

Annual Report 2007

*January 27, 2008
Annual Meeting*



SAINT JAMES'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Lead Team Cluster

The Rector's Report for 2007

submitted by Bob Honeychurch

Lucky 7's. If I were a betting person (which, by the way, I am not), I would say that we are at a very fortuitous moment in our history here at St. James'... for this is the seventh year that I am a part of an annual meeting of the St. James' community. My, how the time does fly! As I look back over the past year, the greatest sense that I have is that it has been a year of moving toward greater stability.

Part of that stability is related to personnel. I am delighted with the addition of two new staff members to the St. James' mix. Linda LeGere brings a calm presence into the parish office four days each week. After many years of serving as a parish administrator at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Oakland, Linda brings with her all of that experience and talent. It is a delight to have her with us.

The other staff addition in 2007 was the inclusion of Katherine LaRose into our parish community as our music director. Katherine has truly been a godsend to St. James', bringing not only her musical abilities, but even more, her love of people and her gentle spirit. The adult choir has grown. We have the beginnings of a children's choir once again. Special musical programs have been offered. Special musicians like a trumpeter have joined us for Christmas. Our Advent Lessons and Carols service was the best one that I've been a part of here at St. James'. We are truly blessed.

Another part of our stability has to do with our parish finances. Despite the annual gnashing of teeth that happens around here regarding our annual budget, St. James' is in strong financial shape. When I came here 6 ½ years ago, we had mortgages totaling about \$165,000. We are now mortgage free. 6 ½ years ago, we had no parish endowment fund. We now have a fund which is well established and growing. We began 2007 with an estimated budget deficit of about \$35,000, and ended up the year with a \$9,000 surplus instead. Much of the thanks goes to all of you, and much of the thanks goes to Jan Brandt, who, as our parish treasurer, has provided us with clear financial numbers and managed our income and expenditures faithfully. Thank you, Jan, for your many hours of dedicated service.

The challenge that I believe now lies before us is that we don't rest on our laurels, as it were, but continue to ask what God might have in store for us next. We need to move out of our scarcity mentality which tells us that there is "not enough", to an attitude of abundance which invites us to share our overflowing blessings with those around us. We have taken care of ourselves well for the past few years. Now it's time to more fully engage the world, and offer the blessings which God has given us more intentionally and more widely.

Thank you for continuing to give me the privilege to share the journey with you. I maintain my core belief in my life that our best days lie ahead of us. So now is the time to act, to bring that new creation into existence, to become the people that God is calling us to become, to live into the full stature and the full grace of our loving God.

Associate Rector's report

Looking Toward the Future

One of the great things about living life in two worlds (the parish and academia) is that sometimes I get to see St. James' from a birdseye view. At a recent gathering of Anglicans from all over North America I heard about how Episcopalians seem to know very little about their faith or their tradition. It is very difficult to get them to attend faith formation activities and much of what happens on Sunday morning seems to look more like life in the 1980's than life in the 21st century. When I hear these things I think of St. James' with its wonderful rich adult Faith Formation offerings from Disciple Builders to our Faith and Science series. I think of how every Sunday morning I come to St. James' and experience life in the 21st century, life on a tiny globe where every corner of the earth touch one another and we all know how deeply interconnected our well being and our happiness is across the globe. I think of the way in which we strive to create worship that speaks as deeply to the future of the church as to the past. Both of which are very important values for us as Anglicans. And I am reminded how deeply blessed we are to be in this community sharing our life together.

The place where I find our vision most limited is in the way we are approaching the faith formation of our children. If ever there was time when the youngest of our community needed every drop of support, nurturing and spiritual wisdom we have to offer them, it is now! Our kids live in an out of control world full of fearful prospects and potentially looming crises. They live lives less connected to extended family than perhaps at any point in our world's history. They no longer learn their faith within the context of every day society. If they are to have faith, we must actively, consciously choose to give it to them. We do that by knowing their names, loving them, praying for them, teaching them, affirming them, and proclaiming to them a God who is bigger than all the problems that presently confront our world. A handful of wonderful Godly Play teachers cannot do that alone. Parents must do their part in forming children into people of faith. So must the rest of the community. Children cannot learn the faith if they are not taught it by both parents and other adults. It really, truly does take a village to raise a Christian child. There was a book written in the 1970's titled *Will Our Children Have Faith?* Now the question is quickly becoming Will our faith have children? Only if all of us make a conscious effort to make St. James' a place for children and youth. Only if all of us begin to ask, "How can I help to share the faith with young Christians?"

When will we have a vibrant children and youth ministry at St. James'? When there are more adults who give their time to our children than there are children who need our time. When parents who bring their kids to church receive enough support to make it a blessing and not a battle. When every child who comes through our doors learns that by being here, they will be known and loved by name. That's the day in the future I long for! Then we will truly be the church of the 21st century!

Sylvia Sweeney
Associate Rector

Senior Warden's Report

By Barbara Dabney

I did not take it lightly in making the decision to accept the position of Senior Warden. I knew there was a lot of work to be done, a lot of decisions would be made, some of them, tough ones, and the challenge of working with a new Vestry and a somewhat divided community. On the other hand, I knew there would be spiritual and personal growth, lots of laughs and good times, and many new and wonderful experiences. I am so glad I accepted the challenge. All of the above was true and the one thing I am most pleased about is that I believe the community has moved in the direction of "togetherness". To me we are more unified and working together toward the same goals. This hasn't happened "overnight" and we will always have work to do in this area, but what a joy it is to see and feel this happening before our very eyes!

