



SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Report for 2012

Submitted for the Annual Meeting Held January 20, 2013

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Lead Team Reports

Rector’s Report

The 2012 Calendar year brought to St. James’ many joys and a few sorrows. I considered 2011 my “trial” year, as it was my first full year as your rector. 2012 seemed to be a bit more routine as it was the “second-time” through for many of us.

Worship and Liturgy

For 2012, we had a healthy staffing of clergy support, with The Reverend Canon Jim McLeod, retired priest from Palo Alto, preaching and supplying when needed, and Deacons Bob Dobbin and Bill Mosier serving and preaching.

Our liturgical schedule pretty much followed the routine of the past two years. We started the year on January 1st with Sunday Eucharist and the Feast of the Holy Name.

We had 30 children and adults at the Children’s Imposition of Ashes on Shrove Tuesday, up from about 17 in 2011. Over three Ash Wednesday services, we gave out ashes to 92 congregants. Holy Week was both somber and meaningful. Members of the Philippine Independent Church joined us on Maundy Thursday where we ate, sang, entered into ritual, had communion, and stripped the altar. For Good Friday, we moved through a two-hour meditation on Jesus’ Seven Last Words (reflections given by Barbara Dabney, Bruce Roberts, Brian Cochran, Lauren Doherty, Mary Casas, Jim McConnell and Bill Mosier), walked the Stations of the Cross, and entered into a Tenebrae Service performed by the Choir. Also during Lent, the Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bell Ringers offered a beautifully sung Evensong.

The Easter Vigil brought great joy and laughter with 75 people celebrating. Creative and light-hearted skits were offered by The Svenson Family and Barbara Lyon, SaintJ Youth, Gary Gearheart, Greg Miller, Ken Trant, Bud Pearson, and Bruce Roberts, and John Maloney. Our Easter Sunday service saw a full church with 239 parishioners and visitors.

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. For Christmas, we celebrated a 4:00 Family Service that drew 104 participants, a Midnight Mass Service with 123 attending, and 38 congregants on Christmas Day.

Two special services of note were the VBS Sunday Service on August 5 and the iConfirm Service on November 11. Both services brought joy, great celebration, wonderful slideshows, and several visitors to our campus. In December we held a “liturgy of the word” service for the children and their families in the Little Church, providing an opportunity for story, prayer, and ritual for our young members. Also in December, we held a prayer service in response to the tragic killings in Newtown Connecticut, providing a place to grieve, and letting the community know that we are a place of prayer for everyone.

Our Music Director, Jennifer Carini, completed one full year of service with us bringing creativity and light-heartedness to our music program. She continues to be a fantastic addition to our staff.

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, and Joey Carini have all done a great job with assisting with our services. This year, acolyte scheduling was transferred to the newly created Children, Teen, and Family Coordinator (see separate report for more on this position).

During the year, we baptized two children: Anthony Sun Prickett and Kaitlin Margaret Evans-Bodenrader. We traveled with 8 youth to Grace Cathedral to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church: Beth Scrutton, Anthony Prickett, Joey Carini, Bon Osha, Tom Scrutton, Hilary Sanders, Chanelle Francis, and Bryneth Fuller. I officiated at three weddings: Peter and Esther Maina, Meg and John Williams/Amouroux, and Monika and Kevin Carvalho/O'Donoghue.

We also held five funerals or memorials for current and prior members who died, four of which were current members of our congregation: Doris Whitaker, Irma McLean, Mary Gifford, and Tim Koonze. All four are deeply missed.

A strong Lay Eucharistic Minister Team continues to assist me with our pastoral care needs: Lynn Locher, Brad Hoffman, Barbara Dabney, Annie Blalock, Johanne LaRocque, and Lea Marie Ave and Gary Gearheart.

A major addition to our Liturgical life is the newly planted congregation called Sacred Space, an outdoor church that worships every Sunday at 2:00pm behind the City Hall building in Hayward. Led by Deacon John Trubina, I preside at that service monthly, and members of St. James' join in worship and help feed lunch following the service.

Office Staff and Administration

Sexton Art Gallardo continues to do a solid job in keeping the grounds manicured and the buildings clean. In January of 2012, we brought on Brenda Iodence as our Parish Administrator. Brenda brings to the position strong organizational and property management skills. She has been instrumental in coordinating projects such as the carpet installation and roof repairs on the Little Church. We said good-bye to our Nursery provider, Kathryn Ruth, as she moved on to work on a PhD. Kathryn was an energetic and enthusiastic caregiver and teacher that brought much to our youngest children. The nursery continues to be staffed by volunteers as we work to hire a replacement.

For the entirety of 2012, 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. The essential task of Treasure was passed from Jan Brant to Lynn Locher. Lynn has done an incredible job with learning the new position and keeping our finances in order. Elizabeth Hart, in her role as Clerk, has done an excellent job in recording and distributing the meeting minutes. For the first time, the Vestry held their annual retreat at the Bishop's Ranch with the rest of the Deanery Vestries and Deanery Delegates.

In service to the wider church, Scott Whitaker was elected as the 2013 Deanery Vice-President. Jim McConnell was elected to represent our deanery on the Executive Council. I was elected to a four-year term on the Standing Committee.

Children and Teens

When I began my call at St. James', I committed to instituting a renewed focus on our Children and Teens. Both the vestry and I believe that the growth of this segment of our community is essential to the longevity of St. James', and therefore requires significant investment of time and resource. With this in mind, and with the help of many, this is likely the area that has seen the most growth and energy.

From the Confirmation Class to Vacation Bible School to Abode Kids to Sunday School, this ministry is becoming foundational to our identity. In order to move forward and keep momentum, we created a new part-time position titled Children, Teen and Family Coordinator (CTF Coordinator). This position is responsible for drawing together all of the programs and worship offered to families with children/teens. To begin building the foundation of this position, Jan Scrutton agreed to serve in this capacity as a

volunteer until the position could be funded. Jan has done an amazing job at communicating, creating, and bringing energy to this role. For further information, please see her report.

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 is now being chaired by LeaMarie Ave, who has done a great job rallying the troops. For more detail, see the Welcome Committee report.

Rector Housing

A major milestone was realized in July 2012 with the purchase of our home in Newark. This effort was a monumental one, one that was taken on by a Housing Committee brought together for this purpose, and the Vestry. My deep, deep gratitude goes to both of these groups for the work they put into this effort, but more importantly, for the faith they showed in my role as the rector of this church.

As part of my ministry, it is my vision to share our home for the work of the church. To jump-start that, Ron and I hosted the Housing Committee and Vestry and their families for a September evening of dessert and gratitude. We then had a very crowded and happy house-blessing in November. In December, I hosted the annual Altar Guild Christmas Brunch. Ron and I look forward to welcoming many into our home in 2013.

I often tell my colleagues that my church is a church on steroids. I say this because of the level of involvement of our members. Almost every person is involved in some aspect of our common life, which makes St. James' an amazing place to behold. I look forward to the friends yet to come and to continuing our ministry together. May 2013 be richly blessed.

Senior Warden's Report

Janet Fischer

When Lori asked me to serve as Sr. Warden, I had to think about it long and hard. My biggest question was, "Isn't the congregation tired of hearing my voice?" I am so very grateful that I decided to take up Lori on her offer. It has reinforced something that I already knew – that this parish is full of wonderful, dedicated people. You show the love of God in all you do, and it is an inspiration to me.

