



**SAINT JAMES'**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# ***Annual Report for 2009***

Annual Meeting – January 31, 2010

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 2009. The financial reports are presented under separate cover.

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## ***Lead Team Reports***

### **Annual Clergy Report, 2009 - The Rev. Dr. David E. Abernethy-Deppe**

This is my Annual Clergy Report, for the year 2009. This report provides some 2008 background information leading up to this 2009 Annual Clergy Report. This report contains an overview of the accomplishments made in the Search Process, some of the 2009 highlights, and a 2009 ministry summary. Some of the information in this report, was previously reported to the Senior Warden as part of my 6-Month review as Co-Interim Priest.

**2008 Background Information.** Last year, the Annual Clergy Report reflected the pastoral services for only the two+ months (October 22 to December 31, 2008), the time in which the Rev. Kathy+ Cray and I served at St. James’, Fremont, California.

That document reported that Kathy+ and I had been called to St. James’ for a very specific ministry purpose: to function as intentional interim priests. In that role, we see ourselves as agents of healing and change. St. James’ thought outside the box, and called both of us to form a co-interim ministry team, rather than follow the unusual procedure for interim work, which may in fact provide a model for the Episcopal Diocese of California.

Kathy+ and I, although very different personality types, complement each other as we carry out the day-to-day ministry tasks, recognizing, honoring and employing our individual ministry skills as we share information, develop a ministry plan and carry out that ministry.

When we arrived at St. James’, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas were upon us, and, as part of the call agreement, I was taking an unpaid leave of absence during the month of January, 2009, for a trip to Australia and New Zealand that had been previously planned. For that reason, Kathy+ and I decided to use November and December, 2008, to become better acquainted with St. James’ and the Tri-City area (Fremont, Union City and Newark), as well as beginning to identify ministry needs and identify interim time tasks (much of which Kathy+ accomplished during January, 2009)..

Those identified needs were/are as follows:

- Making sure the members of the Parish are providing pastoral care, as needed (supporting the Vestry's concerns;
- Working with the Eucharistic Visitors (EV) in setting up a Rota for visits to the home-bound
- Assuring that worship services are provided for in a way that is helpful to the Parish and in keeping with the Episcopal Church.
- Reviewing Christian formation at St. James' at all levels, supporting and strengthening existing programs, and developing new educational programs as needed, including basic membership classes and classes leading to Confirmation, should that be needed.
- Working with the various ministry clusters and Vestry co-chairs, reviewing their purpose and goals, encouraging and strengthening their ministries, as appropriate.

**Search Process.** During this time, Kathy+ and I began a process of guiding the congregation through an intentional process of introspection and discernment, in order to allow individuals the opportunity to let go of the past and to embrace the future. We also set in motion plans to help the parish examine its leadership and organizational needs; renew its relationship with the Diocese, engage more actively in area ministry, to build ties with local congregation, as well as to develop a new vision and identify its mission.

We developed two teams or committees for the calling of the new Rector: the Transition Team AND the Search Committee. Having two teams or committees involved in the search process also is a different approach to the calling of a new Rector, and it too may be a model for the Diocese. The Transition Team was charged with producing the Parish Profile and the Search Committee was charged with the candidate search process under the direction of The Rev. Canon Barlowe. Kathy+ and I are involved in working with both teams, providing information, direction, guidelines and advice, as appropriate. In November, we held our first Town Hall Meeting, with The Rev. Canon Michael Barlow from the Diocese of California. Michael, Kathy+ and I outlined the interim process, in order to prepare the Parish for intentional interim time. We were aware that some would like the new Rector to have been here yesterday, and so to slow the process down, we assured the congregation that their ministry concerns would be met by the two of us—that would be our first priority. Also, I wrote regular articles for “The Window” entitled: “Breathing Room” Intentional Interim Ministry, identifying the tasks that we would want to accomplish during this interim time. These meetings and articles, as well as conversations we had with individual members did help all of us to focus and engage in the interim tasks.

Upon returning from my January leave of absence, we held our second Town Hall Meeting, at which Dr. Michal Anne Pepper reviewed with us a “congregation's life-cycle,” helping us explore where we were in our own “life-cycle” as a congregation and share our thoughts about what God might be calling us to do and to be here at St. James' and at this time. She returned in June to complete her presentation on “life-cycles.”

As Lent began, we held mid-week Lenten services on Tuesday evenings, preceded with supper and a dialogue about “Letting Go.” These five evenings helped us begin to address the first of the five interim tasks, that is, coming to terms with our history. During March, The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe met with the Vestry, Transition Team, Search Committee, and clergy, to give us additional information for the tasks ahead and to provide support.

Following Easter, St. James' was invited to participate in the United States Congregations Life Survey. This was an excellent opportunity for the Parish to obtain valuable demographic

information about itself. We had 125 responses to the survey. In May, we viewed the film: “Fremont .S.A.: A City’s Encounter With Religious Diversity,” which further helped us to explore who we are as a Parish and to learn more about the community in which we find ourselves. In addition, the Parish conducted its own survey on what St. James’ is looking for in a new Rector. Throughout the summer, the Transition Team worked on putting together the Parish Profile. It was completed and approved by the Vestry and the Diocese by the end of November. In a special liturgy, the Profile was delivered to the Search Committee, who now has officially begun its work under the direction of the Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe of the Diocese of California. The Transition Team was thanked and discharged from its duties. The Parish is now accepting applications for the full-time position of Rector. The deadline is February 15, 2010. All applicants must contact the Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe and receive the approval of the Bishop before they can be considered as a candidate.

### **2009 Highlights.**

- January 19, McCutcheon Concert
- February 8, Annual Meeting and Commissioning of our Transition Team and Search Committee
- Confirmation Classes
- February 22, +Bishop Marc visited St. James’, confirmed four people and received two into the Episcopal Church
- February 24, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- February 25, Ash Wednesday Services (7am, noon, 7pm)
- March 21, “Lifting the Shadows;” Workshop on Human Trafficking.
- April 2, Visit to Hillside Care Center with Easter Baskets and flowers.
- April 5-11, A Busy Holy Week: (Sunday) Blessing of Palms and Passion Sunday Eucharist); (Monday) Eucharist, Passion According to St. Matthew; (Tuesday) Eucharist, Passion According to St. Luke; (Wednesday) Eucharist; (Thursday) Last Supper Commemoration/Stripping of the Altar; (Friday-Noon) Stations of the Cross; (Friday,7pm) Veneration of the Sacred Cross; (Saturday, 11am) Altar Guild - Prayers at the Tomb; (Saturday, 8:30pm) Easter Vigil.
- May 2, Walk-a-Rock-a-Thon fundraiser, with St. Anne’s Episcopal.
- June 7, we went to two Sunday morning services, on a trial basis, (8am and 10:30am) with Faith Formation every Sunday at 9:15am.
- June 7, dedicated the new education room (EB#1).
- June 14, Virginia Woy from St. Timothy’s, Danville, provided us training in radical hospitality as we re-established our Greeters Ministry.
- July 26, St. James’ Name Day, with joint service with the Philippine Independent Church (first time ever), followed by an incredible “Festival-of-Nations Potluck. Fr. Aurelio Picart preached.
- September 6, Parish recommended that we continue with the Sunday morning schedule of having two services, faith formation, and an evening service once a month.
- September 13, Fr. Jo Evans, Marston Green, England, preaches at St. James’.
- September 13, Confirmation Classes started.
- September 13, New Youth Space re-Dedicated
- November 7, Confirmation Retreat.
- November 14, Confirmation and Pilgrimage to Grace Cathedral: seven adults confirmed; two received into the Episcopal Church.
- November 21, Advent Lessons and Carols, both at the 8am and 10:30am services.

