



**SAINT JAMES'**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# ***Annual Report for 2008***

Annual Meeting – February 8, 2009

St. James' Episcopal Church  
Fremont, CA

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**The Clergy and Vestry of St. James' are pleased to present the Annual Report for 2008. The financial reports will be presented under separate cover after the final statements are received from the banks.**

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## ***Lead Team Reports***

### **Clergy Report – Kathy+ and David+**

We have come among you in a very specific ministry role, hired through the Vestry to accomplish certain tasks and do ministry among you, believing that Jesus Christ is working among you to bring good tidings to others and to be a comfort and joy to one another.

The job of interim has been described many ways. We see ourselves as agents of healing and of change. We believe our tasks include congregational review of history, working through pain and regrets, encouraging new leadership and a new view of the parish and offering support and encouragement to the Transition Team, the Search Team, the Vestry and the congregation in the search of a new Rector.

With all of the administrative tasks the above-mentioned list includes, we are still priests with the calling of leadership in spiritual, pastoral and worship matters in this congregation. Both of us are dedicated to pastoral care and hope we have been a help and a loving presence if we have visited, chatted or counseled with you since our arrival.

We are grateful to the Vestry for entrusting this ministry to us, as we have taken the rather uncommon path of team interim ministry. This is an experiment and a bit of a challenge to keep two clergy people informed of everything that is happening and involved in all the activities, ministries and challenges where we can and will provide support or guidance.

In the coming months the congregation is going to be challenged, exhorted, cajoled, enticed, welcomed and invited to be part of the great project of hiring a Rector. We know some people don't think we can move fast enough on this task. Others may be critical of the process and the steps we believe we need to take together to ensure the best listening, the best and most honest input we can share together, the greatest faith in the Holy Spirit to help this congregation set out its requirements and find a good match.

We are learning our way around the area to visit convalescent centers and hospitals. We continue to learn peoples' names and life stories, praying, blessing, laughing, crying with each of you as we look for God in one another and in our life circumstances.

We are pleased to be among you and we are happy to be working together in this ministry. We (Kathy and David) are having a great time and hope that shows in our interactions with one another and in our ministry with you.

We know communication is a key element in all that we do, especially in the next several months. We urge you to attend the Town Hall gatherings and, if asked, to take on other roles and responsibilities in our ministry together.

Blessings to all of you in the coming year.

## **Senior Warden's Report - Sylvia Ma**

In December of 2007, our Rector, the Rev, Bob Honeychurch, asked me if I would be willing to serve as the Senior Warden of St. James' Vestry. I asked him what the job description was. He said the Senior Warden was to serve as a visible and vocal spiritual leader of the congregation and to keep an eye on the financial matters of St. James'. I thought that didn't sound too hard and said yes. Little did I know of the challenges ahead.

The first four months went smoothly. We had four new members of the Vestry: Penny Trant, Jan Scrutton, Charlie Paratore and Scott Kennedy. The Vestry prioritized goals for 2008 and did accomplish most of them during the year (see Junior Warden Report).

In the beginning of June, Bob informed us that he has taken a job with the national Episcopal Church and would be leaving us at the end of August. Just like that, we entered into the interim period with the Vestry taking on added responsibilities of finding our interim clergy, appointing the Search Committee(s) and calling our new rector.

In October, the Vestry called two Co-Interim priests, the Rev. Kathy Crary, and the Rev. David Abernethy-Deppe. Each of them works 70% of full time to take care of the pastoral needs of St. James' and to guide us in this interim period. We held our first Interim Town Hall meeting with the Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe from the diocese as our guest speaker. We are forming two committees to discern our new rector: a Transition Team which will host town hall meetings and small group gatherings to collect information and to put together our Parish Profile, and Search Committee which will screen and interview rector candidates and submit 2-3 names for the Vestry to make the final decision. The Vestry has appointed a fifteen member Transition Team and an eleven member Search Committee. I would like to thank all parishioners who volunteered to help and would like to offer my prayers and support of all the work ahead.

St. James' did not stay put during the first few months of our interim period. We worship together with supply clergy before the arrival of our interim priests. We ministered to each other and to our community. We tended to our spiritual growth with classes and celebrated with great music, fellowship and food.

Four Vestry members are graduating at the Annual Parish meeting on Feb 8, 2009. They are Connie Rux, Johanne LaRocque, Greg Miller and Scott Whitaker. Thank you so much for your ministries and leadership.

I would like to thank all the parishioners of St. James' for your continual support, encouragement and prayers. I also thank our secretary, Linda LeGere, for her hard work and faithfulness to St. James' during this interim period.

We have to always keep in mind that St. James' is not just the clergy, not the Vestry, or even the physical buildings or our lovely campus, but St. James' is the people. All of us are ministers of Christ, and together we will move forward into another wonderful year.

Thanks be to God.

## **Junior Warden's Report – Janet Fischer**

What, exactly, does a Junior Warden do? The short answer is: it depends! The Junior Warden's duties are often "as assigned," and can vary from year to year. Last year proved to be both very busy, and, hopefully, very productive.

### **Clusters**

During 2008 the Lead Team oversaw the activities of the various clusters. The vestry sets goals each year during the annual vestry retreat. Early in the year, those goals were prioritized, and we identified the top three goals for each cluster. All three top goals for each cluster were realized (along with many other goals, as evidenced in this Annual Report). They were:

- Facilities
  - Bathroom renovation
  - Concrete repair/replacement throughout the campus

- New walkway from parking lot to the Education Building
- Worship/Christian Formation
  - Regular Youth Service
  - Follow up on interfaith discussion -- a la Lenten 2008 series – *Three Cups of Tea*,
  - Host one seminar/teaching event with an outside teacher – Town Hall meeting with Michael Barlowe
- Social Ministries and Congregational Care
  - Expanded and continued support for new ministries already in existence - Support of Marnie Hartman with commission for the environment, develop and support lead/contact person for Millennium Development goals (Scott Whitaker).
  - Build transportation and visitation team for St. James' members. Traveling Tea Party for the home-bound.
  - Explore a replacement program for the Hillside Care Center (already in the works).
- Parish Life
  - Create a Parish Life Display Board.
  - Children's Service and Celebration. Link to youth celebration.
  - Pure Fun Activities: Ice cream social, games night, Available for Lunch, etc.
- Communications/Evangelism
  - Newcomers' Package
  - Pocket pew card update.
  - Website updates forth-coming for New Comers to include: Newspapers, Schools (Private, Public, Colleges and Universities), Tri-City organizations (i.e. Tri-City Volunteers, Emergency services, etc).
- Lead Team
  - New model for stewardship – Consecration Sunday
  - Other goals took a back seat to the work required of us after our clergy left last summer and the hiring of our interim clergy and preparations for the interim period.

