a little better. We sadly say goodbye to her as a vestry member along with Elaine Vallecillo Miller, Nancy Castaneda and Karen Koonze. We thank them all for their service to this community.

Committee Reports

Abode Dinners

Our team provides dinner for the residents of the Abode homeless shelter, Sunshine Village, on Brown Road in Fremont on the 3rd Saturday of even months. Our team consists of Bruce Roberts, Byron Bader, Ruth Pool, Marlene Benedict, Vivienne Paratore, Ralph Locher, Lynn Locher, Marco Ramsamy and Raelene Ramsamy. The team members rotated taking lead roles in setting the menu, purchasing the food and leading the group in preparation and serving of the food. Each member contributed \$10 to the leader to defray the cost of food. Our team was blessed to have Marco and Raelene as members of our team. They not only worked with us in food preparation but also along with other family members provided the dinner in both June and October. We will miss them in 2017. Our team is looking for more members to join us in this wonderful service to others.

~ Lynn Locher, team organizer.

Abode Services Rapid Re-Housing Home Warming Program

St. James', along with the help of its parishioners, coordinates with Abode Services to place homeless single persons, veterans and families into permanent housing. In addition to St. James', there are 15 other churches working together to help get the homeless folks into housing. We find it's the biggest push for Rapid Re-Housing is from October – June.

The very expensive housing market in the Bay Area made it very challenging placing families into permanent housing in 2016 and no relief in sight. The deposits are heftier and more churches are pooling their resources to get more families into housing.

We partnered with Our Lady of Guadalupe, and St. Joseph Catholic Church to help a single woman move into permanent housing. St. Joseph's provided the move in deposit and Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. James' provided household items for the single woman.

The second family – single mother w/ 3 kids – needed lot of resources due to a fire and it took 5 churches including St. James' to come up with the \$1800 deposit and 2 more churches for the household items. Both families are doing well due to the support of the community.

The community of St. James' always comes through to support the families year-round. I receive calls for gently used items from folks moving, or updating furniture, small appliances and general household items. Our collective effort with the faith-based communities in Fremont, Newark, and Union City is making a difference and we will continue working hard together with Abode Services in their Rapid Re-Housing program. Thanks for all support in 2016.

~ Gregg Feeney

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is comprised of 19 women who work in four teams. Once a month, each team prepares the Altars of the churches for Sunday services. After each service is over the team cleans and puts everything away. The Wednesday service is prepared by Rose Hoffman.

Additional support is given to the Altar Guild by Vivienne Paratore and Lauren Doherty who bake the communion bread. Mary Casas orders our supplies when needed. Jan Scrutton adds her expertise wherever it is required. Barbara Dabney has taken over the laundering and care of the linens after Genore Schaaf retired this year. We thank Genore for her many years of service to the Altar Guild.

The Altar Guild is responsible for ordering the flowers that decorate the Churches each week. Our congregation donates towards the weekly flowers and the Sanctus Candle. A sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall. In addition to the weekly flowers, the Altar Guild furnishes beautiful Christmas Poinsettias and Easter Lilies each year. Members of our church generously donate in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving at this time.

The St. James' Altar Guild held a tea in April 2016. This was open to anyone with an interest in learning more about the Altar Guild. Following the tea, we had four members join our guild. The new members have been a great addition to our existing teams. Our new members are: Rose Hoffman, Mary Morkved, Sandra Motley and Claudette Naidoo.

A group of guild members got together during the year to clean and shine the brass and silver items used in the weekly church services. Maintaining our church supplies is part of Altar Guild.

We have begun to introduce interested young people of the church to the workings of the Altar Guild. This is a supervised program where they learn what is used during the Sunday communion service and the care of these items. Stacia Morkved has been learning about the Altar Guild.

We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in becoming part of the St. James' Altar Guild, please contact Katie Cunningham or Ruth Poole.

~ **Katie Cunningham**

Archives

During 2016, the 150 years of material in the St. James' Archives has been completely reorganized and stored in sixteen special archive boxes in the area behind the altar in the Big Church. Each box is numbered and labeled on the outside with the categories of its contents. For example, in Box 1 each of the following eleven categories has a folder of its own: St. James' Clergy – Three Key Documents in St. James' History – The Little Church – Legal Documents – Etc.

In addition, a thirty-five page booklet entitled "Archives of St. James' Parish" has been developed and printed. The booklet provides an understanding of the contents of the archives, its location, and guidelines for its use. The booklet is divided into seven sections: Section A – List of Numbered Archives Boxes and General Content of Each Box; Section B – Detailed Listing of the Contents of Selected Archives Boxes; Etc.

This reorganization and new system makes the archives more accessible and usable.

~ **John Maloney**

Available For Lunch

The aim of the Available for Lunch ministry is to organize informal luncheons and events to promote fellowship within the St. James' community. We get together to have some wonderful conversation and to enjoy some great foods. In 2016 we celebrated the Lunar New Year (Year of the Monkey) with delicious Chinese food at Newark Buffet.

If you have any suggestions of what to do or where to go for lunch, please let Sylvia Ma or Meg Amouroux know.

Our next get-together is to celebrate the Year of the Rooster. 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**.

~ **Sylvia Ma**

Bible Study

"...to hear..., read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest
Proper 28: for the Sunday closet to November 16.

This was yet again a note worthy year for the early morning Bible Study group:
We began our 36th year of meeting!
We changed our time from 6 am to 7 am!

We changed locations and are meeting for the time being at the home of Bruce Roberts. This was necessitated by changed circumstances for our long time host Genore Schaaf. We give grateful thanks for her long standing and generous hospitality.

The group continues with the usual format of reading the Old and New Testament lessons and psalm/s for the coming Sunday. Members volunteer to lead the sessions. A study and other references are available for use. Music was once again a valuable addition to our time. We meet promptly for an hour with coffee and snacks always available. Our attendance averages 9-11 people. Over the time, over 60 friends and neighbors have joined these early morning discussions. Everyone is welcome to attend. Call the office to confirm location.

~Alice Johnson

Coffee Hour Hosts

In August 2016, the Team met and celebrated its two year anniversary of its founding in February 2015. It is impressive that 21 individuals volunteers to be Coffee Hour Hosts throughout the year. I must commend their dedication and their charism of hospitality. The Joseph Family is our latest addition to the Team.

During the Team's annual gathering, the Coffee Hour Hosts Team Charter was reviewed and edited by the entire team and later submitted to the Lead Team. Gregory Miller was nominated and accepted, as being the 2016-2017 Coffee Hour Host Team Coordinator, following the two one-year tenures of Elaine Vallecillo-Miller. Dave Nelsen continues to update the Team's list as needed.

The Team is composed of the following individuals: Lynn and Ralph Locher; Lauren and Bob Doherty; Elaine and Greg Miller; Barry Hedgpath; Byron Bader, Jan Brandt; Jino, Sunita, Joshua & Julia Joseph; Gail and Tom Blalock; Dave Nelsen; Meg and John Amouroux; Patty Lacy, Robert Lacy; Sandra Motley; and Ruth Poole. Rev. John Turbina, our parish administrator, has faithfully notified the Hosts on a weekly basis as well as any snack donors. Anyone is welcomed to be part of this wonderful ministry. The vision is to have enough hosts for a bi-monthly rotation.

~ Elaine Vallecillo-Miller

Counters Report

The counters assist the Parish and Treasurer by counting and documenting pledge, non-pledged offerings and funds from users of the parish. Many of the counters have served since the group's inception in 2002, and this year we welcomed one new member to the team, (as another member transferred to help with other financial tasks). The members are committed to accurately recording and keeping the confidentiality of your donations.

The counting teams (each made up of two persons) work several hours each week, also assisting with the preparation and distribution of quarterly and annual giving statements. Counters frequently volunteer as cashiers and counters for special events such as the Pancake Supper and fund raisers. Please be kind to your Counters by including your pledge number on checks (if not in pledge envelopes). The counter are conscientious and faithful behind-the-scene workers committed to serving our parish.

~ Jan Brandt

Cub Scout Pack Report

Cub Scout Pack 163, Mission Peak District, San Francisco Bay Area Council, Boy Scouts of America

December 31, 2016 marks two years of sponsorship of Cub Scout Pack 163 by St James'. On Scout Sunday, February 5, 2017, at the 10:30 Service, members of Cub Scout Pack 163 will present the Reverend Lori Walton with a renewed Annual Charter from the Boy Scouts of America authorizing St. James' Episcopal Church "to Carry on the Scouting Program for CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT, CITIZENSHIP TRAINING, MENTAL and PHYSICAL FITNESS Subject to the Provisions of the Charter and Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America for the Period Ending December 31, 2017."