- December 1, Advent Soup Suppers, with a discussion on Christian Hope
- December 6, The Book & Media Sale
- December 6, Las Posadas Celebration
- December 24, three Christmas Eve Services – 2pm at Ardenwood; 7pm; 11pm  
Candlelight Service (with Christmas Caroling beginning at 10:30pm).
- December 27, Farewell Service for David+

### **Ministry Summary.**

- Pastoral Care continues to be a primary focus. Kathy+ takes the lead in this ministry. We share being “on call” every other month. We both make hospital calls and home visits as needed. Both of us meet with the Eucharistic Visitors (EV’s) monthly to review calls made to the home-bound, those who have been hospitalized, and to identify other pastoral care needs in the Parish. I think the congregation has gained confidence that this ministry need is being fulfilled for them.
- Worship services also are a primary focus for us, preparing and conducting worship services each Sunday, alternating with the co-interim clergyperson in presiding at Eucharist and in preaching (a preaching and presiding rota was prepared through the end of 2009. As reported last year, we had to quickly re-design the contemporary service when the musical group, Footprints, suddenly up and resigned. In consultation with members, Kathy+ and I have developed several new “contemporary” services (now, held the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the months at 10:30am, as well as a “brown-bag service” on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7pm). From my perspective, the best received of these contemporary services is the one based on the New Zealand Prayer Book. Kathy+ and I are both resolved to uphold the liturgical traditions of the Episcopal Church in using the Book of Common Prayer and by wearing the historic vestments of the Church. This has been well-received by the Parish. We have formed a Worship Committee, who works with both clergy and the Minister of Music, in planning the Sunday services. This has worked out well, particularly as we continue to put together contemporary services. We have started “The Green Pages”, a weekly bulletin distributed at all services, so that will have the same information about worship services and events held at St. James’. I took the lead in preparing a weekly PowerPoint presentation for the 10:30am service, and was also responsible for conducting the Rite I Liturgy the fifth Sunday of the month at the 8am service as a compromise for those worshippers who miss that service (we thought doing Rite I four times a year might help settle some of the turmoil, and it seems to have accomplished that. Having never done Rite I before, members smile a bit when I preside).
- Kathy+ and I hold a weekly “Staff Meeting” which involves the two of us, the Director of Music, Katherine LaRose, the parish secretary, and the secretary’s supervisor. The purpose of these meetings is to review “The Green Pages” for the next Sunday and to suggest liturgies and music appropriate for the season of the Church Year, as well as special services, such as, funerals and baptisms.
- Faith Formation has been given high priority, scheduling a regular and committed time for adult education, with its focus on Scripture Study and our Anglican/Episcopal roots. A schedule of presentations is published a month ahead of time in “The Green Pages” and in “The Window.” This has been well received and is well attended.
- Ministry Clusters are an important part of the Ministry at St. James’. Kathy+ and/or I have met with the Ushers, the Acolytes (prepared a working manual for this group), Altar Guild, Design Team, Healing Ministry, Greeters (prepared a working manual for this group), and Youth Ministry. We have asked each cluster to review its ministry priorities,

work on resolving conflicts, communicate concerns, participate in special training, and set goals which will help them to move forward in achieving their mission.

- This year:
  - I preached 35 sermons (Sunday, Wednesday Eucharist, Holy Week, Christmas) during 2009; all of which have been posted on the St. James' website.
  - Presided at least once every Sunday (except during January and during my vacation in October). Designed an acolyte training program and had 24 participants. Prepared a working manual for this group.
  - Baptized: 10
  - Confirmed: (11) or Received (4) by the Bishop: 15
  - Funerals/Memorials: 5

Finally, because of the declining health of my father-in-law, on September 1, 2009, I announced and provided written notice of my resignation as Co-Interim Priest, effective December 31, 2009 (copy of the letter was sent to +Bishop Marc and The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe). I requested the Lead Team to say nothing about this to the Vestry and/or the congregation until after the November confirmations (I did not want my resignation to take precedence over the pending confirmations at the Cathedral where we would have nine individuals confirmed or received). I wrote the Vestry my letter of resignation (copy of the letter was sent to +Bishop Marc and The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe) and presented it to them at their November meeting, asking them to keep the matter confidential until after the confirmations at the Cathedral (which they did). On Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, I announced my decision to the congregation. The decision was not easy, but necessary so that I can provide support to my spouse during these critical times of care-giving for his father. The Vestry has set aside December 27<sup>th</sup> with once service to celebrate my last Sunday. In this service, there will be a liturgy of farewell as part of the final blessing. In forty-four years of ordained ministry, I cannot recall a time I have enjoyed ministry more than with the people of St. James', Fremont. It has been exciting, challenging and fun. Thank you for the opportunity we had to work together.

## **2009: The Amazing Year - Annual Clergy Report from Kathy+**

God has been most gracious to me and to this parish. This has been an amazing year of challenges, growth and celebrations.

Education has been a big part of my training: I was a junior high and high school teacher, after all. For my own part, I have been challenged to refresh my own knowledge on several subjects, to learn and then teach others, to be poked and prodded by the Gospel in preparations for sermons and to be welcomed and supported by the good people of St. James' parish. Helping the educational effort was the HUGE effort by parishioners to re-do some rooms in Sutton Hall (aka Education building). The education "double" room, with all the electronics and enough space to really gather has been very helpful to me as a presenter at Faith Formation.

I am pleased and gratified at the many outreach opportunities in which we have participated. I would hope we would find more ways to do "direct" services to those who face the challenges of having less and needing more, our neighbors who are struggling. We can't change the world all by ourselves. Mother Theresa has reminded us the enormity of the struggle doesn't preclude us from taking part. She said that if we can't feed 100, we can begin by feeding one.

The gatherings and potlucks and dinners have been fun and delicious. In this parish, you can go from pancake suppers to lox and brie on crackers. The St. James' feast day stands out on many levels, especially the joint service of the St. James' community and the Philippine Independent Church on that beautiful day in July. My goodness, didn't the weather cooperate on that one! I've enjoyed the panoply of soups that have been a part of Advent and Lenten studies, too. The menu seems so simple: The discussions were so rewarding.

Our worship has been inspiring and inviting, in my opinion. While the changes in worship schedules were disappointing to some and disorienting to all of us for the first few months, I have felt an "up tick" in energy of the two-service format. We've worked to be intentional about music and liturgy and participation, including more styles of contemporary worship, music in the 8:00 am service and adding songs that will become favorites one day. We sing, we pray, we share the feast; we greet one another in peace. We worship God in this place and welcome one another with great enthusiasm. On more than one occasion, your willingness to go with me on a sermon with props, humor or direct challenge in faith has been gratifying to this preacher. One of the great additions in this area is the formation of a worship committee. I enjoy those meetings and appreciate the time, effort and sensitivity these folks bring to the table when we talk about the balance of worship needs of this parish. I am glad we have re-introduced this feature into the fabric of St. James' community.

I know Evangelism is a word that rings of door-knocking, in-your-face confrontation or some other memory, but we have seen some positive efforts in advertising our faith, worship and life together. Evangelism is about INVITATION: People are finding us through the website, through word-of-mouth invitation, from our street banners and our occasional newspaper advertisements.

We have a fledgling youth program with a regularly-scheduled meeting the second Sunday evening each month. A number of people chipped in time, money and expertise to make the new youth space in Sutton Hall a pleasant, bright and delightful place for the future of the Church to gather. And our discussions and our shared liturgy of communion before these youth meetings has been a great blessing to me. One of the most marvelous meetings was the November movie night in the main sanctuary. We gathered up some of the children and young people from Winter Relief families, provided popcorn, juice, sodas and snacks and watched Ice Age III (which was hilarious).

For me, two very special occasions were the confirmation class in Jan-Feb and the women's retreat in October. By the time you read this missive, we will have blessed the quilt the women made on that retreat, hanging it in the front of the main sanctuary near the healing station. The first confirmation class came early in our ministry here, culminating with the service at St. James' where we welcomed Bishop Marc and he confirmed and received six people that evening. Thanks for wearing RED in support of the confirmands, as that was the liturgical color of the day. I was privileged to lead the ½ day confirmation retreat for the second group of confirmands and I heard, and I was encouraged in your stories of faith and hope.

We continued our march through Interim time. With gatherings, discussions, meetings, committees and experts like Dr. Michal Anne Pepper and The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe, we have taken steps to view our past, present and future with open eyes and open hearts. A special thanks to the Transition and Search Committees and their labors of love in this congregation and in interim time.

I offer thanks to God for David and his ministry among us. His expertise, his gifts in administration and his eye for details and his singing voice were part of the ministry here. His good humor and his delight in teasing folks meant a sparkle in the eye and a ready laugh everyone appreciated. His sermons, especially the ones about his family experiences, were challenging, enlightening and engaging. It was a unique experience in ministry for the two of us. I doubt it could be repeated or copied successfully. We continue to hold him and those whom he loves in our prayers and continue to wish him blessings in whatever ministry calls him in the future.

Our facilities have never looked better! In the midst of a declining economy, we have worked hard on maintenance, repair and upgrades on our property and buildings. So much of that goes to volunteers who come on Saturdays and in the continual, vigilant maintenance of Art, our hard-working sexton.