**Facilities Use Agreement**

This past year I also took on a special project to update our Facilities Use Agreement and bring all of our outside users into compliance with diocesan requirements. The vestry approved an updated facilities use contract. Each outside user was identified and sent a new contract for their signature and asked to provide the appropriate insurance information. All outside users have complied except for one group which is no longer using our facility.

Current users and approximate revenue generated from user fees for 2008:

<b>User</b>	<b>Fees for 2008</b>
Blood Centers of the Pacific	\$900
Country Club of Washington Township	\$580
County of Alameda (voting precinct)	\$150
Fremont EasyBridge	\$785
Narcotics Anonymous (Sunday evenings)	\$316
Narcotics Anonymous (Wednesday evenings)	\$274
Overeaters Anonymous	\$250
Philippine Independent Church	\$3000
Tai Chi	\$1590
Tri-City Bridge Club	\$3320
<b>Total fees from regular users:</b>	<b>\$11,165.00</b>

It is important to remember that as a church (non-profit) we can only charge a “user fee” to recoup our expenses; we cannot charge “rent” or make a profit from the use of our facility.

**Re-keying of the Church**

Shortly after commencing that project, the diocese sent out information on the new requirement for all key holders to sign up for a background check and complete the “Shielding the Vulnerable” online course. Because a key was found missing during the November Winter Relief program, the vestry chose to re-key our facility sooner rather than later. We truly appreciate everyone’s understanding and cooperation in

complying with the new requirement. Jan Brandt has offered invaluable help by making herself available to sign out the new keys.

### **Letters of Agreement**

Another task this year was to write the Letters of Agreement for our interim clergy, using the diocesan template and making adjustments for our unique arrangement of "co-interim clergy," as well as the Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the duties of both the co-interims and the vestry during this period.

It has been a pleasure to serve with such a dedicated group of people that are on the vestry, and to serve the parish as well.

### **Staff Contacts**

During this interim period, each paid staff member is supervised by the Senior Warden or her designee. Current staff supervisors are:

- For Linda LeGere, Secretary: EJ Hilliard
- For Art Gallardo, Sexton: Barbara Dabney
- For Susan David, Nursery Attendant: Jan Scrutton
- For Katherine LaRose, Music Director: Sylvia Ma

Our volunteer supervisors give a lot of time and attention to this, and we thank them!

### **Stewardship Annual Report of 2008 – Lynn Locher**

St. James' Church's Stewardship Team consists of Lynn Locher, Chair, Gail Blalock, Charlie Dickinson, Brad Hoffman and Sandra Motley. The goal of the Stewardship Team is "Year round Stewardship." promoted through monthly articles in *The Window*. Part of our responsibility is to conduct the fall pledge drive. This year Lynn Locher presented to the team and then to the Vestry "New Consecration Sunday" Stewardship program. The Vestry agreed to financially and spiritually support New Consecration Sunday. The theme "Celebrating St. James' Future" was chosen for the pledge drive.

New Consecration Sunday involved articles in the newsletter and letters to parish members telling them about the Celebration Brunch on New Consecration Sunday (October 19<sup>th</sup>), ingathering Sunday. As part of the church service a guest leader gave the homily and members completed their pledge card in church. Prior to New Consecration Sunday, a dessert was held for "church leaders" where the guest leader, Julia McCray-Goldsmith spoke and Lynn Locher enlisted the attendee's help in contacting members who had not called in reservations or regrets for the brunch. In total 172 made reservations for the brunch. Fremont Christian School was kind to let us use their gym, tables and chairs free of charge for the event. Minerva's Catering provided the set up and food for the dessert and the brunch. The Stewardship Team assisted with set up. Table flowers were donated by Tom and Gail Blalock. The response of church members to the brunch was very positive. Everyone appeared to have a good time enjoying good food and good fellowship and best of all, no clean up.

We received 116 pledges by the middle of December. Unfortunately two families will be moving away and this will bring the number of pledges to 114 or 2 less than 2008.

As of 1/1/09 we have received the following:

Total Pledges:	\$312,050
Operating Budget:	\$261,832
Building Budget:	\$ 49,718
Other:	\$ 500

2009 Total Pledges are \$1,831.90 greater than the Total Pledges for 2008. This is a major accomplishment given the difficult economic climate that currently exists.

Pledge Statistics:

New:	16
Increased:	38
Decreased:	23

Those who pledged for 2008 but not in 2009:

Deaths:	2
Moved away:	3
Elderly and in poor health:	9
Other:	4

The Stewardship Team will be re-evaluating the "New Consecration Sunday" program and make a recommendation to the Vestry in the spring.

## **Fundraisers – Sylvia Ma**

2008 was a very fruitful year for fundraising events here at St. James'. Thanks to the McCutcheon Team, \$2696.86 was raised with ticket, raffle and snack bar sales. The money went to the Operating Fund.

Two Book and Media sales were held in 2008. Thanks to Pegeen Perry and a host of others who donated books/media and volunteered their time and talents, \$1711.25 was raised in March for the Operating Fund. In December, the Book/Media/Bake sale netted \$1300.50 for the Bathroom Renovation Fund.

Thanks to Brad Hoffman and Tom Blalock for organizing the Ducks for Bucks fundraiser and to all of you who donated, a check of \$946 was presented to St. James'. The money went into the Operating Fund .

Other fundraising efforts included used cellular phone recycling by Barbara Dabney (\$37.30), and eScript (\$420.56). The money went to the Operating Fund.

As for our capital campaign to raise money for the bathroom renovation in the Big Church, a total of \$14,470.28 was donated. The total expense of the Bathroom Renovation project was \$25,000, so only \$10,529.72 came out of the Building Fund.

Thank you for all your contribution of time, talent, money and fellowship in these projects.

## **Endowment Board 2008 Annual Report – Jan Pearson**

The Shell Society welcomed one new member at our appreciation luncheon for those who have remembered St. James' in their wills. We were fortunate to have Bishop Marc Andrus as our guest. He sat on a stool and said "What do you want to know?" It was a very informal, informational, and intimate setting and we all felt we got to know our Bishop better.

