



SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Report for 2011

Annual Meeting - January 22, 2012

Rector Rev. Lori Walton

**St. James' Episcopal Church
Fremont, CA**

34051 Cabrillo Terrace
Fremont, CA 94536

P.O. Box 457
Fremont, CA 94536

510-797-1492 voice
510-795-4712 fax
<http://saintj.com>

The Clergy and Vestry of St. James' are pleased to present the Annual Report for 2011.

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Lead Team Reports

Rector's Report, 2011 The Rev. Lori A Walton

It is hard to believe the year has gone by. On October 1st, I celebrated my one-year anniversary as the Rector of St. James'. Looking back on the year, I am amazed at how much, as a community, we've accomplished and walked through. Below are the highlights of some of our work together:

Worship and Liturgy

In 2011, we had two fabulous clergy installations. On January 15, we welcomed Bishop Marc Andrus, clergy and congregations throughout the Bay Area to our space for my installation and the celebration of our ministry together. On Pentecost, June 12, we welcomed Arch Deacon Kathleen Van Sickle to help us celebrate the installation of Deacon Bob Dobbin.

We have also been greatly blessed by two additional clergy volunteers. The Reverend Canon Jim McLeod, retired priest from Palo Alto, joined our congregation in late 2010, and began assisting us as preacher and supply priest in 2011. Jim has brought with him experience, wisdom, and a beautiful voice, and has been generous in his offering of gifts to St. James.

The Reverend Deacon Bill Mosier joined our congregation in August, 2011. Bill is an active, vocational deacon from Oregon, who brings with him sensitive insight, a broad experience in working with the underserved, and gift for teaching. We were blessed to have Bill officiate our Thanksgiving Service, and look forward in 2012 to his participation in our Sunday services as Deacon and Preacher.

Our Music Director, Katherine La Rose, announced her retirement, and ended her time with us on June 19. For the summer, we hired organist Jessie Jewitt to play at the 10:30 service, and had volunteer musicians and vocalists assist at the 8:00 service. After an involved search by the Music Search Team (comprised of Jim McLeod, Valle Brokes, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, Mary Casas and me), we hired Jennifer Carini who began her service with us on September 1. Jennifer brings with her a true teacher's heart, a positive, can-do attitude, and talent for the keyboard and singing, and a strong knowledge of Episcopal liturgy. She makes a fantastic addition to our staff and music program.

We are also a church that has a solid, dedicated group of adult and youth servers at our Altar and our Lectern on Sunday mornings. Janet Fischer has done and continues to do an amazing job with recruiting and scheduling the Eucharistic Ministers and the Lectors

for both services (see her report for details). We also have a great group of young people serving at our services as acolytes: Ian Perry, Caylyn Ramsamy, Chanelle Francis, Emma and Megan Thomas, Tom Scrutton, Jordan Murray, Gloria Amadi, Ian and Bryneth Fuller, Mathias Malcowitz (prior to moving) and Jillian Fisher have all done a great job with assisting with our services. While we still call on her for services, we said a huge Thank You to Rachel Whitaker for her service as she stepped down as acolyte after graduating from high school.

As we developed worship participants, we also developed a variety of services. On a seasonal basis, I meet with a group interested in helping me design worship – informally called the “Worship Committee.” The 2011 Ash Wednesday Services included a service of Ashes for Children, held following the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in the Little Church. Approximately 10 children gathered to pray, confess, and receive ashes on their foreheads. I intend for this service to be a tradition at St. James’, and look forward to offering it each Shrove Tuesday. We also held three traditional Ash Wednesday Services with about 100 participants.

During Lent, Jan and Mike Scrutton offered an interactive Stations of the Cross for youth and adults with great success. Each station offered a tangible way to meditate on Jesus and the Way of the Cross, ending with the creation of a mediation keychain made up of symbols for each point in the journey.

Holy Week saw a variety of services meant to mark the walk of Jesus towards the cross. For Maundy Thursday we experienced a monastic-like meal with poetry and Taize, followed by communion and the stripping of the Altar. On Good Friday, we had seven parishioners share reflections, each marked with prayer and hymnody. Those offering reflections were: Marnie Hartmann, Andy MacRae, Pat Spalding, Gary Gearheart, Mike Scrutton, Brad Hoffman, and Valle Brokes. We followed this service by walking the Stations of the Cross for an hour. That evening, the Music Director and Choir put on a beautiful Tennebrae service.

Switching gears from Holy Week, we had a blast at the Easter Vigil with parishioners (Nancy Svensen/Barbara Lyon, Linda Nelsen, Patty Lacy, Bruce Roberts/Bud Pearson/Tom Blalock) telling the Salvation Stories with skits and song. We also had a fun-filled celebration of St. James’ Day with the Philippine Independent Church, and had a lively St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals Celebration. The Advent Season brought with it a Service of Lessons & Carols and the creation of Advent Wreaths.

During the year, we baptized four children: Gavin Ferro, Elyse Lovellette, Olivia Nabukeera and Isaac Kazibwe.

We also held eleven funerals or memorials for current and prior members who died and for friends and family of members who died. On May 30, 2011, three of our parishioners passed away from unrelated illnesses. It happened to be the first day of my Honeymoon/Vacation. Along with being an excellent Senior Warden in “normal” times, Mary Casas did an amazing job of attending to each family and communicating with the

wider parish. The Reverend Bob Dobbin also did an amazing job with pastoral care and officiating at two of the funeral services. I owe a debt of gratitude to both for leading our congregation through a very difficult time.

Assisting me with our pastoral care needs is a strong Lay Eucharistic Visitor Team made up of: Lynn Locher, Brad Hoffman, Barbara Dabney, Annie Blalock, Johanne LaRocque, and new to the group, Lea Marie Ave and Gary Gearheart. They have been instrumental in visiting our homebound and hospitalized parishioners. To facilitate visits, John Kimber designed and crafted four beautiful home communion kits. These kits are works of art, and are supplemented by chalices and patens donated by Johanne LaRocque.

Office Staff, Administration and Communication

Sexton Art Gallardo continues to do a solid job in keeping the grounds manicured and the buildings clean. He is a gift to our congregation and makes my day-to-day work much easier. At the end of 2011, we said good-bye to our Parish Administrator, Aimee Garza, who resigned in order to capitalize on an opportunity to work for Stanford University. At this writing, we are in the process of searching for a new Administrator.

We let our past Sunday childcare provider, Suzanne David, go. Suzanne was dependable and reliable in staffing our nursery. With a vision of expanding the position to be less babysitting and more interactive and focused on learning for our youngest members, we rewrote the position description and began a hiring process. With the help of the Faith Formation Cluster, we hired Kathryn Ruth, an energetic and enthusiastic caregiver and teacher. At the same time, thanks to Dave and Linda Nelsen, who remodeled the Nursery to brighten and freshen the space.

To better assist the Office staff and volunteers, we purchased new database software to track membership and contributions. The new software, *Church Windows*, is an efficient and effective tool for tracking our data. Thank you to Jan Brandt for her research, implementation, and coordination of our “census” to populate the new database.

As part of an on-going effort towards communication, we launched a weekly email using iContact to inform parishioners and friends of the many goings-on at St. James'. We also leased a new copy machine to better assist us in the production of worship materials and other correspondence.

For the entirety of 2011, the St. James' Vestry has met together, eaten together, prayed, planned, and laughed together. Participation of the membership has been high and of good quality. All areas of ministry have been lovingly and intentionally attended to, and the entire congregation has been well served and led by this group. As always, Jan Brandt in her capacity as Treasurer, has kept meticulous books and has done an exceptional job in reporting and keeping everyone informed. Elizabeth Hart, in her role as Clerk, has done an excellent job in recording and distributing the meeting minutes.