We have worked hard on stewardship in that same challenging economy, continuing or increasing pledges, when possible, to keep the work of God happening in this place. Thanks to Lynn Locher and her committee for leading us through this process.

We have baptized children and adults, we have confirmed and received young people and adults, we have laid to rest some beloved people and comforted their families and friends. We have visited the sick, counseled those who have come for it, pronounced the Gospel and forgiveness, welcomed the newcomer, fed and housed the hungry, listened to the Word of God and continued our efforts to see the face of Christ in all people. We have played Godly Play, knelt for healing, raked leaves, washed dishes, attended meetings, decorated spaces, sang songs, hymns and anthems. We have taken communion to those who could not join us; we have blessed all sorts of folks for birthdays, anniversaries, personal milestones and trips all over the world.

I can't thank everyone personally, but I have a few people I want to thank for their unceasing devotion to God and parish. Sylvia Ma and Janet Fischer, as wardens of the vestry, have put in more hours than we can count. I have felt (and greatly appreciated) their support of the clergy, the parish and the ministries at the church. Jan Brandt watches over finances, the counters and the data input for the money and in-kind donations in the parish. She makes sure things get paid and clearly explains where we are financially to the parish and to the Vestry, no small feat. We owe her a debt of gratitude and remember to thank her for that work from time to time.

Who knew Vestry meetings could be filled with laughter, deep community discussions, prayers and blessings for one another? We had that AND the administrative and programmatic discussions that are part and parcel of committee work. There is no finer group of people in the world than a committee or board that loves and respects one another and gets the work done, too. Thanks to all who served on Vestry.

Thanks and a shout-out to Katherine LaRose, our Music Director, and to the choirs and musicians in the church. What a lively and enriching contribution to worship and praise of God. And even though she may never see this report, I thank my marvelous and wonderful partner, Carol, who is supportive, smart and understanding when the phone rings at 3:00 am.

We have not arrived and I'm not sure I know what that would look like if we did. There is much to accomplish in the coming months, more tasks to undertake, more changes to face, more things

to consider. I am deeply humbled and gratified in your support of the clergy this year. Thank you, God bless you and Happy New Year!

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

St. James' went through a whole year of interim period in 2009. According to St. James' By-Laws, when there is no rector, the Vestry elects the senior warden from its own rank. I was elected and am honored to serve as your senior warden for a second year. I would like to thank you for your support and prayers throughout the year.

2009 was a busy year. We have made good progress in our rector search process. Thanks to the Transition Team, the Search Committee and the Vestry, the Parish Profile was published on our website and we are accepting applicants for our full-time rector position through The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe of DioCal.

With the excellent ministries of our co-interim priests, The Rev. Kathy Crary and the Rev. Dr. David Abernethy-Deppe, we have been well taken care of in worship, Christian formation and pastoral care. Thank you, David+ and Kathy+.

Starting in June, we switched to two services on Sunday mornings, 8am and 10:30am, with an adult Christian education hour in between. This format seems to work quite well.

St. James' participated in Area Ministries throughout the year. Vestry members attended the Deanery Joint Vestry retreat in February and parishioners had fun at the Deanery Family Picnic in the summer. We joined up with St. Anne's to raise money for shoes for Abode Services, and to do a walkathon to raise money for Winter Relief. We invited the Philippine Independent Church to our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, our St. James' Day celebration in June as well as to our celebration of David's ministry in December.

Performance reviews of all paid staff, including clergy, have been done in 2009. Thank you, staff contacts and wardens.

A detail inventory of all the furnishings of St. James' is being documented. Thank you for your help in doing the inventory. Thank you, Jan Brandt, for organizing it and Laura Winter for collating the results.

I would like to thank Jan Pearson for her six year tenure as the Endowment Board chairperson. After Jan graduated from the Endowment Board in March, Dave Nelsen was elected as the chairperson. This year, the Endowment Board proposed and the Vestry approved a resolution for the Endowment Board to determine if distribution should be made each year. Thank you, Endowment Board members, Dave Nelsen, Joan Roberts, Chris Lubwama, Patty Lacy and Marnie Hartmann.

We had a good pledge drive for 2010. I would like to thank our Stewardship Committee members (Gail Blalock, Charlie Dickinson, Brad Hoffman, Sandra Motley and George Vlastelica) and our retiring Stewardship Chair, Lynn Locher, for their dedication and hard work. In our January 2010 meeting, the Vestry appointed Gail Blalock as our new Stewardship Chairperson. With Gail's leadership, I am sure the Stewardship Committee will move forward seamlessly in 2010.

Financially, St. James' is sound, even in these bad economic times. We have pared down our expenses, and since we do not have any debts, our 2009 year end balance sheets look fine. Thanks to the hard work of our Treasurer, Jan Brandt, and our Vestry, our 2010 Operating and Building budgets are very reasonable.

I would like to thank our Junior Warden, Janet Fischer, all the Vestry members: Mary Casas, Jim McConnell, Scott Kennedy, Molly Lubwama, Charlie Paratore, Jan Scrutton, Greg Scheuffele, Penny Trant, Dean Valentine, and Tim Young; our Treasurer Jan Brandt and our Vestry clerk Elizabeth Hart for all their ministries and leaderships. Four Vestry members will be graduating at our 2010 Annual Meeting: Janet Fischer, Jim McConnell, Tim Young and I. I would also like thank our music Director Katherine LaRose, our Parish Secretary Linda LeGere, our Sexton Art Gallardo and our Nursery Attendant Suzanne White for their good works throughout the year.

In our November Vestry Meeting, the Vestry regrettably accepted the resignation of David+, our Co-Interim Priest. David+ has been with us for 14 months. He was leaving for personal reasons. We celebrated David's ministry on his last Sunday, Dec 27<sup>th</sup>, with a single service and a potluck lunch. David+ put together a beautiful and moving Litany of Farewell for us to release him of his ministry and send him forward with our blessings. With your generous donations, we were able to show our appreciation with two gift cards to David+. Our Comforter Guild knitted a beautiful prayer shawl for him.

In 2010, we will experience a few changes. Kathy + will be our full-time interim priest, concentrating her efforts in worship and pastoral care. Our rector search process will continue. After our Jan 31, 2010 Annual Meeting, we will have four new Vestry members. Since we do not have a rector, a new senior warden is again elected by the Vestry. In our January meeting, the Vestry elected Jan Scrutton as our new Senior Warden. I am certain, with God's help, St. James' will be in good hands moving forward.

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

It has been a privilege and a joy to work with this Vestry over the past year, and I believe we have done a lot of good work on behalf of the parish.

During the past year I spearheaded the following projects.

#### **Personnel Manual**

The vestry created our first-ever personnel manual. Based on a template provided by the diocese, we approved a document that outlines the responsibilities of and benefits provided to our paid employees. We added a section on responsibilities of the clergy. The personnel manual was approved by the vestry and by the diocese, and is found on our web site at:

<http://saintj.com/reports/PersonnelHandbook.pdf>

Along with the personnel manual the vestry also adopted an Illness and Injury Prevention Manual provided by the California Department of Industrial Relations.

#### **Vestry Handbook**

We created a vestry handbook to assist new and continuing vestry members. The handbook outlines the routine responsibilities of the vestry, details when recurring events happen, and sets

out the current responsibilities of each vestry cluster. This handbook is intended to be updated routinely as responsibilities change. It is found on our web site at <http://saintj.com/reports/VestryHandbook.doc>.

### **Facilities Use Agreements**

All ongoing facility use agreements expire on September 30 of each year. The agreement form was updated for 2009-2010. The vestry voted to not renew the facility use agreements for two bridge groups. We felt that the times and extent of these meetings hampered our own use of our facility and were not part of our mission. The other regular users were renewed and are listed below. All groups have the appropriate insurance where required and a current, signed facility use agreement on file.

#### **Facility Users for 2009-2010:**

- Blood Centers of the Pacific (twice a month)
- Country Club of Washington Township/Mary Wolfe
- County of Alameda (voting precinct)
- Narcotics Anonymous (Sunday evenings)
- Narcotics Anonymous (Wednesday evenings)
- Overeaters Anonymous (Monday evenings)
- Philippine Independent Church
- Rancho Coronado HOA (once a month)
- Tai Chi (Wednesday evenings)

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.

### **Letters of Agreement**

With David’s retirement at the end of 2009, a new Letter of Agreement is in place for The Rev. Kathy Cray as our full-time Interim Priest.

