



SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Report for 2010

Annual Meeting February 13, 2011

Rector Rev. Lori Walton

**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 2010.

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Lead Team Reports

Rector's Report, 2010 the Rev. Lori A. Walton

Though I've known about St. James' for many years, my personal introduction began with a review of your parish profile, followed by a telephone interview, an interview and lunch with members of the search committee, and a day with the vestry. It is important for me to say that every step of the process was one of discovery and delight. The St. James' community was served extremely well by the integrity and thoughtfulness of your search process. I chose to serve St. James' for many reasons, one being the extremely positive experience I encountered with each person in the process.

I began serving St. James' on October 1, 2010, and have spent much of the last three months getting to know people, listening to the stories of our community, and familiarizing myself with the St. James' ethos and personality. I have been extremely fortunate to have followed the good work of The Reverend Kathy Crary, interim priest. Her presence and ministry at St. James' for much of 2010 was one of compassion and care. As a result, much of the work of finding a communal identity separate from prior pastoral relationships has been done.

I have had the great blessing of being able to work with a top-notch lead team and vestry. Jan Scrutton, senior warden, Mary Casas, junior warden, and Jan Brandt, treasurer, have been instrumental in helping me settle into my role as your rector. Jan Scrutton has provided wise council and excellent leadership. Mary Casas has been the voice of history and a wealth of knowledge, and Jan Brandt knows more about church finances and infra-structure than anyone I know, and has been key to orienting me and keeping me informed. Our vestry is made up of wonderfully committed individuals who have come together to work as a cohesive group because of their love of this church and their love of God. I am repeatedly impressed and amazed by the level of involvement of the vestry members. Though not a vestry member, I want to recognize Elizabeth Hart. Elizabeth serves the vestry and St. James' as our clerk, and consistently and quietly does the critical work of recording our meeting minutes.

It has also been a joy for me to come into a church that has dedicated employees. Art Gallardo serves as our sexton and takes great pride in caring for our buildings and grounds. During the interview process to be your rector, my first impression of our campus was that it was beautifully maintained and very clean! Art is an excellent sexton. I have since realized that Art's work is greatly complimented by the work of the monthly work parties and by our facilities team. Your love and care of our sacred space is evident to the eyes. Suzanne David serves as our nursery caregiver on Sunday mornings, and is always on time and dependable. It has been a pleasure to work with our music director, Katherine La Rose. Katherine's musical knowledge and leadership keeps our music program cohesive and instrumental to our worship. At the end of

2010, Katherine accomplished the considerable task of locating and purchasing an organ for the Little Church, an achievement that has significantly lifted up the music in our 8:00 service.

With the support and assistance of Jan Scrutton, senior warden, we hired a parish administrator, Aimee Garza. Aimee began working with us in mid-December, and has proven to be a warm, welcoming, and compassionate presence at the front desk. With her considerable computer and artistic skills, Aimee has begun, and will continue, to impact the printed, electronic, and otherwise visual “face” of St. James’. I have found Aimee to be efficient, bright, and a person who is always looking for the solution. I am grateful for her work here.

In the time between Linda LeGere leaving and Aimee Garza arriving, the office was staffed by a wonderful group of volunteers. Phones were answered, copies were made, work was completed by Gail Blalock, Valle Brokes, Joan Roberts and Ruth Poole. They kept the office running the absence of both a secretary and for a portion of time, a rector. I want to make a special mention of the wonderful ministry of Penny Trant. Penny was instrumental in organizing and overseeing the office volunteers, and Penny did the critical work of preparing the Sunday worship materials, maintaining the church calendar, and maintaining the prayer list. She was the glue that kept the office cohesive, and I am so thankful for her.

During the first three months of my tenure, I quickly became familiar with the local hospitals. Because of some significant illnesses, my role as pastor was immediately called upon, compelling me to spend a significant time visiting parishioners in their most vulnerable states. It has been my honor to be trusted by others in this sacred role.

Beginning a new call in the month of October almost always means beginning in the midst of stewardship season. Even before I began, I heard from the Diocese about the strong stewardship committee at St. James’. Upon arriving, I found this to be true. Under the excellent leadership of Gail Blalock, our stewardship committee created and communicated an effective campaign that spoke of God’s abundance and love, and challenged each of us to respond in like.

In liturgy, we worshiped with song, laughter, and prayer. Along with Sunday mornings, we together glorified God with warm hearts on a very cold Thanksgiving morning, and again in three Christmas Eve services and a Christmas Day service. On Christmas Eve, we welcomed over 20 children into our space to act out the nativity scene and to experience the story of Jesus’ birth. At the 7:00 and 11:00 services, I was honored to share the altar with the Reverend Canon Jim McLeod and the Reverend Karin White.

We have a great team of Eucharistic ministers and acolytes that assist at the altar, expanding the ministry of the laity in sacramental worship. I want to acknowledge Nancy Castaneda for her organization and scheduling of our acolytes, and Janet Fischer for her organization, scheduling and training of our Eucharistic ministers and lectors. My job is made immensely easier because of their work. I also want to highlight the ministry of Margaret Rainey, altar guild director, and the excellent altar guild teams that lovingly and reverently prepare our space for each service.

Brian Cochran has been instrumental in holding the Godly Play program together, being faithful to our children and creating a space for them to learn the sacred stories of our tradition and to wonder and pray. Jan and Mike Scrutton have been committed to providing a monthly gathering for our youth, giving of their time and their considerable talent and creativity. A primary focus of my own time and energy for 2011 will be towards strengthening and increasing our children and youth programs.

I spent much of 2010 meeting with committees and individuals too many to mention. I will say that over and over, I am struck with deep gratitude and joyful amazement at how involved the parishioners of St. James' are – both within our church and in the community. You are a model of shared ministry and leadership for all to behold, and I look forward to the many years ahead in continuing to build the Kingdom of God with you.

Lead Team Reports

The Vestry of St James' is divided into clusters through which the responsibilities are divided up. Some of the activities at St James' are run directly by the Vestry clusters but more often the work is done by groups who report in to the Vestry via their cluster leaders. The Lead Team, made up of the Wardens, Rector and Treasurer oversee the Vestry and some groups report to the Vestry via them. During interim time the Wardens and Vestry have additional responsibilities which they are grateful to transition to our new rector!

Sr. Warden Jan Scrutton

St James' is a community that is made up of so many volunteers and to be asked to be Sr Warden this year was an honor. The tradition of volunteerism and the very many people who have served before me in this role makes it a daunting prospect, especially in a year that started in interim time. The other side of that challenge is the support you have all offered, often sharing your experiences, has been great and the encouragement and praise, which I know I am not good at receiving, have meant a lot.