Children and Teens

When I began my call at St. James', I committed to instituting a renewed focus on our Children and Teens. In just a short year, we've done a lot in this area. Our teen program is aptly designed and staffed by Jan and Mike Scrutton (see their report for details). With experience, wisdom, and a deep love for ministry, the Scrutton's have moved our youth group from a handful of teens hanging out to a large group of teens focused and committed to exploring their spirituality and faith.

Along side the teens, we've revamped the Sunday School. We said Thank You to Brian Cochran who stepped down as our Godly Play teacher and held the program together for the past few years. We made the decision to set aside the Godly Play program and launch a new program called Weaving God's Promises. We recruited volunteer teachers to teach each Sunday, and we cleaned, organized, and redecorated the classroom. We have a ways to go in building our program, but are off to a great start with what we've done so far. And, we could not offer the program we have offered if it weren't for our volunteer teachers: Lauren and Bob Doherty, Mary Casas, Laura Winter, Penny and Ken Trant, and Dave and Linda Nelsen. A huge THANK YOU to these individuals for taking on this important call.

We also offered other events for our children and youth in 2011. For the youth, we had a session of making and using Anglican Rosaries and held a class on the Examination of the Table for acolytes. For children, we had a class on Holy Communion and held an annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday.

Welcoming and Integrating New People

Along with focusing on our children and youth, I am also committed to the welcoming and integration of new people. To move this effort along, I called together a Welcoming Committee that has been amazing with their energy, ideas and welcoming hearts. This committee has designed a welcome packet for new members, is intentional with following up with visitors and people new to our church, and has hosted two lunches that entertained 20 new people. We are just beginning this effort, and look forward to this group developing and growing.

There are simply too many people and too many committees to mention and give thanks to. St. James' Episcopal Church is a model church for inclusivity and taking ownership of ministry. Every person is invited into the life of the church. Every person is important. Every person makes a difference to who we are. I am richly blessed to be counted as one of you.

Senior Warden's Report
Mary Casas

In this past year, it was my honor and privilege to serve as the Senior Warden of St. James'.

The Diocese hosts an annual Vestry Day in February every year. This event allows vestry members from the Diocese of California to come together to discuss how to be good leaders and stewards to our congregations. Lori, Andy, Greg, Laura, Stephen and myself attended this event at Grace Cathedral in SF.

The Vestry approved the purchase of a new curriculum, Weaving God's Promises, to be used in the Sunday School for children ages 4 – 11 yrs old and Confirm not Conform to be used by the Youth Group.. The Vestry approved the use of the distribution received from Endowment for these purchases.

Molly Lubwama resigned from the Vestry at the end of May. Marlene Benedict was approved by the Vestry and Commissioned in June. Marlene has served Molly's remaining term. (June 2011 – January 2012).

Met with Holly McAplen, the Church's Insurance Rep, to review our policy and facilities. Our campus and buildings were found to be in good condition. Holly had comments for some minor improvements. The Facilities' Cluster is taking care of these improvements.

For the past several years, our Deanery has sponsored a trip to Mexico for the purpose of building a home for a needy family. Thanks to all your donations, St. James' was able to contribute \$1,242 to the Corozan Project.

In October the Vestry and Rector met with Michael Barlowe and Julia McCray-Goldsmith for a Mutual Ministry Review. The Mutual Ministry Review is a way of determining if The Rector and the Vestry are fulfilling the goals and guidelines set forth in the Rector's Letter of Agreement and the Vestry Handbook. I encourage the Vestry to continue this review annually.

Due to the financial and real estate uncertainties at this time, the Wardens came to the decision to form a Clergy Housing Committee. This committee will look at possible ways of securing a new residence for the Rector of St. James'.

We had a great pledge drive for 2012. I would like to thank Gail Blalock and the Stewardship Committee for their dedication and hard work. Financially, St. James' is sound, even in these bad economic times. Thank you to the hard work and many hours of service by our Treasurer, Jan Brandt. Jan has done an excellent job keeping our financial statements updated and our vestry informed.

I would like to thank our Jr. Warden, Andy MacRae, and the Vestry members: Donald Razzolini, Valle Brokes, Dean Valentine, Brad Hoffman, Stephen Ferro, Laura Winter, Janet Fischer, Gary Gearhart, Greg Scheuffele, Molly Lubwama (resigned) and Marlene Benedict for all their ministries and leaderships this past year. I couldn't have done my job without all of you!

Facilities Use Agreements

All ongoing facility use agreements expire and are renewed by September 30th of each year. One new group will be added this year, a Tuesday night art class through Youth Champions.

The groups listed below have all completed the renewal agreements, and if required, have submitted current insurance policies.

Philippine Independent Church - Sunday 1:30pm
Narcotics Anonymous - Sunday 8pm
Overeaters Anonymous - Monday 7pm
Washington Township - 1st Tuesday 12-3pm
Youth Champions – Tuesday 5-8pm
Washington Township, bridge group - 3rd Wednesday 10am-1pm
Narcotics Anonymous - Wednesday 8pm
Rancho Coronado – 4th Thursday 6pm
(Homeowners Assoc)
Narcotics Anonymous - Friday 10-11:30pm

Menlo Park Presbyterian Church used our facilities during a conference they hosted to bring awareness to the plight of Human Trafficking.

Schader Fund

Last year St James' received a gift from the trust of a much loved parishioner, Shirley Schader. Shirley's gift to us was unrestricted and as such we are able to use it for the needs of St James' as we decide. We take very seriously the responsibility of distributing this fund in a manner that would reflect the trust Shirley put in us when she made the gift. All decisions must be made prayerfully and with consideration of the future needs and priorities of St James'. This is a rare opportunity to be open to new ideas and projects. As the gift was received during a time when our attention was focused on the calling and settling in of a new rector we decided to invest the funds in a secure manner to allow us time to concentrate on the tasks we had to complete first.

A committee was formed to advise the Vestry and Rector about investment and expenditure from the fund. The Schader Fund Committee has met a few times to find out about investment options and to consider the things that should guide us when making decisions. We have sought guidance from the Rev Richard Schaper, the Diocesan Gift and Planning Officer. He has experience in churches receiving, spending and investing such sums of money.

The committee has been interested by the suggestion that we should think of how to use the gift within the structure of SPEND/SAVE/SHARE, looking at long and short term projects and opportunities for our community. We are also agreed that this gift should be used for new projects or to support programs but not to cover our regular expenses. Shirley's generosity does not replace our own regular giving. We can SHARE our good fortune by looking to extend or branch out our outreach or social ministries programs . I am sure we all have ideas as to projects around campus that would benefit from a decision to SPEND some of the money!

In the next couple of months we will be inviting you to take the time to complete a survey and give your opinions as to the priorities we should consider when deciding how this gift might be best used to serve God in this place. Please remember Shirley and her generosity in your prayers as you respond to our questions. The Shader Fund Committee will take all ideas on board and make recommendations to Lori and the Vestry in the spring.

Jan Scrutton

on behalf of the Shader Fund Committee, Gail Blalock, Jan Brandt, Mary Casas, Sylvia Ma, Dave Nelsen

Fundraisers

The Operating Fund in 2011 was supported not only by pledges but by a number of fundraising events that between them raised almost \$4,500.

- Again we were involved in the Kiwanis Ducks for Bucks event at Lake Elizabeth thanks to Tom Blalock and Brad Hoffman. This resulted in a check for \$1,462 for St James'. Alongside the Duck Race we had our own St James' draw. Our thanks to Tom & Brad for organizing the prizes.

- A Book Sale was held during and after the Walk-a-Rocka-thon Event. \$639.25 was raised. African Art pieces donated by Peter Maina were also sold during the Book Sale raising \$170.00.

- Two means of supporting St James' exist all year around. Sales of items with a St James' logo from CaféPress raised \$0 and eScrip bought in \$78.07.

The 2011 John McCutcheon Concert on Monday Jan 17 was a great success. We had over 200 in attendance, with more than 40% non-parishioners. Ticket sales totaled \$4755. John McCutcheon gave us another very entertaining evening. The raffle drawing and silent auction during the concert intermission was the best ever, brought in \$876. The snack bar also did really well, bringing in \$182.