### **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 – Lynn Locher**

St. James’ Church’s Stewardship Team consists of Lynn Locher, Chair, Gail Blalock, Charlie Dickinson, Brad Hoffman, George Vlastelica and Sandra Motley. The goal of the Stewardship Team is “Year round Stewardship,” promoted through monthly articles in *The Window*. Leaders of the church were invited to do a presentation on their group during the Sunday service to promote Time and Talent. Part of our responsibility is to conduct the fall pledge drive. This year we modified the “New Consecration Sunday” Stewardship program. The committee renamed our fall pledge drive “Dedication Sunday” and our theme is “Dedicating ourselves to God’s work in and through St. James’.”

Dedication Sunday involved articles in the newsletter and letters to parish members telling them about the Celebration Brunch on Dedication Sunday (October 18<sup>th</sup>), ingathering Sunday. As part of the church service a guest leader, The Rev. Ron Culmer gave the homily and members completed their pledge card in church. Prior to Dedication Sunday, a luncheon was held for “church leaders” where the guest leader, The Rev. Este Cantor spoke and Lynn Locher enlisted the attendee’s help in contacting members who had not called in reservations or regrets for the brunch. The Stewardship Committee members (with the help of Ruth Poole) worked together to put on the Leaders Luncheon. In total 132 made reservations for the brunch. This year we held the brunch in the Parish Hall and Education Building Room 1. Minerva’s Catering provided the set up and food for the dessert and the brunch. The Stewardship Team assisted with set up and take-down. Table flowers were donated by Tom and Gail Blalock. The Youth Group was our table help and did a fine job. 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, limited clean up.

We received 100 pledges by the end of December. Unfortunately the economy effected the income of parishioners with several losing their jobs or having their hours cut.

As of 12/30/09 we have received the following pledges for 2010:

- Total Pledges: \$265,378 - down 14.5% from last year
  - Operating Budget: \$229,900 - down 12.2% from last year
  - Building Budget: \$ 35,478 - down 28.6% from last year
  - Other \$ 0 - down 100% from last year
- Pledge Statistics:
  - New: 5
  - Increased: 30
  - Decreased: 22
  - Pledged for '09 but not '10: 20

This year completes seven years of leading the Stewardship Committee. I have been blessed with faithful committee members and the support of the Vestry. I believe that it is time for a new chair of the committee with new ideas and thus I am resigning the position. I thank all the members of St. James’ who have provided their time, talent and treasure to the work of the church.

## **Fundraisers – Sylvia Ma**

2009 was again a fruitful year for fundraising events at St. James’:

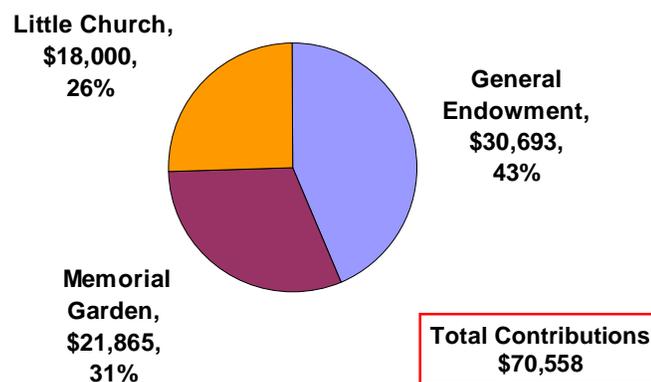
- Thanks to the McCutcheon Concert Team, \$2928.71 was raised with ticket, raffle and snack bar sales.
- Thanks to Brad Hoffman and Tom Blalock for organizing the Kiwanis Club Ducks for Bucks fundraiser for St. James’ and to all of you who donated, a check of \$962 was presented to St. James’.
- A book and media sale was held in early December. Thanks to a host of donors of books and non-book items, book sorters, book movers, money collectors, publicity volunteers and book buyers, we raised \$1269.25.
- eScrip raised \$152.12
- Other fundraisers netted \$99.26

All the money from these fundraising events went to our Operating Fund. Thank you so much for your contributions of time, talent and treasures in these projects.

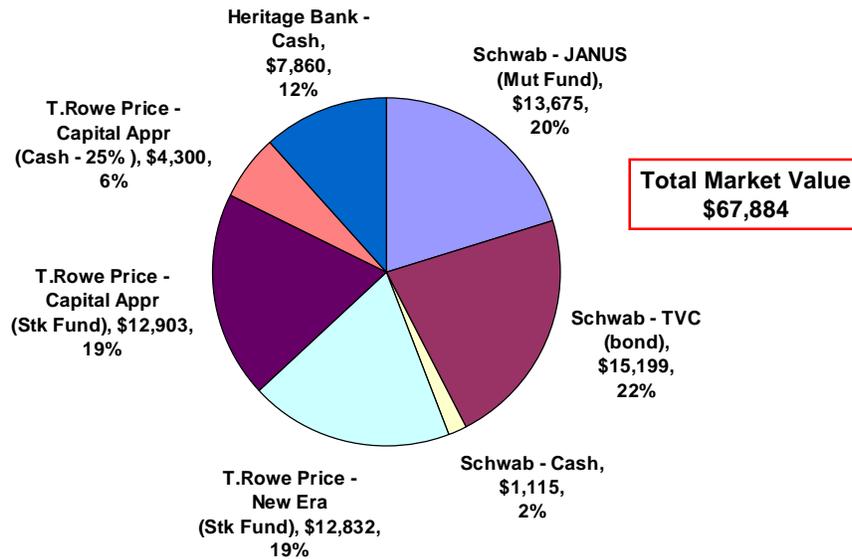
### **Endowment Board – Dave Nelsen**

- In April Marnie Hartmann and Patty Lacy were welcomed as new members of the Board, each beginning a three year term. The other Board members are Chris Lubwama, Joan Roberts and Dave Nelsen. Joan is the secretary and Dave is the chairperson.
- Currently there are 43 members of the Shell Society. These people have remembered St. James' in their will or trust or have established another form of planned giving to St. James'.
- Distributions totaling \$1289 were given in February 2009. The Little Church special interest fund received \$359, the Memorial Garden special interest fund received \$412 and the vestry received \$518.
- On March 29 the Endowment board organized the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Affairs Fair on "Creating Your Memorial Service". The program included presentations regarding funeral costs, memorials, music, Episcopal services and readings.
- 27 individual gifts were made to the Endowment fund in 2009, totaling \$6950.
- Gifts were made in memory of Norm Day, Lori Bonilla, Karen Nelsen and Jeff Schaaf. Gifts were also given in honor of, appreciation and thanksgiving for; Bishop service attendance, Bud and Jan Pearson's 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary and their many years of service, Jodi Benson's graduation, Jack and Enid William's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. A gift was also received in honor and recognition for the outstanding leadership shown by Sylvia Ma as her gift to St. James' and to God.
- The board has written and the Vestry has approved a distribution policy which stipulates when distributions may be made to the Memorial garden special interest fund, the Little Church special interest fund and the Vestry (for general Endowment). This document is available to any parishioner upon request.
- The current Principal value of the fund is \$70,558 and is comprised of the three categories listed here:

#### **Total Contributions and Make-up of Endowment Fund**



## Asset Allocation Chart



- The current market value of fund is \$67,884. Because the market value is currently lower than the principal value no distributions will be made this year.

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

The duties of the counters are to assist the Treasurer by counting and documenting pledges and non pledged offerings. The counting teams (each made up of two persons) work several hours each week to count the offerings received at services, in the mail and from facility users.

Counters also frequently volunteer to serve as cashiers and counters for events such as the Shove Tuesday Pancake Supper or book sales. They are faithful behind the scenes workers who see accuracy and confidentiality as top priorities.

Many thanks from the counters for documenting your pledge number, as it changes each year. The counters appreciate you documenting on your envelope or check how you'd like the money distributed, for example to Operating, Building, Altar Guild or other special donations.

## ***Transition Team Report***

Appointed Member of the Team:

- Marnie Hartmann Co-chair
- Johanne LaRocque Co-chair
- EJ Hilliard Chaplain
- Members: Margaret Broun, Gloryanne Bryant, Allison Ferro, Ashley Francis, Cathy Knotts, Steve Maina, Greg Miller, Joan Roberts
- The writing team consisted of Jodi Benson and Connie Rux. They were joined by Valle Brokes from the Search Committee, to make a team of three.
- Meg Williams was the layout and photo editor.