Our work in the Vestry this year was focused primarily around the goals we set for ourselves. Here is some of the progress we have made:

- New Member Welcoming – New/updated web site, St. James' Brochure
- New Music Program – Hiring of new Music Director
- Social Ministries Coordination – Formation of Social Ministries Committee facilitated by Mike Aquino
- All Church service on a regular basis – now occurring at least twice a year
- Renovate Big Church Bathrooms – In process of getting quotes and making decisions
- Broader Fundraising Base – Continue to have the McCutcheon Concert, e-script, recycle cell phones and cartridges, Pumpkin Patch, and our new Café Press
- Building stronger base for communal discernment – Three Disciple Builders' events based on different books held during the year
- Increase leadership opportunities for people of color – Active participation by several parishioners in the Diocesan Anti Racism Committee

This is a short synopsis of a lot of work done by a lot of people for which I am very grateful. In addition to these goals, we worked very hard on our finances. We entered the year with a deficit budget. Each year the deficit has been less since I have been on the Vestry. And we ended the year with a surplus. This year is no different; we are presenting a deficit budget. And I am confident we will end the year with a surplus. This has not been an easy process. There have been sacrifices made and the "purse strings have been pulled very tight". But we have done it and will continue to do it in the years to come.

My final thoughts are ones of gratitude. I am so grateful for all the hard work and support of the Lead Team, Bob Honeychurch, Sylvia Sweeney, Jan Brandt, and Greg Miller. Each of them has given so much to make this year a successful one. I am grateful to the Vestry as a whole and to each individual on the Vestry for their patience, perseverance, and their gifts so generously shared. I am most grateful for the opportunity to serve God in this place and with His people. Thank you.

Stewardship Annual Report-2007

The Stewardship Committee's goal is to promote stewardship as a year round activity. Stewardship involves taking care of St. James' through time, talent and treasure. We try to emphasize the importance of time and talent in the late winter, spring and summer. The fall and early winter is focused on the giving of treasure in the form of a pledge to the church.

The committee consists of Lynn Locher, chair; Charlie Dickenson, Gail Blalock, Brad Hoffman and Sandra Motley. Linda Nelsen joined us to provide her creative touch for the Fall Roundup. I want to thank everyone for all their hard work.

Committee Activities:

- ✓ A monthly column in the parish newsletter that allows us to share issues around stewardship.
- ✓ Sponsored the Fall Roundup as a means of bringing the parish together at the end of the summer.
- ✓ Directed the pledge drive:
 - Leadership pledges were made by the clergy, Vestry and Stewardship Committee with a statement of support for the pledge drive.
 - A letter and pledge card was mailed to each parish family.
 - Lynn Locher gave a brief talk on pledging during the 3 Sunday services, prior to ingathering Sunday.
 - Notices were provided in the bulletin and by Yahoo Groups to remind people about ingathering Sunday.
 - The coffee hour on ingathering Sunday was sponsored by the Stewardship Committee.
 - A second mailing was sent to members who had not pledged.
 - Several weeks after the ingathering and the mailing of a second letter the Stewardship Committee along with several Vestry members called church members who had not pledged to remind them that the church needed their pledge.
 - All the people who pledged received a hand written thank you note from a member of the committee.

To date St. James' has received 111 pledges, 20 less than last year or a 15% decrease. The total pledges are \$303,804, Operating Budget \$257,106.55 and Building Budget \$ 46,697.55. This is a 2% increase over pledges for 2007. Unfortunately this increase is not enough to meet the mission of the church. The Vestry has sent a letter to the parish requesting that members increase their financial commitment as gratitude for all that they receive from God.

At the end of 2007 Pegeen Perry agreed to join the Stewardship Committee. We welcome Pegeen. The committee continues to look for new members. We meet one time a month, currently on the 3rd Tuesday. The biggest time commitment is during the late summer and fall. Please contact Lynn Locher at lelocher@aol.com or 792-2248 if you are interested.

Lynn Locher, Chair

Endowment Report 2008

St James now has an Endowment Fund of \$57,384. The reason we have increased the fund value is because you the parishioners, have given gifts in memory of the following people: Kay

Buckley, Bob Poole, Pam Rice, Jean Ng, Jim Yokom, Ellsworth Finlay, Tom Clark and Robert Hart. In addition gifts were given in honor of birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and as thanksgivings for the blessings of this life. . We have also increased our fund with dividend and capital gains from this year's investments. Total donations in 2007 were \$19,500. This includes money donated to set up an endowment for the maintenance of the little church. This new designated endowment will exist as of January 1 2008. We have also increased our fund with dividend and capital gains from this year's investments.

The endowment board has planned two events for 2008. First, an "Affairs Faire" on March 3. Our speakers will address bioethical issues, pharmacology, (understanding why you use your medicines), how to communicate with your doctor, and physical fitness for the retiree. A free lunch will be provided for those who sign up in the parish hall.