The concert had expenses totaled \$3687.44. We raised \$2125.56 for the Operating Fund!

This fundraising and community outreach event could not have happened without all your help. There were more than 50 people who contributed time, talent and treasure not only on Monday but in the months preceding the concert. They wrote, sent out and uploaded publicity notices/articles; designed, printed and posted flyers and signs; updated, hung and took down banners; set up email address and phone message for this

special event; printed tickets; took messages; sold concert and raffle tickets; bought concert and raffle tickets; invited their family, friends and neighbors to the concert; cleared the facility calendar for the concert; got contracts signed; booked hotel rooms; borrowed and returned the stage and the extra chairs; made verbal announcements, donated all those marvelous prizes for the raffle and silent auction; cleaned up the campus; put up lights and a canopy on campus; helped with parking; set-up before the concert and cleaned-up after the concert; baked dozens of delicious cookies; donated sandwiches; made coffee; helped with the snack bar; cooked and served a wonderful dinner for the crew before the concert; donated wine for the dinner; cleaned up the kitchen; set up the dressing room; ushered; sold cds for John McCutcheon; updated and printed the programs; showed great hospitality; did a wonderful job as MC/announcers; took photos; took John McCutcheon to the hotel; waited for the sound guys to pack up; did all the accounting, and offered many prayers and encouragements along the way. Thank you, thank you, thank you. We appreciate all your support and ministry.

The 2012 McCutcheon Concert will be on Jan 16. We have been busy organizing another wonderful evening for our communities.

The McCutcheon Team

The IT Team Report 2011

The IT team at Saint James' was founded this year in order to coordinate the IT needs of the campus and those who work on it. During the year we replaced the campus wireless network, as well as upgraded the system used for our Sunday Worship. Mid-year we established a weekly podcast of the Sunday Sermons, which has been well received by the community. We also established some experiments in social media comprising of blogs for the Youth Group and John McCutcheon concert.

Thanks go to Mike Scrutton, Bud Pearson and Greg Miller for their support.

Mike Scrutton

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is made up of 16 women who work in four teams. Each team prepares both churches once a month for the 2 Sunday services and the Wednesday service. The team members meet on Friday or Saturday of their week to polish silver and brass and to ready the churches for the next day services. A member of the team prepares the Little Church for the Wednesday service. The linens are laundered and cared for by another member.

A yearly breakfast with the clergy is held in December.

During the past year, two members have moved away and one member has left the Guild. Four new members have joined the Altar Guild.

Margaret Rainey

St. James' Ushers

In 2011, the Ushers Ministry gained one regular usher for the 10:30 a.m. service, Karl Drescher.

The 8:00 a.m. service (Captain: Brad Hoffman) remains fully staffed and well scheduled; however, there are some issues of ushers with sometimes irregular attendance, and who do not always contact other ushers for ensuring coverage of the service when they will be absent.

Spot-coverage is provided by long-serving ushers, but this has always been an ongoing issue for the Ushers Ministry.

The 10:30 a.m. service could use two more ushers, and a recruiting poster remains posted in the Parish Hall. Additionally, Burtin Hart, Usher Coordinator (also a member of Usher Team 2), announced a call for ushers at a 10:30 a.m. service late in the year and is actively engaged in recruiting additional regularly attending parishioners, particularly youths (mature teens/young adults), to serve in the Ushers Ministry. Currently, one teen candidate is seriously considering joining the ushers and has stated that he will discuss it with his parents.

For 2012, Burtin Hart has begun experimenting with publishing the roster and schedule on Google, through "Google Apps, Google Docs" providing read/write access to Lori Walton and all of the ushers who have the capability and willingness to read/edit the roster and schedule on-line through that free "cloud-computing" service. The idea behind posting the schedule with read/write access to the clergy and ushers is to enable ushers to assist in gradually maintaining their own schedules, making it easier for ushers to agree to exchange coverage duties and schedule themselves, becoming less dependent on a single coordinator, making the position more one of facilitation as contrasted with management. At present, Burtin Hart is still Usher Coordinator, and continues to fill that role (recruiting, scheduling, coordination) as the experiment with usher self-scheduling advances.

The current usher roster is provided below:

Contact List (* - Captain. Team Nos. – 1, 2, 3, 4, 8. Alternates – A.)

1 Bell, Bob	10 Maina, Peter	19 * Spalding, Bud
2 Drescher, Karl	11 Maina, Steve	20 Trant, Ken
3 Feeney, Gregg	12 Nelsen, Dave	21 Trant, Penny
4 Francis, Ashley	13 Pearson, Jan	22 Valentine, Dean- A
5 Hart, Burtin	14 Perry, Chris	23 Watkins, Karen
6 *Hoffman, Brad	15 Ramsamy, Marco	24 Young, Tim
7 Knotts, Cathy	16 Razzolini, Donald - A	
8 * Locher, Ralph	17 * Reed, Bob	
9 Ma, Sylvia	18 Scrutton, Mike	

Counters Report ***Gail Blalock & Joan Roberts***

The Counting Teams assist the Treasurer each week by counting and documenting pledge and other income. Each Team is comprised of two persons who spend several hours each week counting and recording offerings from services and funds received in the mail. They also make the weekly bank deposit. In addition, the Counters assist with the folding, stapling, and stuffing of quarterly pledge statements. Counters also volunteered this year as cashiers for the pancake dinner and the used book sale.

The Counting Teams have remained consistent for several years; however, in 2011 we were saddened by the loss of two members. Two new counters have been training and are ready to fill that void.

The counters are faithful behind-the-scenes workers who understand accuracy and confidentiality as top priorities. They sometimes think they need to be “mind readers” and appreciate it when you document how you’d like your contribution to be distributed (for example, to Operating, Building, Altar Guild, Home Warming, flowers, or special donations). It is an important job, and they take pride in doing it!

Stewardship Committee ***Gail Blalock***

The Stewardship Team, comprised of Brad Hoffman, Sandra Motley, Ruth Poole, George Vlastelica, and Gail Blalock, met monthly throughout the year (with some schedule variations) to plan stewardship-related activities. The goal of stewardship continues to center on “year” ‘round stewardship focusing on time, talent, and treasure.

This year, in addition to the “Stewardship Corner” article in each issue of *The Window* newsletter, the Team developed a “Stewardship Moment” that is included in the St. James’ weekly email and the Sunday Bulletin each week. The Stewardship Moment is a brief message reminding parishioners that stewardship is an ongoing way of life and not just an annual pledge drive. It is the Team’s hope that reading the “*Moment*” each week will remind us of God’s gifts and our responsibility to be faithful disciples, caring for and managing all that God has given us.

The Fall Stewardship Program incorporated the theme “Celebrating the St. James; Community” and included two dinners in the Parish Hall. Leading up to the dinners, a series of three letters was sent to all parishioners. The first letter, signed by all five Stewardship Team members, included a personal statement by each as to why they give to St. James’ Church and announced November 20 as Pledge Sunday. A second letter from the Senior Warden included a message of what St. James’ means to her and invited everyone to attend one of the dinners and to be present on Pledge Sunday. This message was sent out by email (and mailed to parishioners who were not on the Church’s e-mail contact list). The third letter from the Rector gave insight on church attendance, why people attend church, included a pledge card, and invited everyone to make their financial pledge on November 20.

A unique element of this year’s program was the participation by parishioners Dave Nelsen, Bob

Doherty, Barbara Lyon, and Marilyn Rose, who joined Lori in presenting the sermon on Sunday, November 13, 2011. Each spoke from the heart and shared their thoughts and feelings about why they give and how St. James' Church has impacted their lives. The Stewardship Team is very appreciative of these special people for their participation. We know this was way outside their comfort level and not an easy thing to do. We also want to thank Lori for the extra time and work she provided to make this a truly memorable Sunday.