Pack 163 completed all the rechartering requirements for 2017 on-time in November. All paperwork was completed, with 51 Cub Scouts and 10 adult leaders registered. All registered leaders are up-to-date on their mandatory Youth Protection Training (YPT). Pack 163 has earned the "Journey to Excellence" award from Mission Peak District for high rates in rank advancement and membership increase. Pack 163 added 20 new Scouts during 2016.

Anyone who was ever associated with Scouting – Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venture Scouts, Girl Scouts, Girl Guides, Explorers, etc. are invited to come and help celebrate the 117th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts which was founded on February 8, 1910. Everyone is encouraged to bring, or wear, any Scouting memorabilia they have on Scout Sunday and share in the celebration in the Parish Hall following the 10:30 service on February 5th.

Since early 2015 Pack 163 has enjoyed a very positive partnership with St. James' in serving the youth of our community. During 2016 Pack 163 pursued a very active Scouting program, and participated in a number of community service projects including several at St. James'. In addition to monthly Pack Meetings and weekly Den Meetings at St. James', the following is a brief list of some of their activities during 2016:

- January – Mission Peak Indoor Rally, Trail Trekker Hike Redwood Creek.
- February – Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold Banquet, Trail Trekker Hike Little Yosemite.
- March – Trail Trekker Hike & Geocaching @ Quarry Lakes, Webelos II Arrow of Light Award presentation and Bridging Ceremony, Religious Award Presentation by Deacon Ken.
- April – USS Hornet Over-Night, Spring Camp-o-Ree, Trail Trekker Hike Coyote Hills, Cubmaster Samir Kalitta was presented with the Mission Peak District "Certificate of Appreciation", Tanbark groundcover spread around the St. J campus, five Religious Awards were presented at the 10:30 service on April 3rd.
- May – Webelos Woods, Pack 163 presented a check for a \$70 donation to St. James' Sunday School for the Episcopal Relief Fund, Flags placed in the Memorial Garden and St. J campus for Memorial Day.
- June – Bridging Ceremony and Overnight Camping @ Garin Ranch Dry Creek Regional Park.
- July – Flags placed around St. James' campus for July 4th, participation in the Fremont 4th of July Parade carrying the new Pack 163 banner displaying St. James' Episcopal Church as the Pack's sponsor.
- August – Pack 163 Summer Picnic, met requirements for the Summertime Pack Award.
- September – Popcorn Fundraiser, Fall Recruiting, Scout Day Overnight and Cub Scout Games at Lake Elizabeth.
- October – Tiger Cub Pumpkin Patch, Halloween Costume Contest, Webelos Overnight Campout at Garin Ranch.
- November – Flags placed around St. James' Campus for Veterans Day, participated in Scouting for Food to support the Alameda Food Bank, conducted a Rain Gutter Regatta race, participated in the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Candle Light Vigil at St. J.
- December – Annual Snow Ball Fight (wadded up paper balls) between parents and Scouts and siblings.

As St. James' Chartered Partner Representative, Bob Doherty is available to answer any questions about Pack 163, or Scouting in general.

Yours in Scouting and St. James',
~ **Bob Doherty**

Deanery Report

Scott Whitaker, Jim McConnell, Alice Johnson, and Ken Trant served this year as deanery representatives. St James presently has four representatives.

Scott serves on the Executive council and as vice President of the Deanery. Jim serves on the Diocesan finance Committee and also on the program and budget committee. We are part of the Southern Alameda Deanery along with St Anne's Fremont, All Saints San Leandro, Holy Cross Castro Valley, St Clare's Pleasanton and St. Bartholomew's Livermore.

The Deanery met once in July 2016 to discuss Episcopal Charities and again in September to hear information on the resolutions and budget prior to the Convention.

In October members of the convention at Grace Cathedral passed the following resolutions:

- Resolution 1: Support for Proposition 62 – Repeal the Death Penalty
- Resolution 2: Replacement of Compact Fluorescent Lights
- Resolution 3: Reducing Gun Violence
- Resolution 4: Support for HR 3226 – Business Supply Chain Transparency on trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015
- Resolution 5: Free speech with regard to boycott, divestment and sanctions
- Resolution 6: Accompanying our Brothers and Sisters in the Holy Land

Disaster Preparedness Team

The St. James' DPT was very active in 2016, beginning with sponsoring a Personal Emergency Preparedness class, facilitated by the City of Fremont CERT and Fire Department on February 28, 2016. Thirty-two parishioners attended this event and was well received by all – a good review. Thereafter, the team focused on creating the church's Property Asset Inventory for the benefit of creating the "Silver Plan", under the guidelines of Episcopal Development and Relief's Disaster Preparedness mission and for church's insurance policy. The team was paired with various ministry leaders of the congregation to review an old inventory, written in 2007. Presently, these ministry leaders are being asked to check their specific inventory list prior to inclusion in the church's Silver Plan.

The team has started to create emergency plans for the campus with different scenarios. This will be one of the team's goals for 2017, co-led by Dave Nelsen and Bud Pearson, our Congregational Emergency Co-Coordinator as well by the seven team members: Al Casas, Jill Buono, Josephine Amadi, Laura Winter, Gregory Miller, Robert Bynum, and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller. The team recognizes the contribution of past team members: Scott Whitaker and Gloryanne Byrant. Elaine Vallecillo-Miller will end her role as the vestry liaison with end of her tenure with vestry. Mike Scrutton, our former Senior Warden, and she initially spearheaded the development of the Bronze Plan, fulfilling the 2014 Diocesan Convention mandate.

~ **Elaine Vallecillo-Miller**

Endowment Fund Report

In January the Board distributed \$5099.92 to St. James' and \$1061.21 to the Little Church Fund from the Endowment Fund. The Memorial Garden Committee did not need their distribution in 2016 and so declined it.

For those who are not familiar with the Endowment with respect to distribution of funds, I'll quote from the Vestry Resolution creating the Endowment Board. Moneys distributed are done so for "developing...ministries beyond what is possible through it annual operating funds...limited to capital needs of the Parish...outreach ministries and grants...seed money for new ministries and special one time projects and...other purposes ...designated by donors..."

The actual use of the funds is determined by the Vestry, the Little Church Committee and the Memorial Garden Committee – all in accordance with the guidelines above. The Endowment board will again distribute moneys to the committees in 2017 at the Annual Meeting. The Endowment Board will endeavor in 2017 to ascertain the intent of parishioners and non-parishioners who have expressed that they intend to remember St. James' in their will.

The Endowment Board thanks St. James' for support in 2016.

The Board: Tom Blalock, Cathy Knotts, Jeanne Morris, Bruce Roberts, Scott Whitaker

~ **Bruce Roberts**

Facilities

Although we started the year with a very costly repair of the water main on January 3rd, we closed the year without having any other major repair costs. Our old buildings demand a lot of attention, care and maintenance. This brief list covers some of the significant activities;

Facilities has continued to contract out our Janitorial and landscaping work to Fernando Janitorial and Landscape Service. Fernando cleans and vacuums our buildings and keeps up the grounds adjacent to the buildings.

A new freezer was purchased and installed in kitchen.

A new NEST thermostat was installed in the education room.

A new back-pack style leaf bower was purchased to aid in campus clean-up.

The parish hall floor was striped and re-waxed in August.

An old, non-functioning water heater was removed by the men's group. It was a concern that either a gas leak or water damage was possible in the event of an earthquake.

The cub scouts spread 12 cubic yards of tanbark in the planter beds around the buildings in April. What a wonderful gift to St. James'. **Thank you scouts!**

Signs of termites were detected in April. Hi-Tech, who we had a contract with, came out and spot-treated several areas around campus. Our contract with them expired in August. We met with them following a thorough inspection when they quoted us a new contract price. The vestry approved this new contract which covers the next three years.

Many light bulbs fail and are replaced each year. We have continued to upgrade to LED technology when practical. Example; All the bulbs in the top of the little church are now LED's. Thank you AI Casas for spearheading this move to LED's around the campus.