The second event is a gathering of the Shell Society members with Bishop Marc Andres on April 27, 2008. To become a member of the Shell Society and to receive an invitation to this event let Rev. Bob Honeychurch know you have remembered St. James in your estate plans.

Congregational Care and Social Ministries Cluster

Social Ministries December 2007 Report

This year we put out a food receptacle in front of the church at all three Sunday services. We were able to keep our food cupboard full and contribute the overflow to Sunrise Village (for which they were very grateful).

The gift giving and caroling at Hillside Care on the 15th was attended by a conservative number of people from St. James. Bob and Debbie provided the music for the caroling. All of the tags were picked up and wishes granted by the St. James community.

Johanne LaRocque & Scott Whitaker

WINTER RELIEF:

The Winter Relief Program at St. James' was once again a success with participatory support from our neighbors Harbor Light, St. Anne's, and our own parishioners. Once again, we opened our doors during the month of November and hosted Winter Relief families. The families totaled 15 children plus their parents. A large number of volunteers took up the various roles needed to make our guests comfortable, often supplying goods needed out of their own resources. This year, the vestry allocated funds from an unused fund toward the purchase of new shoes for the school-aged children in the W.R. program. A parish volunteer contributed to the funds and purchased 400.00 worth of gift cards at Famous Footwear. Brenda Williams, WR coordinator said many of these kids were stunned by the generosity as few had had brand new shoes before. Thank you to all of you who played a vital role in this important community effort.

The Walk-A-Rock-Thon provided all of its proceeds to help fund Winter Relief.

SUNRISE VILLAGE:

We still have a few teams who cook and serve meals once a month at Sunrise Village. The numbers on the teams are dwindling and we need more volunteers.

This year, we drummed up our drive to keep our own food pantry full and the congregation was generous enough to overflow our little cupboard. The excess was donated to Sunrise Village. When the groceries were delivered they remarked on the continued kindness of St. James. It is nice to have this wonderful reputation in the community. Keep up the good work!

Cathy Knotts coordinated the annual Fall drive for new shoes for the children of Sunrise Village. Not only did she meet her goal of Payless shoes gift cards but exceeded it by 100.00, bringing the total amount contributed to 500.00.

Because of a referral from a St. James parishioner a local motorcycle group played Santas to the children of Sunrise Village.

AEMCH:

AEMCH is a chartered organization of the Diocese of California, est. 1981, to serve those who live in the long-term care facilities of the East Bay. St. James participates in this by supporting Deacon Arlinda Cosby's, Ministry to Hillside Care Center. As in past years, because of the generosity of the congregation, we were able to provide Easter baskets and Christmas gifts for each member of the care center. The Christmas gift giving also came with caroling and Christmas cheer! St. James also provided a summer outing for those residents who could attend by hosting them as our guests in August, for a barbecue. In addition, many parishioners also support AEMCH with their time, talent and treasures!

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS:

Never underestimate the power of one and how that reflects back on your faith community! Thank you Jan Pearson for your volunteer work with the Centerville Free Dining program. Thanks also to George Vlastelica for your continued support and help to families in need. Rachel Whitaker walked for Breast Cancer Awareness and surpassed her fundraising goal, thanks to the generosity of the people of St. James.

Donald Razzolini, once again, coordinated a Blood Drive at St. James. Twenty people showed up and one was even a super universal donor! Yet, another way to contribute to our community! Thank you Donald!

Many of you also volunteer to give those members of our congregation, who for whatever reason cannot drive, rides to appointments and other commitments. Thanks for that!

CONNECTING TO THE GREATER CHURCH:

Scott Whitaker, not to be outdone by his daughter, Rachel, walked for Episcopal Charities and raised 950.00. Way to go Scott!

St. James participates in the UTO, which collects funds for the diocese.

Alice Johnson coordinated the sale of Christmas cards for the Sudan Ministry. We raised \$410.00. Two-thirds of that money was in card sales and one-third in donations. This ministry may continue with the offering of blank cards for sale.

Scott Whitaker is representing St. James in the Diocesan Millennium Development

Rosary Makers

The Rosary Makers meet the second Saturday of each month (most of the time) to make mission rosaries that are given away. During 2007 we made several hundred rosaries that were sent to people in the military through the Episcopal Chaplaincy, or to people in need through the Episcopal Chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco. Anyone is welcome to join us and instruction and supplies are provided to all newcomers.

-Janet Fischer

Eucharistic Visitors
Annual Report – 2007

Annie Blalock, Ministry Coordinator

Eucharistic Visitors served Communion 73 times.

Our prayers were answered when a new EV was found in Lynn Locher. Lynn has wonderful gifts that add beautifully to this ministry.

With great regret we also lost some wonderful souls that allowed us into their homes and share Communion. We hold their memories in our hearts.

In mid October, Annie Blalock informed Father Bob that 2007 would be her last year as the EV Coordinator and as an EV at St. James', Fremont. Annie will pursue other ministry work in the diocese in the New Year.

The very best of luck and God's love to Annie in whatever ministry may call her. Her leadership has been an inspiration to this ministry and to St James', Fremont.