When the Vestry set their goals for this year all the clusters were aware of the additional task on which they would be judged first this year, the calling of a new rector. Above all else, but not instead of any other task, our congregation needed us to complete the process started by the Transition Team in 2009. The Search Team started the year with applications from across the country. Their report here contains the details of that but it cannot tell you what a credit they were to St James'. The process they followed was fair and clear to all the participants. Expectations were clear and all the final candidates I spoke to were impressed by the planning that went into the process and the professionalism that was displayed. Thank you to those 11 individuals, who gave up their time and energy to write questions, read applications, do

telephone interviews, take references and spend time face to face with our candidates. The three candidates they presented to the Vestry were all qualified and able to take on the role of rector at St James' and the information they gave the Vestry gave us an insight into the work they had already done.

Working with the Vestry through the interview process was one of my greatest pleasures this year. Three weekends of interviewing, each including a dinner, service, tour of campus, lunch and formal interview. We met three people who had the skills and qualifications to be a rector and who could have worked here at St James'. When we stood together to announce our unanimous decision we were delighted to present Rev Lori Walton as our new rector but we also knew we had turned down two others who will be loved and appreciated by a congregation somewhere.

This year I have been so fortunate to have Mary Casas as my Jr Warden. Her knowledge and experience at St James' has been so valuable and her ability to give me confidence in myself has been much appreciated. I have gained a friend this year – thank you Mary.

When we sat to decide what our goals as Wardens would be this year we tried to see past the calling of a rector and remember that during interim time St James' has not been 'on hold' but has moved forward in many ways. Mary and I both wanted to move on with the stained glass window project, the feature of many an annual meeting question during my time at St James'. Our aim was to have an answer to the question "what's happening?" when it was asked at the next meeting. It is thanks to Mary's work with Wesley Hogan that the answer lies in our new doors and windows. I still smile when I walk into or out of church and see the doors and windows reflecting who we are and why we gather together.

St James' was fortunate to have Rev Kathy Crary as our full time interim priest between January and September of 2010. Her dedication, particularly in pastoral care and hospital visiting meant that our community was well cared for during the interim period. Our adult education programs also benefitted from Kathy's great work. In March she led a group of parishioners in posting signs carrying good wishes and prayers outside the NUMMI plant in the final days before Toyota moved out and the plant closed. Candles and novenas were distributed for us all to share prayers for the employees and those affected by the closure. Our signs outside the plant were seen by many employees in the last few days and even made it onto local television. The arrival of Tesla on the site and return of some vehicle manufacturing to Fremont is a welcome blessing.

Social events are always important to our community and we enjoyed a second St James' Day celebration in the summer. Another beautiful day shared with our friends from the Philippine Independent Church with a shared Eucharist celebrated by Father Picart. Another party celebrated Kathy's departure with joy and sadness. The news that came of her full time appointment as Rector of Christ Church, Alameda was celebrated by us and we wish her, and

them, all the best. The Stewardship Cottage Dinners provided opportunities for us to dine together and meet our new Rector in the fall. Pancake Supper, Los Posadas, and in early January 2011 Lori's installation party add to the picture of a community that worships, celebrates and eats together.

The summer brought news of a bequest left to St James' by a long time parishioner here. Such gifts, while very welcome, also come with great responsibility. The money has been safely invested while a committee has begun the work of considering how we might use the bequest to best honor the intent of the gift and invest in the future of St James'. We have met with Richard Schaper, Diocesan Gift Planning Officer to ask his advice about not only long term investment but about planning and gathering feedback. He has commended us for our approach and has had some useful input. The committee will soon begin a process of gathering input from the congregation as to how this bequest can be used to assist with both the long and short term goals of St James'.

2010 will most significantly be marked in St James' history by the arrival of our first female rector, Rev. Lori Walton. Lori has begun to get to know us and we her. She brings with her exciting ideas and clear vision but also an appreciation for the history of St James' and the enthusiasm and commitment of the congregation. It has been my pleasure to be in this position while she finds her way around and to see her take her place, front and center, in our church and community.

As I complete my term on the Vestry and look to the future at St James' I know we are a community that has a strong roots but we do not look backwards. We have called a new rector to lead us and as Lori settles in we must let her do that. We have exciting times ahead.

Jr. Warden
Mary Casas

It was an honor to serve as Junior Warden this past year. St. James' was a busy place and many changes were seen in 2010. I had the privilege to oversee the following projects.

Faceted Windows:

A group was formed to look at creating and installing faceted windows in the Church. In late March, I contacted Wesley Hogan at Hogan Art Glass and arranged for a meeting. Wesley came to St. James' and met with Margaret Rainey, Linda Nelsen, Scott Kennedy and myself. We brainstormed ideas and a vision was created. It was decided St. James, the fisherman, would be depicted, along with our most holy sacraments of communion and baptism. Members of the congregation were invited to Wesley's Studio to help facet the glass for the windows. Approx. 30 parishioners participated in the faceting. New wooden entry doors were ordered and installed

by Well Hung Doors. Faceted windows were placed in and adjacent to the new doors. The new windows and doors were dedicated on Sunday July 11th.

Though many donations were made for this project, it was through the generous contributions of Margaret Loosmore's family, in memory of Margaret, and donations from Philippa Lockwood, that enabled us to complete this project.

Facilities Use Agreements

All ongoing facility use agreements expire and are renewed by September 30th of each year. One new group was added this year, a Friday night Narcotics Anonymous. Tai Chi was changed to a St James' supported group. The groups listed below have all completed the renewal agreements, and if required, have submitted current insurance policies.

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

The County of Alameda used our facilities for a voting precinct on Tuesdays June 8th and November 2nd.

A Welcoming Committee was formed to help Lori settle in to her new position as Rector of St. James'. The committee hosted coffee hour on October 3rd and a luncheon after the Wednesday service on October 6th.

The committee will organize and then disband after Lori's installation on January 15, 2011. The members are Evelyn Martinez, Griselda Prather, Cathy Knotts, Lea Lucas, Linda Nelsen, Ruth Poole, Penny Trant and Mary Casas.

Fundraisers

The Operating Fund in 2010 was supported not only by pledges but by a number of fundraising events that between them raised almost \$5000.

- The McCutcheon Concert Team not only provided us with a fantastic evening but also raised almost \$2,000 with ticket, raffle and refreshment sales. Thank you to all the people who worked so hard on the event.
- Again we were involved in the Kiwanis Ducks for Bucks event at Lake Elizabeth thanks to Tom Blalock and Brad Hoffman. This resulted in a check for \$1,348 for St James' and a prize for one of our parishioners. Alongside the Duck Race we had our own St James' draw. Our thanks to Tom & Brad.
- Despite not having a booksale in 2010 the dedicated work of people continuing to sell books and take boxes to Half Price Books bought in a further \$461!
- An entertaining prize draw of our 'Favorite Things' to go with our St James' Day Feast raised over \$500 while a trip to see the A's play raised a further \$440.
- Two means of supporting St James' exist all year around. Sales of items with a St James' logo from CaféPress raised over \$70 and eScrip bought in a further \$114. Look out for more details on how you can support St James' as you shop in 2011.