During the past year, along with usual church business, the Vestry had four major decisions to make:

1. What do to about clergy housing?
2. What to do with the Schader Fund money?
3. What to do about the Little Church?
4. What to do about our Children and Youth program?

You need to know, if you didn't already, that your Vestry tackled each issue with attention, wisdom, grace, discernment, caution, and love. They did not shrink from asking hard questions or from making hard decisions. They have been generous with their time, sometimes attending additional meetings so that we could give our undivided attention to the issue at hand.

Clergy Housing. Lori needed to live in the neighborhood in which she serves. We looked at all of our options to help make that happen, ranging from "do nothing" to "buy a rectory." By creating a mortgage down-payment fund, the path we chose sets a standard for other churches in the Diocese and creates a long-term plan for clergy stability in the new economy.

The Schader Fund. After exploring and digesting the priorities and comments from the parish survey conducted by the Schader Fund Committee, the Vestry made a number of careful decisions throughout the year that we believe uses the money wisely. The details of the allocations we made are in the Schader Report further below.

The Little Church. Over 100 years old, our Little Church has been limping along lately, with mostly cosmetic repairs in the past few years. The Little Church Renovation Committee has eagerly moved forward with their plans and ideas for keeping the Little Church a safe and viable worship space for many years to come. The Vestry voted to fund the initial engineering report, which was needed before we could

even know exactly what needs to be done. We then prioritized the work to the best of our ability and allocated \$100,000 from the Schader Fund for that work. This amount is in addition to the costs for the restoration of the stained glass windows, which had been previously approved and funded. This year will be a busy one around campus as numerous repairs and upgrades are made to this beloved space.

Youth Ministry. Our parish is not just about buildings. It cannot be. If our church does not grow, eventually we will have nothing but lovely, empty buildings. We must put our energy into children, youth and family programs. Toward that end, the Vestry has approved the funding to hire a professional Children, Teen & Family Coordinator. Jan Scrutton has served as a volunteer in this new position for several months, laying the groundwork and working with Lori to design the position. During the summer we will be hiring to fill this part-time staff position, and will be looking for a clergy person to fill it. I encourage you to support his effort with your pledges so that this position can be fully funded.

What a roller coaster ride this year has been. I am grateful for Lori's gentle guidance and trust in me. Nor could I have done the work that was before me to do without the help of Laura Winter, Jr. Warden. When I was busy with signing documents to get escrow closed on Lori's house, analyzing reports from the Schader Committee or the Little Church Committee, or attending meetings, Laura was there to step in and take care of things around the church. I am ever-grateful for her help.

The ministry of this parish is at its best when we do things that evolve organically out of our relationship with God and with each other. I have no doubt that 2013 will continue in the same way.

Junior Warden's Report

Laura Winter

The Junior Warden's role at St James' is important and is very fluid. Some responsibilities are set; others come up throughout the year. The defined portion consists of: be part of the Lead Team, report the calendar items to the Vestry and make sure the website version is current, provide Vestry meeting recaps for the newsletter, work with our administrator Brenda on the outside uses of our campus and worship space, and be available to the congregation. The flexible portion means be aware of what happens at church, listen to concerns, and step up to do things big and small as needed for the benefit of St James'.

As Junior Warden, I oversaw the pew chair reupholstering and organized clearing the church prior to the new carpet installation. I also swept the walks before Mary Gifford's and Tim Koonze's memorial services. Before each of the Christmas Eve services, I pulled out the vacuum and cleaned the floor so we looked our best for everyone who came to celebrate that night. Whatever I could do for the benefit of St James' got done.

When the year started, the Junior Warden was fully responsible for dealing with any outside group using St James'. This year the administrative work was transferred to Brenda in the office. The Junior Warden is still involved, as a member of the Vestry needs to talk to potential and ongoing users and be aware of what is going on. Brenda does the paperwork and key distribution now and has taken a big load off the Junior Warden.

I've been honored to serve on the Vestry the past three years and as Junior Warden in 2012. When I joined the Vestry St James' was in the middle of our search for a new rector. I am one of the last remaining Vestry members (along with Brad Hoffman and Stephen Ferro) who interviewed and hired Lori. Since then the church has grown, especially our youth and children's programs and the newly formed Sacred Space ministry. I had the opportunity to talk with many of you and appreciate your commitment and dedication to our church community. We care deeply for St James' and that is very apparent. Thank you for your trust in me and in St James'.

Altar Guild

Ruth Poole & Dorothy Balderston

This last year brought a big change to the Altar Guild. Margaret Rainey moved to Vacaville. She has been Directress for many years. Trying to follow in her footsteps, Ruth Poole and Dorothy Balderston have stepped forward. The Altar Guild is made up of 16 women who work in four teams. As of late this year Ava Moore has agreed to set up for Wednesday Service. Each of the teams, once a month, prepare the Altar for both services on Sunday. Also included are preparing for Memorial Services, weddings or any

other services during the year. The linens are laundered and cared for by another member of the church. A yearly brunch is held with the clergy in December. Anybody interested in becoming an Altar Guild member please contact Ruth Poole or Dorothy Balderston.

Children, Teen and Family Coordinator

Jan Scrutton

The commitment a Church, a Rector and a Vestry make when creating a new staff position is significant. The declaration that a role, aim or group of tasks is important enough to justify a position, along with the creation of space and resources, is a significant commitment. I am very grateful that this community has trusted me to take my part this year in creating this new staff position at St James' and I have enjoyed the first 4 months very much.

In looking to grow our ministry to Children, Teens and Families we start from a healthy point. Our community wants to find ways to support the families we have and to be a place families, and children, want to be part of. We have many events that welcome and include everyone, St James' Day, Las Posadas, Easter Celebrations to name a few. One of my first tasks as CTF coordinator was to pull together information on all these things, to identify what we already do. I have created a Family Calendar available to the entire congregation but also to be mailed out to families with children in our community and to those who connected to us through VBS. The Family Calendar aims to let people with kids know what is going on that they might like to connect with – and gives them plenty of warning!

Organizing our resources and being aware of what we already have is important. Our greatest resources are the people committed and willing to donate time and energy to our younger members. Including our Sunday School teams, our Youth Group mentors, Abode Kids Volunteers, VBS Leaders, Parents and Grandparents. I hope in the future our CTF Coordinator will offer guidance, support and be a resource for these people, no single staff member can ever take their place.

Of course my work this year is to help create the space and outline the job description for someone to be appointed to this role. I look forward to working with Lori and the Vestry in 2013 and to helping St James' get ready to welcome that person in due course. I am also excited by the opportunity to work with our new staff member to further this ministry here at St James'.

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 and volunteer as "cashiers" for special events such as the pancake dinner.

The counters are faithful behind-the-scenes workers who understand accuracy and confidentiality as top priorities. It is a monthly commitment which they take pride in doing. Please help them out by putting your pledge number on your check when you do not use a pledge envelope.

Endowment Report

Dave Nelsen

- The Endowment Board includes five members. Patty Lacy completed a 3 year term on the board and we thank her for her service and dedication to the board. Sylvia Ma was welcomed to the board in April. The other board members are Marnie Hartmann, Tom Blalock, Joan Roberts and Dave Nelsen.
- Currently there are 51 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'.
- 40 individual gifts were made to the Endowment fund in 2012 totaling \$24,496. This includes a \$20,000 gift from the Shirley Schader fund added by the Vestry. Gifts were made in memory of;

Doris Whitaker, Mary Gifford, Tim Koonze, Cirirco Ramos and in thanksgiving for 50 years at St. James'.