COMFORTERS GUILD

By Val Brokes

The Comforters Guild is a group of about 20 folks who knit and crochet items for charity. We meet on the second Saturday of each month from 10 am to noon in the Vestry Room of the Guild Hall. In a new addition to our group this year, Janet Fischer has organized a chapter of the national Prayer Shawl Ministry. Our group was mentored by Bob Honeychurch's Mother's Lutheran Church in Butte, MT. We make Prayer Shawls for parishioners who need special love and attention. These shawls, knitted or crocheted with intentional prayers, are taken on pastoral visits by LEMs, or given to family members who have suffered loss, and moms with new babies.

The Comforters organization gives newly made gifts of lap robes, afghans, baby sweaters and blankets, preemie hats, bibs and hats for children and adults, and scarves to three organizations: the Episcopal Convalescent Ministry AEMCH, Oakland Children's Hospital, and Pathways Hospice of Alameda County. We plan to include the Seamen's Church Institute in Oakland, a charity of the national Episcopal Church, with donations of hats and scarves.

Several parishioners from St. James made generous donations this year for us to buy new labels for our items. The Prayer Shawl labels read "Made with loving stitches by St. James Prayer Shawls, Fremont, CA," and the Comforters labels read "Stitched with love by Comforters Guild, St. James Episcopal, Fremont, CA." We are grateful to the many people who donate washable yarns for our use. We have the opportunity from time to time to teach individuals, adults or young people, to knit or crochet or to help others renew their skills in the craft. All are welcome at our meetings. Valle Brokes (510-793-6210, avbrokes@att.net) is the group's shepherd and can be contacted for more information.

United Thank Offering (UTO)

St. James participates in the Diocese's United Thank Offering (UTO) which encourages everyone to take time daily to offer prayers of thanksgiving and make contributions in the familiar little blue box or envelope. These offerings make it possible for the UTO mission to expand the circle of thanksgiving in the form of grants to meet specific needs both nationally and internationally. In-gathering campaigns are held twice each year in the Spring and in the Fall, culminating with a special in-gathering service presided over by the Bishop. If you are interested in learning more about UTO or helping to coordinate UTO activities at St. James, please contact Cathy Knotts.

TCHC New Shoe Outreach

In early October 2007, St. James presented \$540 in Payless Shoe Store gift cards to the Tri-Cities Homeless Coalition's (TCHC) Sunrise Village Homeless Shelter. Thanks to the generous outpouring of love and support from St. James parishioners, the children at Sunrise to get geared up for the new school year with new shoes to replace outgrown or worn-out ones. Thank you for your caring and generosity - and for being instruments of God to provide "God Shoes" to those in need in 2007. We hope to undertake a similar campaign next summer as the next school year approaches.
Cathy Knotts

Worship and Christian Formation Cluster

Worship/Christian Formation Cluster Annual Report, 2007

The Vestry Coordinators for the Worship and Christian Formation Cluster met on a monthly basis prior to each Vestry meeting. This Cluster is made up of 25 ministries. We reviewed the activities of each ministry within this Cluster. Many of the ministries gather on a regular basis, others gather occasionally as necessary to meet their ministry goals. Some of the ministries had programs that were advertised in the Sunday bulletin, in the Window, on posted flyers in the Parish Hall and/or on the Web site. From time to time, during the course of the year we conversed with some of the coordinators and were available should they have any need of their Vestry Coordinators.

The music program has a new Director of Music. Katherine LaRose developed the programs for Advent and Christmas, created the children's choir who performed in the Lessons and Carols Service and the Family Christmas Eve Service. In 2007 the children performed at 3 services. Ms La Rose and the Adult choir participated in the installation of the new Priest at St Anne's Episcopal Church here in Fremont.

We have a new Child Care attendant, Suzanne David who has been with us since September.

St James' lost one of the Deacons, The Rev Mary Ellen Gallagher. She and her family moved out of state. The Rev Arlinda Cosby is now the only Deacon assigned to St James'.

This has been a very busy year for the Worship/Christian Formation Cluster and the ministry groups in this Cluster have been very active.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sylvia Ma
E J Hilliard

MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT FOR ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN FREMONT

This report will cover the Music Ministry activities from September 1 to December 31, 2007. Prior to September, please refer to the report on Christian Formation and Worship.

Katherine LaRose was appointed Music Director on September 1st. The Music Program consists of:

- A. Footprints: the 9:00 am Contemporary group whose members are: Vicki Baker, Jodi Benson, Bob Czerwinski, Debbie Czerwinski, Patty Lacy, Jackie Whitehouse and Rod Whitehouse.
- B. The Chancel Choir whose members at year's end were: Jodi Benson, Valle Brokes, Ian Fuller, Jonathan Fuller, E.J. Hilliard, Sandy Jaekel, Johanne LaRoque, Elaine Vallecillo-

Miller, Greg Miller, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, Don Rose, Pat Vlastelica, E-Ling Lu Wong, Jessica Wong and Christine Wong.

- C. The Children's choir was established on September 23rd. It's members consisted of: Gloria Amadi, Amaya Bader-Rios, Alison Dalmasso, Chanelle Francis, Bryneth Fuller and Cole Kendall. They met every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:00 am in the Little Church. This choir practice took the place of the 1st half hour of Godly Play. The children sang on November 4th, All Saints Day, December 16-Lessons and Carols and December 24, Christmas Eve at the 7:00 pm Service.