In March we held our third "Affairs Fair" titled "Medical Savvy." We had specialist speak on the following topics:

1. How to make the best use of your doctors appointments
2. What ethical issues does the hospital face and what issues need to be addressed by families
3. How your pharmacist can help you understand your medications
4. How to stay fit when recovering from illness or just plain aging

Thirty-five people attended and all went away feeling it was an afternoon well spent.

We thank the parish for their generosity by making \$6,675 in donations to the Endowment Fund. None of it was from bequests. Most of the gifts were given as memorials and thanksgivings.

## **Counters Report – Jan Brandt**

The counting teams (two people each) work several hours each week to count the offerings received at the three services. Counters are faithful behind-the-scenes workers who put confidentiality and accuracy as their first priority. Two of the counters then post your pledges to the pledge software which allows us to track your pledges and other contributions. Quarterly statements are generated from this system. Many thanks from the counters for using your new 2009 envelopes Please write how you wish the pledge/donation to be credited as this helps ensure accuracy and speeds up our work.

## ***Social Ministries & Congregational Care Cluster*** ***Johanne LaRocque & Scott Whitaker***

St. James' continues to offer many opportunities for fellowship and service to others as well as to members of our own community. The following is a brief summary of the work we have done in each area over the past year.

### **AEMCH and Hillside Care Center**

AEMCH underwent a transition this year, with the retirement of Deacon Arlinda Cosby. Arlinda's retirement caused St. James' to reevaluate our relationship with Hillside Care. Last summer, it was decided that, as a parish, we would not only continue our ministry to Hillside but expand it by bringing the ministry to the facility, serving all residents and not just those that are ambulatory. St. James' hosted an ice cream social delivering ice cream to all the residents and not just those who could make it to the sunroom. The 'Giving Tree' was also successfully continued at Christmas with all the tags disappearing the first weekend and a near 100% return of the gifts on time for delivery! We did it a couple of weeks early this year because Thanksgiving was so late and it seemed to have worked out well, as it did not interfere with other activities. Stay tuned for the Easter Egg tree!

We continued to support AEMCH with a financial contribution of \$700 for 2008. In 2009, St. James' has pledged to contribute \$100 per month to AEMCH.

### **Blood Drive for the Blood Centers of the Pacific**

Results from the November blood drive are: eight out of eleven people registered were viable donors. One person donated double reds to make the total number of units collected at St. James' nine. And, since each pint of blood can be broken down into three components, the blood collected can help up to twenty-seven patients in the Bay Area community! Blood drive dates for 2009 are July 12 and October 18, so mark your calendars!

### **Centerville Dining Room**

An idea was born, letters to all the churches in the cities of Fremont, Newark, and Union City were mailed, and in May 1988 a group of 13 people met who represented 5 different churches. Today (20 years later) there are 30+ churches and in excess of 250 volunteers from this community involved in this program. Volunteering are such organizations as Niles Rotary, Mission San Jose Rotary, Lions Club, Schools, Super Markets, Bakeries, A.A.R.P., and other Corporations who support this program. Jan Pearson and Laura Samuels (from St. James') volunteer the third Tuesday of every month. They cook for 150-300 people!

### **Comforters Guild – Valle Brokes**

The Comforter's Guild is a group who knit and crochets items for charity. We give newly made gifts of lap robes, afghans, baby sweaters and blankets, preemie hats, bibs, and hats for children and adults to Oakland Children's Hospital, Pathways Hospice of Alameda County, and convalescent homes in the Fremont area. Sandra Motley and Alice Johnson generously located convalescent homes for us this year. Some of us make Prayer Shawls as gifts to St. James' members and families in need of special love and attention. We expanded this year to include gift of hats and scarves to the Seamen's Club of the International Maritime Center of Oakland. Labels supplied to us by generous donations from St. James' members are attached to each item. 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 help folks renew their skills in the craft. All are welcome at our meetings. Valle Brokes is the group's shepherd and can be contacted for more information.

## **Eucharistic Visitors Program – Kae Romeril**

The Eucharistic Visitors serve the parish of St. James' by serving Eucharist to those who cannot come to the services at the church. EV's also provide lay pastoral care, and often provide information about public services to those in need of special care or support. Any parishioner may request a visit, or refer another for a visit, by calling the church office, the EV Coordinator, or clergy.

The EV team of 2008 is comprised of Kae Romeril who has served St. James' as Eucharistic Visitor for 13 years, Barbara Dabney who has served as Eucharistic Visitor for 7 years, Lynn Locher who was licensed in January 2008, and Brad Hoffman who was licensed in September 2008. Eucharistic Visitors spend several months training under experienced Eucharistic Visitors. The license to practice this lay ministry is given by the Diocese and must be renewed every 2 years.

In 2008, Eucharist was served to parishioners 245 times and 12 people received pastoral visits. Eucharistic Visitors accompanied 2 people as they worked through hospice. 21 parishioners were ministered to during a time of grief. 7 visits were made to hospitals, 63 to homes. Carlton Plaza has bi-monthly Sunday evening services provided by Brad Hoffman. During these services, 142 people received Communion at Carlton Plaza over the course of the year. While Eucharistic Visitors have served those in psychiatric care facilities, no such visits were requested this year.

If you, or anyone you care about, might benefit from a Eucharistic Visit, please call the church office to schedule one. On a personal note, I have truly enjoyed my ministry at St. James' and will miss you all very much. Part of my heart will always be with you.

## **Food Pantry**

St. James' stocks a food pantry in the entryway of the office building. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners there are very few times when the cupboard has been empty. Many have come to rely on those few extra items of food to stretch their budgets from paycheck to paycheck.

## **Loving Hands – Mary Patrician**

Loving Hands/Palanca in Action, is a 4th Day Group that meets every second Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the vestry room. We are a very dedicated group that tries to fill some of the unmet needs of the community and beyond. Our projects are quite diverse and range from:

- Making "fun" pillowcases for the underprivileged kids who attend Camp St. Francis in the summer
- Crocheting and knitting scarves for the homeless which one of our members distributes up in San Francisco (we also fill goodie bags for them in the winter with warm gloves, hats, socks, toiletries, food, etc)
- Making lap quilts for the severely wounded Rangers based in San Antonio, Texas as well as
- Making a counted cross stitch pattern of the Purple Heart (for the mothers and wives of our wounded Rangers)
- Filling bags for "SAVE" with toiletries, snacks, etc.
- Beading prayer bracelets for candidates and team for Cursillo weekends
- Knitting and crocheting hats for preemies, cancer patients and the elderly
- Letters - letters - letters & cards to our soldiers

And

- The newest project we have undertaken is making teddy bears for clients who are registered for HOSPICE. When requested we also make bears for their loved ones with the deceased's clothing as a special remembrance.