- \$1523 was distributed during our annual meeting last January. The Little Church special interest fund received \$305, the Memorial Garden special interest fund received \$457 and the vestry received \$761.
- In June, will writing appointments were coordinated with the gift planning department at the diocese. Ann Saponara, attorney and parishioner at St. Anne's Church, gave her entire day for this event. 10 individuals took advantage of her services, either writing a new will or updating an existing one.
- In September, six parishioners were welcomed to the Shell Society during a luncheon hosted by the Endowment Board. Two guests joined us from the City of Fremont, Aging and Family Services department. Their presentation, Encore - Aging with Gusto, included wonderful information about senior service options available to seniors and their care-givers.
- Early last year our endowment funds were moved to State Street Global Advisors (SSgA) under the professional management of the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF). We are invested in the ECF Balanced Fund. Its objective is: The Balanced Fund seeks to provide capital appreciation as well as generate income. The Fund is designed to incorporate a broad set of asset classes in order to provide diversification of returns and risks over an entire business cycle. We manage a well-diversified portfolio of U.S. Large Cap, U.S. Mid Cap, U.S. Small Cap, International Equities, and Socially Screened Fixed Income. The current market value of the Endowment is \$123,100.
- The Endowment Board and Vestry agreed to adopt a new distribution policy (formally known as the Spending Rules Document). The 2 main differences between the prior and new policies are; 1. We will now use a 3 year (12 quarter) rolling average of the principle and market values to determine distributions. 2. Expendable funds will be determined on the basis of a "Total return principle", using interest, dividends and capital gains and losses.
- The current principal value of the endowment fund is \$114,885 and is comprised of 3 special interest groups in the following proportions; The General fund makes up 60%, the Memorial Garden fund is 24% and the Little Church fund represents 16% of the total value.

Fundraisers

Janet Fischer

Each year St. James' conducts a number of fundraising events to support our outreach efforts and to supplement our operating fund. These events are carried out by dedicated parishioners and involve a great deal of time and effort if they are to be successful. During 2012, the congregation organized and generously supported the following fundraisers:

McCutcheon Concert – held annually in January. Full report is below.	\$2771.46
Abode Shoes – donations of cash so Abode Services can purchase new shoes for children attending school in the fall. This figure does not include the Payless Shoe Source gift cards that were also donated.	\$1,542.00
Home warming, including our annual Walk-a-Rock-a-Thon.	\$2,148.00
E-Script. Those who use e-script designate St. James' as a recipient.	\$33.04
Birthday money – You've seen people go forward for a birthday blessing during service and put some coins or a bill into the little brass bowl. This money is used for charitable purposes..	\$167.47
Total raised:	\$6,661.97

Information Technology Team Report

Mike Scrutton

This year the IT team has upgraded the campus network to provide separate secured zones for office and general use, as well as obtained a new PC for the use of the office volunteers, primarily for access to the Church membership database. A networked color printer is now available for office use. Last year's work on podcasting and Internet blogs has been integrated into the new church website – see the Communication and Evangelism cluster report for more information. Thanks go to Mike Scrutton, Bud Pearson and Greg Miller for their continued support.

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

Janet Fischer

During 2012, 19 Lectors and 14 Eucharistic Ministers served at over 150 services at St. James'. These dedicated parishioners handle holy things by reading the scripture lessons, assisting in the liturgy and at the altar. They work hard to make each church service a worshipful experience for everyone, and have been wonderfully flexible as schedules change. I am honored to work with such dedicated people.

Members of the 2012 teams include:

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

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

Little Church Committee

Sylvia Ma

The Little Church Renovation Committee was commissioned by the Vestry in 2012 to study and recommend repairs/maintenance/renovation of the Little Church. We have been meeting once a month and we submit written reports to the Vestry on a regular basis. The Vestry reviews each repair/maintenance /renovation proposal and approves each funding. The Committee consists of The Rev. Lori Walton, Sylvia Ma (chair), Scott Kennedy (emeritus), Patty Lacy, Jim McConnell, Mary Casas, Chris Perry, Tom Blalock, Jan Brandt, Nancy Svenson and Bobbie Tomkinson. Repairing and renovating our beloved Little Church is a multi-year endeavor. We have made some headway in 2012 in defining this large and complicated project.

Some of the tasks we have done in 2012 are:

- We hired Hogan Art Glass to clean and repair the stained glass windows in the Little Church. Mary Casas was instrumental in coordinating this project which has now been completed.
- We obtained bids from 2 structural engineers and hired Earthquakes and Structures, Inc. (ESI) to perform a structural evaluation of the Little Church, resulting in a detail report documenting the existing condition of the Little Church and the recommendations for repairs.
From the list of recommended repairs:
- We have obtained inspections from 3 vendors and hired Pacific Coast to eradicate pests, with Orange Oil, under and around the Little Church.
- We have obtained bids for furnace piping asbestos abatement, for new gutters and for electrical works,
- We have obtained a cost proposal from ESI to draw up engineering plans for seismic and wind retrofit in the crawlspace

In 2013, the Little Church Renovation Committee will continue to work on the proposed repairs in the Structural Report from ESI and which are approved by the Vestry. We would like to thank Ron Larson for advising us on the electrical needs of the Little Church, Bud Pearson and Bruce Roberts for their input on the audio needs, and Ruth Poole and the Altar Guild for giving us input on their needs in the sacristy. We would like to thank the Lead Team and the Vestry, especially Brad Hoffman and Bud Spalding from Facilities, for their support throughout the year and for their approval of funding on the repairs completed in 2012.

McCutcheon Concert

The 2012 John McCutcheon Concert on Monday Jan 16 was a great success. We had over 230 in attendance, with more than 40% non-parishioners. Ticket sales totaled \$5745. John McCutcheon gave us another very entertaining evening. The raffle drawing during the concert intermission brought in \$727.

The snack bar also did well, bringing in \$164. The concert had expenses totaled \$3864.54. We raised \$2771.46 for the Operating Fund!

This fundraising and community outreach event could not have happened without all your help. There were more than 60 people who contributed time, talent and treasure not only on Jan 16, but in the few months before that date. They wrote, sent out and uploaded publicity notices/articles/blog; 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 for John McCutcheon and his Road Manager; borrowed and returned the stage (from Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park) and the extra chairs (from Harbor Light); wrote and made verbal announcements, donated all those marvelous prizes for the drawing; cleaned up the campus; put up lights and a canopy on campus; helped with parking lot and crowd managements; set-up before the concert and cleaned-up after the concert; baked dozens of delicious cookies; made coffee; helped with the snack bar; cooked and served a wonderful dinner for the crew before the concert; donated wine and soda for the crew dinner; washed all the dishes; cleaned up the kitchen; set up and took down the dressing room; ushered; sold CDs for John McCutcheon; created and printed the programs; showed great hospitality; did a wonderful job as MC/announcers; took photos; took John McCutcheon to the hotel; waited for the sound guys (from Zamar Sounds) to set up the sound systems and the lights before the concert and to pack everything up after the concert; did all the accounting and analysis ...as well as countless people who offered prayers and encouragements along the way. Thank you. We appreciate all your supports and ministries.

The 2013 McCutcheon Concert will be on Jan 21. We have been busy organizing another wonderful evening for our communities. Part of the proceeds from the 2013 concert will go towards ABODE Services to combat homelessness.

The McCutcheon Concert Team

Music Ministry

Jennifer Carini, Music Director

I celebrated my first 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 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.