Jan Scrutton

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; they then make the weekly bank deposit. Counters also assist with the folding, stapling, and stuffing of quarterly pledge statements.

Counters frequently volunteer to serve as cashiers and counters for events such as the Pancake Supper or fund raisers such as 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, flowers, or other special donations.

The IT Team

Stephen Ferro

In 2010 the Tech Team was combined with a Lead Team initiative to look at the long term technology needs of St. James'. The newly formed IT team consisted of Bud Pearson, Mike Scrutton, Stephen Ferro, Greg Miller, and Dean Valentine.

The IT team assessed current network, printers, software, computer hardware and began to establish a long range plan for St. James'. The team filled some immediate needs, including new computers and monitors for the rector and the administrator. Thanks to parishioners working at high tech firms in the Bay Area the team was able to save on both software and hardware through employee discounts. Regular maintenance and repairs were made on computers on site and the team expanded the use of the copier to include printing.

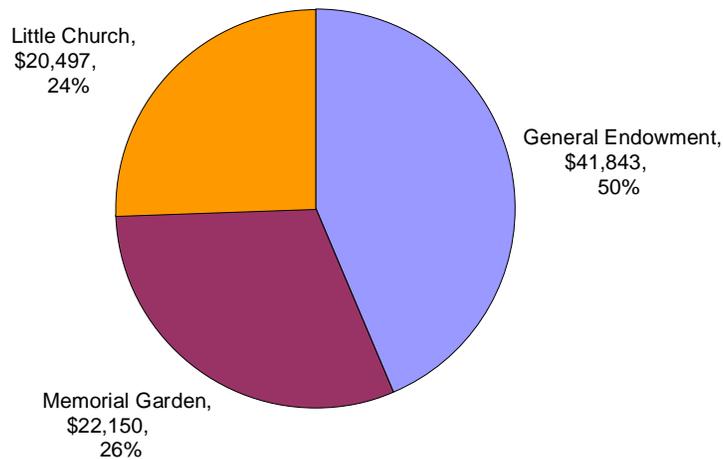
In 2011 the team will complete the long term plan which will include security and backup policy, regular updates of computers on site, and replacing St. James' Parish software.

2010 Endowment Board Report

David Nelsen

- Endowment Board members are Marnie Hartman, Patty Lacy, Chris Lubwama, Joan Roberts and Dave Nelsen. Joan is the secretary and Dave is the chairperson.
- Currently there are 46 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'.
- A Shell Society luncheon was held on April 18 when four new members were welcomed; Al and Mary Casas and Dave and Linda Nelsen. Our guest speaker, Margriet DeLange, lead us in a captivating workshop titled "*Capturing our Life Stories – Preserving stories, Values and Meanings*".
- 15 individual gifts were made to the Endowment fund in 2010, totaling \$13,932.
- Gifts were made in memory of; Gretchen E. Locher, Jeff Schaaf, Mary Green, Bill Rainey, Al and Mary Casas 25th anniversary and Bruce Roberts' retirement. A special gift was also made by the Memorial Garden Committee.
- The board has written a reference document which explains the history and current status of the Endowment. Meant as an outline for new members, this may be helpful for anyone to better understand the St James' Endowment. You will be able to find it soon on our web page.
- The current Principal value of the Endowment fund is \$84,490 and is comprised of the three categories listed here;

Total Contributions and Make-up of Endowment Fund



Stewardship Committee

Gail Blalock

The Stewardship Team experienced some changes this year beginning with the resignation of long-time Chair Lynn Locher. Lynn's capable leadership and direction for seven years on Stewardship was greatly missed. Gail Blalock was appointed Chair in February and the Stewardship Team consisted of Charlie Dickinson, Brad Hoffman, Sandra Motley, and George Vlastelica with Ruth Poole joining the Team mid-year. It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Charlie Dickinson in August. We are a small but mighty group!

The goal of the Stewardship Team continues to be "Year 'Round Stewardship." It was encouraged through monthly articles in *The Window*, Announcements, and reminders in Sunday bulletins. This year instead of one large event, the Fall Pledge Drive consisted of three dinners and one luncheon held in the Parish Hall. The four events were centered around the theme "*Cottage Dinners Celebrating St. James' New Beginnings*" and provided parishioners an opportunity to get to know our new Rector, Lori Walton, in small group settings. The meals were put together by the Stewardship Team with assistance from parishioners, and one evening was promoted as family night ("pizza night") to encourage families with children to attend. Another night was featured as *Italian Night*. The luncheon menu was taken from the Mitford Series Cookbook (those of you who are familiar with the books may remember Fr. Tim & Cynthia both liked to cook) and offered an alternative for those who prefer not to drive at night. Approximately 125 people signed up to attend one of the four events, and those who attended had a good time. The Stewardship Team worked tirelessly to make these events successful, and I cannot thank them enough. Pledge Sunday was October 24, 2010, when pledge cards were received and blessed at both services. Approximately 68 pledges were turned in on the 24th, and they continue to come in.

As of the beginning of February, 105 pledges were received. It is difficult to compare statistics with last year's Annual Report because those numbers reflected pledges through December and this year we have information through early February. We were again affected by the economy as 2010 was another year of lost jobs, reduced incomes, and reduced hours of work. While some pledges were reduced, a number of parishioners were still able to increase their pledges, and for that we are thankful. We are also blessed with new members and new pledges. In general terms, the total amount pledged is down approximately 3% but pledges to Operating increased, due in part to some parishioners responding to the request to shift Building pledges to Operating.

The following has been pledged for 2011:

Total Pledges:	\$257,186
Operating Budget:	\$233,930
Building Budget:	\$ 23,256
Other:	\$ 600

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the members of the Stewardship Team for their hard work and support all year long. We are looking forward to 2011 and hopeful that the Team will expand with some new members. We extend an invitation to everyone to visit our meetings at 5:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday each month. We need your ideas, your feedback, your hands, your prayers, and especially your fellowship.

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Luke 12:34).

Search Committee

Pegeen Perry and Bruce Roberts

In late 2009 the Search Team received the Transition Committee's Parish Profile and proceeded toward the goal of providing the Vestry with three candidates for Rector of St. James'. In early December 2009 we released the word to the Diocese and the nation that St. James' was looking for a new Rector. We worked from a list of forty-one candidates of whom twenty-six had been recommended by the Diocese of California. Fourteen of those agreed to apply but only thirteen submitted application packages. Five women and eight men applied. Geographically, seven people from California and six from outside California applied. Ten of the thirteen were interviewed by telephone. Of those ten, six were interviewed in person. From those six, three were selected for the vestry's final consideration.