And it goes on and on.....Last year we shipped goodie bags to soldiers in Iraq and to wounded soldiers based in Germany in addition to sending them glass crosses at Christmas. One of our members also donated her hair to Locks of Love for cancer patients to have wigs made. One of our biggest projects last Christmas involved the homeless shelter in Fremont. We filled backpacks for all the kids in the shelter with as many of the requested gifts as we could. (They were stuffed!) Santa came and passed them out with his "elf" helper and we had refreshments and good fellowship.

All are welcome and we'd love to have you join us! Please contact me and ask me about this wonderful ministry.

## **Millennium Development Task Force – Scott Whitaker**

Scott Whitaker has become part of the bishop's MGD task force and is working on how to better connect St. James' with some of the global work being done.

## **Outreach**

St. James' has a certain amount of money in the budget each year for outreach purposes. Aside from St. James' sponsored programs there are individual parishioners who are involved in community volunteer programs, some of whom we assist with financial support from this fund. We would like to acknowledge all those programs (funded and volunteer) and the people involved in them, here, in case anyone is interested in helping out.

In 2008 St. James' donated \$200 for emergency family housing assistance (George Vlastelica Outreach Ministry); \$500 for the Harris Family Fund to help them after a fire destroyed their home and all of their possessions; \$209 for Dr. Michael Peterson's International Medical Assistance mission to Mexico (providing medical care to the indigenous Mayan people); \$250 to the Episcopal Relief and Development for Myanmar (Burma) Cyclone Fund, and \$200 to provide stamps as gifts to Marine recruits in Platoon 4005.

Other outreach programs that members of St. James' are involved in include Meals on Wheels (Bud and Pat Spalding) and Child Welfare of Washington Township (Margaret Rainey)

If anyone is interested in donating to our General Outreach fund, please note that on your check. The General Outreach money resides in the Special Interest Fund.

## **Prayer and Healing Ministries – Barbara Dabney & Pamela Young**

The Healing Ministry has two parts, the Circle of Prayer and the Healing Team. There is a lot of overlap between the two, but there also is some distinction. The Circle of Prayer is comprised of Brian Cochran, Pamela Young, Joan Roberts, Margaret Broun, Maggie Shalar, and Barbara Dabney. We have a list of 4-5 people that we pray for every day. We will be looking at this structure early in the year and possibly reorganizing in a different way. Watch for more information on this as the year progresses.

The Healing Team consists of Brian Cochran, Pamela Young, Debbie Fuller, and Barbara Dabney. We offer healing prayers at the Healing Station as often as we can during Eucharist and after the 9:00 and 11:00 services. We also meet with people individually for one or more times on an on-going basis. This past year we have had training in various types of healing, all based on the love of God and the Holy Spirit. Anyone is free to join us or inquire about this ministry. We ask for your prayers and support of this ministry as we move forward. Thank you.

## **Rocka-Walkathon and Winter Relief**

The Rocka-Walkathon is the main fundraiser for the support of the Winter Relief program. This year we partnered with St. Anne's and everyone had a great time. There were twenty people walking (half and half mix) from St. Anne's to St. James'. Refreshments were served at the onset (St. Anne's) and at the finish line (St. James'). Approximately \$1700.00 was raised. This, combined with other generous donations, launched our Winter Relief program with a total of \$3,409.13. St. James' hosted 18-20 Winter Relief guests in the Parish Hall most nights during the month of November.

## **Rosary Makers – Janet Fischer & Enid Williams**

The rosary makers met infrequently this year, as our schedules allowed. We continue to make rosaries on our own, and are gathering the next batch for donation. We should have enough in January to send out. In 2009 we will meet quarterly rather than monthly. New beaders are always welcome to join us. The Rosary Makers sponsored the Bead for Life show and sale this December and raised over \$1800.00

for the organization. This beading activity provides impoverished Ugandan women the opportunity to lift their families out of poverty.

### **TCHC (Sunrise Village Feeding Teams)**

Three teams of volunteers, primarily from St. James', prepare and serve dinner at the Sunrise Village Shelter every other month. If others are interested in helping with this important ministry, just let the team leaders know: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays (even months), contact Cathy Knotts or Dorothy Balderston; 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays (Odd Months), contact Mary Casas or Karen Koonze; 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays (even months), contact Joan Roberts or Maggie Shalar.

### **TCHC (Sunrise Village New Shoes for kids) – Cathy Knotts**

Cathy Knotts spearheads the new shoe ministry every fall for the children of Sunrise Village. This year it was a joint project with St. Anne's and was very successful. Cathy dropped off 20.00 gift cards totaling \$1,100.00. She also secured a pledge of 20% off each shoe purchase with the presentation of the store manager's business card (of which he provided an ample supply). Thank you Cathy for this meaningful work.

### **Traveling Tea Troopers – Johanne LaRocque**

A new ministry was started this year. We bring a social visit to someone who has not been able to make it to church very often and find themselves homebound for whatever reason. If you know of someone who could use a social event brought to him or her please call Johanne LaRocque.

### **Winter Relief Breakfast – Brad Hoffman**

For Thanksgiving 2008 the Parish of St. James' again hosted the Winter-Relief families for breakfast at Cabrillo' Café. In conjunction with the management of Cabrillo Café we create a special menu and invite our Winter Relief guests to a good quality breakfast as our guests. This year we hosted 24 guests, 11 adults and 13 children for Breakfast between 07:30 and 09:30 AM. We also invited the families to come back to St. James' for our service @ 10 AM. We thank you for continuing to support this ministry and hope for your continued support in years to come.

### **UTO (United Thank Offering) – Cathy Knotts**

The United Thank Offering is a program of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole Church, founded by and administered by women since 1889. The United Thank Offering Committee is a spiritual and financial partner in the mission work of The Episcopal Church, through every person in every pew. UTO is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the United Thank Offering monies through grants. The Committee awards and administers these grants within the framework of the policies and procedures of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) of The Episcopal Church.

St. James' parishioners continued to support the UTO in 2008. This campaign encourages everyone to take time to reflect on the many blessings in their lives and to offer daily prayers and contributions of thanksgiving by dropping a few coins in the familiar little blue UTO box. Donations are turned in to St. James' and then forwarded to the diocese for their UTO In-gatherings. A check for \$211.30 was forwarded to UTO in May 2008. Contributions continue to come in and we have a head start for this year of \$153.02.