Adult Choir: There are 15 current choir members. They are: Josephine Amadi, LeaMarie Ave, Joey Carini, Gary Gearheart, EJ Hilliard, Johanne LaRocque, Monika Lee, John Maloney, Greg Miller, Elaine Miller, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, Don Rose, Pat Vlastilica, and Rod Whitehouse. We have also had guest singers during the year, including Jodi Benson, Isaiah Lute, Fr. Jim McCloud, Alison Saicheck, Margaret Singh, and Jackie Whitehouse.

Two choir members moved during 2012. Sandy Jaekel moved to Texas and Valle Brokes moved to Pennsylvania. The choir misses both ladies very much, and wishes the best for them in their new homes.

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: Byron Bader, Jodi Benson, Vicky Greening, Hailey Peterson, Donald Razzolini, Philippa Slayton, Nancy Svenson, Paul Svenson, and George Vlastelica.

On Easter Sunday, Michelle Latimer joined us to play trumpet. Simone Salmon played the harp on Christmas Eve. Both ladies added beautiful music to two of our most important services of the church year.

Bon Oshawatt and Anthony Prickett played saxophone at the iConfirm service on November 11th. Bon also played the saxophone in May to the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy." Also, Joey Carini and Isaiah Lute sang "For the Beauty of the Earth" during the iConfirm service. During the Las Posadas celebration, Olivia

Carini played "Ode to Joy" on the recorder, and Joey Carini and Isaiah Lute sang "He Shall Feed His Flock" from Handel's Messiah.

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

Children's Choir: There are 6 current choir members. They are: Olivia Carini, Lucy Ferro, Olivia Nabukeera, Luke Schueffele, Isabella Slayton, and Sophia Slayton. The children's choir sang during the Epiphany and Lenten seasons, on Easter Sunday, during the months of May and June, on St. Francis Sunday, in November, and at Las Posadas. The Children's Choir has also been blessed by the anonymous donation of choir robes from one of St. James' parishioners. The children will wear the robes on January 20th for the first time.

During Lent, we had an Evensong service on Thursday, March 15th, that was led by the Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bellringers. The service was beautiful and a wonderful part of our Lenten season at St. James. The sounds of the boys singing and ringing, plus the artistic display of candles by Elaine and Angelina Miller, made for a brilliant evening. The choir will come back again in Lent during 2013 to sing Evensong for us again.

Another special event was a choir concert at St. James, featuring the Adult Choirs of St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Fremont and St. James' Adult and Children's Choirs. This combined concert happened on June 10th in the Main Church. It was wonderful to hear anthems from each choir, and then to hear both Adult Choirs together. The Children's Choir joined in with St. James' Adult Choir on "This Little Light of Mine" as well. This concert was a great way for both St. James' and St. Anne's parishioners to meet one another and celebrate with song.

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

The Adult and Children's Choirs enjoyed performing as part of Stewardship: The Musical in November. Many thanks to Gail Blalock for composing and directing the musical; we had a lot of fun! I had a wonderful time being the choir director of the Interfaith Choir for the Tri-City Interfaith Council's Thanksgiving service on Monday, November 19th. Directing a choir of people from many different faiths was a great opportunity for me, and for St. James to be a part of such a moving service within our community. Thank you to Josephine Amadi, Joey Carini, Barbara Lyon, Johanne LaRocque, and Pat Vlastelica for being a part of the Interfaith Choir.

The St. James' music program is growing bit by bit! All parishioners are welcome to be a part of our music making! Please see me if you are interested!

Schader Fund

Janet Fischer

Approximately two and a half years ago St. James' was the beneficiary of a generous bequest from long-time parishioner Shirley Schader. We received the disbursement from probate just before our search began for a new Rector. At that time, the Vestry decided to delay any decisions on what to do with that money until after Lori came aboard. The Schader Fund Committee consisted of: Gail Blalock, Jan Brandt, Mary Casas, Sylvia Ma, Dave Nelsen, Jan Scrutton, and Laura Winter. In the spring of this year the congregation had the opportunity to complete a questionnaire so that the Vestry could determine a sense of your priorities for this money. We received 77 responses to that questionnaire, and the committee collated and presented your responses to the Vestry. Evidenced by your responses, the top five priorities were: restoration of the Little Church, savings, capital improvements, deposit in endowment, and fund a part time children's and youth coordinator.

Your vestry has spent many long hours in prayerful and careful consideration over how to allocate this generous gift. The final results of our year-long discernment are as follows:

Initial Deposit	\$278,796.27
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Interest Income through 12/31/2012	\$606.82
Total Available	\$279,403.09
Transfer to Rector Housing	\$(50,000.00)
Paid to Endowment Fund	\$(20,000.00)
Parking Lot repair and resurfacing	\$(28,694.00)
Little Church Structural Evaluation	\$(6,665.00)
Capital improvements	\$(35,000.00)
Children, Youth & Family Coordinator setup costs, computer, etc.	\$(5,000.00)
Allocated for Little Church renovations	\$(100,000.00)
Remaining Unallocated Schader Funds	\$34,044.09

The unallocated funds will remain in savings for future use if needed.

Stewardship Report

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. Our mission focused on “year” ‘round stewardship and being mindful that all things come from God and of our responsibility to be faithful disciples, caring for and managing all that God has given us.

This was accomplished in part through the “Stewardship Corner” articles in each issue of *The Window* newsletter and also by including a brief “Stewardship Moment” message in the St. James’ weekly email and the Sunday Bulletins. In April, we focused on Earth Day and being stewards of the environment. Following both services on Sunday, April 22, parishioners were given pencils containing the message to *reduce, reuse, recycle*, and to strive to make *Every Day Earth Day*.

The Fall Stewardship Program this year was a little different than past years. At both services on Sunday morning, November 18, parishioners Pegeen Perry, Jan Pearson, and Tom Blalock joined Lori in presenting the sermon. Each spoke from the heart and shared their thoughts and feelings about why they give and what St. James’ Church means to them. The Stewardship Team is very appreciative of these special people for their participation and for sharing with us. We know this was not an easy thing to do. We also want to thank Lori for her insights and assistance to the guest speakers that helped make this a truly memorable Sunday.

All parishioners received an invitation to attend “*Stewardship The Musical*” -- *Dinner and a Show* on Sunday, November 18. The evening began with a simple dinner served in the Parish Hall. The Parish Hall was artfully decorated to a musical theme featuring playbills and sheet music from Broadway musicals. Following dinner, everyone proceeded to the Main Church to see, sing, and participate in “*Stewardship The Musical*”, a story about what our community might look like if St. James’ Church no longer existed. With George Vlastelica playing the part of “George” who dreamed St. James’ Church went away, to Gary Gearheart, who was delightful as “Clarence” (the angel hoping to earn his wings), to the “Wise Guys” strutting about in their dark glasses and trench coats (and I would be remiss not to mention John Maloney’s “suit”), to LeaMarie’s bag lady whose “Memory” brought a tear to our eyes, to Barbara Lyon leading a band of protestors around the sanctuary protesting the church being turned into a casino, to the children who rocked us with “Joy to the World” (the “rock” version), to the chorus that entertained us with many familiar tunes, to Jennifer Carini’s fantastic fingers on the keyboard, and to Lori’s inspiring words bringing it all together -- the evening rocked! Thank-you to the many, many people who participated in making this a joyful evening. And, if you’d like to help us plan another *rockin’* event for Fall, 2013, please let me know. More hands are always welcome - join us for one meeting or come to them all -- we’d love to have you join us! Give me a call at 490-7565.