We were commissioned in February, 2009. The team met once a month physically, but communicated by email in between meeting times. From the beginning we divided up the hard data area research, working on that while developing/employing the following tools to get input from the parish:

- Preliminary work: Lenten Program & Life Cycle of a Congregation by Dr. Michal Anne Pepper.
- Primary tools used: US Congregational Life Survey & Rector Survey (developed by the Transition Team).

All information gathered was directed to the writing team. The writing team reviewed the drafts of the document with the Transition Team over the course of 3 meetings. The document was then sent to the Vestry and the Bishop's representative The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe for approval. Once the written text was approved it was forwarded to Meg Williams for layout and the addition of photos. Meg completed the job and returned it to the vestry and The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe for final approval and distribution.

We were decommissioned December 4<sup>th</sup>, when we formerly transferred the finished document to the vestry, for use by the search committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Johanne LaRocque & Marnie Hartmann

### ***Search Committee***

The Search Committee began meeting over the summer to prepare for the work ahead, and our work officially began in December when the Transition Team completed their work, and the Parish Profile was approved and posted. While our work continues, please remember the Search Committee must work with extreme confidentiality to protect those who apply for the position. As such, all communication from the Search Committee will go only to the Sr. Warden, who will dispense as he or she sees fit.

We thank the Transition Team for their excellent work on the Parish Profile, which is the basis for our work. And we thank the congregation for your continued prayers and support.

Submitted by the Search Committee: Pegeen Perry and Bruce Roberts (Co-Chairs), Alice Johnson, Barbara Dabney, Donald Razzolini, Gail Blalock, Greg Scheuffele, Mike Scrutton, Nancy Castaneda, Valle Brokes, and Chaplain EJ Hilliard.

### ***Communications and Evangelism Cluster*** ***Jim McConnell & Greg Scheuffele***



Our cluster is charged with keeping St. James' parish and the wider Tri-city communities up to date on the events, news and ministries at St. James'. This has been especially true during this time of transition, as we search for a new rector. We have strived to keep everyone connected, informed and inspired by God's work in our community.

## Advertising and Publicity

We purchased display ads in the local print media for Christmas and Easter service events. We also kept the local “free” events calendars up to date with up coming events (like the Used Book Sales, and the John McCutcheon Concert, etc.) as well as any changes to regular service hours.

## Email list – Janet Fischer

We maintain a group email list at [saintj@yahoogroups.com](mailto:saintj@yahoogroups.com). It is one of our most effective ways to communicate quickly and effectively with the parish. If you would like to have your email address added to the email list, please contact Janet Fischer at [JanetL.Fischer@yahoo.com](mailto:JanetL.Fischer@yahoo.com).

## Greeters Ministry

St. James’ Greeters Ministry had its first meetings over the summer. Greeters are tasked with formally meeting with and guiding new visitors to St. James’. With guidance from David+ and some more Virginia Woy from St. Timothy’s, Danville, we put together a team. A total of 20 parishioners have expressed interest. Penny Trant has volunteered to shepherd the group, set schedules, and help refine the process. We had a rocky start, but are determined to make this an important part of our ministry to newcomers. The team will be meeting on second Sundays at 9:15. If you are interested in being a greeter, contact Penny Trant or Greg Scheuffele.

## 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.

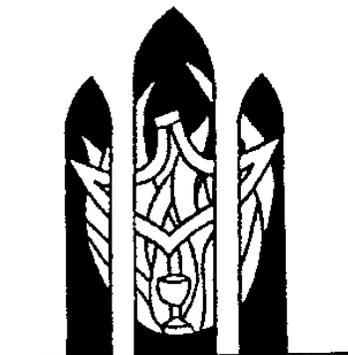
## Outdoor Banners

Using budgeted dollars and special interest funds we updated or replaced the banners along Thornton Ave. Two of the banners were vandalized during the year and have been replaced or repaired. Service times have been changed and special event banners have been updated to reflect new dates and/or times.

## Web page – Janet Fischer

Our web page at <http://saintj.com> continues to grow. It is not only an effective way to advertise upcoming events, but vestry minutes, annual reports, newsletters, ministry descriptions and contact information are only a click away. The web site is also becoming an archive for important documents such as past newsletters and vestry minutes, and the history of our parish. We do our best to keep the site fresh and easy to navigate.

## St. James’ Newsletter - The Window – Ralph Locher



During the past year, the editorial staff expanded greatly as Marilyn Rose and Penny Trant joined as editors. Along with Ralph Locher, this brings the number of editors to three. This has greatly facilitated scheduling and reduced the work load on any one person. Laura Winter continues to do a great job at critiquing and proof reading the issues before they are printed as well as contributing occasional articles.

Last May, the staff met with the Communication Cluster to review the newsletter format and made some changes to improve its

appearance and readability. However, you will note some differences in format from month to month as each editor brings their own lay-out touches and preferences.

For the last three years, we have posted our newsletter on the St. James' website. There are many advantages to this electronic format that were mentioned in our 2008 report. Another significant additional benefit is to save paper and money. Consequently the Vestry decided that *The Window* should go 'green' starting in January, 2010, meaning that there would no longer be a bulk mailing of a printed copy. Some printed copies will be available for pick-up at the Narthex and in front of the church office and you may also request to have a copy mailed to you at the beginning of each month.

The newsletter can only be as good as the articles that are submitted. So we are both indebted to and thankful for all the authors, who have contributed so much and made our job that much easier. Our goal is to create each month a newsletter that is informative, timely, useful and thought provoking. So we not only solicit your input for articles but also for your ideas for possible new features and/or format changes.

We also wish to especially recognize and thank our Senior Warden Sylvia Ma, Kathy+ and David+, who have written so many fine articles during this past year.

## ***Facilities***

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

This year saw a lot of changes in the Education Building. EB-1 and EB-6 had the wall between them removed to make a large conference room and the youth room (EB-6) was moved to EB-2 with a new makeover. New outside lights were added to the parking lot side of the Education Building and in the courtyard between the Big Church and Parish Hall.

The kitchen is on its way to being finished on its makeover. The new stove has been installed and was christened during the Saturday breakfast for Winter Relief. The new dishwasher is in place and ready for hook-up. We still need the plumber to come in and add a garbage disposal, hook up the dishwasher and remove the grease trap.

The work party group did a great job keeping the grounds in tip top shape. The outside got a good sprucing up for St. James' Day. A donated shed was set up behind the Education Building. All buildings received a new paint job this last fall.

### **Building Superintendent – Brad Hoffman**

- Reorganized chair and table storage - left instructions to aid in keeping area clean and organized
- Had grease trap cleaned out (\$500 expense)
- Parish hall heater repaired
- Carbon Monoxide and smoke alarms installed in Education bldg.
- Inventory of
  - shed,
  - Sexton work area
  - front storage

- Repairs completed twice on garden tractor (1 in spring and 1 in summer) under warranty.
  - We are still pending a 3rd warranty repair into 2010.
  - Recommended for 2010 budget, new Garden tractor mower.
- New thermostat installed in big church, allows single day scheduling for weekend
- New windows installed in nursery and EB1 due to accidental breakage.
- New carpeting installed in expanded EB1
- Parishioner volunteers completed painting in newly expanded:
  - EB1
  - Teen room (EB2)
- New coffee makers ordered and received – one donated by parish family
- Cleaned out and reorganized Sexton work and storage area (with approval of Sexton and supervisor)

### **Memorial Garden – Maggie Shalar & Ruth Poole**

Every April we have the Ed Abram Memorial Garden trimmed by our landscaper Tina DeLucchi. There is monthly care by assigned Garden committee members. The circle was replanted this spring and fall. Chimes that were donated by the Creed Family were hung on tree across from the Lori Bonilla site. We had one burial and two memorial services in the Garden. Traditionally we host the coffee hour on Memorial Day Weekend Sunday. On August 2<sup>nd</sup> a celebration was held to acknowledge the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ed Abram Memorial Garden.

Three prepayments were made.

The Columbarium had no burials and one disinterment.

### ***Parish Life*** ***Penny Trant & Dean Valentine***

#### **Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

Another great Easter Egg Hunt with our children at St. James'. Over 500 plastic eggs filled with goodies were hidden within the church grounds. Parent, Grandparents, and parishioners looked on the children, ready with their baskets searched for hidden eggs. We appreciate the Bunny Helpers who helped fill and hide the eggs.