On December 2nd the Adult Choir participated in the Las Posadas Celebration singing "Entren Santos Peregrinos". The Adult and Children's Choirs and Footprints participated in the Lessons and Carols on December 16 at the 11:00 am Service. John Maloney also participated by playing his Irish Whistle. The Adult Choir sang at 10:30 pm on Christmas Eve, singing carols and solos prior to the 11:00 pm Service. The Footprints Group played recorders at the 7:00 pm Service on Christmas Eve. Trumpeter Eric Maltez was hired to play 2 services on Christmas Eve, the 7:00 and 11:00 pm Services. Eric is a senior at Cal State East Bay majoring in trumpet. He has 4 years experience as a Liturgical Musician.

On December 21, Katherine LaRose and David Sundahl presented an Organ and Piano Recital of familiar Christmas Carol Duets arranged by Lani Smith. Forty people attended the concert. They would like to do a similar recital next year.

EQUIPMENT: Both pianos were tuned by Craig Browning, a Guild Member and graduate of the School of Piano Technology in Vancouver, Washington. He repairs as well as tunes pianos. He stated that the piano in the Big Church was in good condition, but the Sagenhaft piano in the Little Church is of inferior quality, and we should consider replacing it. Because of the materials and the construction of the piano, it cannot be tuned properly in the lower register. Also, the pitch had dropped so low that it had to be tuned twice to bring it up to pitch. Nevertheless, now that it is tuned, it is sounding a lot better.

ROBES: The robes were washed and looked good on Christmas. However, we do not have enough of them for everyone and they don't fit all choir members. The plan is to purchase new robes in time for Easter.

CHOIR PLACEMENT: The Choir tried singing from the cave and it works well with the piano in front as long as the piano is "miked". It does not work well for Congregational singing as the organ speakers are too loud inside the cave and it's apt to deafen the choir members.

A microphone has been purchased to be placed in front of the choir. The choir will continue to sing from the side of the church except when singing anthems. Anthems will be sung from behind the altar in the middle of the church. I would say that the acoustics provide the biggest challenge to the music program.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine LaRose –Music Director

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WORSHIP/CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLUSTER
2007 MINISTRY GROUPS

<i>Ministry</i>	<i>Contact</i>
<u>WORSHIP</u>	
<i>Director of Music</i>	<i>Katherine LaRose</i>
<i>Children's choir</i>	<i>Katherine LaRose</i>
<i>9 A M Music-Footprints</i>	<i>Rod Whitehouse</i>
<i>Acolytes</i>	<i>Sylvia Sweeney</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Margaret Rainey</i>
<i>Audio Video</i>	<i>Bud Pearson</i>
<i>Baptism Preparation Classes</i>	<i>Sylvia Sweeney</i>
<i>Child Care</i>	<i>Suzanne David</i>
<i>Confirmation preparation Classes</i>	<i>Bob Honeychurch</i>
<i>Deacon</i>	<i>Arlinda Cosby</i>
<i>Eucharistic Visitors</i>	<i>Annie Blalock</i>
<i>Marriage Preparation Classes</i>	<i>Bob Honeychurch</i>
<i>Eucharistic Ministers/Lectors</i>	<i>Janet Fischer</i>
<i>Special Liturgical Programs</i>	<i>Bob Honeychurch</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Burt Hart</i>
<i>Worship Decorations</i>	<i>Elaine Miller</i>
<u>CHRISTIAN FORMATION</u>	
<i>A M Bible Study</i>	<i>Genore Schaaf</i>
<i>Children's Worship Bags</i>	<i>Pat Spalding</i>
<i>Christian Formation - Teens, Children & Families</i>	<i>Sylvia Sweeney</i>
<i>Church camps</i>	<i>Diocese</i>
<i>Congregational Discernment Committee (CDC)</i>	
<i>Disciple Builders</i>	<i>John Maloney</i>
<i>Godly Play</i>	<i>Brian Cochran</i>
<i>Meditation</i>	<i>Barbara Lyon</i>
<i>P M Bible Study</i>	<i>Brad Hoffman</i>
<i>St James' Library</i>	<i>Penny Trant</i>

Evening Bible Study

Evening Bible study was begun in January to run each 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. The program was drawn from:

“Synthesis CE – A Lectionary Study Guide following the Revised Common Lectionary” and the program was facilitated by Brad Hoffman. Attendance was light, 2 to 3 parishioners, for the first 4 months but from May through to November we had no participants.

The program was discontinued as of 2nd Thursday in November, November 8th.

Brad Hoffman has offered to facilitate a once a month Bible study during the 10 AM education hour, with hopes to restart an evening Bible study program but at this time no sessions are planned

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP:

Lynn Locher leads a prayer & meditation/support group every Thursday at 11:00am in the study at St. James.

St. James' Library

submitted by Penny Trant

Since taking over as St. James' librarian this past fall I have tried to familiarize myself with what our library had to offer and taken a hard look at what I had to offer in return. I don't have a normal year-end report because my only true goal was to work on a guideline of goals I hope to achieve in 2008 and so I can say overall, 2007 was a good year.