A big thank you goes out to Barry Hedgpeth, Mario Galvez and Dave for their extra efforts mowing and trimming the front park and the "back 40". This work has been done on week days and takes a long day to complete. Barry is quite the mechanic and has done repairs on our mowers also.

The men's group sponsored campus clean-up days are held on odd numbered months. Some of the work accomplished is; pruning trees and shrubs, pulling weeds, clearing roofs and gutters of debris, fixing leaks and performing various cleaning projects. We have a very large campus which takes much time and many hands to maintain and looking nice. Thanks to the many volunteers who lend their talent and time to this purpose.

~ **Dave Nelsen**

Faith Formation

The mission of the Faith Formation committee is to provide adults with classes and programs that educate us about our faith, our church traditions, and enhance our understanding of God, ourselves and our neighbors, and deepen our spiritual life and practice.

During 2016, the committee offered the following programs:

- **Sunday morning book discussions, held between services:** *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong, facilitated by the Rev. Ken Parris; *Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus*, by Bishop Michael Curry, facilitated by Bruce Roberts and Janet Fischer.
- **Tuesday evening classes:** In April we had *Ask the Beasts*, based on the book by Elizabeth A. Johnson and led by Janet Fischer; our Lenten study was *Journey to Freedom* led by the Rev. Lori Walton and Anna Horen. The fall class was *The Priesthood of All Believers*, led by Lori+ and Ken+.
- **Contemplative Practices:** Brian Cochran leads *lectio divina* on Sunday mornings between services, and Janet Fischer leads sitting meditation on Wednesday evenings at 6pm.
- We hosted a meeting of **Meet A Muslim** on March 13, providing lunch to approximately 40 attendees. Moina Shaiq and others from Meet A Muslim presented and answered many questions about the Muslim faith. This was arranged by Ken+.
- In February, Lori+ and Anna Horen presented a slide show and discussion of their trip to the Holy Land, and in March Lori+ led a discussion on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Also in February Ken+ facilitated a discussion on issues within the Anglican Communion.
- In May we conducted a brief survey of the congregation to get a sense of the needs and wants of the parish regarding adult faith formation.

- In October, EJ Hilliard led a discussion on the Diocesan Resolutions that were to be presented at the Diocesan Convention.

Members of the committee for 2016 were the Rev. Lori Walton, the Rev. Ken Parris, Anna Horen (Ministry Intern), Janet Fischer, EJ Hilliard, and Bruce Roberts.

~Janet Fischer

Greeters

It is the task of the greeters ministry team to help visitors to St. James' feel welcome. This may involve directing them to the nursery or Sunday school rooms and introducing them with people currently staffing these areas. It may involve finding someone to sit near a visitor to offer aid with the worship service, bulletins or hymnals if needed. The greeter, standing with the rector, is often the first face of St. James' a visitor encounters. They represent St. James' and serve the rector by being a host at a time the rector is far too busy to give a visitor the time they deserve and the attention they may need. The greeter is positioned next to the rector following the service to invite visitors to sign our guest book and join us in the Parish Hall for coffee. For all of those participating as greeters this year, thank you all for your welcoming presence.

~ Dave Nelsen

Healing Ministry

The Healing Ministry at St. James' consists of a small group of people who cover the healing stations at the regular Sunday services. They offer prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing with oil blessed by our bishop, following the example of Jesus and his disciples in the New Testament and prophets in the Hebrew Scripture too. Individuals come forward for these prayers after communion and stand or kneel at the rail, voicing their concerns or joys for themselves or loved ones. The 8:00 am service has a healing station available the first Sunday of each month. The 10:30 am service has a healing station attended most Sundays. The team meets periodically for planning, mutual encouragement, and meditative prayer together.

~ Brian Cochran & Barbara Dabney

Hillside Senior Care Center

The Center is located at 38650 Mission Blvd. at the corner of Pickering Ave. Fremont, 94536. St. James' has been a "Friend of Hillside" for over 40 years. It's a long-term care facility with male and female residents. The population fluctuates, averaging between 60-65 people with a maximum of 70. Many are in wheelchairs, a few ambulatory with 8-10 confined to their beds. It's a small facility with an activity room that doubles as the dining room. When we visit our challenge is to talk to the residents and provide a little entertainment in a limited amount of space. They are glad to see us and we laugh and have fun.

The visits are coordinated by Lauren Doherty, Alice Johnson and Sandra Motley. At this time we are making 2 visits a year. The visits are on a week-day afternoon, after the lunch hour is over. The residents are taken back to their rooms while the Staff puts the room in order for our visit. During that time we go to the rooms and leave the gifts we have brought. St. James' Parishioners sometimes ask why a weekday rather than a Saturday when perhaps more people are available to join us? Mon-Fri more Staff are available to navigate the residents and weekends are when their families visit.

We arrive about 1:15 and leave between 2:30 & 3:00. Bruce Roberts & Bob Bynum have taken photographs for the visits which they send to The Window. Byron Bader brings his Keyboard & sound Equipment. After he plays a couple of songs that we sing to he'll begin playing some up tempo music that perks up the residents and they'll start clapping and tapping their feet! They especially like him to play the song "Route 66". Nancy Svenson brings her "friends" Leonard & CiCi and they walk around and visit.

The St. James' congregation is very supportive of this Outreach Ministry and it is appreciated. Our 2016 visits to Hillside were: Wed, March 16th, a week and a 1/2 before Easter. The Christmas visit was on Thurs, Dec 8th. George Vlastelica, St. James' resident storyteller, read his version of "'Twas the Night Before Christmas." Thank you George!

~Sandra Motley

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

St. James' partnered again this year with Abode Services to host the Hunger and Homelessness Vigil in November. Held in National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week the vigil highlights the issue of homelessness and its impact but also remembers by name those who have died while homeless in our area in the last year. Attendance this year was around 120 people, significantly bigger than previous years. Cub Scout Pack 163 were invited to assist with the lighting of the candles for the remembrance portion of the evening while Mission San Jose High School Chorale sang for the event.

~ **Jan Scrutton**

IT Report

2016 was a quiet year for IT on campus, with no major upgrades planned or needed. We did engage in a summer project to run a weather station on campus, championed by Mario Galvez and assisted by Mike Scrutton, Bruce Roberts and Greg Miller. The weather station automatically uploaded data to an online website, which we featured on the homepage of the church website. Unfortunately, the station fell ill during the first rains of the fall – we rejoiced for the rains anyway!

During 2016, we made a further change to our email provider, shifting almost all our mailboxes and email forwarders are now handled by Google for Business, free to non-profits. While there have been some teething problems while getting used to the new system, we continue to learn the nuances of the services offered and can expect further consolidation in the year to come.

~ **Mike Scrutton**

Ladies Flatlanders

This year the Ladies' Flatlanders weekend (September 8-11) found us at Pajaro Dunes for our fifth year. We shared a townhouse on the beach, and had a wonderful time, filled with relaxation, walks on the beach, great conversations, games, and lots and lots of food! We treasure the time together, giving us an opportunity to share our stories and get to know each other better.

We saw a lovely sunset Thursday evening, then the overcast came in, and the sun did not reappear until Sunday afternoon as we drove back home. Though we missed the blue skies and starlight, it did not slow us from the enjoyment of togetherness. A few people went to the Monterey Bay Aquarium one afternoon, while the rest hung out at "home". Sunday morning we shared Morning Prayer together.

~**Nancy Castaneda**

Las Posadas

Sixty-five parishioners participated our Annual Las Posadas, inaugurating the Christmas/Advent season at St. James'. This event is planned by the Committee in November by willing volunteers: Mike, Tom, and Jan Scrutton, Jennifer Carini, Rev. Lori, Deacon Ken, Bud Pearson, Al Casas, St. James' Youth and parents, Gregory Miller, and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller as well others with the setting up and cleaning of the parish hall and serving the Mexican dinner.

It is one of St. James' traditions to host this festive, congregational celebration at the beginning of December.

~ **Elaine Vallecillo-Miller**

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV) are members of the congregation who are trained and licensed by the bishop to take Holy Communion to the homebound or those individuals who are otherwise unable to attend regular church services. The LEV visits are usually conducted on Sundays immediately following services and coffee hour. (It is important for the LEV to have an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of the St. James' community!) Carrying specially prepared communion kits with pre-consecrated bread and wine, the LEV conducts a brief service with the homebound member and shares Holy Communion with them. Often the LEV will summarize the sermon of the day and update the homebound member on what's happening in the parish family.