On Pledge Sunday (November 25), only 53 pledging units responded, which was considerably lower than previous years. It's difficult to speculate why the number was so low, but since this was the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend, that may have had some impact. We lost several members in 2012, but we were also blessed with the arrival of some new ones. For 2013, the Vestry determined that pledging would be for the Operating budget and the Vestry will determine the Building budget. As of the writing of this report (January 10), pledging units total 92. I am hopeful a few more pledges will be turned in before the end of January.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Total Pledges:	\$243,622	\$267,036
Operating	\$243,622	\$236,810
Building		\$30,226
Other		\$600

I would like to thank the members of the Stewardship Team for their help, support, and especially their friendship all year long. The Stewardship Team also expresses its appreciation to Lori for her guidance and encouragement throughout the year. And thank-you to the St. James' Community for giving thanks to God each and every day.

Ushers

Burtin Hart

The ushers ministry ended 2012 with 26 ushers, 22 of whom are full-time, and 4 of whom are alternates; however, one of the alternate ushers, Bob Bell, continues to serve at 8 a.m. (Second Sundays) full-time. The ministry is grateful for Bob's continuing full-time support. This year saw Karen Watkins on extended leave for medical issues; however, she is doing well and intends to rejoin the ushers as soon as she is physically capable. Brad Hoffman has continued to captain the 8 a.m. service despite ongoing medical issues. Our prayers continue for both of these long-time ushers.

Also, late in 2012, two captains (also long-time ushers), Bob Reed and Bud Spalding, decided to retire from those positions, with Bob continuing to serve at the 8 a.m. service (First Sundays), and Bud concentrating his efforts on LEM duties but remaining an alternate. The ministry is also grateful for their ongoing support.

It is the steady commitment of such people that makes such a difference in our church lives, and we thank them for their dedication to making Saint James' services run so smoothly. The ushers ministry has positions open for the two vacant captaincies as well as for additional ushers. Youths would be most welcome to usher at Saint James' services, and a call for volunteers has been logged in The Window and a recruiting poster has been posted in the parish hall for some time. The outlook for 2013 is good. A new 10:30 a.m. usher, Evelyn Martinez, has begun serving, and several other people have inquired about ushering.

The ministry needs to concentrate on ensuring that as many of the ushers as possible have completed **Shield the Vulnerable** training early in 2013. Ongoing safety and security needs demand that all ushers complete this training as soon as their schedules allow. For more information, contact Lori Walton or Burtin Hart.

Saint James' ushers are:

Bob Bell, Bob Bynum, Karl Drescher, Gregg Feeney, Ashley Francis, Burtin Hart (Usher Coordinator), Brad Hoffman (Captain, 8:00 Team), Cathy Knotts, Ralph Locher (Captain, 10:30 Team 3), Sylvia Ma, Peter Maina, Steve Maina, Evelyn Martinez, Dave Nelsen, Jan Pearson, Chris Perry, Marco Ramsamy, Donald Razzolini, Bob Reed, Mike Scrutton, Bud Spalding, Ken Trant, Penny Trant (Captain, 10:30 Team 4), Dean Valentine, Karen Watkins, Tim Young.

Welcoming Committee

LeaMarie Ave'

The Welcoming Committee was formally established in April of 2012. Lea Marie Lucas was appointed as the chairperson. Donald Razzolini agreed to be the assistant chairperson. Other members include The Rev. Lori Walton, Jan Pearson, EJ Hilliard, Barbara Dabney, Alice Johnson, Penny Trant, Gary Gearheart, Scott Whitaker, Gregg Feeney, Gail Blalock and Adrienne Farrell. An email 'group' was created to allow easy emailing to the entire group: welcome@saintj.com.

The purpose of the committee is to ensure all visitors are welcomed, that there are follow-up emails and phone calls to visitors, that on-going visitors are invited to a lunch which transitions them into being members, that new members are integrated into the life of the community. In 2012, we held one Visitor/New Member Lunch in May. Alice Johnson hosted the event at her home; nine new people were treated to lunch.

As a result of the Welcome Committee's work, a new subgroup of "greeters" was created. The greeter's responsibility is to:

- stand with the clergy at the door to identify visitors and say hello
- sit near/next to visitors to ensure they are not struggling with the worship service/bulletins/hymnals.
- stand with the clergy following the service to be ready to invite visitors to the coffee hour in the Parish Hall.

While we are still working out the kinks, this ministry is proving to be effective. The "greeters" are:

- 1st Sunday---Alice Johnson
- 2nd Sunday---Gregg Feeney
- 3rd Sunday---Jan Pearson
- 4th Sunday---Scott Whitaker
- 5th Sunday---Gary Gear heart

The Welcoming Committee will continue to meet and explore best practices for welcoming and integrating people into the community of St. James'.

Worship Committee

Laura Winter

The Worship Committee meets before each liturgical season to discuss the theme to present and the worship style for the Sunday services. Along with Lori, representatives from Music, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Guild, and Liturgical Design participate to provide a cohesive blend. We decide the parts of the service, the mood we want to portray, and how the churches should look.

Members of the committee set up the Parish Hall and provide the food for the Maundy Thursday dinner each year.

Christian Formation Cluster

Stephen Ferro & Nancy Castaneda

Adult Faith Formation

Bruce Roberts, Chair

Last Lent The Rev. Lori Walton wrote, "Make a conscious choice to do something different for the purpose of transforming something within you." Those who attended Faith Formation classes did just that. We pray that more parishioners may take advantage of the 45 minutes between the two Sunday services in 2013.

If one looks at the past year as a crown, the crown itself would be the sixteen session "The Challenge of Jesus" looking at Jesus as a challenge to the Roman occupation of what is now Israel. Headed by Janet Fischer, the John Dominic Crossan presentation and discussion covered the world at that time, Jesus' life, death and resurrection. But there were many jewels in the crown making the offerings of Faith Formation as varied as there are precious and semi-precious stones.

I would like to highlight the presenters who put major work into their presentations, discussions. First to the people who came to us on a Sunday morning: Doug Ford, President of Abode Services Board of directors, updated our vision of Abode (introduced by Margaret Rainey one of St. James' parishioners who spearheaded the movement which resulted in Tri-Cities Homeless Coalition, (previous name of Abode). Next Brother Jude, Society of St. Francis, spoke to us about Episcopal Monastic Orders and Mysticism and preached twice on that Sunday in June.

The Rev. Lori Walton led the evening Lenten discussions based on the Walter Brueggemann DVD "Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture." The Rev. Bob Dobbin detailed the early history of the Book of Common Prayer, how it came into existence and who suffered for it. "Why We Sing What We Sing" was the subject of Jennifer Carini's tutorial on how hymns are chosen to enhance our liturgy.

Bev Mosier taught a class on American Sign Language during the summer, a Sunday session and a Monday session for over twenty-five parishioners. Her amazing teaching skills and dedication helped all to learn a new language.

Other jewels appeared in the form of two presentations on people of faith, first women of faith with Jeanne Morris, Nancy Svenson (&Leonard), Barbara Dabney, and Bruce Roberts, and later in the year Ken Trant treated us to a thoroughly researched presentation on biblical, spiritual and intellectual faith. Scattered jewels showed up in book reviews of *Casting Off* and *The Red Tent* with Bob Bell and Marnie Hartmann; Brian Cochran and Sylvia Ma gave a moving meditation including Qi Gong and Tai Chi; Lynn Locher led us through the forgeries and false prophets indicated in Bart Erhman's book *Who Wrote the Bible* . Brian Cochran and Barbara Dabney viewed for us the life of Evelyn Underhill, twentieth century mystic. EJ Hilliard discussed with the group the resolutions brought before the Diocesan Convention in October. Linda Nelsen beautifully presented (with Dave's assistance) and helped parishioners construct Advent Wreaths.