Ushers

Saint James' ushers are usually the first people who meet and greet anyone arriving for services at our church home. We are often the first-line contacts that visitors make when approaching either of the chapels, so it is our pleasure and duty to help them orient themselves to Saint James' chapels and amenities. There is no specific age limit on serving as an usher at Saint James', but generally youths need to be old enough to understand that they are representing the church and conduct themselves accordingly (this is generally referred to as their having reached the "age of understanding").

There is no uniform dress code for ushers, but dress should be appropriate for the church service(s) at which the usher(s) is/are and serving, as ushers meet and greet even first-time visitors to Saint James'. Currently there are 25 "regular" ushers and 5 "alternate" ushers.

Each regular usher at Saint James' becomes a member of a team that serves usually one service a month, but there are ushers who commonly serve at one or more services a week. For months having a fifth Sunday, the usher teams rotate staffing the additional services. It is regular ushers' responsibility to find substitutes for themselves when they cannot serve at their agreed-to times/services, and a team roster and updates to it are posted (in the "big church" audio/visual control center and via e-mail) several times a year (for ushers who do not have e-mail, contact is maintained via telephone). There are also "alternate" ushers, who are people from the congregation or ushers "covering" last-minute usher staffing needs, who are willing to be called-in on reasonable notice (agreed upon beforehand) to fill-in for any one of the regular ushers who cannot serve at his/her regular service (for whatever reason). Alternate ushers volunteer to be in

one of two "tiers" of as-needed support: First Tier, persons who are willing to serve on-call with minimal notice beforehand (minutes or hours in advance); and Second Tier, persons who are willing to serve with some advance notice (hours to weeks in advance). There is no set schedule for regular usher-team meetings, but the ushers usually convene a group meeting about once a year.

The usher teams assist at regular and special services alike, whether the usual Sunday services or at weddings, funerals, baptisms, church celebrations, etc., and perform services such as: monitoring entry to and egress from the grounds (including occasional traffic/parking control); powering-up the public address sound system and one or more microphones as needed; handing out bulletins or other service and/or program pamphlets and the like; answering questions about Saint James' (for example, where to get a name badge or whom to refer someone asking a question the usher might not know); recruiting oblation bearers from the congregation just before services; occasionally operating the lighting before, during, and after services; assisting in regulating the flow of persons approaching the altar for communion; assisting in taking up the offering and depositing it in the church vault; tidying-up the churches in between and/or after services; and assisting in closing and locking the campus buildings at the end of services.

Saint James' usher teams' recruiting basically equaled attrition in 2007; however, this year we have gained a youth as an usher. Anyone who is interested in becoming an usher should contact Burtin Hart at (510) 795-0472 or at burtinh@sbcglobal.net. Persons who would like to try ushering are always welcome, even if wishing to serve only as an occasional alternate.

The ushers are:

Name	E-Mail	Phone
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Bell, Bob (Note 2)	brounbell@sbcglobal.net	657-9080
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Notes:

1. Team Captain
2. First-tier alternate
3. Second-tier alternate (i.e., you'd better really need this person.)

Burtin Hart

The Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is made up of 17 women who worked in four teams. Each team prepares both churches once a month for the three 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.

Margaret Rainey

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors

Approximately 32 people serve St. James as Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors. In 2007 they served at 156 Sunday services plus special services such as funerals. These faithful people lead the congregation in prayer, liturgy, serve the elements during communion, and read the scripture lessons. They are the visible sign of the ministry of the laity in our worship services, and they work hard to perfect their skills. I am very grateful and humbled to be working with such gracious and faithful people. We are always looking for more good people to serve in this way. If you are interested, please contact me.

-Janet Fischer, Eucharistic Minister & Lector Coordinator

Liturgical Design Team

The team has been led under the creative and capable leadership of Mary Patrician over the years. Because of personal and family commitment, she requested to hand over this task at the beginning of the year. Since the team is comprised of Rev. Bob Honeychurch, Rev. Sylvia Sweeney, Gregory Miller, Mary Patrician, Laura Winter and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, they elected the latter to be the Team Leader.

The Liturgical Design Committee's mission is to outwardly symbolize God's Word, grace and blessings with the liturgical decorations. Our goal is to give glory to God and create a holy

ground. The Team has creatively, spiritually decorated the two churches in 2007. From the generous, thoughtful contributions of our church family for the Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas, the Team uses it as the budget for the decorations throughout the year. During Lent, new tablecloths were sewn for the traditional Maundy Thursday and Shrove Tuesday dinners. Many parishioners have seen the work of our volunteer stitchers: Jodi Benson, Debra Fuller, Patti Lacey and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, in the Advent/Christmas hangings and altar frontal. The concept was conceived in August and translated into form by Gregory Miller and Laura Winters. This has been the most ambitious project that the Team has undertaken.

We presently seek individuals who have an interest with this ministry. We meet on a monthly basis on the first Wednesday of the month or TBA in the Canterbury Room or TBA. Our present need is church members who can climb ladders to place our decorations. Some of our team has physical restrictions that prevent them to do this task.

Elaine Vallecillo-Miller

6am Bible Study

This group meets regularly to read, learn and inwardly digest the Next Sunday's lessons. We consider how the lessons apply to our ever changing world. As seekers on a journey together, members are not always in agreement as to the meaning of the lessons. All opinions are honored however, as the attempt is made to make the scripture relevant.