Preparatory training for this important ministry is provided by the diocese with follow-up on-the-job training conducted by experienced LEVs and the parish deacon. LEVs meet on an occasional basis for mutual support and to share ideas about providing a loving ministry of presence to the homebound. Our parish is blessed to have three very dedicated LEVs who undertake this ministry on your behalf. They are Lynn Locher, Marilyn Rose, and Elaine Miller. This team has regularly visited one homebound parishioner and we are exploring our options to bring this ministry to four Episcopalians who are residents at the Masonic Home in Union City.

As the parish deacon, I greatly appreciate the ministry of these dedicated volunteers. As an extension of the deacon's ministry, their pastoral presence to the homebound of our community is invaluable.

~ **The Rev. Ken Parris**

Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers

During 2016 Lectors and Lay 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. Members of the 2016 teams include:

- **Lectors:** Leslie Almond, John Amouroux, Tom Blalock, Brian Cochran, Bob Doherty, Mario Galvez, Joan Kimber, Patty Lacy, Jim McConnell, Linda Nelsen, Pegeen Perry, Raelene Ramsamy, Bruce Roberts, Jack Rux, Mike Scrutton, Pat Spalding, Nancy Svenson, and Ken Trant. On the first Sunday of the month at the 10:30 service, mature members of our Sunday school have been reading the lessons, assisted by our regular readers.

- **Eucharistic Ministers:** Barbara Dabney, Janet Fischer, EJ Hilliard, Anna Horen, Lynn Locher, Ralph Locher, Greg Miller, Mary Morkved, Vivienne Paratore, Caylyn Ramsamy, Marilyn Rose, Connie Rux, Tom Scrutton, Bud Spalding, and Laura Winter.

~**Janet Fischer**

Library

In 2016, 63 more books have been added to the inventory of library books, making the number of books available to be approximately 800. The new books include a collection of poems published by St. James' former parishioner Valle Loomis Brokes, *The Walking on the Moon Polka*. (catalog # Poet-4.1.2) In the catalog, added to the section of books based on category and book titles, another section has been added using alphabetical order by authors. In 2016, 14 parishioners have used the library; 15 books have been checked out; and 1 DVD has been checked out. Also, a system for notifying individuals of overdue books has been started and three book displays were presented.

~**John Maloney**

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 and submitting 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, Jim Cunningham and Dave Nelsen. Repairing and renovating our beloved Little Church is a multi-year endeavor. We are happy to report that we have made considerable progress.

Our Little Church is supported by 10 buttresses on the outside. We have found that repairs had been made to at least one buttress, probably right after the move 60 years ago from the corner of Fremont Blvd and Thornton Ave. Currently, at least one of the buttresses has dry-rot damage and needs repair. We would also like to strengthen the buttress support of the walls.

With the support from structural engineer Thuy Fontelera, Element Structural Engineers Inc., the Committee is planning to repair and strengthen the buttresses with plywood. We have received approval and funding from the Vestry on this project and are hopeful to start the repair in early 2017.

The funding for the repairs is from the Schader Fund (from Shirley Schader's estate, a former parishioner), the distribution from the Little Church Endowment Fund, a generous grant from the Niles Fremont Rotary Club, and donations from parishioners into the Little Church Special Interest Fund.

The Committee would like to acknowledge Jim Cunningham and Bruce Roberts who are instrumental in working with the structural engineers, the City of Fremont and the contractors to come up with a plan forward for this phase of the project. We would like to thank the Lead Team and the Vestry for their support throughout the year. Please don't hesitate to contact any members of the Little Church Renovation Committee if you have any questions or comments.

~ **Little Church Renovation Committee**

Liturgical Design Team

In collaboration with Rev. Lori, the Liturgical Design Team, presently composed of Gregory and Elaine Miller, decorate the two churches with a liturgical theme during the different seasons: Green, Lent, Maundy Thursday meal, Easter services, Pentecost, Advent, and Christmas. There were plenty of volunteers to hang and spruce the greenery with bows or silk poinsettias in the boughs, and decorate our two live Christmas trees in front of the Little Church and the artificial tree in the Church Hall for this year's Greening of the Churches event, the Sunday before Christmas. Greg Miller always drapes the various color sheers, according to the liturgical seasons. This team welcomes any ideas and additional members for this important to manifest God's word in visual arts.

~ **Elaine Vallecillo-Miller**

McCutcheon Concert Fundraiser

With the cancellation of the 2016 McCutcheon concert due to John McCutcheon's illness, all parishioners and non-parishioners who bought tickets were contacted for refund or donation of the ticket amount to St. James'. This resulted in \$1890 in donations to St. James' from both parishioners and non-parishioners.

The McCutcheon Team is also happy to report that the prize drawings held after our 2015 Annual Meeting on Jan 31, 2016 was a great success. Fifteen parishioners donated 26 prizes (a record number) and we have 21 winners. The prize drawings brought in \$866. The expenses of this fundraiser were very low. From the ticket amount donation and from the prize drawings, we netted \$2730.34. The Vestry voted to donate \$500 of this fundraiser to ABODE services to combat homelessness.

We would like to thank everyone for their generosity in offering your time, talent and money to make our 2016 fundraiser such a success. A big thank you to all who helped with planning the 2016 concert before John McCutcheon cancelled his California tour due to illness.

We are looking forward to have John McCutcheon back for another concert on Jan 16, 2017.

~ **McCutcheon Team**

Memorial Garden/Columbarium

The Memorial Garden continues to thrive thanks to the TLC it receives throughout the year. We currently have 18 members and are always looking for new people to join us. We meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:15 am in the Vestry Room. If you are interested please contact Ruth Poole or any committee member.

This year we had plans to redo the main path through the garden with stamped concrete. We reached out to contractors but the results were slim. This has been put on hold until spring when we will again pursue it.

In 2016 we had 2 people interred in the Columbarium and 2 people interred in the Memorial Garden. We sold one niche in the Columbarium.

The Memorial Garden Committee continues to host the coffee hours on Memorial Day. This year our Cub Scout Troop #263 started putting the flags out for us on appropriate holidays. Their help is very much appreciated.

~ Ruth Poole

Men's Group / Men's Trip Report

The men's group has been meeting for two years now. We generally meet on the fourth Saturday of each month. On even numbered months we meet at a restaurant for a social gathering. We share stories and talk about what's on our minds. Naturally we eat breakfast and we make plans for future meetings. On odd numbered months we meet at church to do service projects - ok, we work all over the campus cleaning, pruning trees and shrubs, pulling weeds, clearing roofs and gutters of debris, fixing leaks and performing various cleaning projects. It's a big campus and many thanks go to the men **and women** who help maintain it during these service days. Several special opportunities came our way which we were pleased to take a part in; We provided lunch for the Women's Day of Renewal, held in May. In June we honored Chris Perry for his many years of service coordinating work parties on the campus, taking him to breakfast. We then helped him move furniture for his pending move to Washington state. In October we set up the parish hall for a special memorial service. Our meetings typically brought between 8 and 18 men together to enjoy these social and work activities.

~ Dave Nelsen

The Men's Group at St James' starts planning in February / March for the annual trip to the mountains. The group celebrated its ninth year in the mountains, and we headed back to the Twain Harte. The town of Twain Harte is right of Hwy 108 and is only about 2.5 hour drive from Fremont.

Every year we strongly encourage new members to attend and this year we were not successful due to scheduling conflicts. We were able get a long-term member John Kimber to attend and it worked out well. The group returned to the Dearborn's Button Willow and found a new home, **Tutto Bene**, just up the road about 200 yards. It worked out well. No long walks between the homes as in year's past. The price was \$160.00 which includes meals and lodging.

A total of 14 guys came and they started out with an evening meal and beverages at the local tavern, "The Rock," followed by a birthday celebration for Charlie Dickinson back at the house with nice pies and ice cream.