Since the dinners were being held on a week night, it was the goal of the Stewardship Team to limit the dinner and program to no more than 90 minutes (and we were successful!). Each of the two dinners, prepared and served by the Stewardship Team, included a Bible study and questions (in small groups) and follow-up discussion with Lori. Of the approximate 110 people who attended the two dinners, it was interesting to note that in attendance were parishioners who had been attending St. James' for more than forty years, some who had just come within the past month or two, and every number of years in between - a very diverse group!

On Pledge Sunday (November 20), 80 pledging units responded; as of the writing of this report (January 12), pledging units total 98. We lost some members in 2011, but we were also blessed with the arrival of new ones. The economy continues to play a role with lost jobs and reduced incomes, but the people of St. James' Church know that giving results in thanksgiving to God. In general, the total amount pledged for 2012 is greater than for 2011!

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Total Pledges:	\$267,036	\$257,186
Operating:	\$236,810	\$233,930
Building:	\$ 30,226	\$ 23,256
Other:	\$ 600	600

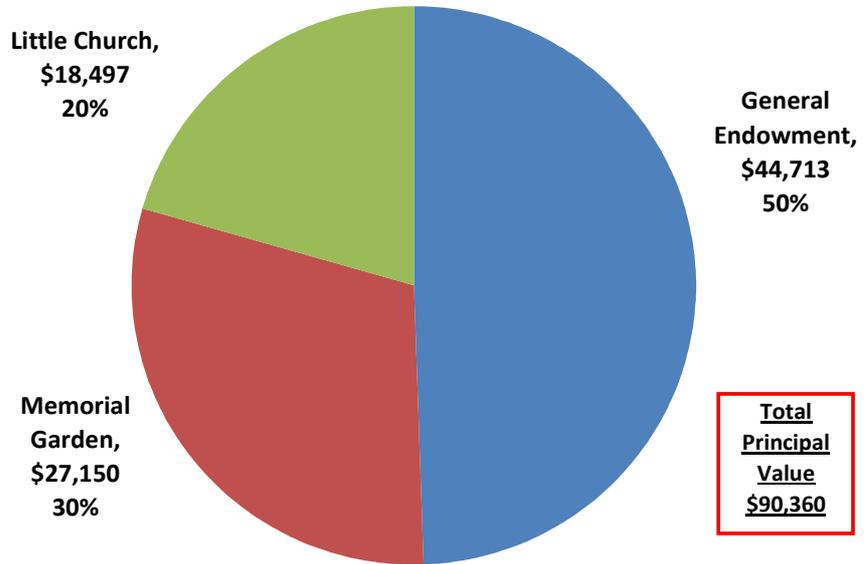
I would like to thank the members of the Stewardship Team for their help, support, and especially their fellowship. I know the Team joins me in expressing our appreciation to Lori for her guidance and encouragement throughout the year. And last, but certainly not least, I want to thank the St. James' Community for being responsible stewards and for believing "*where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" (Luke 12:34)

2011 Endowment Board Report

David Nelsen

- The endowment board includes five members. Chris Lubwama completed a 3 year term on the board and we thank him for his dedication to the team. His knowledge of accounting practices has benefited the board and the endowment fund during his service. Tom Blalock was welcomed to the board in April. The other board members are Marnie Hartman, Patty Lacy, Joan Roberts and Dave Nelsen.
- Currently there are 45 members of the Shell Society. These people have remembered St. James' in their will or trust or have established another form of planned giving to St. James'.
- 19 individual gifts were made to the Endowment fund in 2011, totaling \$5,870.
- Gifts were made in memory of; Lon Doty, Phil Johnsen and Carol Day. In honor of Bud and Pat Spalding's 50th wedding anniversary. A special gift was also made by the Memorial Garden Committee.
- The board hosted two Faith Formation hours this year. In May, Karen Marshall "The Gadget Lady" presented us with special products which make everyday tasks a little easier for seniors – or anyone who may have functional limitations. In November we hosted representatives from Pathways who spoke to us about hospice care and the many services which are available to families.
- After much research this year, the board has decided to change our investment strategy. We will be moving the endowment funds to the professional management of the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF). The ECF is a non-profit, lay-lead and lay-staffed organization. Its mission is to help Episcopal Churches and organizations with their financial goals and development needs. The ECF manages funds for 145 churches with over \$100 M currently under management. Some of the significant differences we will see when using ECF are:
 1. Lower fees paid.
 2. Well diversified portfolio.
 3. Re-balancing of our investments on a regular basis.
 4. Timely reporting on condition of our investments.
 5. Expert advice from ECF and St. Street Global Advisors.
 6. Socially responsible investment practices with no-buy policies.
- The current Principal value of the Endowment fund is \$90,360 and is comprised of the three categories listed here;

Total Contributions and Make-up of Endowment fund Q4 - 2011



Communications and Evangelism Cluster Greg Scheuffele & Valle Brokes

This cluster is charged with keeping St. James' parish and the wider Tri-City communities up to date on the events, news, and ministries at St. James'. Two members of this Cluster participate in the Diocesan Communications Commission.

Web Site www.saintj.com

The St. James' web site continues to be updated on a regular basis and is a wonderful tool to keep the parish informed as well as to attract new people to our church. Upcoming events, the parish newsletter, and vestry meeting minutes are all posted in a timely manner.

This year, several enhancements were made thanks to Mike Scrutton's expertise. Sunday sermons are now recorded and streamed from our web site, and are also available on iTunes. People may sign up on the web site for the weekly emailed newsletter, and the web page for the youth group is now being updated by Mike.

~ Janet Fischer, Webmaster

St. James' Newsletter – The Window

It has been two years since I have submitted a report as the production of the newsletters has been going very smoothly, thanks to all you contributors, co-editors Penny Trant and Marilyn Rose, roving reporter and eagle-eye proof reader Laura Winter and our recently departed office administrator.

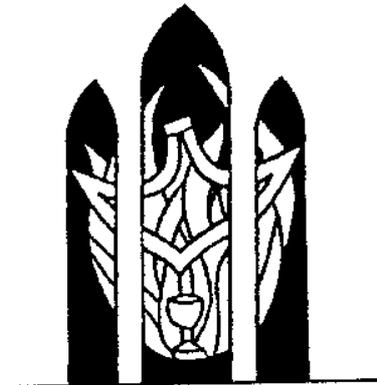
It has also been two years since we have gone 'green,' meaning that:

1. There is no general mailing; copies are mailed out by special request and roughly 8 parishioners have so requested;
2. Copies of the newsletter are printed out to be picked up in the Narthex or outside the church office;

3. A PDF file is posted on the website for reading on-line or downloading to one's computer to read or print out.

I would like to be able to do a survey of our readership. I know that roughly 40-50 copies are picked up in church but while our website typically reports 1200 hits/month, there is no way to tell how many users read or download the newsletter.

There are two other issues that we will be working on. The first issue is to update the Birthday and Anniversary lists from the new database now in use by the office. We are now printing the same ones from last year. So should the list omit your anniversary, please so inform us and we can add it to the website version of *The Window* as well as



update our lists. The second involves the printing of pictures of minors, which are then posted on the web. This too will require additional study to establish newsletter policy.

We solicit your thoughts and opinions of the newsletter and welcome suggestions for ideas of new features, types of articles as well as your own articles that you wish to share with our great congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Locher on behalf of the Editorial Staff

Picture Directory

A new St. James' membership directory was completed this year using the photography company Lifetouch. The directory displays pictures of parishioners and their families along with addresses and phone numbers. Each person who participated received a free 8x10 photo and a directory. Enough directories were purchased to be able to give them to new members during the next several years.