The group meets from 6 to 7am on Tuesdays at the home of Genore Schaaf. Please consider joining us. Everyone is welcome.

Contact Genore at (510) 793-0907.

Meditation

I am such a believer in meditation and the richness of group practice that I have invited anyone in the St. James' community to join us once a month on Sundays throughout 2007 at 10am to practice meditation for 45 to 50 minutes. I have introduced various methods that may support the process before we practice. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Barbara Lyon

Disciple Builders

The members of the Disciple Builders Committee appreciate the opportunity during 2007 to have contributed to the adult education program at St. James'. During the spring and fall of 2007, there was a 10am class or activity provided on almost every Sunday, facilitated by our clergy, parish members, and outside speakers. There were over ten topics covered, organized as either a one time class or in several sessions. The variety of topics and issues was extensive: meditation; Godly Play for adults; women in the Gospel of St. Luke; the humanitarian crisis in Sudan; finding one's purpose in life; honoring the holy ones in our individual lives; stewardship; and several more topics. We also had two evening series: "Ancient Future Church" and our annual spring Science and Spirituality series which focused on the environment. In addition, the Advent "Las Posadas" celebration was a joyful preparation for Christmas.

John Maloney

Deacon's Report

My duties as the back-up deacon at St. James in 2007 continued the pattern of recent years (despite the fact that the "front deacon", The Rev. Mary Ellen Gallagher, moved in March from Fremont to Utah with her husband Charlie). I served liturgically on the first Sunday of most months and coordinated St. James' ministry to Hillside Care Center in Fremont (a program St. James has supported since 1983. We took Easter gifts for all the residents on April 7, the day before Easter, and Christmas gifts on Saturday, December 15. On both occasions we stayed for a song fest and informal fellowship. We also invited residents who were able to join us to a barbecue and sing-along at St. James on August 12. For all 3 events, musicians from St. James added much to the occasion. I retired as AEMCH's Chaplain and Coordinator on Dec. 31, 2007. I will be taking a sabbatical and be absent from St. James for a period of at least six months in 2008.

Faithfully,
Arlinda W. Cosby

From The Tech Side

Do you often feel like you are surrounded by Technology and can't escape? Then go to church! Not exactly! The front office – 3 computers, 3 printers, 2 laptops, fax machine. The Church – 2 computers, computer driven LCD rear projection system, 5 channels of wireless microphones, 16 channel audio mixer, 21 loudspeakers, DVD/VHS player, audio recording/playback, 5 disc CD player, 7 microphones, amplifier, electronic piano keyboard, portable PA system (used in parish hall, parking lot, labyrinth, courtyard). Parish Hall – Wireless computer networking system, electronic telephone system, hub to connect all computers to the internet. We do keep busy.

Bud Pearson, on behalf of The Tech Team

P.S. The organ is also electronic.

Facilities and Parish Life Cluster

Facilities and Parish Cluster Report

December 2007

Facilities:

- Pre-Christmas work party was lightly attended. Performed outdoor chores although we are indebted to Jan Brandt and Pegeen Perry for scrubbing down the restrooms in the Parish Hall.
- Rest Room Restoration Committee: No formal quote from either contractor although one gave a rough estimate of \$30,000 - \$40,000. This makes the project feasible based on the Building Fund pledges of around \$45,000.

Parish Life:

- Prepared an after-service reception for all three Christmas eve services.
- New Years eve party was moved from the Parish Hall to the Miller's home due to small turn-out.

Facilities and Parish Life Cluster Report

The Facilities (aka Buildings and Grounds) Commission is responsible for the maintenance of all our physical property and any repair as needed. This work is performed by a cadre of loyal volunteers who gather together every third Saturday of the month for 3-4 hours to work where needed. Note that this was only possible due to the great help and leadership of our Facilities Manager **Brad Hoffman** and Work Party leader **Chris Perry**, who took over this responsibility from Tim Spencer last fall. The Parish Commission is responsible for facilitating parish functions and helping as required for other social functions sponsored by St. James and to be of any help by some of the church groups as required.

Some highlights for the two commissions follows.

Parish Life

- Two reorganizations occurred: Barbara Dabney has taken over responsibility for coordinating the kitchen and coffee hour.
- Mardi Gras Celebration in February on campus
- Graduation parish potluck in June
- Church camp-out at Emerald Bay State Park near Lake Tahoe in August
- Flatlanders camp-out in September
- Assisted in the Fall Roundup
- Organized a reception for the three Christmas eve services
- Held a St. James' New Year's Eve game party

Facilities:

St. James' was lucky this year in that no major repairs were required. The vestry was worried about our financial situation so only the required repair work was performed. However,

note that the 2008 budget for maintenance was increased to \$5,000 so that some of this deferred maintenance can be scheduled this year. Renovation of the restrooms in the Big Church is the number one priority.