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

The Available for Lunch Ministry's aim is to organize informal luncheons and events to promote fellowship within the St. James' community. In 2009, we had four enjoyable outings to local restaurants. In January, we celebrated the Chinese New Year at Newark Buffet. In May, we had a cool luncheon at Tony Romas on a very warm day. In August, we went across the street and lunched at the Cabrillo Park Café. In November, we ventured to the Nguyen Vu Vietnamese restaurant in Newark. We had a wonder time together, great food and great fellowship.

In 2010, we again are planning three to four get-togethers. If you have any suggestions of what we could do or where we could go for lunch, please let us know. Please watch for our announcements in the Green Pages, in the Window, and our sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall. Do join us if you are Available for Lunch.

## **Camping Trip**

The Annual Camping Trip was organized by the Perry's and held July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Standish-Hickey State Park. It is located in "Gateway to the Tall Trees Country" or, as we know it better, the Redwoods of Northern California. There is always a great time had by all with nights by the campfire singing songs and telling stories while during the day you can enjoy hiking, nature walks and some good relaxation from the outside world.

## **Graduation Day**

Once again we honored those who were promoted or graduated with a special time during service where certificated were given to recognize their achievements. Following service cake and refreshments were served.

## **Ladies Flatlanders**

We had another great year of "camping"! Thank you to all the women who made this year's trip a memorable event. This year's campers were: Nancy Castaneda, Heather Merrill, Linda Nelsen, Dorothy Balderston, Karen Koonze, Mary Casas, Shryl Romero, Marilyn Rose, Johanne LaRocque, Joan Roberts, Cathe Lieb, Laura Winter, Sylvia Ma, Karin White, Jackie Whitehouse, Jodi Benson, Lynn Locher, Julie Gaynor, Jan Pearson, Molly Lubwama, Sally Dickinson, Cathy Knotts, and Jae Parker. We had a lot of fun! We even had a cowboy ride into camp and serenade us on Saturday. Now that was a first. If you weren't able to join us this year, mark your calendar for next year's trip - **September 8-12, 2010**. We would love you to join in the fun.

## **Men's Group**

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, we needed to keep the momentum going from last year's trip to Arnold.

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 2009. Our trek was to the small town of Arnold, CA where the streets roll up after 10:00pm Mon - Thurs. We chose 2 homes, Castle in the Clouds and Gribbon on the Green, which were in walking distance of each other and close to the Snowflake Lodge.

The attendees were the following: Ken Trant, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, Mike Dearborn, Tim Feeney, Gregg Feeney, Al Casas, Tim Koonze, Charlie Dickinson, George Vlastelica, Ralph Locher, Mike Egan, Scott Whitaker, Brian Whitaker, Bob Bell, and Stephen Ferro.

We shared our time telling stories, eating some great food, playing golf, fishing, hiking, shooting pool and general relaxation. Fun was had by all and we will back again in July 2010.

## **Pancake Supper**

Shrove Tuesday is when we celebrate with a last feast before Lent begins. St. James' men, led by Dave Nelsen, do ALL the set-up, cooking and cleanup for this event. A hearty meal of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage links, and fresh strawberries was served to 127 hungry parishioners. This is a long-standing event at St. James' and much anticipated by all.

## **PEP Presentation**

Representatives from the Fremont Fire Department gave a free presentation on Personal Emergency Preparedness on August 16 that was open to our parishioners and family. We were

given a lot of information and time for questions from the group. We hope to continue with other such programs that could benefit our parishioners in the future.

### **St. James' Day Celebration**

On July 26<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our Patron Saint with Cultural Festival and Feast-of-Nations Potluck. The Philippine Independent Church was invited to join in a special service (PIC's Fr. Aurelio Picart gave a moving sermon) and our day's festivities. Parishioners brought dishes that represented their cultural heritage and the PIC donated a roasted whole pig for the potluck. The grounds of St. James' were transformed into "Celebration Central" in a theme of countries of the world. Estimated attendance was 170. We hope to continue this wonderful event in 2010.

### **Sunday Morning Fellowship @ Cabrillo Café – Brad Hoffman**

On Sunday morning's after the 8 AM service & before the 10:30 AM service a group of your fellow parishioners (and family) meet at Cabrillo café' for breakfast & continued fellowship. We each pay for our own breakfast from a wide menu of options with good portions and spend quality time in continued fellowship and visiting. We have anywhere from 6 to 24 attendees each Sunday and always have room for more. For more info please contact Brad Hoffman.

### ***Social Ministries & Congregational Care Cluster*** ***Mary Casas & Tim Young***

#### **Abode Services**

St James' has three teams that prepare dinners at Abode. The teams prepare and serve dinner on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of even numbered months and the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the odd numbered months. This ministry is always looking for new members. It is a great way of getting to know your fellow parishioners. If you would like more information, please contact Mary Casas 510 790-8942, ([marcasas@comcast.net](mailto:marcasas@comcast.net)).

#### **AEMCH (An Episcopal Ministry for Convalescent Hospital)**

St. James' has been a faithful supporter of this charity since it's beginning in 1981. St James' donated \$1200 in 2009 and has budgeted \$1200 for 2010. The money donated is applied to the Chaplain's salary and administrative costs.

#### **Blood Centers of the Pacific**

BCP held a blood drive at St. James' on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Comforters Guild**

Prayer Shawls and other knitted and crocheted items made by the Comforters Guild were blessed by Kathy+, during the Trinity Service on June 7. The newly made gifts of baby sweaters and blankets, preemie hats, bibs, and other hats for children go to Oakland Children's Hospital. Afghans and lap robes are made for Pathways Hospice of Alameda County and convalescent homes in Fremont.

Prayer Shawls as gifts to St. James' members and families in need of special love and attention are a particular ministry of the group. Each shawl is made with intentional prayers for comfort. We are registered with the International Prayer Shawl Ministry ([www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com)). We

expanded this year to include giving hats and scarves to the Seamen's Club of the International Maritime Center of Oakland. This year we are starting a new ministry of hats and helmet warmers for the military. Thanks go to Elaine Vallecillo Miller for locating the special patterns needed. Many in the congregation supply washable yarns for our use – donations we are most grateful for. And, from time to time, we have the opportunity to help folks renew their skills in the craft.

Labels supplied to us by gifts 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 labels for other items read —Stitched with Love by Comforters Guild, St. James' Episcopal, Fremont, CA. All are welcome at our meetings. Janet Fischer oversees the Prayer Shawl group, and Valle Brokes (510-793-6210, [avbrokes@att.net](mailto:avbrokes@att.net)) is shepherd for Comforters. Both can be contacted for more information.

## **Food Pantry**

New Rubbermaid bins were purchased to store donated food items. Family bags and individual's bags are now labeled for easier distribution. The food pantry is now full! Thank you to all who have donated items for those in our community that need a helping hand. Even though the pantry is full now, we will continue to need items in the future.

## **Healing Ministry**

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

## **Hillside Care Center**

The Team that co-ordinates and organizes activities at Hillside includes Alice Johnson, Maggie Shalar and Sandra Motley. We attempt to do three activities a year: Christmas gifts in December, Easter Baskets in April and in July/August, an Ice Cream Social. Thanks to the support of the St James' community, we delivered over 65 Easter baskets in April, 2009. In December St James's families bought and wrapped over 70 gifts that were delivered to the residents on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Folks who are able to visit Hillside say its fun and they're glad they can participate. We invite you to offer suggestions and welcome your participation in our visits. We were asked to visit on a weekday rather than Saturday because more staff is available for assistance and we're not interrupting family visits.

## **Human Trafficking Conference at St. James' educates the public**

The Presentation was held on March 21, 2009. The Presenters were:

- Sister Caritas Foster of the Order of the Sisters of the Holy Family (Fremont) is involved in educating the general public on Human Trafficking in California and the World.
- Special Agent Mitchel Rose of the U. S. Department of Homeland Security, Division of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- Miss Nadirah Aldaylam of A Safe Place of Oakland, California, is Assistant to the Coordinator of the Teen Program.

E. J Hilliard spearheaded the planning of the event, contacting and securing presenters.

Over 35 people attended this very special event. St. James' was one of the co-sponsors of a *free* informational symposium to raise awareness and ways to support survivors of Human Trafficking. This was held on June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Sisters of the Holy Family in Fremont.

### **Payless Shoe Drive**

We are happy to report we raised \$840 in the Payless shoe drive. A big thank you to Cathy Knotts for organizing the shoe drive again this year.