Last winter/spring Friday Movie Nights presented three cinema gems: "The Next Voice You Hear," "Our Vines Have Tender Grapes," and "The Way." Discussion followed each showing.

This was John Maloney's last year serving on the Faith Formation Committee, his twentieth we believe. Many thanks to John (our bright green emerald) for his long tenure as member and Chair of the group, and thanks for his many, many contributions both physical and intellectual to faith formation. We committee members (EJ Hilliard, Jeanne Morris, Alice Johnson, Nancy Castaneda (Vestry), Janet Fischer (Senior Warden), Ava Moore, and Bruce Roberts) applaud him for his persistence, dedication, and humor. John's retirement has left a void in our midst. Contact me if you would attempt to fill it.

Sunday School & Nursery

Jan Scrutton

In 2012 our Sunday School teaching has been covered by a team of teachers who have been dedicated to working in our mixed age classroom. Sunday School numbers have been steady since September 2012 with 6-8 kids attending weekly from a core group of 10 individuals.

In September, after some research, a decision was made to more over to the One Room School House Curriculum called **Grow, Proclaim, Serve** published by Cokesbury. While having been designed for use in a mixed age classroom the material includes age relevant activities and is working well so far in our Sunday School. The program includes a short video from Leaper's Pointe each week to help illustrate the story.

This year (2012-3) we are running a program where the children collect cards include a Bible verse and prayer for each unit (usually 4 weeks) of Sunday School they attend and for each special event/service we have. Key rings are given out to mark 4 or 8 cards collected. Kathryn Ruth, our Nursery Care Provider, left in December and her place is being covered by volunteers until a decision is made about the future. We remain committed to providing this important service to our youngest members and their parents

St J Youth

Mike & Jan Scrutton

St J Youth had a busy year with 10 regular members, 2 leaders and support from a team of mentors. The main focus for the year was completion of the Confirm not Conform course leading to an opportunity for confirmation in November. For Easter the group participated in the Easter vigil and then slept the night on campus. On November 10 we took the pilgrimage to Grace Cathedral where 7 students were confirmed and one received into the Episcopal Church. The celebrations continued after the service in the cathedral with an iConfirm service (and cake) at St James' the next day celebrating the work of the whole group. Members of St J Youth are involved in many aspects of St James. They acolyte, help in Sunday School and the nursery, sing in our choir, work with St James' at Abode, help at work party, help with special services and bring their own skills to our community. St J Youth welcomes all young people, 6th-12th grade on the second Sunday of each month from 6.30-8.30pm in the Youth Space (Education Building)

Vacation Bible School – Go Fish With God.

Jan Scrutton

Our second summer VBS was attended by 34 kids between the ages of 5 and 12. They were supported by a team of over 20 adults who planned, prepared, worked and played. My appeal for help with making a boat as a prop was met by the gift of a small sailing dingy which made a great centerpiece in church (ask and it shall be given...!) We used watery stories from both the Old and New Testaments. Jonah was swallowed by a big fish, Jesus was baptized, the disciples left their boats to fish for people. We heard of the miracles of Jesus and were reminded of the precious gift of clean water. Thank you again to everyone who is part of our week, to the volunteers and to those who advertised and encouraged children to attend. VBS is a fun week and we are always happy to welcome new volunteers. Next summer our theme will be Christmas in July and we will be having fun from July 22-26 2013.

Abode Kids

Jan Scrutton

Since August 2012 St James' has been involved in a new ministry at Sunrise Village for Abode Services. After VBS we took some of our activities to the kids club that runs 2 nights a week at Sunrise Village. A team of adults and teens from St James' have gone on to run the activities for 2 nights each month. This has been a great new way to serve the community at Abode. We share a story with the kids and then do a couple of craft activities before the all-important snack time. Thank you to the volunteers who make this new outreach work.

Communication and Evangelism Cluster

Mike Scrutton, Valle Brokes & Jack Rux

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'. Valle Brokes served from January through September; Jack Rux joined the Vestry and the cluster in October and will serve the remainder of Valle's term, through 2014.

Advertising and Publicity

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

Email

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

We also maintain a group e-mail list at St.j@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 [send an e-mail to the office](#).

Outdoor Banners

During the year we purchased new “everyday” banners for our weekly services, as well as a new banner to be used for the St. Francis Day Animal Blessing in 2013. A [change in supplier](#) means we can source new banners at a fraction of the previous price.

St. James’ Logo Merchandise

A selection of Saint James’ emblazoned clothing and merchandise is [available for purchase](#) via the website.

St. James’ Newsletter – *The Window*

Ralph Locher



Following the update of our website, we have tracked that the number of web views of [The Window](#) averages around 75 copies a month. Our average printed circulation remains around 50, although I hope to increase it by making sure that copies are easily available for the 8 o'clockers. The editorial staff also worked to create a new master template to ensure consistency and with much help from Mike Scrutton and suggestions by Jack Rux, to improve its appearance and readability. And lastly, kudos and thanks to all the authors for their insightful articles and all the photographers for their great pictures.

Website

The St. James’ website – [saintj.com](#) – was re-launched in 2012 with a new look and feel, and on new server technology (based on WordPress). The new site is designed to be accessible from mobile phones and tablets, and builds on our previous content as well as being regularly updated – this being much easier thanks to the new technology. It continues to be a source of information for both members and visitors to the parish – many visitors mention that they found St. James’ “online.” Regular updates include our [calendar of events](#), which is featured prominently on the front page, as well as [recordings of the weekly sermons](#), which are playable either online on the website, or available [via iTunes](#) as a podcast. The Vestry has been tracking usage of the website this year. Typically we see between 60 and 160 visits per week, with increased visitors around the time of the release of a new edition of The Window. We have also extended our web presence this year to include blogs for our [Children’s Ministries](#), [St. J Youth](#) and [McCutcheon concert](#). New this year is St. James’ presence on [Facebook](#), which enables us to further minister to our online friends and community.

Facilities Cluster

Brad Hoffman & Bud Spalding

This past year, 2012, was a big year for the Facilities Group in the number of projects, repairs, and achievements completed. As a result of careful past fiscal management and a generous legacy, we were able to attend to many projects that had previously been deferred or that occurred and needed immediate attention. Monthly **Work Parties** have maintained our campus and our facilities by regular yard and landscape care, and by repairs to woodwork, doors, plumbing, electrical lighting damaged as a result of age or abuse. In addition to “In House” repairs, outside contractors were necessary to repair the kitchen

refrigerator, thin and trim overgrown Redwood trees, and to repair and replace the Vacuum Cleaner with a commercial quality unit.

Five major restoration projects and one major repair project were initiated and/or completed in 2012:

- Restoration of the LITTLE CHURCH was initiated early in 2012 and became a year long and continuing project. The windows of the Little Church were repaired and replaced in phases throughout the year. Repairs to the Sacristy roof, heater room, and a pest eradication program were completed. A Separate Report is to be on file.
- In January, the PEW CHAIRS and Kneelers in the main Church were cleaned, repaired, reupholstered and recovered.
- In June, the COURTYARD/PATIO was redesigned and reconstructed
- In August, The PARKING LOT was repaired and resurfaced as necessary, after about fifteen to twenty years. HANDICAP PARKING was reconfigured and spaces relocated in order to become compliant with ADA codes.
- In October a major GAS LEAK in the area at the back of the Little Church occurred.
- One Gas line was taken out of service and another line extended to the furnace in the Education Building.
- In December the replacement of the CARPET in the Main church was programmed. The carpet from the 1990s had become worn and was separating at seam lines. Replacement had been scheduled earlier but was finally begun in December. Carpet was purchased and installed. However, faulty installation resulted and was rescheduled and completed January 7, 2013.

The MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE operates independently but under the auspices of the Facilities Group – Ruth Poole is the Coordinator. The Committee report will be included.

Other activities coordinated by the Facilities Group are: Furnace and Filter Maintenance; Fire Extinguisher Maintenance and Testing; Purchase of Maintenance equipment and supplies; Prepare and update emergency disaster planning

In SUMMARY, these projects and the work parties benefit from the willing participation of many parishioners. Each project or group of projects has had a lead person(s) to plan, organize, and coordinate the activity. Our thanks are extended to these members:

- Mary Casas, Sylvia Ma, Scott Kennedy and the Committee – LITTLE CHURCH
- Chris Perry, Tim Spencer, Brad Hoffman, and the many Volunteers, who came to work, often on unfamiliar tasks - WORK PARTIES
- Lori Walton, Brad Hoffman, Brenda Iodence (Parish Administrator) PEW CHAIRS and CARPETTING of Church and those volunteers who moved furniture
- Brad Hoffman - COURTYARD/PATIO, REDWOODS, GAS LEAK and REPAIR
- Bud Spalding and Work Parties - PARKING LOT
- Brenda Iodence (Parish Administrator) – Record Keeping, Personal contact with contract personnel, PARKING LOT, PATIO, CARPET, GAS LEAK

Memorial Garden

Ruth Poole, Chair

The Memorial Garden Committee had a busy year. We maintained the garden to keep it looking beautiful. We again hosted the Memorial Day Coffee Hours for both services. It was a great morning.

On the appropriate holidays flags were put out on each grave.

This year we had one person interred in the Columbarium and one person interred in the Memorial Garden. We placed one In Memory Only stone.

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

Parish Life Cluster

Donald Razzolini & Robert Bynum

2012 proved to be another year filled with continued Transformation, and Renewed Memories.

Food and Fellowship Dinners

Ralph Locher

Enjoyed a second year of friendly socializing in homes of our parishioners. Joan and Bruce Robert hosted the first dinner in January, springtime found us at the home of Jackie and Rod White, then to an outdoor summer event (although it felt more like spring) at Linda and Dave Nelson's and finally a Halloween (costumes optional) party hosted by Debbie and Bob Czerwinski. These dinners have become a very enjoyable way to socialize with your fellow parishioners outside the church. We plan to schedule four such dinners in 2013 as well. These gatherings normally start around 5:30pm and go to 9-10pm. Typical attendance has been around 20-24. The event is open to all adult parishioner 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.

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.

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. A wonderful time together with great food and great fellowship. If you have any suggestions of what to do or where to go for lunch, please let Sylvia Ma or Meg Williams know. Watch for announcements in the Weekly Bulletin, the Window, and the sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall. Do join us if you are **Available for Lunch.**

Easter Egg Hunt

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

Grad Day

Graduate information forms were completed by congregation members identifying 14 graduates for the St James' 2012 graduate class. An article listing graduate names and achievements was noted in the July2012 "Window" listing all 14 of the graduates, a larger version of the article was displayed in the Parish Hall near the refreshment table while cards were signed and given to graduating members of the congregation. Penny Trant chaired the event and assisted the PL team members. With a cake already available/distributed in recognition of Ruby Pike's last day at St. James' and the Ice Cream Social event honoring of all the volunteers it was decided to forego a cake for the graduates this year.

Ladies Flatlanders

Mary Casas

This year's event was held on September 6th- 9th. Ladies Flatlanders was a bit different in 2012. Instead of our usual camping trip the ladies of St. James' rented two lovely beachfront homes in Pajaro Dunes near Watsonville. The weekend was filled with great meals and conversations. There were seventeen women in attendance, for a few it was their first time attending and for some ladies it was their return after many years. Homes have been reserved for next year's event, September 5th- 8th. We welcome all St. James' women to join in the future.

Los Posadas

Held on December 2, 2012, Parish Life took over responsibility of the meal portion this year and will continue in the future. The PL team was given a book of guidelines and an overview of the Los Posadas mindset written by John Maloney. Donald has updated/organized the guidelines booklet to include price breakdowns of food and general resources. A formal copy will be given to the Los Posadas meal coordinator and a copy placed in the Parish Life handbook for future reference. The meal took place in the Parish Hall with overflow gathering in the EB1 meeting room. A reported 105 of the 116 people signed up were in attendance, making good use of the Parish Hall space so the EB1 alternative location for overflow was not needed. As in years past, Penny Trant coordinated the food set-up and has agreed to head this part of the event annually from this point forward.

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

- Don Rose lead a team of volunteers to set-up the tables and chairs
- Penny and Ken Trant set the tables with table cloths and silverware
- Evelyn Martinez and Griselda Prater picked up the food from The Tortilla Factory in Newark.
- John Maloney directed the actors
- Greg and Elaine Miller did the decorations
- Many other people, too many to mention in this report, also preformed numerous tasks

Men's Group / Men's Trip

Gregg Feeney

The Men's Group at St James' is a loosely knit group of guys willing to help at St James' in just about any capacity needed. 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.

Our Men's Trip was smaller in number this year due to scheduling conflicts. A total of 14 guys came and we only rented 2 homes in the Blue Lake Springs district of Arnold. My goal is always to have a new member come up and this year it was Brad Smith. We kept the cost at \$135.00 and barely broke even with last minute cancellations. The group had a great dinner on Thursday night at Snowshoe Brewery to kick off the weekend. Meals were at the main house where we feasted on salmon, chicken, pasta for the nights, and we cooked our traditional breakfast. The groups split up during the day and some played golf while others hiked and enjoyed relaxing. It was our fifth year up in Arnold and we are talking of changing areas in 2013. Next year Mike Dearborn and I are thinking of trying out Twain Harte off of Hwy 108 just east of Modesto about 50 miles. The group seemed to like the idea, the pace will be faster and the opportunity to visit new areas is quite exciting. The golf may not be as much fun but it's in a prime area for all other types of activities. I'm conferring with Mike this month and will have a proposal out to the group in late January.

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Supper)

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

St. James' Feast Day Celebration

Sunday July 22, 2012 the theme for this year was "Family Fun Faire". Set-up crews arrived at approximately 08:30a and were greeted happily by Sandra Motley with readymade coffee, tea and assorted Danish to begin the day. A BIG thank you to Sandra for all she does for the St. James' community. On hand for the Event...Games for everyone's expertise – from athletic to mind puzzles to teamwork to indulgence

- Face Painting
- 3-Legged Race
- Hostess Pie (Ding Dong, Twinkies) eating contest
- Bean Bag Toss

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

Tai Chi Class

Sylvia Ma

Classes are given by Sylvia Ma who is a certified SiFu in TIMA School of internal martial arts and are held in the Parish Hall usually Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm. All are welcome and there is no fee for the class, of course donations are gladly accepted and will go towards Parish Life. So far, approximately 1-6 people who come to do warm-up and stretching exercises, 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 contact Sylvia Ma.

A HUGE heartfelt thank you to all who helped make all these wonderful events the great successes they were. Here's looking forward to 2013 in creating new memories and many new successes yet to be dreamed.