## ***Worship and Christian Formation Cluster Connie Rux & Greg Miller***

This cluster covers the groups that participate in the weekly services — acolytes, ushers, choirs, Eucharistic ministers/lectors — as well as those who prepare the churches for each week's services — Altar Guild and liturgical team. It also includes those who teach or lead study, classes and special programs related to religious education and prayer groups. These include AM Bible and PM Bible Study groups, under Genore Schaaf (who has been doing it since 1980, averages about 7 or 8 people at 6 a.m.

study in her home) and Brad Hoffman, as well as Barbara Lyon's Meditation group for the community that meets Monday 7 a.m. at her home and Pam Young's Circle of Prayer. The Sunday school classes, including Godly Play and Disciple builders are in this cluster, as is Faith Formation for teen, children and families and EJ Hilliard's Congregation Discernment Committee. The periodic classes for baptism preparation, confirmation and marriage would be included in this cluster, and are under clergy guidance.

Greg Miller and Connie Rux have been the Vestry representatives working with the various groups in this cluster for 2008. The cluster has 25 ministries, with varying degrees of activity and membership, ranging from Godly Play and music to Faith Formation (which plans the adult study groups and education programs) and the 6 a.m. Bible study group. Acolytes, altar guild, Eucharistic Ministers/lectors, ushers and the Liturgical Design team also are part of this cluster.

The music program continues to grow and thrive under the direction of Katherine LaRose, who is working with the choirs on special programs during the seasons as well as regular Sunday services. Nancy Castaneda has been working with the acolytes this year, and is looking forward to having more training and mentoring efforts in coming months with the older acolytes helping the younger ones to learn the proper procedures.

The Faith Formation group has been busy working on a series of programs through the fall and into the spring, working with our co-interim priests, on Sunday 10 a.m. classes as well as possible special programs at different times to reach more of the congregation.

We added a homily geared towards children at the 9am and 11am services on the second Sunday of the month. Special liturgical services this year included a children's service, a Seder dinner/service, Good Friday evening Eucharist, Easer Vigil, Blessing of the Animals service on the Feast Day of St. Francis, a Thanksgiving morning Eucharist, Lessens and Carols, and a Christmas Day Eucharist.

## **6 A.M. Bible Study – Genore Schaaf**

The St. James' 6 A.M. Bible Study Group is a group of fellow parishioners who met on Tuesdays at 6 A.M. The average attendance is 12 parishioners and is open to anyone expressing an interest in a morning Bible Study session.

We meet for 60 to 70 minutes each Tuesday with the first 5 to 10 minutes going to reviewing the goings and comings in our lives. Then we spend 50 to 55 minutes in the exploration and understanding of the coming Sunday's Bible readings. Finishing with a prayer circle where we share prayers of concerns and ending all with the Lords Prayer.

## **Acolytes – Nancy Castaneda**

In 2008, we trained 2 new acolytes and graduated 3 acolytes. Currently we have 14 acolytes serving all three services. An acolyte training session is in the planning stages for January with the Interim Team. We will have no graduating acolytes in 2009, so the group is quite a bit younger than we've had in the past. But many are already experienced. We are looking for more acolytes. If you know someone who is interested in being an acolyte please contact Nancy or one of the clergy.

## **Altar Guild – Margaret Rainey**

The Altar Guild is made up of 17 women who work 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. An annual breakfast with the clergy is held in December. This year, two members left the Altar Guild, one moved out-of-state and one has taken a leave of absence. Fortunately, two new members have recently joined the group.

## **Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors – Janet Fischer**

During 2008, 18 Lectors and 16 Eucharistic Ministers served at over 156 services at St. James'. This dedicated group of people handle holy things by leading the liturgy, reading the scripture lessons, assisting at the altar and serving the Eucharist. They work hard to make each church service a

worshipful experience for us. I am honored to work with such dedicated people. During 2009 we will welcome several new Lectors and hopefully a few new Eucharistic Ministers. If you are interested in one of these ministries, please contact Janet Fischer.

## **Faith Formation (formerly known as Disciple Builders) – John Maloney**

The Disciple Builders produced, finished, and gleaned information from a parish survey. There were 40 forms turned in from the parish, and the Disciple Builders wish to especially thank Meg Williams for all the work she did conducting the survey and tabulating the results. December began with a series of evening book discussions. Marnie Hartman started with "The First Christmas," and Kathy led a study of "The Four Agreements -- a Practical Guide to Personal Freedom" and David led a study of "And the Wolf Shall Lie With the Lamb." On Dec. 7, a great time was had by all at Las Posadas. It all began with an introduction by John Maloney, followed by a reading of the Gospel of Matthew (with some fun audience participation). Children's and adult choirs led singing of carols. Young visitors from Sacred Heart School in San Jose regaled us with carols and tune on the Irish whistle. Food was great and plentiful. Thanks to John Maloney and the whole crew. Other activities included were: "What Is Available on the Parish Website" (Janet Fischer), and "When Did We See You Hungry?" (Bruce Roberts). Miscellaneous activities: Marnie Hartmann advertised the Half-Price Books store's event "Two Cups of Tea" event on October 26 at the bookstore.

Although the Spring 2009 program is not fully completed yet, preparations include classes/courses on Earth Day, the Book of Common Prayer and other topics; David and Kathy are planning a Lenten series. E.J. has developed a very important Saturday workshop on "Human Trafficking."

## **Godly Play – Brian Cochran**

Godly Play at St. James' meets most Sundays of the school year at 10:00 a.m. and invites all children ages 4 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade to participate.

This year Jen Delmasso completed her 5<sup>th</sup> year of storytelling and welcomed Ami Locher to help as her doorman. Ami has also become a storyteller this fall as have Suzanne Canada and Rachel Whitaker.

Heather Merrell and Loren Merrell continue as a storyteller/doorman team, serving alternately in both roles. Brian Cochran continues as storyteller, scheduler, and informal trainer.

This fall we have had 15 different children participate at least twice, some attending every week! Children and adults love Godly Play because it connects us as a community around the spoken and shown stories of God, honoring each child's response to the story in words and work. Art work, retelling the stories, playing with the hands-on materials, allow each one to meet God and God's people in new and personal ways.

We often have two classes for younger and older children (Rooms 3 and 4). Sometimes the classes are combined into a one-room schoolhouse.