E-mail Communication and Weekly Bulletins

An e-mail is sent each Thursday from St. James' office with a summary of up-coming events and news. Because space is somewhat limited, these guidelines for submissions are suggested: Begin with a heading in **bold**. Make sure your submission is succinct. A rule of thumb is approximately 65-85 words, or five to six lines of Times New Roman. 12pt text. Make sure you include the date and time, as well as relevant contact information. Advertise your event 1-2 weeks prior to its happening. Submit your ad by Wednesday evening and tell us if you want it in the Weekly E-mail and/or Sunday News. To receive the weekly Thursday e-mail news, please give your e-mail address to the church office or register on the St. James' website, www.saintj.com.

We also maintain a group e-mail list at saintj@yahogroups.com. Anyone subscribed to this e-mail list may generate a message to the entire list. This e-mail list is used for prayer requests and non-official requests and notifications, while official news is sent via the Thursday weekly e-mail list. If you would like to have your e-mail address added to the Yahoo! Groups e-mail list, please contact Janet Fischer at JanetLFischer@yahoo.com.

Outdoor Banners

An inventory this year discovered that we have outdoor banners that can be used for 19 events. Because banners are displayed back-to-back, each display requires two banners. New banners were purchased this year to announce St. James' Vacation Bible School. Several of our banners were updated to conform to our current times of services. In December, a gale-force wind destroyed the bungee cords which hold the banners in the frame. Many thanks to Bud Pearson for making new bungee cords and restoring the McCutcheon banners with enhanced lighting. We hope to purchase two new banners this year to replace our aging "every day" banners announcing Sunday worship times.

Advertising and Publicity

The Argus and Tri-City Voice continue to be our principal venues for advertising Christmas and Easter service times and events. Both print news sources have adjusted their prices to include discounts for church related activities, and we have taken advantage of their continuing to offer free calendar listings for church events. We explored the possibility of advertising in hyperlocal internet news sources, the East Bay Region of Patch.com, which has Newark and Union City publications but not Fremont. The cost to advertise in both Patch publications is too high at this time.

St. James' Logo Merchandise

We have many items with the St. James' logo, including men's and women's clothing (T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Hoodies) available for purchase at www.cafepress.com/saintj. Sales of these items bring a small amount of money into St. James'. The number of items sold in 2011 was small.

Facilities Laura Winter

This past year has been a good one for the St James' campus. A parishioner who recently returned to worship here told me the place looks great, and much better than it did when he was in charge of Buildings and Grounds! I told him it wasn't me; it is through the efforts of many, many people here:

We are blessed to have a Facilities Committee, comprised of Scott Kennedy, Chris Perry, Tim Spencer, Brad Hoffman, Al Casas, and Charlie Paratore. Because of this committee, the Vestry Facilities representative no longer has to be somebody who can fix anything that goes wrong. I know I called on each of these gentlemen at least once this year, and they all came through when asked.

Besides the committee, we have our work parties on the third Saturday of each month to maintain the plant and do major work as needed. Led by Chris Perry, much of the ongoing maintenance is addressed at these events. Leaves were raked, fields mowed, the pews were dusted and polished, gutters cleaned, bushes trimmed. This year the work parties were very well attended; and about 60-70 parishioners turned out to participate at least once!

Our sexton, Art Gallardo, does a great job during the week making our church a clean, inviting place for all who come by.

Some major items happened this year as well:

- The front of the church was cleared and beautiful plants installed
- The nursery was cleared, repainted and restocked with appropriate furniture and toys
- A new electric circuit was installed in the Little Church. The organ was placed on its own breaker.
- All the fire extinguishers were replaced

- A load of bark was added to the playground areas
- The ground behind the dumpster was prepared for the Home Warming container
- We purchased a new leaf-vac and a new gas lawn mower for the upkeep of our campus

We were visited by the Diocesan insurance inspectors this year. They were very impressed and pleased with the condition of the St James' campus. They offered only some minor suggestions that we have now done – a flashlight is in each church building in case of emergency, and all the paint is moved out to the shed where new shelving was installed.

The Memorial Garden Committee continues to maintain the Garden very well and keep it as a peaceful sacred space for all who enter.

The Little Church Restoration efforts are ongoing. We intend to move forward with the restoration of the stained glass windows this coming year.

Thank you to all who contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of our wonderful campus and buildings!

Memorial Garden Report

The Memorial Garden Committee during 2011 again did a great job of maintaining the garden. We hosted the Memorial Day Coffee Hours for both services. The weather was perfect and we were able to host them outside. Flags were put by each grave on appropriate holidays.

This year we had six people interred in the Memorial Garden. None were interred in the Columbarium. We thank everyone for your continued support. As always we are looking for new members. Please contact one of the Memorial Garden members so we can get you started.

Ruth Poole
Chair

Parish Life
Donald Razzolini & Dean Valentine

2011 was a combination of New Beginnings, continued Transformation, and Renewed Memories.

New Beginnings

New beginnings for the St. James' community thru new ministry and the welcome faces of new members

- ***Food and Fellowship Dinners*** – This ministry resurfaced in February to an overwhelming response. Parishioners gather to start and build friendships over a potluck dinner. A host is chosen amongst the group to host the meal at a designated location (may be the Host's home or another offering of choice). Two dinners were held over 2011...A BIG thank you to each of the Hosts & Hostesses for opening their homes.

- **February 2011** – Hosted by Ralph & Lynn Locher
- **August 2011** – Hosted by Greg & Elaine Miller

The next scheduled Food & Fellowship pot-luck dinner is Saturday January 21th, starting round 5:30pm at the home of Joan and Bruce Roberts. Should you wish to attend, please sign up on the list posted in the Parish Hall. You may also contact either the Roberts or the Lochers...

1. The Roberts at brucelroberts386@sbcglobal.net or by phone (510)792-0233
 2. The Lochers at relocher@comcast.net or by phone (510) 792-2248
- ***The official Welcome Committee ministry*** - opened its welcoming arms in February 2011. Two Welcome brunches were held, each hosted by seasoned parish members...A BIG thank you to all for your hard work and continued support...
 - February – Gail Blalock in her home
 - November – Jan Pearson

Each was a very successful combination of mingling and socialization. Standard brunch faire included and in addition to the following items...

- Breakfast Quiche, Croissant Sandwiches, assorted Fruit & Veggie platters, Decaf/Regular coffee
- ***New Welcome packet*** - was created in October for visitors and Newcomers containing...
 - Contents – 6 items of reference and information
 - ✓ 2- sided Welcome page
 - a. Side One – Welcome message signed by Rector welcoming visitors & citing contents of packet
 - b. Side Two – Brief history of St. James' taken from 2009 Parish Profile document
 - ✓ Refrigerator magnet – Business card design with service and contact information

- ✓ Newcomer Welcome Pamphlet: created 2011
- ✓ Redesigned 2- sided Welcome Card (also available in pews)
- ✓ Most Current Newsletter

Memories – renewed and revisited

- ***Shrove Tuesday*** – Pancake Supper
Once again the Men’s Group, lead by Mr. Dave Nelson, combined their time and talents to continue this much loved and anticipated celebration. Shrove Tuesday is an annual event and feast when we celebrate the blessings of the past months and prepare for Lent
- ***Easter Egg Hunt*** – April 2011
For the first time the Youth Group oversaw the preparation and all aspects of this activity bringing a new dynamic vision to this beloved event...the group was given the empty eggs to place in zip-lock bags for parishioners to fill and return. For the Hunt itself (Youth Group will have a brunch at 8a and will hide Eggs on St. James’ campus thereafter). Many thanks to all the Bunny Helps young and old that gave their time and talents to making this a wonderful success.
- ***Grad Day*** – In June, we honored those in our community that were either promoted to the next level of their education or had graduated with a special service and reception to recognize their achievements.
 - a. The Parish Life team enlisted Ms. Penny Trant to assist in the coordination of this event – A special “Thank You” to Penny for all her help and hard work in this endeavor
- ***St. James’ Feast Day Celebration*** -the theme for this year was Lazy DayZ – A simple carefree old fashioned church picnic. Once again Ms. Penny Trant stepped in as chair for this event...Thank you Penny for all your effort and tireless hard work throughout 2011. In keeping with our “Lazy DayZ” theme everything was very casual with a potluck picnic shortly after the service with the congregation encouraged to bring easy effort style dishes to share.
- ***Men’s Group*** - The Men's Group at St James' is a loosely knit group of guys willing to help at St James' in just about any capacity needed. Dave Nelson coordinates the Pancake Supper and I work the Men's Trip each summer. Our Men's group did help with the container storage ground work and will be used to paint the container the same color as St James'. This will happen in the spring 2012.