Golfing, hiking, fishing, and site seeing continue to be the focus for the group. This year we had less golfers due to scheduling conflicts and members that moved away. On Friday, the golfers headed out to the local course and not sure of the scores. The heat had become a factor this year. The rest of the crew headed into historic Columbia and toured the blacksmith shop, jail, hotel and horse stables. The following day, a group headed to Sonora for a walking tour of the old Courthouse, Catholic Church, and the military museum. They stopped by St. James' Episcopal Church but it was closed. The rest of the day was spent touring Indigeny Reserve, described as an "organic apple ranch, ciderworks, and distillery – pure paradise." The group had a great tour of processing plant and fermentation tanks. They topped it off with a trip to the tasting room and purchased some find hard ciders.

As usual, we ate quite well and Al Casas' breakfast burritos were what the golfers needed to get their game into high gear. The rest of us enjoyed a leisure meal while they hacked away. Dinners included steak and the final night was with Joan Kimber's secret sauce for the spaghetti. The treat of the night was Bob Bynum's fudge he brought with him. Our clean-up crew did a bang up job and no complaints from anyone. Most of us left on Sunday and a few stayed behind for hiking/ camping for the next couple of days. On the way, out of town, Bruce Roberts had a chance to visit the local St. James' – Sonora after the 10am service and had the opportunity to tour the place and meet with the pastor.

We will be back next year to both houses and guys, mark your calendar for Aug 17th - 20th, 2017.

~ Gregg Feeney

Newsletter – The Window

Another year, another 12 issues gone to press and out to the St. James' web site. I am indebted to my co-editors Penny Trant and Katie Porter for ably stepping in when I could when I was recuperating. The editors thank all the contributors of articles and pictures as there would be no newsletter without them.

So please remember that *The Window* is your newsletter so we implore all of you to submit articles, pictures, announcements, thank you notes, etc to keep it interesting, lively, timely and pertinent to the life of St. James'. Each month we distribute about 60 printed copies and we estimate that it is viewed on-line about 75 times per month.

~ **Ralph Locher on behalf of the Newsletter staff**

Sacred Space East Bay

Sacred Space East Bay is a mission of the Diocese of California that provides a worship service and a lunch to homeless communities in Oakland and Hayward. St. James' participates in Sacred Space Hayward by providing bag lunches once each month in rotation with other parishes in our Deanery. Our Rector, Lori+, also rotates with other priests in the Deanery to preside over the worship service. Members of the congregation sign up to provide sandwiches, fruit cups, water, and granola bars; the bags are packed after church and then delivered to the meeting location at a park in Hayward for the 2pm service. As often as we are able we stay to participate in the service and help distribute lunch. St. James' has faithfully provided lunch each month this year, as well as coats, hats, socks, and toiletries. I am especially grateful to the Trant family who has provided a special hot meal several times this year. Recently, more people have stepped up to deliver the lunches to the park, and that is a wonderful part of this ministry. The whole congregation participates in this ministry and I am thankful for all of you.

~ **Janet Fischer, Sacred Space Coordinator**

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Supper)

Shrove Tuesday fell on February 9th this year and following a long tradition, the men of the parish prepared a meal of pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs. Nineteen men helped coordinate the operation, setting up, cooking, making plates, serving drinks and ice cream and cleaning up afterward. Several youth served plates to guests and several women sold tickets and managed the finances. This is a wonderful occasion to serve, to be served and to reflect on the upcoming season of Lent. Over 140 people participated. Thanks to everyone who helped or participated and made this a fun and successful event.

~ **Dave Nelsen**

St. James' Cares

St James' Cares' is a resource for help -for our parishioners, supported by our parishioners. This ministry piloted in the fall of 2014, enjoyed a successful launch in 2015 and has continued to serve the parish in 2016. We have approximately 40 volunteers to meet the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to serve 4 parishioners this year (3 visitation requests and 1 ride request), unfortunately there were 2 requests that could not be met (both visitation requests). We are using the website Lotsa Helping Hands to manage requests. Requests can be made via phone to the St James' office, through email to the church or through the St James' website.

~ **Nancy Castaneda**

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee reminded us all about Earth Day by hosting a coffee hour. After many years of dedicated service, Gail Blalock stepped down from her leadership role in this committee. We were very sorry to see her leave this position and wish to take this opportunity to thank her for her fabulous leadership for a number of years as stewardship chair. Instead of trying to fill Gail's shoes immediately, the Vestry decided to take on the stewardship assignments for the remainder of the year.

The Vestry attempted to host a stewardship event as per previous years but the response was very small so it was cancelled. Instead, the vestry each wrote short reflections on what stewardship meant to them to be printed in the weekly bulletin and also wrote reflections for *The Window*. Vestry members also spoke at several services, both 8:00 and 10:30 during the 'stewardship moments'. These were well received by the congregation and led to deeper reflection by the Vestry about stewardship.

~ **Vivienne Paratore**

Tai Chi Class

Tai Chi class, a ministry of St. James', is being 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 and a certified instructor for Tai Chi For Balance. We gather to do stretching and warm-up exercises, to learn the relaxing breathing exercises of QiGong 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. In the Fall of 2016, our curriculum was switched to an easy set of 8 Tai Chi movements called Tai Chi For Balance. These movements are well received by the current students.

Our classes are growing over the years but are still small. We held 48 classes in 2016 and averaged about 4 students per class. We have both St. James' parishioners and non-parishioners in attendance.

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 in the Parish Hall.

~ **Sylvia Ma**

Visioning Team

The visioning team, comprising Mike Scrutton (Chair), Mary Casas, Mary Morkved, Jessica Stair, Ken Trant, Rev Lori Walton (Rector), spent time together in the early part of the year researching local demographics for our full report, which was compiled over the summer. We met again in the fall to fine tune the report, which was published in November and presented to the November vestry meeting, as well as the whole community in two presentations held on Sunday November 13th after the two morning services. The report captures a snapshot of who the St. James' community is in 2016. A copy of the Visioning Team's report can be found attached to this Annual Report. Thanks to the team for their support in this project.

~ **Mike Scrutton**

Website

Our website at saintj.com continues to be a major vehicle for directing newcomers to our church. It also keeps all of us up-to-date with our many events. Traffic to our website remains healthy, with over 5,000 visits in 2016. Most visits come from the Bay Area. The newsletter page was visited 760 times and our blog was visited 1,297 times. Our sermon page remains popular, with 629 visits. At the end of the year, our Facebook page has 239 likes.

Mike Scrutton's technical talents allow us to sign up for events online. The PayPal button installed last year has been well-used. In the coming year we will look at making our web site more user friendly on mobile devices.

~**Janet Fischer**

Women's Spirituality Group

The Women's Spirituality Group met from January until October on Tuesday afternoon. Our small group explored such ideas as developing a rule of life. We also collected donations of toiletries and socks to create hygiene packages for the homeless. In October the group decided to stop regular meetings due to members' time conflicts. We will continue to meet on occasion for lunch and create more hygiene packages as requested.

~**Lynn Locher**

Appendix I

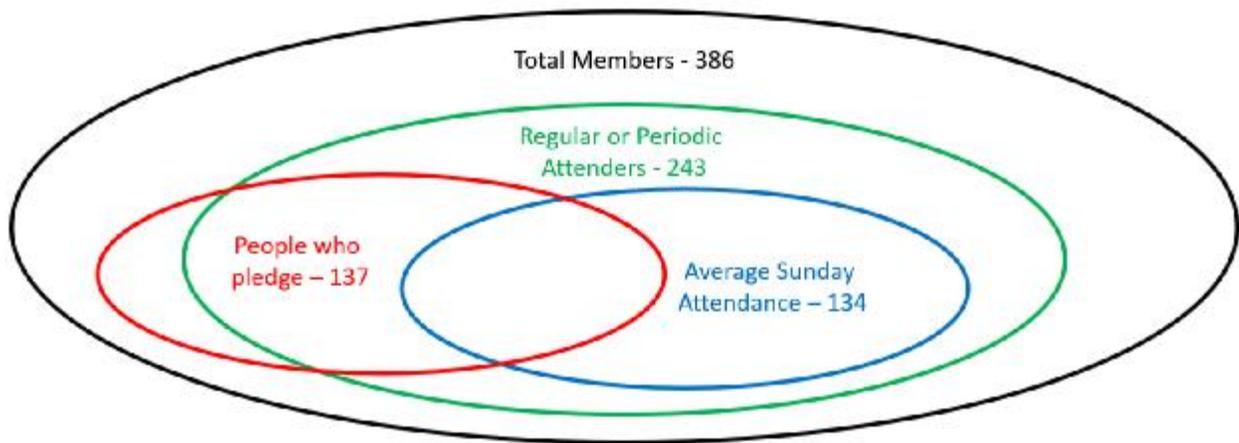
A report on the visioning process at St. James', November 2016

Visioning Team Members: Mike Scrutton (Chair), Mary Casas, Mary Morkved, Jessica Stair, Ken Trant, Lori Walton (Rector).