The Team used the Parish Profile as the basis for its process. The Team assessed the main categories of Administrative Skills, Pastoral Care Skills, Liturgical Leadership, Support, and Program Development as objectively as possible using a numeric evaluation to begin the process.

Phone interviews followed the initial evaluation. Conducted by sub-teams of three or four members, the candidates were asked seven identical questions with additional question unique to each candidate. Again the candidates were scored and the highest scoring candidates moved on to face-to-face interviews.

Team members checked the references provided by the candidates in telephone interviews. Nineteen reference checks were completed.

The last step of the process – the face-to-face interview - involved three to four Team members asking eight identical questions of the final six candidates. They also asked additional questions designed to learn more about each candidate. The team members travelled to the candidates' home locations (with one exception) for the formal interview and an informal meal with the candidate and family, and for the opportunity to hear the candidate to preach and celebrate. Once completed, all interviews and visits were discussed in detail with the whole Search Team.

From these last interviews the Search Team passed a list of three candidate names to the Vestry from which they made their decision to call The Reverend Lori Walton to be our next Rector.

The Search Team operated independently from the Transition Team once the Parish Profile had been completed. It is the view of the Search Team that the success of the search process stemmed in part from the separation of the writing of the Parish Profile and the Search Team's independence. This separation of teams allowed more Parish members to participate in the process. In addition it allowed the Transition Team an end to their endeavors and it gave a fresh set of eyes for the actual search. It also allowed for extra objectivity in the search process.

The Search Team Co-chairs thank the Team members for their efforts way beyond the call of duty. Thanks to the Transition Team for their cooperation and for their remarkable Parish Profile. Thanks to the Parish for letting us do our job.

Communications and Evangelism Cluster

Greg Scheuffele & Stephen Ferro

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 mission was especially important in light of the changes at St. James' in 2010 (including our search for and hiring of 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 upcoming events (such as the John McCutcheon Concert, etc.) The coverage received for the McCutcheon concert was limited but was noticed and noted by more than one parishioner.

The cost of Advertising went up in 2010 relative to prior years. As newspapers struggle to make both their online and print editions popular and profitable, they continue to modify advertising services and costs. The primary newspapers St. James' has used traditionally: Tri-City Voice, The Argus, and the Fremont Bulletin, have seen both their paid membership and their free print runs decline significantly with the continued poor economy and people shifting to the Internet as their primary news source.

We see an opportunity in the new year to explore alternative ways of gaining publicity for important St. James' events, including taking advantage of new advertising modalities offered by newspapers and online community-oriented websites.

Another key tool used for publicity in years past has been a membership directory. St. James' has periodically published membership directories with pictures of each St. James' parishioner or family. These directories are usually published with the help of a company such as Lifetouch or Olan Mills. In 2011, we are planning on publishing a membership directory.

Email

We maintain a group email list at saintj@yahoogroups.com. It is one of our most effective ways to communicate quickly and effectively with the parish. In 2010 we were careful to maintain the list up to date. The list has grown to 147 names! If you would like to have your email address added to the Yahoo! Groups email list, please contact Janet Fischer at JanetLFischer@yahoo.com.

In order to evolve communications to the parish and continue serving the needs of the St. James' community, we will be establishing new processes and policies for communication in 2011. We will be creating a 2nd email distribution list for communicating official St. James' information to the Parish. This second email list will be used for a weekly summary of official St. James' events, reminders, requests, and key news coming from St. James' leadership, ministry leads, and other volunteer leaders. This second email list will be the source of "official" news for St.

James'. We will continue to maintain the existing (original) email list, allowing anyone subscribed to it to generate a message to the entire list. We anticipate this original email list will continue to be used for prayer requests and non-official requests and notifications, while official news will be sent via the new email list.

St. James' Logo Merchandise

We have many items with the St. James' logo, including men's and women's clothing (T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Hoodies) available for purchase at www.cafepress.com/saintj. Sales of these items brings a small amount of money into St. James'. The number of items sold in 2010 was small, there is an opportunity to market the availability of St. James' merchandise in 2011 to increase identification of our parish in the community.

Outdoor Banners

In 2010, we purchased 1 banner for the large outdoor sign along Thornton Ave. This banner replaced an existing banner which was vandalized to the point of being un-usable. The funding for this came from special interest funds. In the new year, we anticipate some additional updates to St. James' banners, such as the Easter Banners, to reflect new hours of worship or new special events for Holy Week.

Web Site

Our web site home page is at <http://saintj.com>.

The web site underwent significant remodeling over the summer to refresh the look and navigation, and to incorporate new images of the St. James' stained glass windows integrated into the Big Church front entrance and doors. Feedback on the web site re-design has been very positive. The web site is not only an effective way to advertise upcoming events, but vestry minutes, annual reports, newsletters, ministries, and contact information are only a click away.

The web site is also an archive for the history of our parish. The maintenance and smooth operation of the web site is assured by Janet Fischer, who works carefully to ensure a well-organized, easy to navigate site, and who is very diligent in quickly uploading the latest documents and reports to the site.

St. James' Newsletter – The Window

In 2010, the staff of the Window included Ralph Locher, Marilyn Rose, Penny Trant, and Laura Winter. Multiple editors (Ralph, Marilyn, and Penny) greatly facilitated scheduling and reduced the work load on any one person. Laura Winter continues to do a great job at proof reading each issue before finalizing it as well as contributing occasional articles.

2010 was the first full year of "Going Green" for The Window. In order to maximize St. James' investment in our website infrastructure and to reduce paper use and save money, The Window was not mailed out to the entire Parish this year. Parishioners who wanted to receive a printed copy via mail could sign up and receive it, while the entire Parish was notified each month via

email of The Window being available online on the St. James' website. In addition, several copies were made available for pick up each month in the Parish hall and the Narthex of the Big Church.

In June, the staff met with the Communication Cluster to review the newsletter format and discuss how to increase readership. It was noted that the number of individuals downloading the newsletter from the website each month was usually around 30, often less. We discussed several ideas for evolving The Window – including soliciting more articles, generating a printed version in color, and emailing the entire issue each month to parishioners as a secure file attachment.

We decided on a two-fold strategy: 1) soliciting more articles to draw in wider readership, 2) making more printed copies of “the Window” available each month and announcing their availability during Sunday services. Other strategies were deferred for later assessment due to budget considerations and pending Lori Walton's arrival.