The Men's Trip is reviewed in January and February for areas to venture to. Our trip is usually scheduled for the last weekend in July and subject to change. For the last 4 years it's been in Arnold, CA where we rent 2-3 homes with about 19 of us attending. During 2011 we had 18 and we would have had more but a couple guys had medical issues at the last minute.

We leave on a Thursday morning and arrive around 3pm and depart Sunday at 11am. Cost per person for lodging and food equates to \$125.00 per person. We spent \$1174.08 for lodging and we collected \$2250.00 from the group. The rest was spent on food.

Gregg Feeney

- **Men's Trip** – The Men's 4th Annual Trip was held the weekend of July 28th thru the 31st of 2011. The group enjoyed another long weekend in the Blue Lake Springs district close to Arnold. Nestled in the pines, cedars and oak trees, our group of 18 really took advantage of being "off the grid." There were two new attendees this year, Ron Larson and Gary Gearheart. Some of us played golf both Friday and Saturday while others drove down to Murphy's for some wine tasting. The following day, they headed up to Calaveras Big Trees State Park for a nice hike and picture taking. A few relaxed back at the cabins but also cleaned up from a visit by the resident bear, which very early had given Scott Whitaker the pleasure of being woken up he slept out on the deck. The next night bats dive bombed him. At the end of Friday and Saturday, we had our traditional feasts and great story telling. Ron Larson said, "One thing you guys really know is how to eat well".

Yes, we do take eating seriously and (guys - take note) next year; it will be even more serious. The price is reasonable and the fellowship, priceless.'

Gregg Feeney

- **Ladies Flatlanders**

Our camping trip was held at Thousand Trails San Benito again this year. There were twelve ladies of St. James' who attended this event. They were: Jackie Whitehouse, Cathy Knotts, Nancy Castaneda, Dorothy Balderston, Janet Pearson, Julie Gaynor, Marnie Hartmann, Pat Vlastelica, Laura Winter, Linda Nelsen, Marlene Benedict and Mary Casas. We had a great time, eating, playing games and catching up with friends.

Mary Casas

- **Kitchen Crew** – Responsible for the set-up as well as cleanup of Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship hour, inventory and shelf-life accounting of refreshments offered this group is lead masterfully by Sandra Motley and assisted by Brad Hoffman. This amazing crew also plays a key role in many of the special events and celebrations at St. James' which may or may not involve food and/or drink as well as space planning and clean-up. Thank you both for all your dedication and efforts.
 - a. This year, in addition to breaking the new equipment purchased in 2010 the group found the need for new coffee pots for use at various events and by groups utilizing the facility. One pot has been purchased and another will be purchased soon in 2012.
- **Available For Lunch** - The Available for Lunch Ministry's aim is to organize informal luncheons and events to promote fellowship within the St. James' community. In 2011, we had two very enjoyable outings to local restaurants. In February, we celebrated the Lunar New Year at Newark Buffet. In September, we had delicious Vietnamese food at Nguyen Vu restaurant in Newark. We had a wonder time together, great food and great fellowship.

In 2012, we again are planning two to three get-togethers. If you have any suggestions of what we could do or where we could go for lunch, please let us

know. Please watch for our announcements in the Weekly Bulletin, in the Window, and our sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall. Do join us if you are Available for Lunch.

Report Submitted By: Sylvia Ma and Meg Williams

Tai Chi class Annual Report, 2011

Tai Chi class is being held in the Parish Hall every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30pm. Tai Chi class is a member of the Parish Life Ministries. This means that all are welcomed and there is no fee for the class. Of course, donations will be gladly accepted and will go towards Parish Life.

So far, classes are small, 1-6 people came to do warm-up and stretching exercises, to learn the relaxing breathing exercises of QiGong and to practice the fluid movements of Guang Ping style Tai Chi.

If you are interested in finding out more about these ancient Chinese internal martial art forms, please come and join us.

Sylvia Ma, certified SiFu in TIMA School of internal martial arts

Sylvia Ma

**Social Ministries & Congregational Care Cluster
Brad Hoffman & Gary Gearhart**

Abode Services

Members of St. James' have been active supporters of Abode Services since it was formed. Three teams of volunteers primarily led by St. James' members, purchase, prepare and serve dinner at the Sunrise Village Shelter every month. *Addition help is always welcomed.* If you are interested in helping with this important ministry please contact any one of the team captain's listed below. The Three St James' teams that prepare dinners at Abode are: 1st Saturdays (Even Months), contact Cathy Knotts or Dorothy Balderston; 1st Saturdays (Odd Months), contact Mary Casas; 3rd Saturdays (Even Months), contact Joan Roberts. For any further questions please contact Brad Hoffman or Gary Gearheart @ socialministriescongcare@saintj.com

AEMCH (An Episcopal Ministry for Convalescent Hospital)

St. James' has been a faithful supporter of this charity since its beginning in 1981. St James' donated \$1200 in 2011 and has budgeted \$1200 for 2012. The money donated is applied to carry out programs to comfort those in convalescent hospitals in the Bay Area.

Comforters Guild

The Comforters Guild is a group at St. James' who knit and crochet items for charity. We give newly made gifts of baby sweaters and blankets, preemie hats, bibs, and hats for children to Oakland Children's Hospital. We make larger blankets for Pathways Hospice of Alameda County and lap robes for convalescent homes in the Fremont area. Prayer Shawls supplied as gifts to St. James' members and families in need of special love and attention are made by a special group of Comforters. We are grateful to the many people who donate washable yarns for our use. All are welcome at our meetings. We meet quarterly on Saturday mornings in the Vestry Room from 10 am to noon. The group's shepherds who can be contacted for more information are Valle Brokes (avbrokes@gmail.com) and Janet Fischer (janetfischer@yahoo.com).

2011 Annual Report

Valle Brokes

Food Pantry

Family bags and individual's bags are now labeled for easier distribution. Demand on the Food Pantry has diminished considerably in the last 6 months, but we continue to attempt to raise awareness of its existence through our Abode Sources. The congregation has been very responsive to any and all requests for food and other needs.

Healing Ministry

This group meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. A new healing station was placed in the Little Church next to the Columbarium. For individual prayer request, a member of this group is available at the healing station during communion.

Hillside Care Center

The commitment and generosity of the St James' community, again, brought smiles and happiness to the residents of Hillside. The 1st activity was arranged by Nancy Svenson and her Harmonica group under the direction of David Mandell. This visit was in March. Our Easter time visit was April 15th and 75 African Violets, all in bloom, were taken to the rooms. The purchase of the plants was co-coordinated by Maggie Shalar in co-operation with the Newark Orchard Supply Hardware. The Christmastime Dec. 9th visit had a little glitch. Hillside had quarantine and we could not enter. The 71 wrapped gifts were received by some of the staff, outside. The Activities Director telephoned later in the day and said our gifts were joyfully opened by the residents.

The 2011 Team that gave their time & talents for these activities include: Lauren Doherty, computer whiz, Alice Johnson, staff appreciation gifts & Bruce Roberts, photographer. Thank you to all the helping hands who wrapped the violets & the Christmas gifts & to the drivers who always get things to Hillside's parking lot. Suggestions for additional activities are invited and welcomed.