Who are we?

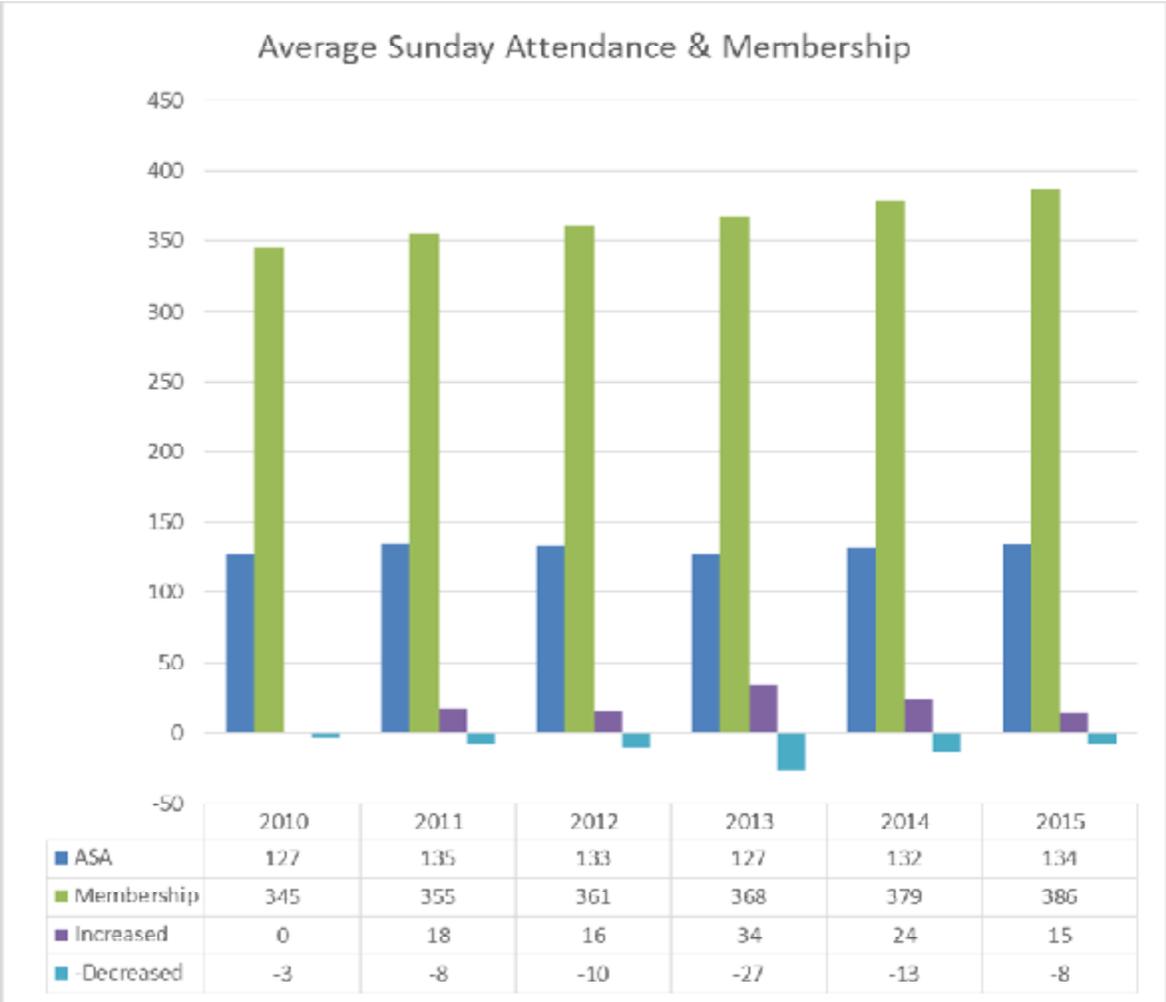
In this document, reference is made to St. James' "members". In reality, there is no commonly understood criteria or test to be a member of St. James', but for the purpose of this document, "members" are defined as those regularly or periodically attending St. James' services. It does not include those in the parish directory who have moved away, or are part of extended families. As of January 1st 2016 St. James' has approximately 243 members attending regularly or periodically.

The following diagram show how membership statistics relates to those to attend Sunday services and those who make an annual pledge to St. James'.

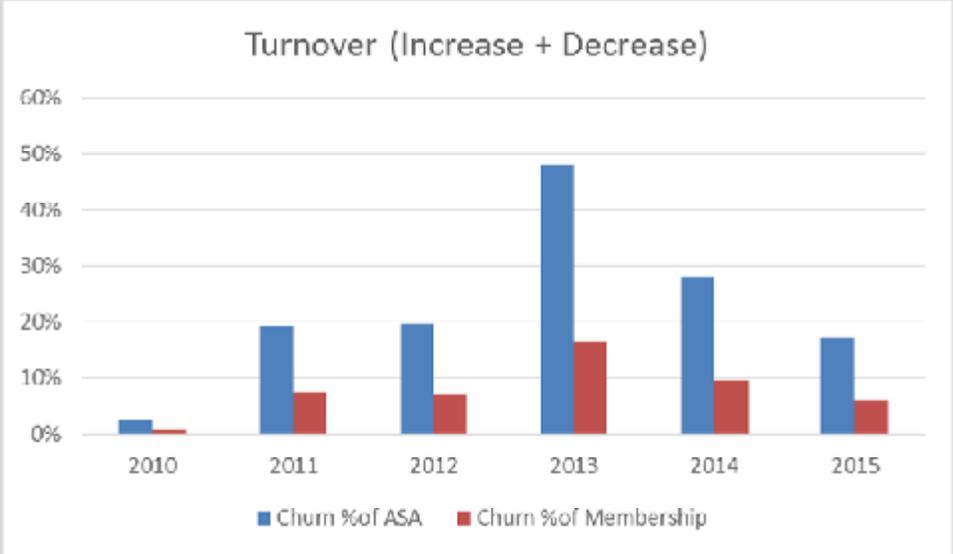


Membership size and Regular Attendance

Since 2010, St. James' has enjoyed an average of approximately 131 attendees on a Sunday Morning, spread over two services at 8am and 10:30am. Membership has grown gradually (approximately 2.3% annually). In the following chart, the data has been taken from the Annual Parochial Reports submitted to the offices of the Episcopal Church.



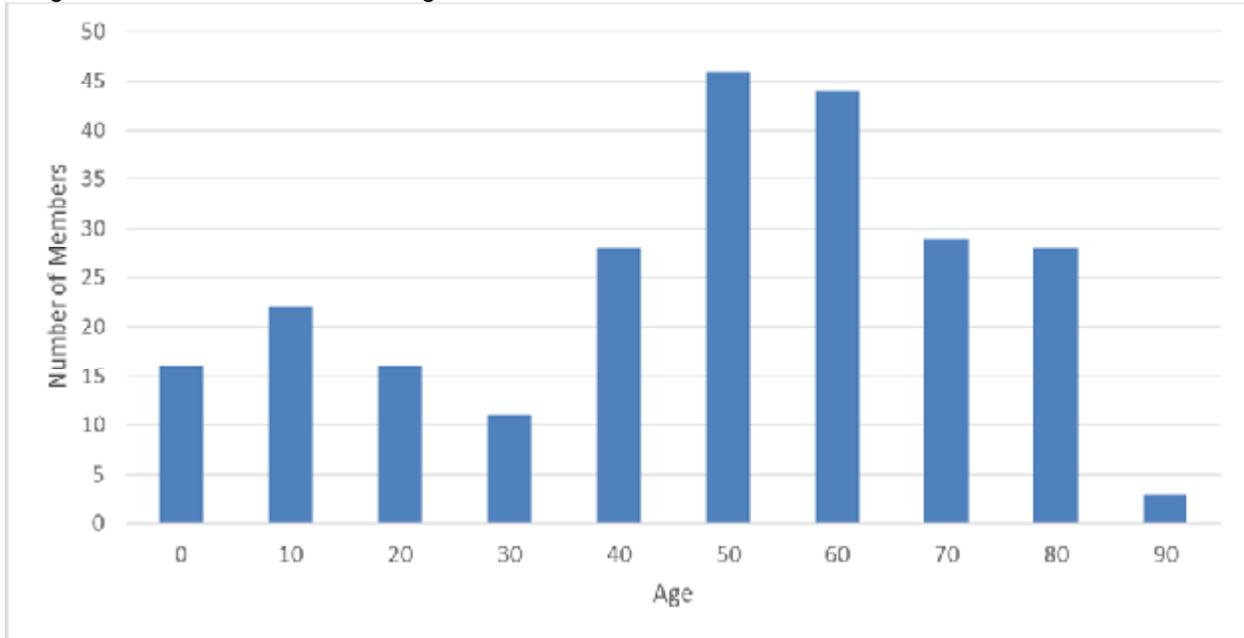
In the same period, there has been a substantial turnover in our members which is consistent with local census data. This chart shows turnover (or “Churn”) as those who have left or joined St. James’, represented as the Increase + Decrease from the annual parochial reports.