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 submitted articles this year. You 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

Ralph Locher

Facilities

Scott Kennedy & Charlie Paratore

This past year has been successful in meeting nearly all our goals. We have also dealt with several repair and maintenance issues that were not expected.

The on-going kitchen upgrade project has been completed. We purchased a new tractor/mower in the spring. A sidewalk was added at the backdoor of the big church. Cabrillo Terrace has been re-stripped. We have purchased new computer equipment to meet the changing needs of an efficient administrative staff. One section of roof was totally re-roofed above the offices. A second storage shed is now I use with lighting and power. A new organ was purchased for the little church. Interior painting has been taking place, although this is an endless task. The St James' Memorial Windows (and doors) were installed this summer, and turned out fabulous, thanks to Wesley Hogan. The big church now has all new energy saving windows throughout the entire building.

Upgrading projects have included:

- The electrical panels in the EB, BC, and LC

- Lighting in various locations and additional fixtures, inside and out

- Ten new EXIT signs were installed to replace the inadequate existing signs

- Smoke detectors have been added to several places that had non, or not the required type or amount

- Parking lot lighting now more efficient and brighter

The monthly work parties have done a sensational job keeping our campus looking great! Besides the usual pruning, mowing, and leaf removal, we've done some major tree limbing and topping to keep up with our assortment of big trees. This group has also done some of the electrical work needed for our buildings.

The Memorial Garden Committee always has the Garden in great condition. They had three work parties, as well as regular upkeep done on random basis. They reported one burial, one memorial stone, and zero columbarium burials.

The Injury/Illness Prevention program is in the final development stages and should be complete within the month.

Submitted by Scott Kennedy/Facilities

Parish Life

Penny Trant & Dean Valentine

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

On April 4th (Easter morning) we had our annual Children's Easter Egg. Over 600 plastic eggs filled with goodies were hidden around the church grounds. Parents, Grandparents, and parishioners looked on as the children searched for hidden eggs. Many thanks to all the bunny helpers who donated their time in filling and hiding the eggs.

Graduation Day

In June, we honored those who were promoted or graduated with a special time during Church service to recognize their achievements. Following service, cake and refreshments were served in the Parish Hall.

Men's Annual Trip

The Men's 3rd Annual Trip to Arnold was July 28th to August 1st. Each year the number of attendees grows and this year was no exception. This was a fun time to spend in cabins getting to know new and old members. There was great food, great company, golf, fishing, hiking and time to relax and enjoy.

St. James' Feast

On July 25th, we celebrated our Patron Saint, St. James, with a wonderful feast. The theme this year was "Favorite Things". Donations of parishioner's favorite things were raffled during the day's event. They ranged from handmade items, movie tickets, riding lessons, baked goods, artwork, and a basket with beer mugs that had our new stained glass windows on them. The Philippine Church once again joined us for our feast and entertained us with national dances in the afternoon. The food and fellowship was wonderful and a fun time was had by all.

Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday is when we celebrate with a last feast before Lent begins. The men of St. James', 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 by the Youth Group. This is a long time standing event at St. James' and much anticipated by all.

Kitchen Crew

The Kitchen Crew is responsible for the set-up and cleanup of the Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship Hours.

This requires us to keep account of the refreshments that are offered, including the pastries, coffee and other related items. We also maintain the general cleanliness of the kitchen.

We do extend a grateful thank-you to everyone who brings in delicious goodies and coffee (regular and decaf) to be served.

Our present team members are Brad Hoffman, Laura Samuels and Sandra Motley. We appreciate the many hands that help us wash/dry coffee mugs. Jeanne Morris has offered to help out, as needed. We would appreciate additional help, especially as we wash and put away things following the 2nd Fellowship coffee Hour (around 12 PM).

We are happy to have the wonderful new appliances. The dishwasher, stove and garbage disposal have been such boost for our kitchen.

Again thank you to everyone who has donated pastries, cookies, coffee and other food items. And thank you to all those extra hands that have helped through the year.

Your Kitchen Crew

Available for Lunch

The Available for Lunch Ministry's aim is to organize informal luncheons and events to promote fellowship within the St. James' community. In 2010, we had three very enjoyable outings to local restaurants. In March, we celebrated the Lunar New Year at Newark Buffet. In July, we had delicious Afghan food at Salang Pass. In September, a large group of us mix, mingle and lunch with our Kathy+, our Interim Priest. We had a wonder time together, great food and great fellowship.

In 2011, 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 Weekly Bulletin, in the Window, and our sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall. Do join us if you are Available for Lunch.

Meg Williams & Sylvia Ma

Tai Chi class

In November 2010, the Wednesday night Tai Chi class became a member of the Parish Life Ministries. This means that all are welcomed and no fee will be charged for the class. Of course, donations will be gladly accepted and will go towards Parish Life. Tai Chi classes are held on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30pm in the Parish Hall.

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

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

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

Social Ministries & Congregational Care Cluster

Brad Hoffman & Andy MacRae

Abode Services

Members of St. James' have been active supporters of Abode Services (formerly Tri-City Homeless Coalition) since it was formed. Three teams of volunteers primarily led by St. James' members, purchase, prepare and serve dinner at the Sunrise Village Shelter every month. Addition help is always welcomed. If others are interested in helping with this important ministry, just let us know: St James' has three teams that prepare dinners at Abode. 1st Saturdays (Even Months), contact Cathy Knotts or Dorothy Balderston; 1st Saturdays (Odd Months), contact Mary Casas or Karen Koonze; 3rd Saturdays (Even Months), contact Joan Roberts or Maggie Shalar. Please contact Brad Hoffman or Andy MacRae @ socialministries-congcare@saintj.com

AEMCH (An Episcopal Ministry for Convalescent Hospital)

St. James' has been a faithful supporter of this charity since its beginning in 1981. St James' donated \$1200 in 2010 and has budgeted \$1200 for 2011. The money donated is applied to carry out programs to comfort those in convalescent hospitals in the Bay Area.

Comforters Guild

Prayer Shawls and other knitted and crocheted items are made by the Comforters Guild.

- The newly made gifts of baby sweaters and blankets, premie 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).

- We have expanded to include giving hats and scarves to the Seamen's Club of the International Maritime Center of Oakland.
- We have a continuing 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) is shepherd for Comforters. Both can be contacted for more information.

Valle Brokes

Food Pantry

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

Hillside Care Center

The TEAM that co-ordinates and organizes activities at Hillside include Alice Johnson, Maggie Shalar, Lauren Doherty and Sandra Motley. The team attempts to do three activities a year and would like to do more. Thanks to the support of the St James' community over 65 African Violets were given to the residents for Easter. In September we arranged for Leilani of Hula Halau Ko 'Olina and 3 of her dancers to perform. For Christmas St James' families bought and wrapped 70 gifts that were delivered to the residents on December 10th. The residents would like to have "gentle pets" visit, and our team would enjoy making arrangements. Your support of this ministry is truly appreciated. We invite you to offer suggestions and we welcome your participation in our visits. Thank You.