This quiet but meaningful ministry is one of the jewels of St. James'.

## **Liturgical Design Team – Elaine Vallecillo-Miller**

The Liturgical Design Team is now part of the Liturgical Team, comprising of the musicians of all worship services and the altar guild. This change was made at the first meeting with our interim clergy, Rev. Kathy Crary and Rev. David Abernethy-Deppe in October. Everyone will benefit from it since we can all plan and coordinate the liturgical seasons and music. The Liturgical Team will meet every second Sunday of the month after the 11 AM service coffee hour. Everyone is welcome to provide ideas.

The team presently consists of the following members: Greg Miller, Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, and Chris Williams. The Team has undergone a transition of losing significant members during 2008: Mary Patrician, Rev. Sylvia Sweeney, Rev. Bob Honeychurch, and Laura Winter due to relocation and/or respite from this ministry. In addition, we have had ad hoc members who have assisted us in decorating the churches for the major feast days. Without their help, our churches would not be decorated beautifully for everyone to enjoy.

Because raising money for the bathroom renovations was a priority, the Liturgical Design Team consented to donate the Lent/Easter donations to this project. Therefore it has been working with the budget from the previous year. However, the team needs to build it up for new seasonal, liturgical designs and decorations for 2009. For example, we will be creating new Advent decorations, using blue scheme.

## **Music Ministry – Katherine LaRose, Music Director**

There were three services each Sunday: 8:00, 9:00, and 11:00 am. The 8:00 am service had music on Easter.

The Footprints played throughout the year. Membership dropped from seven members to two members by the end of 2008. That leaves Patty Lacy, Vicki Baker, And Katherine LaRose. Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

The Children's Choir had a membership of five children - January to June. From September to December, there was only one child. Bryneth Fuller sang several solos during the fall and Christmas.

Adult Choir: There are fifteen active members in the choir. They sing anthems nearly every Sunday and are now singing the Psalms, as well. In addition, they sang Tenebrae on Good Friday and sang for the Easter Vigil and Easter services. They sang several anthems for Lessons and Carols, as well as Christmas Eve. Robes were purchased for the choir. The choir processes each Sunday, at 11:00 am, except during the summer months.

Special Music: Trumpeter, Eric Maltez, played for two services; at Easter, and two services on Christmas Eve. John Maloney played the Irish Whistle for Lessons and Carols. Alan Lacy joined Footprints for the Seder celebration during Holy Week. The choir also sang for Las Posadas as did Bryneth Fuller.

Instrument Maintenance: Both pianos were tuned in November by Craig Browning. Neither of them holds a tuning very well and piano in the Little Church (LC), aka. the Chapel, has mechanical problems as well - with keys that stick. The organ in the Little Church needs to be replaced. It is not a church organ to begin with and is in disrepair. It would not be difficult to find more suitable organ. A building as historical as the Little Church could host musical programs if it had adequate instruments.

Special Services: There was a service on Thanksgiving at 10:00 am; music was provided by Connie Rux. Also, on Christmas Day there was music at 10:00 am by Katherine LaRose.

Choir Maintenance: The closet in the accounting office had to be emptied to accommodate the bathroom remodel. Some music is being stored in the Accounting office until other arrangements can be made. Also, music was brought down from the attic and sorted. There were ten boxes and about half music was unsuitable for use and was discarded. The remainder was put into two file cabinets in the Canterbury Room. A microphone was installed over the choir section for improved sound projection throughout the Big Church. There is now digital recording capability on the computer in A/V room - for recording services, town hall meetings, other special events, even the Annual Meeting! The recordings can be posted on the Saint James' web pages.

Copyright licenses were obtained to cover the printing of music in the bulletins and music that is projected visually to the screen during the 9:00 am service. All of the music that is reproduced must be reported to the publishers each time they are used. Katherine LaRose and Linda LeGere are teaming up once a month to report all of the music, via the Internet, to the publishers.

## **Ushers – Burtin Hart**

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 for 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 33 "regular" ushers and 10 "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 room and via e-mail) several times a year (for ushers who do not have e-mail, contact is maintained via telephone).

Alternate ushers 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 2008 ushers meeting was held in the "big" church on Dec. 6 and was attended by Gregg Feeney, Cathy Knotts, Jan Pearson, Margaret Rainey, Brad Hoffman, Chris Perry, Bob Bell, Bud Spalding, Tim Young, and Burtin Hart. The Rev. Dr. David Abernethy-Deppe opened the meeting with a prayer and discussed with the ushers how the clergy would like the services to flow. The group discussed the points that David brought up, the ushers provided input back about our ushering experiences at Saint James', and then the group rehearsed for some time, discussed what was working and could be done differently, and then adjourned. Burtin Hart (usher coordinator) typed-up and distributed the notes from the meeting and distributed them and the 2009 roster/schedule.

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 St. 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.

St. James' usher teams grew by six in 2008 offsetting attrition with a considerable gain in staff. Anyone who is interested in becoming an usher should contact the clergy, any usher, or Burtin Hart. Persons who would like to try ushering are always welcome, even if wishing to serve only as an occasional alternate.

The ushers are:

Bell, Bob (Note 2)	Benson, Craig	Broun, Margaret (Note 3)
Cocksedge, Ken (Note 3)	Czerwinski, Debbie (Note 3)	Dickinson, Charlie
Feeney, Gregg	Francis, Ashley	Gifford, Fred
Hart, Burtin (Notes 1&2)	Hoffman, Brad (Note 1)	Johnsen, Barbara
Locher, Ralph	Knotts, Cathy	Lubwama, Chris
Ma, Sylvia	Maina, Peter	Maina, Stephen
Nelsen, Dave	Pearson, Jan	Perry, Chris
Rainey, Margaret	Ramsamy, Marco	Razzolini, Donald (Note 3)
Reed, Bob (Note 1)	Romeril, Paul	Rose, Don (Note 3)
Spalding, Bud (Note 1)	Trant, Penny (Notes 1&2)	Watkins, Karen
Valentine, Dean (Note 2)	Young, Pamela	Young, Tim

Notes:

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

## ***Communications and Evangelism Cluster*** ***Jim McConnell & Tim Young***

### **Email list – Janet Fischer**

After continuing difficulties with our email list host, the list was moved back to yahoogroups. There have been few problems since then. The list continues to be a vital tool for communicating prayer requests and upcoming events within the parish. Relevant Episcopal news from the diocese and the national church is forwarded to the list on a regular basis. We continue to ask that personal business, cute stories, jokes, etc. NOT be posted to the list. If you are not on the Saint James email list and would like to be, please email the office at [office@saintj.com](mailto:office@saintj.com) to have your email added to the distribution list.