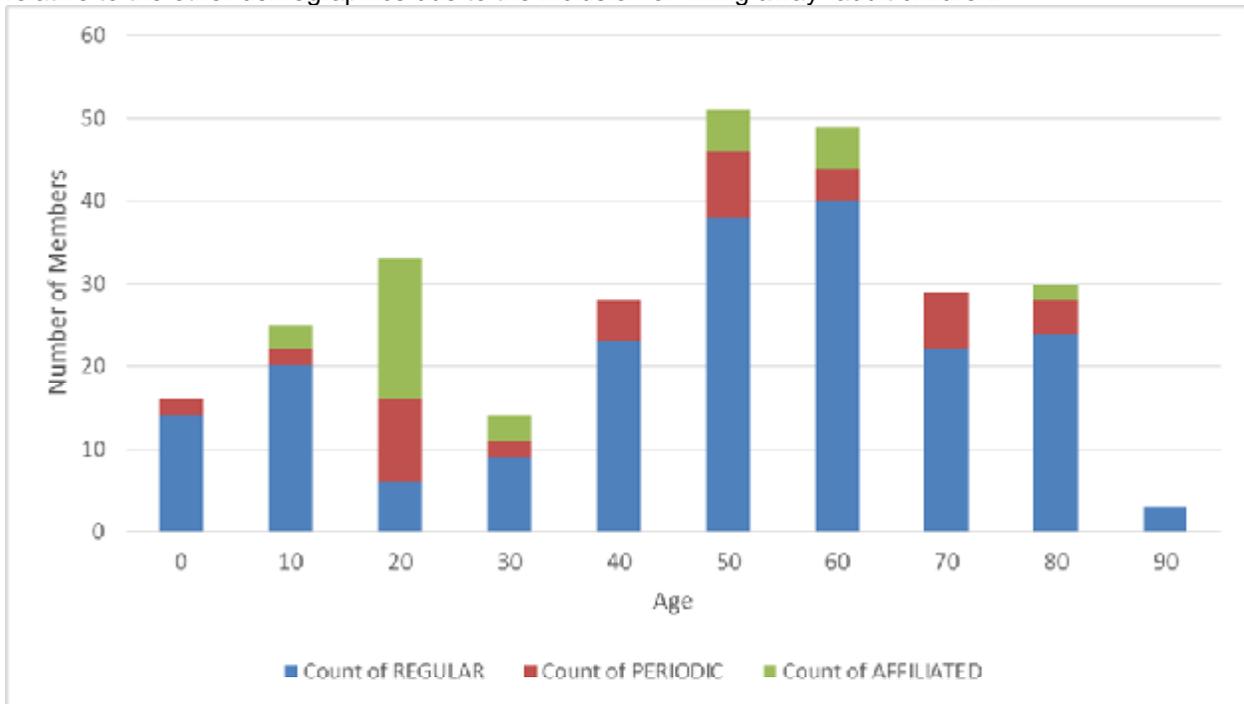
Demographics

Age

St. James' members cover a broad spectrum of ages, from the new-born to those in their 90s. The spread of ages can be found in the following chart.



For interest, the following chart includes a breakdown of Regular and Periodic members, as well as Affiliated members. This suggests that the “20-29” demographic in the previous chart has been skewed relative to the other demographics due to the inclusion of “living away” adult children.



St. James' can be thought of as “multi-generational” given there are a number of parents with children, as well as grandparents. It’s not unusual that 2 or more generations of a family to be represented. 21% of members live by themselves, or are the only member from their household.

#in house	9	6	5	4	3	2	1
Count	1	1	1	6	15	51	51

St. James' is a place of lifelong friends that feels like family. We strive to be genuine. We see ourselves as inclusive, and look to build familiarity. We're conscious of the strength and vibrancy of our community. We feel an affinity towards the work of Abode in particular and concern for homelessness in general. We are very supportive of programs for children and youth, particularly to Sunday School, VBS and the Cub Scouts.

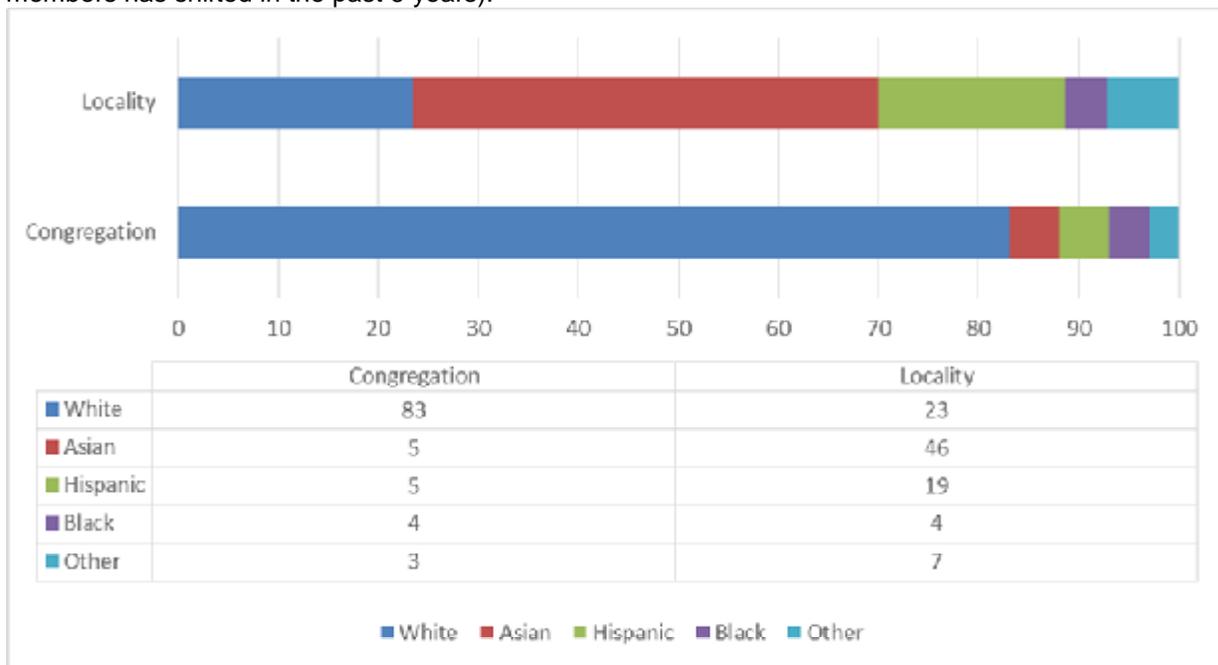
St. James' spirit of community and feelings of love is not restricted to its own members. Rather, it extends this warmth to those who are not part of its immediate circle: to visitors and newcomers, to all those who experience pain and suffering.

Who is our neighbor?

Local Demographic Information from Census.gov

The Tri City population is 352,036, broken down as Fremont 232,206, Newark 45,336 & Union City 74,494. The population has increased by 7.9% between 2010 and 2015. Our membership database has grown by 11.9% in the same period.

In the 2009 Parish Profile, it was reported that 83% of the congregation is White, 5% Asian, 5% Hispanic, 4% Black, 4% other. This compares to the 2010 Census which states that the local population is 23% White, 46% Asian, 19% Hispanic, 4% Black, 7% Other. (It's perceived that these proportions for the members has shifted in the past 6 years).