JobSeekers Group

The JobSeekers Group is an informal gathering of people who find themselves traveling the same path toward employment. The group consists of the unemployed, the underemployed, and those considering a career change. Our numbers vary week to week (this is, after all, one group we truly hope dwindles in number!) but we average about 5 participants at each meeting, and includes both St. James' members and friends (anyone is welcome!). We swap stories, share information and resources, and offer each other support and encouragement. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, gathering in the church office at 11 am.

Payless Shoe Drive

Thanks to the generosity of St. James' parishioners, we continued our tradition of raising money to purchase new shoe gift cards for the kids in Abode Services' relief programs including Sunrise Village. We raised \$740 last year, delivered to Abode Services in the form of 37 Payless Shoe Store \$20-gift cards in early October 2010. A thank you letter acknowledging this donation as well as our continued support of Abode Services was received in November (see letter posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall). We hope to continue this tradition of helping to provide for

new shoes to replace outgrown or worn out shoes for the children of Abode Services next fall.

Millennium Development Goals

Unfortunately due to work conflicts we did not have direct representation on the Millennium Development Goals project for most of the year. We look forward to more direct involvement in 2011.

The Millennium Development Goals project works to:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Scott Whitaker

UTO

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is an opportunity to recognize our thankfulness for all the good things we have been given. Because the national church is generous in providing administrative support, every cent donated goes to meet a need, benefiting people locally and abroad. The Spring Diocesan UTO Ingathering was held on Saturday, May 8 at Christ Church, Sausalito, together with the Diocesan Altar Guild's general meeting. St. James' parishioners continued to support the UTO by donating (\$160.55) towards UTO in 2010.

Cathy Knotts

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

The 6th Annual Walk-a-Rock-a-thon was held on Saturday, May 22nd. The Walk-a-Rock-a-thon is to help support our Home warming program for November in conjunction with Abode services. The seven Walkers were Peter Maina, Laura Winter, Mary Casas, Andy MacRae, Jan Scrutton, Tom Scrutton and Beth Scrutton and we had one Rocker, Brad Hoffman. They all teamed up to raise approximately \$800 for this vital program. We wish to say Thank You to all the participants and to the Parishioners and others who supported our Walker/Rockers with pledges and assistance during the race.

Home Warming

The Abode Services Home Warming - Rehousing Program is well underway now in 2011. George Vlastelica and I have been meeting with Abode Services and our home warming partners

since early September 2010.

This year instead of housing guests in the churches classrooms, parish halls and gyms for a month, Abode Services took a more targeted approach in providing services to the homeless in the greater Tri-City area. Each member church representative(s) went to their boards and parishioners and introduced the new program. It's a complete overhaul on how we provide care for the homeless.

Sunrise Village still exists and the waiting list is still there to rotate people in / out for better housing arrangements.

Now each church adopts 1 or more families and helps them get into an apt, condo, duplex or a home. The support can vary by individual family in the form of both financial assistance and donated items to support the family new home warming needs. St James' will provide the security deposit, gift cards, assorted donated items from a list provided by Abode Services. The list could be minimal or extensive depending on the family needs. The family will generally need assistance moving into a new place and will need members of St James' to help with the move.

The program is off in running and St James' has been selected for a family of four. The other churches that have been awarded families are the following:

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

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

Gregg Feeney

Worship and Christian Formation (WCF)

Molly Lubwama and Laura Winter

The WCF cluster comprises of a number of teams which support St. James' to ensure that worship services and education programs run smoothly and within budget. 2010 was a year when we said good-bye to our interim rector, Kathy Crary and welcomed our new rector, Lori Walton. Thanks to the worship team for making the transition seamless. Thanks to all involved in Christian Formation for coordinating a wide variety of classes and a number of events, including the Advent wreath making and our Las Posadas celebration.

The representatives of WCF on the Vestry wish to thank the various teams in the WCF cluster for their dedication to serving St. James' community. A lot was accomplished during 2010 which without your commitment to and caring for St. James' community would not have happened. Below are a brief description of WCF cluster teams, the services each team provides to St James' community and the highlights of the team's accomplishments during 2010. As you read on, if you identify a team that interests you and can afford a few hours to serve your community, please contact the named lead person for information on how you can participate.

Acolytes

Acolytes are part of the 8:00 and 10:30 worship services on Sunday mornings. They light the candles, lead the procession into church carrying the cross, present the Gospel book, and assist at communion.

The acolytes who served during 2010 are:

Rachel Whitaker
Chanelle Francis
Caylyn Ramsamy
Gloria Amadi
Jordan Murray
Ian Perry
Melissa Gordon
Ian Fuller
Bryneth Fuller
Claudia Noddin

Anyone who is interested in participating in this important ministry should talk directly to Reverend Lori.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is made up of 15 women who work in four teams. Each team prepares both churches once a month for the 2 Sunday services and the Wednesday service. The team members

meet on Friday or Saturday of their week to polish silver and brass and to ready the churches for the next day services. A member of the team prepares the little church for the Wednesday service. The linens are laundered and cared for by another member. Members also prepare memorial Services and any other services during the year. A yearly breakfast with clergy is held in December.

Recently one member has left the area and another is on leave of absence. The Guild is badly in need of more members.

Margaret Rainey

6 a.m. Bible Study

“...to hear..., read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest...”

Proper 28: for Sunday closest to November 16.

This was a noteworthy year for the 6 a.m. Bible Study Group as it celebrated its 30th year! Over that time, the group has experimented with various study methods and curriculums. Currently the group is reading the lessons and psalm/s assigned for the upcoming Sunday. This makes for keener listening to the sermon.

The group meets at the home of Genore Schaaf on Tuesday mornings from 6 to 7 a.m. To accommodate those going on to work or other activities the group adjourns promptly at 7 am. Coffee and snacks are always available.

At one time or another, over 50 parishioners, friends and neighbors have participated. Currently the average attendance is ranging from 6-12 people.

All are welcome to attend.

Alice Johnson

Faith Formation

The committee is responsible for adult faith formation in the parish and has thirteen hard-working members. During 2010, the committee met six times. There approximately 32 classes on Sunday mornings and Lenten evenings, which covered a wide variety of topics including scripture, issues inspired by Matthew 25 (poverty, homelessness, hunger), environmental issues, the Diocese's first African American dream, the history of Saint James', our living and departed Saints, the Deaconate, and several other topics. We have also already identified and scheduled the topics of the eight classes for January and February of 2011.