### **Millennium Development Goals**

We met at Grace Cathedral several times in 2009 and held a conference at CDSP on November 19th to discuss our goals for 2010 and beyond. It is still our belief that the best way to affect change is through the legislative process and to that end we conducted a letter writing session at the end of our meeting to Senator Boxer. (She wrote back saying she would support the bill we mentioned in our letter). We will continue our letter writing this year at whatever parishes we can encourage to participate.

### **Sock Project:**

We collected 122 pairs of socks. The socks were blessed on March 29 at the 11 o'clock service. The School for Deacons was given 55 pairs to be distributed to homeless in their area. Sixty-seven pairs were taken to Abode (formally Tri City Homeless Coalition) for distribution to the residents there.

### **Summer Relief**

The money has been counted and we have a final total. Though the campaign for Summer Relief we raised \$1300.97. The money was sent to the Diocesan Relief Fund.

### **UTO**

A total of \$172.45 was raised for United Thank Offering in 2009. A check for \$153.02 was sent to UTO in July for money raised in 2008.

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

The 5th Annual Walk-a-Rock-a-thon was held on Saturday, May 2nd. St James' had 5 walkers (Sylvia Ma, Charlie Dickinson, Cathy Knotts, and Al and Mary Casas) and one rocker (Brad Hoffman). We teamed again this year with St. Anne's in Fremont. St. Anne's had 5 walkers and one roller, in a stroller. \$1,210.00 was pledged for Winter Relief. Many thanks go out to all those who pledged monies and those who donated their time to make this event so successful.

### **Winter Relief – Gregg Feeney**

We had another successful year with our guests from Abode Services Winter Relief Program. The average number of guests was 21, consisting of 11 adults and 10 kids. St. James' parishioners pulled through again to make the stay at our facility as comfortable as possible. Our guests were also lucky to have the support of Harbor Light Church and Fremont Christian School for making the great weekend meals and providing lunches 6 days per week. I saw the food that they brought in and it looked quite appetizing. Speaking of food, a hot breakfast was provided each Saturday morning by my kitchen cooks, Al Casas, Scott Whitaker, Laura Winter and her crew. I also helped by making my famous Sour Milk Pancakes from a 50 year old family recipe. Also on the first two Saturday mornings, we had no gas stove to cook on, just a hot plate, microwave and electric griddles. But no guest left hungry.

This program had a multitude of folks pitching in. I want to thank Scott Kennedy for keeping the furnace going, Art Gallardo for keeping the place clean and especially Sandra Motley, "Keeper of the Kitchen". Brad Hoffman did his yearlong campaign of collecting recyclables for Winter Relief and spearheading the Thanksgiving Breakfast at Cabrillo Cafe. The donations toward the Thanksgiving Breakfast were abundant! The money left over from the breakfast was used to purchase knit hats and gloves for the Winter Relief families. Our overnight volunteers have been great and include the following: Ken Trant, Bob Bell, Al Casas, Darcia and Emma Feeney, Mike Scrutton, Kathy Crary, Tom Blalock, Scott Whitaker, Andy MacRae, Ralph Locher, Evelyn Martinez, Bob Reed, Barbara Lyon, Bruce Roberts, Jodie Benson, Marilyn Rose, Tim Young, Jim McConnell, and Peter Maina; Weekend lunch makers: the Casas Family, the Feeney Family and Laura Samuels; Car shuttle drivers: Ralph Locher, Joan Roberts, Brian Cochran, Scott Whitaker and Nancy Culberson; Our homework tutors: Jill Buono and Patty Lacy. Lastly, I want to thank St. James' parishioners, David+ and Kathy+, Vestry members for all the cash and food donations and for allowing us to take over the parish hall during November. I know St James' will respond positively if we are asked to help again next year.

In February 2009 a check in the amount of \$2,709.13 was sent to Winter Relief. Social Ministries retained \$500 in the Winter Relief fund. At this time the Winter Relief fund has \$2,141. Social Ministries will again retain \$500 and issued a check to Abode (Winter Relief) in January 2010.

### ***Worship and Christian Formation Cluster Jan Scrutton & Molly Lubwama***

The groups that make up this cluster serve our church community in many ways supporting the smooth running of our weekly services and our Christian education opportunities. Our service changes this summer meant many of the leaders within the cluster had to reorganize their teams to meet our new needs, our thanks to everyone for your hard work. This year our Faith Formation team and clergy organized a full and varied program of education including preparation classes for confirmation and baptisms.

All of the teams within this cluster rely on the commitment of parishioners. If you are interested in joining any group please contact the person named in the report or the Vestry members - you will be very welcome!

### **Acolytes**

The challenges of being an acolyte are endless. Which preach is serving at the altar? That seems to change what we do! Washing hands, what does that do and when do I do it? Is it both priests or one that washes hands? Wait, we have one priest now. Let me see, do I bring up the cross at the Gospel or do I grab the Gospel book? Rats, the candle lighting thing is jammed, how am I gonna light the lights for this service?

Thanks to all the acolytes who served in the last year both those who are old hands and the new members who came on board. We are hoping to expand activities and training for this group in the coming year, so watch the WINDOW and the webpage for more information.

## **Altar Guild – Margaret Rainey**

The Altar Guild is made up of 16 women who work in 4 teams. Each team prepares both churches once a month for the 2 services on Sunday 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. Each team is responsible for any additional service such as a wedding or memorial service which takes place in their week.

## **6am Bible Study – Genore Schaaf**

St James' 6am Bible Study reads and discusses the next Sunday's lessons on Tuesday mornings. Starting at 6am and ending promptly at 7am enables some working people to attend. Newcomers and early risers are always welcome. The average weekly attendance is nine.

## **Faith Formation – John Maloney**

The Faith Formation Committee met four times during 2009. During the year a variety of faith formation experiences and presentations were made available to the parish members:

- A day-long Saturday conference centered on the serious issue of "Human Trafficking" (developed and organized by E.J. Hilliard);
- Series of varying lengths on prayer (including the Book of Common Prayer), scripture, the Eucharist, and hospice care;
- A Los Posadas celebration;
- A Lenten evening series entitled "Storytelling: Letting Go" and an Advent evening series entitled "Hope."

These opportunities were well received and well attended by our parishioners.

## **Godly Play**

The time for Godly Play has changed this year and it now meets in EB4 from 10- 11am on Sunday mornings. The group welcomes children from 4 years through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This year around 15 children have taken part in Godly Play regularly. The children come into church in time to join their families for communion at the 10.30am service.

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

During 2009, 16 Lectors and 13 Eucharistic Ministers served at over 150 services at St. James'. These dedicated groups handle holy things by reading the scripture lessons, assisting in the liturgy and at the altar. They work hard to make each church service a worshipful experience for us. I am honored to work with such dedicated people. When we shifted from three to two Sunday services, the assignment redistribution took a tremendous burden off of these good people and enabled us to allow everyone to service once per month on a regular basis (instead of multiple times). Current members of the team are:

- **Lectors:** Jodi Benson, Tom Blalock, Valle Brokes, Patty Lacy, Andy MacRae, Peter Maina, Jim McConnell, Betty McCoy, Pegeen Perry, Raelene Ramsamy, Bruce Roberts, Jack Rux, Samantha Sankar, Mike Scrutton, Maggie Shalar, Pat Spalding.
- **Eucharistic Ministers:** Jodi Benson, Barbara Dabney, Janet Fischer, EJ Hilliard, Brad Hoffman, Johanne LaRocque, Lynn Locher, Ralph Locher, Greg Miller, Marilyn Rose, Connie Rux, Bud Spalding, Laura Winter.

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

We have definitely undergone some transition this year. The team comprises Gregory Miller, Elaine Vallecillo-Miller and Chris Williams – whom I refer as the “three musketeers” or the “faithful three”, carrying our mission: all for one (St. James’), one ( our worship spaces) for all. We have used our past liturgical designs and have created new ones: the Easter Celtic Cross Jacobean frontal and lectern cover, the Pentecost Flame Jacobean frontal and lectern cover, and the Baptismal banner.

We hosted the “Greening of the Churches” whereby families and members helped with the Christmas decorations. Everyone had a festive, fun time. The Team is a not an exclusive group. We are always looking for new members who have creative ideas and helping hands when it comes to placing our decorations for the year.

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

From January to June there were 3 services each Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM. The 8:00 AM Service had no music. Starting on June 7th, the schedule changed to 2 Masses: the 8:00 AM and the 10:30 AM. The 8:00 AM service began having sung hymns at the beginning and at the end of the service with instrumental music at the Offertory and Communion. The service remained a spoken service. Rite I was said on the 5th Sunday of the month.