43.2% of the local population are foreign born, compared to 15% of St. James' members who are foreign born.

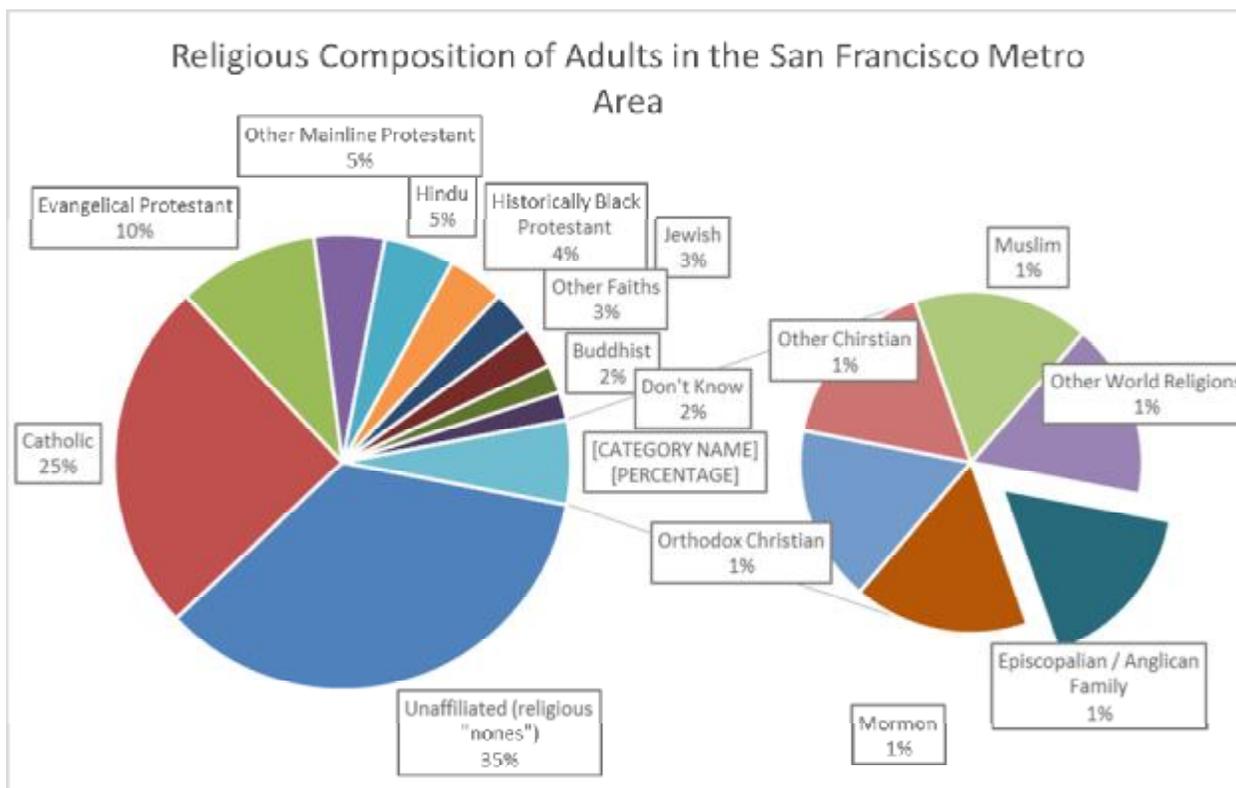
The Census reports that in the Tri Cities, a language other than English is spoken at home by 58.1% of people age 5+.

11.6% of people (41,000 approximately) have changed address in the past year. In comparison, St. James' turnover in 2015 was 23 compared to 243 regular or periodic members, or 9.5%.

Religious Composition of Adults in the San Francisco Metro Area

Christian	48%
▶ Evangelical Protestant	10%
▼ Mainline Protestant	6%
▶ Baptist Family (Mainline Trad.)	1%
▶ Methodist Family (Mainline Trad.)	< 1%
▶ Nondenominational Family (Mainline Trad.)	1%
▶ Lutheran Family (Mainline Trad.)	< 1%
▶ Presbyterian Family (Mainline Trad.)	1%
▶ Episcopalian/Anglican Family (Mainline Trad.)	1%
▶ Restorationist Family (Mainline Trad.)	< 1%
▶ Congregationalist Family (Mainline Trad.)	1%
▶ Reformed Family (Mainline Trad.)	< 1%
▶ Anabaptist Family (Mainline Trad.)	< 1%
▶ Friends Family (Mainline Trad.)	< 1%
▶ Nonspecific Protestant Family (Mainline Trad.)	1%
▶ Historically Black Protestant	4%
Catholic	25%
▶ Mormon	1%
▶ Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	< 1%

▶ Other Christian	1%
Non-Christian Faiths	15%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	2%
Hindu	5%
Other World Religions	1%
▶ Other Faiths	3%
Unaffiliated (religious "nones")	35%
Atheist	5%
Agnostic	10%
▶ Nothing in particular	20%
Don't know	2%



Source: Pew Research Center, Religion and Public Life <http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/metro-area/san-francisco-metro-area/>

What has God called us to do?

St. James' – A Sharing, Beloved Community of God

St. James' embodies the word "Community". Our community is one which is permeable; there isn't a membership test.

The present members of the community feel a bond to each other in very tangible ways:

- Members feel a strong bond of shared experience though past events and experiences.
- Members enjoy a shared Sunday experience, where members come together to worship, pray and hear teaching together. Sermons are of consistently high standard, music is of a professional level, and quality children's programs are offered. The experience of worship and fellowship on a Sunday (and Wednesday) mornings is highly valued by the members, and all the more important as it's shared with other members.
- Offering programs to children of the community is a priority for St. James'. Children are seen and heard, and their presence is experienced as inspirational to the whole community (not just the immediate families).
- When a member champions a project, then others will join in. Examples might be the annual retreats for men and women's groups, 6am bible study, pancake suppers, VBS volunteering. The response to participate is as much because *someone* they know, love and feel a strong bond to through co-membership is in need, or offers an opportunity to share in a common purpose, as it is the fact that the project is shared by St. James' the church.
- Members will seek and receive prayer requests for ailments from others, and reciprocally members will want to offer tangible support for those who are unwell. Prayer requests and support is not limited to members but extends to family and friends.
- Members will seek assistance from other members for non-ailment or non-spiritual support.
- To St. James' members, the sharing of the Peace is much more than a liturgical expression of God's love. It's a connection between all those present, more powerful than a coffee hour or non-worship event.

St. James' is not insular. Members have a desire to share the love of the community with others:

- Visitors on Sunday's are spoken with, often by multiple members, and an intentional welcome shared.
- Support for Abode Services and its work with homelessness issues is particularly strong. Sacred Space, our ministry to the disenfranchised in Hayward, is also supported.
- Children's programs are open to non-members, specifically at Vacation Bible School and Abode Kids.
- 12 Step groups (particularly Narcotics and Overeaters Anonymous) are supported. There are only 2 days a week when such a group does not meet on campus.
- A warm welcome is extended to our brothers and sisters of the Philippine Independent Church, with whom we share an annual service in addition to hosting them on our campus twice a week.
- The recent addition of St. James' chartering of Cub Scout Pack 163 is an expression of the community's commitment to support children.

St. James – Called by God, and yet calling God

The St. James' community feels called by God, and looks to worship as a significant part of hearing that calling, through the words of the lessons, the preaching, and the teachings of Jesus Christ. At the same time, members come to St. James' to be supported, healed, and to feel a welcome that they might not experience elsewhere. God answers them in part through the community that is St. James'.

It's the harmonious balance of these two which runs as a common thread through the members of the community and helps tie us together. We feel called by God and are supported by a loving community. The rituals of Maundy Thursday embody the essence of St. James'. Members share in a community, yet look to the support of leadership and authority. By example, the Rector is a key part of this equation – she

is seen clearly as both a member of the community as well as a source of direction, support and leadership. The same is true of others, be they in ministerial or lay roles, or even those without official responsibility. There is an element of equality in the community.

At St. James', in some ways it feels like God is part of this same community. God is revered but not judgmental. God is our companion. God hears our prayers, cares for us, offers us hope and love. God sits at the head of our community table.

God through Jesus Christ calls St. James' to extend God's love to others – to the rest of the St. James' community and to the not-yet St. James' community.