### **Church Directory**

The NEW updated St James' Church directory is available electronically, currently 7 pages (front and back) in pdf format by contacting the office. A hard copy is available upon request from the church office, which will be printed and can be picked up outside the office. This is another way to save money on printing.

### **The Green Sheet**

The GREEN sheet has been created to help save the environment and also help with the budget. This helps lessen the time staff spends on the Sunday bulletins. The WHITE Order of Service sheet is a publication that changes as the church calendar changes.

### **Merchandise**

Although we have many items with our logo available for purchase at [www.cafepress.com/saintj](http://www.cafepress.com/saintj), this has not been used very much and needs more marketing.

### **Web page – Janet Fischer**

During 2008, the church's web page was re-designed to enhance visibility and navigation. Visitors often tell us they find St. James' through our web site. We continue to post monthly Vestry meeting minutes, the monthly newsletter, and sermons. We intend to add an audio file for sermons in 2009.

### ***The Window, Our Church Newsletter – Ralph Locher***

During 2008, the editorial staff published twelve issues to be mailed and posted on the St. James' website. The staff thanks co-editors Mike Aquino and Keri Morgret for past work and contributions. You will be missed.

You may have noticed that the Website copy is somewhat different than the printed copy. The PDF version allows the staff to increase its usefulness by incorporating active hyperlinks, readability, and because the copy is in color, there are many ways to highlight copy, notices, announcements and the like. Obviously pictures now sparkle. The newsletter staff and vestry are committed to gravitating the newsletter to an all-electronic version as circumstances allow to save money and to expedite distribution.

### **Pocket Pew Card**

Recently has been updated.

## ***Parish Life*** ***Jan Scrutton & Penny Trant***

Parish Life has had a wonderful year! Some new events were added to the calendar and were received positively. In prior years we were Parish Life/Facilities, however after much discussion at our first Vestry meeting of 2008, it was agreed to split into two separate groups to allow each to have the attention and support they deserve.

This was also a learning year as we (Jan Scrutton and Penny Trant) were first time Vestry appointees. Outside of our monthly Vestry meetings, we meet privately for lengthy, enjoyable, and productive breakfast meetings to discuss Parish Life activities, needs and concerns, and plan for upcoming events. In 2009 we hope to bring Family Nights to St. James' such as Movie and Pizza Night and Speed Games Night with a potluck dinner.

We started our year off with the annual Easter Egg hunt. This was an opportunity for all our young people to explore the church grounds looking for eggs filled by members of the congregation and hidden by the Parish Life team. Good weather helped this fun event run smoothly and plenty of treats were found by all.

Roses were given to all the ladies in church on Mothers Day while the gentlemen received St James bookmarks to mark Fathers Day.

Our graduates, kindergarten to post-grads, were celebrated at the Graduation Sunday service in June. Forty-two cards were signed and sent out from the congregation and a number of the graduates joined us for the service and cake reception.

Bob Honeychurch's birthday was an occasion for more cake and a farewell party was held to reflect and celebrate his time at St James' before he left in August.

Back to School Sunday was one of our new events and celebrated with a special service and Ice Cream Social. This was a well attended and hopes to continue this event.

Parish Life and the Vestry put together a farewell party for Sylvia Sweeney in September.

With all these events and others shared by the St James' family we see a lot of photos. A bulletin board was kindly donated to Parish Life and we have begun displaying photos of events that have occurred this year. These photos are being mounted onto scrapbook pages, which, after display, will begin to form the basis of St James' scrapbook. Our thanks to our photographers and scrap-bookers.

Most of the events under the Parish Life umbrella are run by teams and many are self-supporting. We are thankful for everyone who has participated and appreciate their continued hard work and dedication. We are always looking for new ideas and welcome your participation with the wonderful events Parish Life supports.

As our first calendar year draws to a close we have tried to use the writing of our annual report to get back in touch with the groups in our cluster. We intend in January to assemble a calendar of regular and special events from the cluster to help us in the coming year but also to act as a means of helping the cluster work together and assisting future vestry members and clergy in planning.

Work hasn't stopped on our photo board - we hope to add more pages and start the scrapbook in the next month.

### **Available for Lunch – Meg Williams & Sylvia Ma**

The Available for Lunch ministry started in the spring of 2008. Our aim is to organize informal luncheons and events to promote fellowship within the St. James' community. Our first luncheon was on Mother's Day. Seventeen of us gathered at Cabrillo Park Cafe across the street and had a wonderful time. We had a similar good turnout for our July and November luncheons. In August, forty-four of us attended an Oakland A's baseball game against the Seattle Mariners.

If you have any suggestions of what we could do or where we could go for lunch, please let us know. Please watch for our announcements in the bulletins, in the Window, and our sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall. We plan to have these get-togethers three to four times a year. Do join us if you are available for lunch.

### **Camping Trip – Chris Perry**

This is an annual self sponsored and funded camping trip held at Emerald Bay National Park just outside of Tahoe. It is open to tent or trailer camping and many share spots. It was held in August and approximately 25+ family and friends of St. James' attended. Sites are reserved with average stay of 2-4 days with an individual average cost for site and group meals of \$30. Breakfasts are usually a group event and everyone pitches in with cooking and cleaning up afterwards. To help with those traveling up for the weekend, a chili dinner was provided to allow for some rest after the long trip. There was a group potluck dinner on Saturday followed by time around the campfire with songs lead by Rod Whitehouse and his guitar and the making of s'mores. There are many wonderful things to do close by and hiking trails are accessible within the park. This was a wonderful time for everyone to kick back and enjoy the beauty in life and socialize in a relaxed setting. We hope to see you next year.

### **Kitchen/Coffee Hour – Barbara Dabney**

For about the 1st 3-4 months of the year, we continued to have each ministry responsible for coffee hour. But by May or June people were not willing to volunteer this valuable service to the community. We have gone back to putting out a variety of muffins, breads, and cookies. We are fortunate to be able to obtain these items for free through Brad Hoffman's parents. Brad and Sandra Motley have been wonderful, doing most of the work, and especially in cleaning up the kitchen and setting new standards for the kitchen. As coordinator, I felt there was a need to monitor the money we spent. We have reduced the amount of money spent on the kitchen, which was a significant goal. I think there is no longer a need for a Kitchen Coordinator. I will still do what I can to make the kitchen run smoothly, but as a team member, not the Coordinator. We owe much gratitude to Laura Samuels who helps clean after the 11 am service. And thank you to all of you who have volunteered time and food for the coffee hour.