The 10:30 Service is the Choir Mass with organ. The 4th Sunday of the month is contemporary. Our Music Director plays organ or piano at both the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Services.

The **Footprints** group has dissolved and is being replaced with two guitarists, Andrew MacRae and Jonathan Fuller with Katherine LaRose playing the electronic keyboard. This group plays on the 4th Sunday of the Month. They rehearse on the Wednesday before the 4th Sunday at 6:30 PM.

**The Children’s Choir** has a membership of seven children. They are: Jillian Fisher, Bryneth Fuller, Melissa Gordon, Madison Gordon, Ronald Gordon, Meghan Thomas and Emma Thomas. The children’s choir sang on: Easter, Mother’s Day, Advent I– Lessons and Carols, Las Posadas and Christmas Eve at the 7:00 PM Service for a total of 5 services. The children range in age from 6 to 14.

**The Chancel Choir:** There are 15 active members in the adult choir. They are: Craig Benson, Jodi Benson, Valle Brokes, Jonathan Fuller, EJ Hilliard, Sandy Jaekel, Tim Koonze, Johanne LaRocque, Greg Miller, Elaine Miller, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, Don Rose, Pat Vlastelica and Carol Terry. They sing anthems nearly every Sunday and are also singing the Psalm each week. In addition, they sang for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. They also sang for Las Posadas, Advent Lessons and Carols on Advent I, and a special Christmas Lessons and Carols on January 3rd of 2010. The choir sings year round but they don’t rehearse or sing anthems during the summer. They wear robes and process each week except in the summer due to the heat.

**Special Music:** Trumpeter, Eric Maltez played for 2 Services on Easter and 2 Services on Christmas Eve. John Maloney performed on the Irish Whistle for Lessons and Carols on January 3rd, 2010.

**Instrument maintenance:** The Sagenhaft piano in the Little Church was tuned over the summer. It had mechanical problems with the pedal. The tuner did a temporary repair with duct tape and a window dowel. One of the keys is sticking again making it difficult to play. Basically, it needs to be replaced whenever possible, as it can't be properly tuned or maintained without spending more money than the piano is worth. The Uebel-Lechleiter (blond piano in the main church) is a better piano to begin with and is in good mechanical condition. We did not have enough money to tune it before Christmas, so it needs to be tuned as soon as possible in the New Year.

**New Equipment:** Thanks to Charles Paratore, we now have lights in the front row of the choir section, which makes it possible for the sopranos to read their music more easily. Thank you, Charlie.

**Special Services:** There was a 10:00 AM service on Thanksgiving. Musical accompaniment was provided by our newest Choir member, Carol Terry. Also, on Christmas Day there was a 10:00 AM service with music.

**Choir maintenance:** This year a thorough inventory of all the music and equipment was taken. This took several days and many hours of work. The work was done by Sandy Jaekel, EJ Hilliard, and Katherine LaRose.

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**Future wish list:** We are looking for an organ to replace the one in the Little Church which is in serious disrepair and is not a church organ to begin with. Hopefully, we will find one suitable for the space that we can afford. This is even more desirable since we have music at the 8:00 AM service now. Also, we are looking to replace the Sagenhaft piano eventually.

## **Nursery**

St James' continues to offer childcare on Sunday mornings during Faith Formation and the 10.30am Service. Supervision is available from 9am until noon for children up to 6 years old; Suzanne White is our Nursery Attendant. Books and Activity bags are available in church for older children to use in church.

## **The Tech Team – Bud Pearson**

Every now and then you get to work on a project that you know will last and enrich the parish life. And that's when you say thank you God for the skills to accomplish the task.

First of all my hat's off for the person who first got the idea to knock out the wall between two of the class rooms to form what is now the EB1 meeting room. Then came the fun stuff! Sylvia asked if we could install a computer in there. A simple request! The results were as follows: a computer and LCD projector that can project on a pull down screen, off the air TV, DVD's for training and entertainment, CD's for Power Point presentations and music, Streaming video and almost anything else from the internet, a four channel professional sound system complete with wireless microphone, a white board and a big lockable cabinet to put it all in. And it all works! On another subject, our apologies for a little "feed back" from time to time from the sound system in the big church. But when you have to set up the keyboard, mike two guitars and have

up to seven microphones open at the same time not even your highly trained Tech Team knows what is going to happen! Thanks for your patience.

### **Ushers – Burtin Hart**

Despite 2009's change in services, St. James' usher teams held strong at 23 regular ushers (2 are floating-schedule ushers) and 9 Tier 1/Tier 2 ushers. The ushers have been working together to divide on/off weeks so that everyone rotates on an agreed schedule. Currently, the yearly schedule is undergoing modification and should be published soon. We are very grateful for the work these people do. Our current ushers are:

**8am:** Bob Bell, Charlie Dickinson, Brad Hoffman (Team Captain), Barbara Johnsen, Burtin Hart (as needed), Steve Maina (as needed), Chris Perry, Marco Ramsamy, Bob Reed, Karen Watkins.

**10:30am:** Gregg Feeney, Ashley Francis, Cathy Knotts, Ralph Locher (Team Captain), Chris Lubwama, Sylvia Ma, Peter Maina, Dave Nelsen, Jan Pearson, Bob Reed (Team Captain), Mike Scrutton, Bud Spalding (Team Captain), Penny Trant (Team Captain), Tim Young.

**Alternates:** Craig Benson, Margaret Broun, Margaret Rainey, Donald Razzolini, Don Rose, Dean Valentine

### **Women's Spirituality Group – Lynn Locher**

The Women's Spirituality Group meets in the Study at 12 noon every Thursday except holidays and lasts for an hour. Our current group consists of eight women. The purpose of our group is to provide emotional and spiritual support to each other and *to* promote emotional and spiritual growth in our own lives and the lives of those we love.

We begin our meeting with the Noon Day Service found in the Book of Common Prayer. This year we have had discussions based on the book "Good Goats, Healing Our Image of God" by Dennis, Sheila and Matthew Linn. We are currently discussing Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori's book "A Wing and a Prayer." The group members take turns writing discussion questions based on the readings. At times we find so much to talk about that we discuss one chapter for two meetings. The meeting ends with an opportunity to meditate for five minutes and then we recite the Lord's Prayer together.

Women's Spirituality is open to all women of the church. Please come and join us.

### **Worship Committee – Janet Fischer**

Toward the end of 2009 this new committee formed to aid clergy in planning worship services. The committee has created an Alternative Worship Service Booklet to support the contemporary service held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, as well as the monthly Sunday evening contemporary service at 6pm. This booklet gives us four options that may be used during a contemporary service and includes services from the New Zealand prayer book, the Episcopal *Enriching Our Worship* book, a Celtic service from Iona Abbey, and the service used on Sunday evenings.

As we continue in 2010, the committee will be responsible for the power point presentations used on Sundays and will assist clergy in any way needed to help our worship services run smoothly.

## **Youth Space/Youth Group**

The hard work of a group of adults and young people resulted in the transformation this year of EB2 into a new Youth Space for the young people of St James', 5<sup>th</sup> grade and upwards. The room is open after services as well as the group meeting for the last 4 months on a Sunday evening once a month after the informal evening service. Around 7 young people regularly use the room and we are considering further ways to increase the use of the room and opportunities for the group to meet.

## ***Southern Alameda County Deanery Report***

The parishes and missions of the Diocese of California are divided into six deaneries. St. James' belongs to the Southern Alameda County Deanery. Other churches in the Southern Alameda County Deanery are St. Anne's in Fremont; St. Bartholomew's in Livermore; St. Clare's in Pleasanton; Holy Cross in Castro Valley and All Saints in San Leandro. According to the diocesan canons, the principal objectives of convocations of the Deanery are to develop and communicate the policies and plans of the Diocesan Convention and of the Executive Council. Before each annual diocesan convention, the deanery representatives are responsible for reviewing the diocesan budgets, resolutions, and amendments. During the annual convention, they are responsible for attending and voting on such items on the agenda. Our Deanery meets 3 or 4 times a year, usually on Sunday afternoons. In 2009, our Deanery Representatives also discussed and carry out a few joint programs for all the churches of our Deanery under the umbrella of Area Ministry. Our 2009 Deanery Representatives and Convention Delegates were: Bob Bell, Ralph Locher, Jan Brandt, Gwen Metz, and Johanne LaRocque. Our Convention Alternates were Joan Kimber and Elaine V. Miller.