Sandra Motley

Payless Shoe Drive

Thanks to the generosity of St. James' parishioners, we continued our tradition of raising money to purchase new shoe gift cards for the kids in Abode Services' relief programs including Sunrise Village. We raised \$675 last year, delivered to Abode Services in the form of 34 Payless Shoe Store gift cards in October 2011. A thank you letter acknowledging this donation as well as our continued support of Abode Services was received in November (see letter posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall). We hope to continue this tradition of helping to provide for new shoes to replace outgrown or worn out shoes for the children of Abode Services next fall.

Cathy Knotts

Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goal task force will be meeting on January 20th. We will be discussing the plan to go forward with the Nets for Life program. The Bishop is on board and I believe the plan will be to have each parish have a committee to make this a Diocesan wide program.

Scott Whitaker

Recycling @ St. James'

St. James' is now offering a **recycling assistance program** for specific recyclable items. This program is to assist our members in helping to keep hazardous waste and chemicals out of the environment and keep us as good stewards of our world.

We are recycling 3 different categories of items:

1. Batteries – Standard household batteries which can fit in the palm of your hand
2. Fluorescent light bulbs (including CFL's)
3. Printer cartridges and Some laser printer Cartridges – All printer cartridges that can fit in the palm of your hand. We are recycling these with a company that pays us for these cartridges. With this new program we received \$74.25 in 2011.

UTO

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is an opportunity to recognize our thankfulness for all the good things we have been given. Because the national church is generous in providing administrative support, every cent donated goes to meet a need, benefiting people locally and abroad. St. James' parishioners continued to support the UTO in 2011.

Cathy Knotts

Walk-a-Rock-a-thon a Rockin' Success

The 7th Annual Walk-a-Rock-a-thon was held on Saturday, May 14th, 2011. This event benefits the Abode Home warming program at St. James'. We had 6 walkers and 1 rocker for St James' and our sister parish St. Anne's had 9 walkers, including 2 children, and a dog. Everyone enjoyed the walk-and-rock-athon and then we were able to peruse the Book and Media sale for bargains. We rose over \$800 for the Home warming Program to help house families in conjunction with Abode services.

Home Warming

The Abode Services Home Warming - Rehousing Program is well underway now in 2011. George Vlastelica and I have been meeting with Abode Services and our home warming partners since early September 2010. This year instead of housing guests in the churches classrooms, parish halls and gyms for a month, Abode Services took a more targeted approach in providing services to the homeless in the greater Tri-City area. Each member church representative(s) went to their boards and parishioners and introduced the new program. It's a complete overhaul on how we provide care for the homeless. Sunrise Village still exists and the waiting list is still there to rotate people in / out for better housing arrangements. Now each church adopts 1 or more families and helps them get into an apt, condo, duplex or a home. The support can vary by individual family in the form of both financial assistance and donated items to support the family new home warming needs. St James' will provide the security deposit, gift cards, assorted donated items from a list provided by Abode Services. The list could be minimal or extensive depending on the family needs. The family will generally need assistance moving into a new place and will need members of St James' to help with the move. The program is off in running and St James' has been selected for a family of four. The other churches that have been awarded families are the following:

- Our Lady of Guadalupe Church - November 2010 - family of 4.
- Niles Congregational Church - November 2010 - family of 4.
- Newark Community Church - December 2010 - family of 3.
- Corpus Christi Church - December 2010 (move in January ...2011) - ..family of 4.
- St James' Episcopal Church - December 2010 (move in ..January 2011) - ..family of 4.
- Family Bible Fellowship - December 2010 (move in January ...2011) - ..family of 2.

As of this writing we'll have 21 folks out of cold and into a home. More churches are waiting for their awarded family. Meetings will continue to occur throughout the year to update the program and evaluate its successes and ways to improve. Gregg Feeney & Scott Whitaker will continue to update the members of St James' as progress continues with our family.

Thanks and God bless.

Gregg Feeney

Thank You Reception for George Vlastelica

On December 10, a reception was held giving thanks to George Vlastelica for his many years of outreach, particularly with re-housing people in the Tri-City areas. Scott Whitaker is stepping in to help Gregg Feeney with future efforts.

Christian Formation

Stephen Ferro, Janet Fischer & Marlene Benedict

6 a.m. Bible Study

The group meets to “read, mark, learn and inwardly digest” the next Sunday’s lessons and consider how the lessons apply to our every changing world. As seekers on a journey together, members are not always in agreement as to the meanings of these lessons. All opinions are honored however, as the attempt is made to make the scriptures relevant. Please consider this morning study in 2012. Everyone is welcome to attend on Tuesday mornings from 6-7 am at the home of Genore Schaaf. Contact Genore at (510) 793-0907.

Genore Schaaf

Faith Formation

First off, big thanks to a great team: Alice Johnson, Jeanne Morris, Andy MacRae, EJ Hilliard, Scott Whitaker, John Maloney and our really supportive and active Vestry member Janet Fischer. They carried a big load initiating presentations, in many cases presenting classes, promoting the classes, and coordinating class presenters.

Next, to our class presenters, thank you for your interest, talent, faith, enthusiasm, and putting up with me. Presenters’ thanks to Barbara Lyon, Nancy Svenson, Linda Nelsen, The Rev. Bob Dobbin, The Rev. Lori Walton, Barbara Dabney, and Valle Brokes. And, if I missed a presenter who isn’t a Faith Formation Team member, my humble apologies to one and all.

Let me tell you a bit about the classes in case you missed them. They have been fun, educational, and faith formative. One of my favorite classes was *Eat, Pray, Grow*, our Lenten Evening class led by the Rev. Lori Walton, exploring our relationship to food and faith and spiritual growth. *An Altar in the World* with The Rev. Bob Dobbin helped us glimpse God all around us. John Maloney’s *The Letter of James* gave us a lot more respect for faith and works. Janet Fischer’s *The Greatest Prayer* helped us to realize the very deep meanings in The Lord’s Prayer. Also, Janet’s *Embracing Adult Faith* classes helped bring greater understanding to our faith. Art and Faith for 2011 Lent spanned the gamut of poetry, music and visual arts with many parish artists showing and singing the relationship of art to faith. Film Nights allowed us to view movies with a faithful theme and discuss those themes – Thanks, Andy MacRae. We discussed The Anglican Covenant and the 2011 Diocesan Resolutions to keep us informed of what is happening in the Diocese and the Anglican Church. Locally we hosted a presentation of Vestry Cluster Functions and another detailing Community Service (there is more to do out there than one imagines). Alice Johnson hosted *The Saints in Our Lives* – personal saints we recognize in our lives. Linda and Dave Nelsen hosted the creation of Advent Wreaths for our entry into Advent.

More fun Faith Formation classes to come in 2012. You may recall September 18th when a simple survey asked the congregation for Faith Formation class ideas, and the Faith Formation Team has attempted to include those ideas in the upcoming Spring and Fall 2012 Faith Formation classes. The first will be *Women of Faith* on January 8th. “*Who wrote the Bible?*” is on the schedule. Others will follow. Your ideas are always welcome. For Sunday mornings in Lent schedule your self for *The Challenge of Jesus*.

See you Sunday Mornings at 9:15!

Bruce Roberts
Faith Formation Team Chair

Sunday School

This year was a transition for Sunday school at St. James’. Godly Play met most Sundays until the Summer when it took it’s normal break. Brian Cochran served as story-teller and a group of volunteers consisting of parents and parishioners served as door people. In May Brian Cochran stepped down as Story-teller, coordinator, and trainer.

During the summer break a group of volunteers were gathered and a new curriculum, Weaving God’s Promises was selected. The Sunday School room was also moved from EB4 to EB3 to allow for easier access for parents and their children. The room was re-organized, and with the help of Jan Scrutton, has new curtains closing off the closet and a covered altar for the children's use. Lauren Doherty made name tags and the room is brightly decorated with the children's work.