John Maloney

John Maloney and Marnie Hartmann have been members of the committee since its beginning. John served as Chair the entire time. Both have stepped down this year. We thank them for their wonderful work. Bruce Roberts has offered to Chair the committee moving forward.

Godly Play at St. James'

Godly Play at St. James' meets most Sundays of the school year at 10:00 a.m. and invites all children ages 4 through 6th grade to participate. We took time off during the summer.

This year saw 20 different children attend Godly Play. The average Sunday attendance this fall is six, plus two leaders: the storyteller and the doorperson.

Heather Merrill and Loren Merrill continue as a storyteller/doorperson team, with Loren serving as storyteller and Heather as doorperson. Brian Cochran continues as storyteller, scheduler, and informal trainer. Ami Locher continues to serve as doorperson. Maggie Shalar began serving as a doorperson, and parents occasionally fill this role as well.

Children and adults love Godly Play because it connects us as a community around the stories of God, honoring each child's response to the story in words and work. We tell stories with words and show them with materials. Three types of stories make up the Godly Play curriculum: Sacred Stories from the Old and New Testaments, Parables, and Liturgical Action stories. Silence is also incorporated into the telling of the stories. Children respond with 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 have combined into a one-room schoolhouse due to lack of staffing. This can make it difficult to address the needs of each child because of the large age span. Most of the children we currently serve are ages 3-6. Older grade-school age children may not get enough conversational interaction in this arrangement.

Brian Cochran

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

During 2010, 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. The Eucharistic Ministers met with Rev. Lori and we practiced how our new priest likes to have things done during a service. Lori also developed a "Customary" – a chart of what the EMs are responsible for during each service. This will be very helpful for us.

Current members of the team are:

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

Janet Fischer

Liturgical Design

This ministry took a leave during 2010. The team members decided to reflect on its purpose, role and mission within St. James'. The question we posed to ourselves was: Does liturgical design have importance and value to St. James' faith community and to our worship space and environment?

Julia McCray-Goldsmith, the Ministry Development Officer of the Diocese of California, suggested the team visit the churches of this diocese as well the Diocese of El Camino. The goal was to seek other liturgical artists within the Diocese of California, El Camino and San Diego and to view how they decorate their worship spaces. Our travels took us to South Alameda Deanery churches, one church of the Contra Costa Deanery, Diocese of El Camino and Diocese of San Diego, and some churches of the Peninsula Deanery.

We found unexpected surprises, talents, and fellowship during our visits. We met Mel Ahlborn, the past president of Episcopal Church Visual Arts (ECVA) and a member of this Diocese, and Nancy Chinn, who was commissioned to decorate Grace Cathedral in the past, coined the word, liturgical arts. Our visits and conversations confirmed our feelings about the role and the mission of this ministry in the Episcopal Church. Through visual arts we invite the participation of all present in the act of worship and evoke the spirit of the living Word, not only in the sanctuary but also on the grounds, i.e. labyrinth through various forms of art.

Elaine Vallecillo-Miller

Music Ministry Report

In the year 2010, we had 2 Masses on Sunday morning: 8:00 and 10:30. Both services had music. The 8:00 was primarily instrumental with a hymn at the beginning and one at the end. The 10:30 service was a Choir Mass. A more contemporary service with guitars and keyboard was held on the 4th Sunday of each month at 10:30.

Chancel Choir: At the beginning of 2010, there were 18 active choir members. Their names are: Craig Benson, Jodi Benson, Valle Brokes, Jonathan Fuller, Gary Gearheart, EJ Hilliard, Sandy Jaekel, Johanne LaRoque, LeaMarie Lucas, John Maloney, Greg Miller, Elaine Miller, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, Don Rose, Carol Terry, Beth Veltrop and Pat Vlastilica.

By the end of the year the number dropped to 13 due to people moving away and work conflicts. Craig and Jodi Benson, Beth Veltrop and Carol Terry moved away and Jonathan Fuller had a work conflict.

The choir meets to rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. They sing at the 10:30 Service on Sunday morning. The choir is open to all singers age 14 and up.

Contemporary Musicians: On the 4th Sunday of the month we had a more contemporary service

with guitars and keyboard as well as the Chancel Choir. Jonathan Fuller, Andy MacRae and Gregory LaRose were the guitarists for that service. This group rehearses on the Wednesday before the 4th Sunday at 6:30 PM.

Special Instrumental Music: Trumpeter, Eric Maltez played for 2 services on Easter. Eric graduated from College and moved out of the area. Lynn Lightsey, flutist, played for 2 services on Christmas Eve. John Maloney performed on the Irish Whistle on January 2, 2011 to round out the Christmas Season.

Children's Choir: The Children's Choir is for children ages 6-14. They sing on 6 to 8 Sundays per year and rehearse from 12:00 to 12:30 following the 10:30 Sunday Service.

They sang for the following occasions: February 28 – Lent, April 4 – Easter, May 9 – Mother's Day, June 6 – end of school year, October 24 – Fall, November 28 – Advent I, and December 5 –Las Posadas.

Children that participated in 2010 are: Bryneth Fuller, Jillian Fisher, Madison Gordon, Melissa Gordon, Ronald Gordon, Olivia Nabukeera, Claudia Noddin, Iris Niddin, Luke Scheuffele, Emma Thomas and Meghan Thomas.

New Instruments: The Sagenhaft piano in the Little Church has been replaced by a beautiful Baldwin Upright. The Baldwin was a gift from Craig and Jodi Benson. The old organ in the Little Church was replaced by an Allen Digital Computer Organ, which was purchased from J. Nelson Company in Livermore, CA using money donated by parishioners.

Katherine LaRose, Music Director

Nursery

St James' Nursery is open each Sunday morning for children between 6 months and 4 years old. It is located at the back of the church, and our attendant Suzanne David is there between 9am - 12:30pm.

St. James' Ushers

Saint James' usher teams held strong in 2010 and rounded-out the year at 19 regular and 7 alternate ushers.

The current ushers are: Burtin Hart, Brad Hoffman, Cathy Knotts, Ralph Locher, Chris Lubwama, Sylvia Ma, Peter Maina, Steve Maina, Dave Nelsen, Jan Pearson, Chris Perry, Margaret Rainey, Marco Ramsamy, Donald Razzolini, Bob Reed, Mike Scrutton, Bud Spalding, Ken Trant, Penny Trant, Dean Valentine, Karen Watkins and Tim Young.

A number of ushers retired in 2010: Margaret Broun, Charlie Dickinson, Barbara Johnsen, Craig Benson, Ken Cocksedge, Margaret Rainey, Don Rose, Judi Kaefer, and Laura Samuels. We thank them for their service.