### **Ladies Flatlanders – Mary Casas**

Ladies from St. James' gathered September 3-7, 2008, for the annual Flatlanders trip to Thousand Trails between Hollister and the Pinnacles. It was a very hot weekend, but many were still up to hiking (though not in the Pinnacles this year), along with reading, card playing, enjoying lots of great food, and best of all, swimming! We had a great Sunday Service put together by Lynn Locher and Marilyn Rose. This year's participants were Dorothy Balderston, Lori Hedvall, Jan Pearson, Marilyn Rose, Cathy Knotts, Lynn Locher, Laura Winter, Karen Koonze, Laura Ashley-Spencer, and your coordinators Nancy Castaneda, Jackie Whitehouse and Mary Casas.

### **Memorial Service Receptions – Margaret Rainey**

There were five memorial services held this year with receptions for four. The services were in January, February and March. Attendance at the receptions varied from around 80 to around 175.

### **Men's Group Trip – Gregg Feeney**

The Men's Group has been a loosely knit group of guys always willing to lend help at St. James'. As our congregation has changed, families moved away and new families emerged, I thought it was time to get the group together for fun and relaxation and not break the bank.

With the guidance and support from Bud Pearson, we were able to put together a nice get-a-way during the last weekend in July 2008 (07/24 - 07/28). Our trek was to the small town of Arnold, CA where the streets roll up after 10:00pm Mon - Thurs. We chose 2 homes that were in walking distance of each other and close to the Snowflake Lodge. The attendees were the following: Ken Trant, Bud Pearson, Dave Nelsen, Mike Dearborn, Tim Feeney, Gregg Feeney, Al Casas, Tim Koonze, Charlie Dickinson, George Vlastelica, Ralph Locher, Mike Egan, Scott Whitaker.

The group carpoled, ate out for breakfast and dinner a few times. We played golf, hiked, fished, played pool, told some great stories and cooked some nice meals together. Fun was had by all and more want to come in 2009. Pictures will be put on the bulletin board in early January. Bud Pearson and I are already working on the July 2009 trip. We expect even a larger crowd and aim to keep the cost at ~\$125-\$150 per person.

## **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

Thanks to Dave Nelsen and his crew of male chefs at St. James', the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was again a great success. More than 80 parishioners and families attended for great fellowship and wonderful food. Thanks to the Vestry members who served the supper, and to the crew of four ladies who again managed the tickets & finances.

## **Sunday Morning Breakfast at Cabrillo Café – Brad Hoffman**

On Sunday morning's after the 8 AM service & before the 11AM service a group of your fellow parishioners (and family) meet at Cabrillo Café' for breakfast and continued fellowship. We each pay for our own breakfast from a wide menu of options and good portions and spend a quality time in visiting and continued fellowship. We have anywhere from 6 to 24 attendees each Sunday and always have room for more. For more information please contact Brad Hoffman.

## ***Facilities*** ***Scott Kennedy & Charlie Paratore***

Projects completed this year include:

- The concrete walkways in front of the big and little church, along the side of the little church and next to the education building were replaced and a new walkway from the parking lot to the education building was added.
- New lighting was added to the outside of the educational building to light up the new walkway.
- The men's and women's bathrooms in the big church were entirely remodeled. They are now ADA compliant. In the women's room a wall was removed to make the room larger. The men's room is a single use restroom. Both rooms now have hot water and forced air heating.
- The small restroom behind the Canterbury room was repainted and a new toilet and sink were installed.
- The sink in the Sacristy now has a new water heater.
- The entire campus has been re-keyed (48 doors). There are three security levels of keys, based on the appropriate access needed on an individual basis.

We currently have project bids for:

- Repainting the entire exterior of all buildings.
- Replacing the bell tower A-frame at the entrance to the big church.
- Installing new carpet in the little church.
- Installing new carpet in two of the education building rooms (EB # 1 & #6 are being converted into one larger room).
- Upgrading the existing parking lot lighting.

## **Building Superintendent – Brad Hoffman**

Brad continues to stay on top of routine maintenance and often checks the facility after hours to make sure all the doors are locked and the lights are off. He brings to the vestry's attention maintenance or repair items that need action.

## **Memorial Garden/Columbarium – Maggie Schalar**

One of our functions is to keep the Ed Abram Memorial Garden looking well cared for. There are about 15 parishioners who do this on a monthly basis.

We have a landscaper, Tina Delucchi, who comes every six months to help with the trimming and make recommendations to improve the Garden.

Ruth Poole and I are co-chairs of this committee. We meet with families who have questions about the Garden/Columbarium.

We also assist the Priest when burial is needed.

There is room for more help in the area of caring for the Garden and you do not need to have a “green thumb”. Our meeting is the first Sunday of the month after the 9am service in the Vestry Room.

Join Us.

### **Sexton – Art Gallardo**

Art Gallardo is our new Sexton and is going a wonderful job keeping our facility clean and helping with minor repairs.

### **Work Parties – Chris Perry**

Work Party groups have been doing major tree pruning, several painting projects throughout, adjusting irrigation systems and upgrading same. Some gardening/landscaping changes and upgrades have also been done. All the folding chairs have been cleaned.

## ***Southern Alameda County Deanery Report Alice Johnson***

Our deanery (one of six in our diocese) meets quarterly throughout the year. The representatives meet to discuss matters of area concern and address topics that will come before the Diocese of California convention. Deaneries are charged with developing and communicating the policies and plans of the Diocesan Convention, and before each convention review the diocesan budget, proposed resolutions and amendments. The representatives attend and vote on these matters as they come before Convention.

The area churches (St Anne's Fremont, St Bartholomew's Livermore, St Claire's Pleasanton, Holy Cross Castro Valley, and All Saints San Leandro) take turns hosting meetings on the designated Sunday afternoons.

Our deanery is currently discussing new ways of acting more collaboratively and addressing issues we have in common.

The deanery delegates this year were Bob Bell, Jan Brandt, Marnie Hartmann, Alice Johnson, and Ralph Locher. Brad Hoffman and Elaine Miller served as your alternates.

Deanery delegates serve one year terms. St James, thus, has five openings for delegate and two openings for alternate.