Maintenance of our buildings and grounds is like housework, it is never done. There are jobs to be done suitable for all ages and too much work to do for the parishioners that do come out. We want to thank all that have helped out, especially Brad Hoffman, Jan Brandt, Ruth Poole, Tom Blalock, Don Rose, Dave Nelson, Laura Winter, Pegeen Perry, Tim and Pat Spencer. Therefore we urge more of you to come and help on Saturday work party days (normally the 3rd Saturday of the month). Alternately, you may ask us where you could help on an individual basis and pick a time of your own choosing.

Submitted by Ralph Locher, Connie Rux and Tim Young.

Communications and Evangelism Cluster

Submitted by Janet Fischer, Jim McConnell, and Meg Williams

As in years past, our cluster's focus is to manage the presentation of news and events and liveliness to those in our parish, and those outside our campus. We are here to keep news flowing, and to make the presence of St. James' known to the greater community outside. We have strived to adapt our various media formats to share, connect, attract, and make welcome.

Web Site:

The St. James' website is our on-line presence, sharing who we are, and details on our many programs, ministries, and events, including the current master calendar. Our site is both a valuable resource to the parish and a powerful outreach tool.

During 2007 we underwent a major re-design of the St. James' web site at <http://saintj.com>. The revised site features a bit of our history, has more photos to show the people and activities of St. James', features easier navigation, and offers more information. Disciple Builders classes are listed, sermons are now posted, current events are kept up to date, and information on worship services has been expanded. The most recent addition is a page for the Circle of Prayer, allowing people to make a prayer request via email.

In order to safely post photos of minors on the site, we are using a diocesan-provided release form, which is signed by the parent/guardian of any minor whose photo appears. Signed forms and blanks are available in the church office.

In 2008 we intend to expand the information for the different clusters, offering a web presence for each ministry as well as for older youth and teens. We will also offer people the option of reading the Window (our monthly newsletter) online if they wish, rather than receiving a printed copy.

If you have a program or event you'd like posted to the web, simply visit our site, and click on the "Contact Us" button, or contact a cluster member.

Email List

With the growing prominence of email in keeping people up-to-date in our daily lives, the parish maintains a "group email list", which allows those who sign up to send a blanket email to all others who have signed up. The list allows people to share upcoming events, church news, and prayer requests; our group list currently has 124 addresses subscribed.

We continue, throughout the year, to encourage its use and explain how to sign-up. The group is not moderated, so subscribers are asked to be civil and polite, to follow basic tenets of email etiquette.

During 2007 we moved our email list from YahooGroups to the company that hosts our web site. The address for the email list is stjameslist@saintj.com. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact stjameslist-owner@saintj.com.

St. James' Merchandise: CafePress.com/saintj

An effective way to share the existence and identity of St. James' is through merchandising. During the past year, the cluster has created a site at CafePress.com to sell items with the St. James' logo: t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, hats, tote bags, etc. Proceeds from sales benefit our operating budget. Visit our store on the web at: www.CafePress.com/saintj

Advertising and Publicity

During 2007 we purchased display ad space in Fremont's Argus newspaper on two occasions: Easter and Christmas. At those two seasons, the newspaper runs special sections for churches to place display ads in a special section at reduced rates.

Each Saturday, the Argus also runs (at no-charge) a free classified-ad-style list of area churches. Based on available space, it can be a simple two-line entry, or other times a more detailed piece is run. While we keep an eye on this listing, parishioners are always encouraged to continue to advise the cluster if they spot an error or omission in this listing.

Newsletter

The Window is a monthly publication for the St. James' community, as well as for people outside the church community who are interested in finding out current events or news at the parish. A version of each month's Window is also posted to our website.

Most articles focus on parish events, stewardship, and planned giving, but other articles, such as events around the diocese, have been accepted in the past. Anyone may submit news articles for the newsletter: they are due by the 15th of the month and are included at the editors' discretion. Editors request articles be sent in electronically via email to window@saintj.com.

The newsletter continues to be a favorite way of dispersing news each month. We are grateful for the volunteer writers, editors, designers who continue to produce this each month. We keep the page count at a set size so as not to waste resources or postage costs. An upcoming development in the world of the Window may involve converting readers into reading an online (emailed/digital) version, to really make a significant reduction in our use of paper, copier, postage, and labor expenses each month.

Outdoor Banners

Through budgeted funds two new outdoor street banners joined our collection this year, for the annual Blessing of the Animals and for the new Children's Choir. Thanks goes to members of the Work Party group who keep the banners up-to-date and in proper rotation.

Welcoming and Newcomers

Newcomers come through our doors all the time— for Sunday services, for a meeting of an outside group, for a class or a concert. People find our print ads, website, and meet our parishioners every day. We are indeed a welcoming and hospitable parish; many of us at St. James' are proud of the genuine welcoming essence we share with new faces. There is always more we all can do to invite, to encourage and to draw people in to stay and join us.

Ministry Brochures: One way to share what we have around us was manifested in a tangible way this year: an in-pew collection of the multiple ministries of our church. The Ministries of St. James' brochures provide a thorough view. People are encouraged to take a copy to keep and, of course, to share it. Updates may be sent to the cluster at any time.

In closing, the cluster is pleased that we were able to keep people informed, to share with the world who the people of St. James' are, and to continue to welcome all people to our services, programs and events. Additionally, we are grateful to all whom we've worked with over the past year to make the communications and evangelism ministries stronger and more effective than they were before.