In September the new Sunday school started meeting at 10:15 with Lauren and Bob Doherty serving as teachers for September and October. Mary Casas and Laura Winter took over teaching in October and continued teaching through Christmas. Several volunteers have come in to help on Sundays and Kathryn Ruth, our nursery provider also helps when there are no children in the nursery. The average number of kids in Sunday School from September through December was approximately 4 to 5 children.

In the new year Sunday school continues to meet Sundays at 10:15 with Lauren and Bob Doherty teaching in January.

Stephen Ferro

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

During 2011, 18 Lectors and 15 Eucharistic Ministers served at over 150 services at St. James’. These dedicated groups 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 us, and have been wonderfully flexible as schedules change. I am honored to work with such dedicated people.

Members of the 2011 teams include

:

Lectors: Tom Blalock, Valle Brokes, Vicky Greening, Patty Lacy, Andy MacRae, Peter

Maina, Linda Nelsen, Jim McConnell, Betty McCoy, Pegeen Perry, Raelene Ramsamy, Bruce Roberts, Jack Rux, Mike Scrutton, Maggie Shalar, Pat Spalding, Ken Trant, and Jackie Whitehouse.

Eucharistic Ministers: LeaMarie Ave, Barbara Dabney, Janet Fischer, Gary Gearheart, EJ Hilliard, Brad Hoffman, Johanne LaRocque, Lynn Locher, Ralph Locher, Greg Miller, Marilyn Rose, Alison Saichek, Connie Rux, Bud Spalding, Laura Winter.

Janet Fischer

Music Ministry Report

I began working at St. James as the Music Director in September of 2011. The St. James community has made me feel very welcome and I am very happy to be here!

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 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.

Chancel Choir: There are 14 current choir members. They are: LeaMarie Ave, Valle Brokes, Gary Gearheart, EJ Hilliard, Sandy Jaekel, John Maloney, Greg Miller, Elaine Miller, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, Don Rose, Alison Saichek, and Pat Vlastilica. Joey Carini and Fr. Jim McLeod have also joined us for special anthems on a few Sundays.

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

Special Instrumental Music: Deanne Flatley sang "Where Sheep Safely Graze" by J.S. Bach, "Pie Jesu" from Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem, and "Were You There" as soprano solos. We wish Deanne and her family the best as they settle in their new home in Southern California.

Alison Saichek accompanied Deanne Flatley on "Where Sheep Safely Graze" and on "Pie Jesu" on flute. Alison has also played flute solos and descants and solos throughout the year. Deanne and Alison played some fun flute duets in the courtyard after the 10:30am service as well.

For Christmas Eve, members of the congregation were invited to join the choir. We had many people join the choir for the Christmas Eve service, which was wonderful! The Christmas Eve choir included: LeaMarie Ave, Byron Bader, Audre Brokes, Valle Brokes, Arlinda Cosby, Bryneth Fuller, Jonathan Fuller, Gary Gearheart, John Maloney, Greg Miller, Elaine Miller, Bud Pearson, Donald Razzolini, Bruce Roberts, Don Rose, Alison Saichek, Nancy Svenson, Paul Svenson, George Vlastilica, Pat Vlastilica, Christina Wong, Eling Wong, Jessica Wong, and Katherine Wong.

We also had some guest musicians for Christmas Eve. Two alto singers, Melissa Miyamoto and Rose Tahaafe, joined the choir. In addition, two recorder players, Christopher Aguirre and Joseph Rodriguez, joined with Alison Saichek to form a recorder trio. The special instrumentalists and singers helped make Christmas Eve a beautiful musical evening.

Children's Choir: Our Children's Choir has had a great start! The Children's Choir sang at services for St. Francis' Day, All Saints' Day, and Las Posadas. Children that have sang with the choir are: Joey Carini, Olivia Carini, Asher Flatley, Mathias Malewicz, Olivia Nabueera, Luke Schueffele, Isabella Slayton, and Sophia Slayton. The music program at St. James has a lot of energy and excitement! I am honored to be a part of it!
Sincerely,
Jennifer Carini
Music Director

Women's Spirituality Group

The Women's Spirituality Group meets in the Study at 1:30 PM on Thursday except holidays and days when no one can meet. Our meeting lasts for an hour. Our current group consists of six women. The purpose of our group is to provide emotional and spiritual support to each other and *to* promote emotional and spiritual growth in our own lives and the lives of those we love.

We started the year studying the book *Enduring Grace, Living Portraits of Seven Women Mystics* by Carol Lee Flinders. We are currently in the first part of a three year study called *Forming Community Through Story*. This program is the result of a collaborative development team from the Diocese of Northern Michigan, Vermont, Nevada, California, Wyoming and the Episcopal Divinity School. We have completed Unit 1-Encountering Our Story and are working on Unit 2-Gathered by the Spirit. We rotate leading each week's study. Our group looks forward to the depth of enlightenment that each session brings to us.

Women's Spirituality is open to all women of the church. Please come and join us. For further information contact Lynn Locher, Barbara Dabney, Elaine Miller, Pam Young, Laura Samuels or Ava Moore.

Lynn Locher

Vacation Bible School 2011

Grow Tall With God

After a long break VBS returned to St James' this July with a team of adults and teens hosting a week of games, crafts, stories and teaching. Generous donations from members of the congregation allowed us to cover the start up cost, including banners and a parachute to play with. The Parish Hall was given over to be a craft room for the week and church became a 'green' teaching space that children entered each morning to sit around a 6 foot high tree and hear the story and teaching. The story of creation, Zacchaeus in the tree and fruits of the spirit were among the stories used to develop the theme..

Twenty four children joined us for 5 mornings and the VBS team finished the week exhausted but enthusiastic and already talking about next year (anyone want to build a boat?)

Jan Scrutton

Youth Space / Youth Group

This September the Youth Group took on a new program and with it swelled its numbers to around 10 regular attendees. The course chosen by Lori, Mike & Jan to act as a preparation for confirmation is called Confirm Not Conform and encourages young people to claim their own faith by looking faith of the church and considering their own belief system. It is a very engaging course that challenges both the teens and their leaders. We are also joined for some sessions by a group of 8 mentors who are there to share their own experiences and join in with the learning. Confirmation will be available to those who decide that is what they want to do in November 2012 and we will celebrate that at St James' with a special service where the youth group will share their stories.

Mike & Jan Scrutton

Southern Alameda County Deanery Report

The Southern Alameda Deanery is made up of the clergy and representatives from the following six churches: St James' and St Anne's in Fremont, St Bartholomew's in Livermore, St Claire's in Pleasanton and Holy Cross in Castro Valley.

Meetings are held quarterly at the various churches to discuss church matters on a regional basis, get up dates about wider diocesan concerns and review proposals to come before the convention.

In addition to the business meetings the deanery hosted the Annual BASH in August at Shadow Cliffs Park in Pleasanton. The Rev. Lori Walton celebrated the opening Eucharist with the BBQ picnic, games and festivities following.

Prior to the 162nd Convention in October, we reviewed the agenda, the budget and discussed the various resolutions. The convention delegates voted on three resolutions as follows: defeated Resolution One to boycott and disinvest from Israeli settlements; passed Resolution Two to create a joint commission with Episcopal chaplaincies and ecumenical counterparts to grow campus ministries; passed Resolution Three to have transparency in Bishop consents.

Two canons changes were approved: Canon 9.01 was amended to show a slight change in the boundary between Alameda and Contra Costa Deaneries to allow the transfer of St Mark's in Crockett from Alameda to Contra Costa Deanery; made other adjustments to several cannons in order to comply with the CA Corporation Code.

In addition the delegates voted soundly to pass the resolution expressing disapproval of the proposed Anglican Covenant.

The convention delegates also selected new members for the several diocesan committees and new clergy were introduced.

The St James' deanery representatives serving this year were Barbara Dabney, Alice Johnson, JimMcConnell and Scott Whitaker. Tim Young served as the alternate.

Alice Johnson