Social Ministries & Congregational Care Cluster

Gary Gearheart & Beverly Mosier

ABODE SERVICES

Members of St. James' have been active supporters of Abode Services (formerly Tri-City Homeless Coalition) since its inception. This is an organization whose mission it is to eradicate homelessness. A wide range of services are available, including long-term shelters, meals, transition counseling and assistance, etc. St. James' has continued to be involved with Abode Services this year in the following ways:

- Monthly dinners served at Sunrise Village: Three teams of volunteers primarily led by St. James' members, purchase, prepare and serve dinner at the Sunrise Village Shelter every month. Additional help is always welcomed. If you are interested in helping with this important ministry please contact any one of the team captains listed below.
 - 1st Saturdays (Even Months), contact Cathy Knotts or Dorothy Balderston;
 - 1st Saturdays (Odd Months), contact Mary Casas;
 - 3rd Saturdays (Even Months), contact Joan Roberts.
- Fall New Shoe Outreach for Abode Services: 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. Eighty-six gift cards (\$1,720 value) were delivered to Abode Services on the first Saturday in October by the first-even-Saturday St. James' Sunrise Village dinner team. A thank you letter acknowledging this donation as well as our continued support of Abode Services was received from Abode and is 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 local homeless children next fall.
- Abode Kids Program: Since August 2012 St James' has been involved in a new ministry at Sunrise Village for Abode Services. After VBS we took some of our activities to the kids club that runs 2 nights a week at Sunrise Village. A team of adults and teens from St James' have gone on to run the activities for 2 nights each month. This has been a great new way to serve the community at Abode. We share a story with the kids and then do a couple of craft activities before the all-important snack time. Thank you to the volunteers who make this new outreach work.
Jan Scrutton
- Home Warming Program: The rapid rehousing program for 2012 turned out well. The program had many successes and probably the best thing is pooling our resources. When the program first started we had to commit to sponsoring 1 or 2 families with a partner church - ours is Harbor Light. We each contributed cash for clients' security deposits and also gift cards and gently used items. Most of the clients have moved out of the program due to relocation and job enrichment. Each client is given 12 months but it could last as long as 18 months.

The storage container at St James' came in handy when church members moved and donated many items for us. Having our own storage container on the St. James' campus has meant that

all money goes directly to families. Nothing is spent on storage rentals. We still have a temporary space issue due to delays in rehousing new clients. The greatest challenge is matching incomes with affordable rental units between the tri-city area and as far north as San Leandro.

The folks at Abode Services are very resourceful, in part because of their experience and guidance to the clients. The St James' community has been great with their support via cash contributions, donated household items and gift cards. We keep our expenses low and work collectively with the other member churches. Our current count is 15 participating churches. Scott Whitaker and I are a great team and welcome any feedback from our members.

We know 2013 is a new challenge. St James' will be sponsoring a new family in the latter part of 1st quarter or into the 2nd quarter.

Gregg Feeney

- Walk-a-Rock-a-thon The 8th Annual Walk-a-Rock-a-thon was held on Saturday, June 2, 2012. This event benefits the Abode Home warming program at St. James'. We had walkers and rockers for St James' and our sister parish, St. Anne's. We raised money for the Home warming Program to help house families in conjunction with Abode services.

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.

Congregational Care Team

A new Care Team has been established to provide the kinds of assistance to St. James' parishioners in crisis or stressful times that members have always generously provided to each other anyway, but now in a more organized fashion. To date we have 15 volunteers signed up to be available to provide meals, rides and other services, as needed. Additional volunteers are still needed. We are especially seeking individuals who would be willing to serve on the committee itself. An initial meeting will be set up in the very near future to formalize procedures for the rest of the year. A Survey Monkey link will be provided in the next newsletter which you are welcome to use to inform us of your desire to be involved and your contact information. Or you can simply contact Bev Mosier.

Deaf Ministry

Bill & Bev Mosier

Groundwork for a potential ministry to Deaf individuals began this year in the form of ASL classes during the summer, the incorporation of sign language into Vacation Bible School activities, and so on. A special interest fund of \$761 from endowment money specified as seed money for new programs was also created for the purpose of establishing programs for Deaf people and outreach within the local Deaf community – one of the largest Deaf communities in the world. Deaf ministry through St. James' is still in its fledgling stages. The focus will be on reaching out to members of the community in 2013, e.g., at Fremont Oaks Garden (FOG), a retirement community for Deaf seniors, and Deaf Counseling, Advocacy and Referral Agency (DCARA) with the goal of eventually establishing educational programs and activities, perhaps on the St. James' campus, at some point in the future. Since Deaf children and adults are typically less exposed to religious teachings than hearing children and adults, because there are rarely signers among their families and churches and their schools are forbidden to teach religion, this is a tremendous need. If anyone would be interested in serving on a committee to pursue options in this area, please contact Bill or Bev Mosier.

Food Pantry

St. James' food pantry, located on our campus, has been well-stocked this year. The demand for food has varied from month to month, 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

Barbara Dabney

The Healing Team currently has 3 members. We meet on the 4th Sunday of the month. We use this time to meditate and pray for those whom we have promised to pray for. The Healing Stations can be used at anytime and a candle lit. On Sundays there is someone present to pray with you one Sunday a month at the 8:00 service and most Sundays at the 10:30 service. The 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

Sandra Motley

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 2012 Team that gave their time and 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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Janet Fischer

Those who participate in this ministry knit or crochet shawls using a simple pattern. These shawls are then given to those who are ill or grieving, by either clergy or Eucharistic Visitors. We attach a card to each shawl that reads: "May you feel wrapped in the love and prayers of St. James'." This is a nationwide ministry that we are proud to be part of. Everyone is welcome to join us; we can teach you the stitches and you may make the shawl at your own pace.

UTO

Cathy Knotts

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is an opportunity to recognize our thankfulness for all our blessings and 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. UTO typically holds in-gatherings in the spring and fall. St. James' parishioners continued to support the UTO in 2012. Anyone interested in helping with UTO or taking over as the St. James UTO coordinator, please contact Cathy Knotts.

Deanery Report

Barbara Dabney, Alice Johnson, Jim McConnell, Scott Whitaker

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

- the Annual Bash/Picnic in July at Shadow Cliffs Park in Pleasanton. This is to gather as the larger community and to raise the visibility of the Episcopal Church in our area.
- engaged in several discernment sessions and interview process to select an agency or activity to receive a \$10,000.00 grant from Episcopal Charities. The grass roots organization, Big Heart Wellness Center, at St Bart's was selected. Our deanery was the only deanery which had not yet selected a recipient.

- launched the new ministry Sacred Space in cooperation with other deanery churches. This new effort engages the homeless/unhoused at the park near the Hayward BART Station. The churches in rotation hold a service and provide lunch at 2 pm each Sunday afternoon.

Prior to the 163rd Convention in October 2012, we reviewed the agenda, the budget and discussed the various resolutions. The convention delegates voted on resolutions as follows:

- passed a resolution to support Proposition 34 to end the death penalty in CA. It would have replaced the death penalty with life time imprisonment. This proposition failed in the November 2012 election.
- passed the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service resolution to encourage all congregations to engage in a community day of service.
- passed the People Living in Poverty resolution. This is not a new program, but rather, "it is an effort to change conversation in our church to encourage people to think diaconally and live their baptism covenant."

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

The St James' deanery representatives serving this year were Barbara Dabney, Alice Johnson, Jim McConnell and Scott Whitaker.