The ushers have been working together to divide on/off weeks such that everyone rotates on an agreed schedule; however, at least two additional ushers are needed. Burtin Hart posted a recruitment poster in the parish hall and included his contact information. Anyone wishing to join the ushers should contact Burtin Hart after 7 p.m. at (510) 795-0472.

The ushers held their first meeting with Reverend Lori Walton on October 31 and worked out revised processes for guiding the oblation bearers, taking up the collection, assisting persons with mobility issues, handling the contents of the offering plates at the close of services, and assisting with building security.

Currently, the yearly schedule is undergoing modification. It should be reviewed, finalized and published soon.

Burtin Hart

Women's Spirituality Group

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 seven 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 *Holy Companions –Spiritual Practices from the Celtic Saints* by Mary C Earle, an Episcopal priest and Sylvia Maddox a retreat leader. We have completed a book on the use of *Lectio Divina* in dealing with chronic illness. *Broken Body, Healing Spirit-Lectio Divina and Living with Illness* was written by Mary C. Earl. The author is an Episcopal priest who experienced several bouts of acute pancreatitis, a very painful condition. The group members take turns readings the chapters out loud at our meetings (this is not a requirement.) We found we often did not have time to read the material at home. Reading the chapters aloud has added depth to our discussions and has been a valuable experience for the group. At times we find so much to talk about that we discuss one chapter over 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. We are in the process of ordering new books. Please come and join us.

Lynn Locher

Worship Committee

During 2010 the Worship Committee met each month until the summer, when we took a break. In the fall, we met intermittently. We are so glad to have Lori here, and her attention to detail is most helpful. Lori developed a Liturgical Planning Form which makes it much easier to plan services for each liturgical season. I continued to create the power point slides for Sunday services throughout most of the year. Our new Office Administrator, Aimee, is taking over that task, and I am most grateful!

Going forward, the Worship Committee will meet as needed, or at least once per liturgical season.

Janet Fischer

Youth Space / Youth Group

The Youth Space continues to be open on Sunday mornings to provide a place for young people in 6th grade and above to meet. The group also has chance to gather monthly after the 2nd Sunday evening service. More young people are always welcome!

This year an average of four teenagers have met each month to play air hockey, foosball and chat. Mike, Jan and Lori are working together to plan a program for 2011 which will include social time and teaching/sharing time.

Jan & Mike Scrutton

Southern Alameda County Deanery Report

The Southern Alameda County Deanery is composed of representatives and Clergy from the following churches: St. James' and St. Anne's, Fremont; St. Bartholomew's, Livermore; St. Claire's, Pleasanton; All Saints, San Leandro; and Holy Cross, Castro Valley.

Meetings of the Southern Alameda County Deanery were held on at least four Sunday afternoons throughout the year at Holy Cross Episcopal Church as well as at various other churches within the S. Alameda Deanery. Our President was the Rev. Mark Spaulding of Holy Cross. St. James' Episcopal was perhaps the most well represented delegation of all of the churches of the Deanery. Your reps. were a faithful lot in their attendance. In addition to business meetings, the last meeting of the year was held at Shadow Cliffs Park in Pleasanton and was a potluck picnic and Eucharist service. St. James' own Elaine Miller made banners to attract other park goers to our event and Greg Miller spearheaded games for children and adults alike. (Thank you, Millers!) The event attracted about 75 adults and kids. Mother Nature did not smile upon us that day. It was cold and windy but it did not dampen the fun or camaraderie of any of the attendees.

Our Deanery, through the efforts of the Rev. Ron Culmer, St Claire's, Pleasanton and a large delegation from that Community participated in helping to build a home in Baha and we were well represented in the SF Aids walk.

What did we do at the meetings? We discussed what was going on at each of the various churches, what was transpiring at the Cathedral in SF, we reviewed the Diocesan budget and listened to (and sometimes argued with) the rep. from the Bishop's office as he tried to justify the new Diocesan Assessment formula. As the days approached Convention time (October) we reviewed the various resolutions and Canon changes that would be brought before delegates to Convention.

As a bit of History - On Wednesday, July 24, 1850 the first Convention of Episcopalians in California was held at Holy Trinity Chapel (later known as Trinity, SF) and their first difficult task was to form a diocese. We have a long tradition.

In summary of the 161st Convention (2010) of the Diocese of California resolutions were passed for the following issues: Courtesy resolutions included the following; Celebration of a new dean of Grace Cathedral, a new dean and president of CDSP and the 40th anniversary of the Society of St. Francis in the Diocese.

Social issues governed three resolutions and those were:

Addressing the needs of the poor: (urging congregations to complete a minimum, of two projects - a letter writing effort to raise awareness and involve parishioners in action and one project of charitable aid either locally or globally.

Reducing Gun Violence: (urging passage of AB 1934 to repeal California's "Open Carry" law).

Strategies for Peace in Israel/Palestine: This resolution directed the Peace, Justice and Hunger Commission to conduct a series of forums around the diocese to educate both clergy and laity about conditions in Israel/Palestine and to discuss possible strategies to bring about a lasting peace between two peoples. On the basis of the forum discussions the PJ&H Commission was then directed to recommend to the 162nd Convention whether or not modification of the EC Guidelines on Responsible Investments would be helpful to those ends.

Canon changes were more of a "housekeeping" nature. Probably the most important of all (Canon 3.06) involved the adoption without amendment to establish an "Official Youth Presence at Convention"

The Convention booklet was over 100 pages this year and really needed thoughtful study before decisions could be made. It was provided on-line some time before as well as in hard copy on the day of Convention.

A Deanery Task Force also proposed additional training, education and resources for Deanery reps. so that they may do their work more effectively. It was recommended that the Bishop establish a "Deanery Coordinating Committee" to share "best practices" among the various deaneries to facilitate the ministry of the deanery reps. it was also recommended that communications (electronic and other) be improved between the Diocese, the Deaneries and the congregations.

If you have never been to Convention, your reps. would urge you to make plans for attendance at the next one. It is open to all Episcopalians. It is a long day, it is sometimes boring, but more often than not the enthusiasm of the attendees and presence of the Holy Spirit felt deep within makes it more than worthwhile. One gets to know, on an intimate basis, just how our Diocese works, how our diverse congregations feel on issues of human importance; and you will understand just why we chose to spend lovely Sunday afternoons to represent St. James' within the Southern Alameda County Deanery.

Why did I choose to be a Deanery Representative?

This is my personal "Ministry" for St. James'. I have been on Deanery four times during my time at St. James'. At first it was confusing and seemed that only the Clergy "ran the show." As time went on I realized that it was less a task for Clergy only and that God's work had to be a cooperative effort involving laity to get the job done. We each have our own little niche in this business of the Church. Mine seemed to be here. I would invite others to embark on the same journey. You may find yourself spiritually rewarded.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joan Kimber*