



# SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Annual Report for 2014

Submitted for the Annual Meeting Held  
January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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# Clergy Reports

## ***Rector's Report – The Rev. Lori A. Walton***

The year 2014 came and went so fast, it's difficult to believe the year has come to an end. 2014 was a year of momentum for St. James' as we gained significant energy in our common life together.

### **Worship and Liturgy**

In 2014, we enjoyed a variety of preachers. The Reverend Ken Parris began his second year as a deacon with us, The Reverend Brian Cochran preached a handful of times, The Reverend Stephanie Green added to our rota, and The Reverend Jim McLeod rounded out our regular rota, preaching his final sermon on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. We were also blessed to hear other gifted preachers in our supply clergy, Carol Cook and Audrey Miskelley, our diocesan staff, Canon Stefani Schatz and Bishop Marc Andrus, and our guest from England, Jo Evans. We have all been blessed to hear the perspective of so many faithful pilgrims.

Our liturgical schedule was full. We began with the Feast of the Epiphany on January 5. The children led the way in our candle lighting and distribution to mark the celebration. We ended on the First Sunday after Christmas on December 28 with Deacon Ken inviting us to examine our purpose and meaning for the upcoming year.

We had 12 children and adults at the Children's Imposition of Ashes on Shrove Tuesday. Over three Ash Wednesday services, we gave out ashes to 97 congregants. Holy Week was somber, meaningful, and intergenerational. We began on Wednesday evening with a Tenebrae Service performed by the Choir. On Maundy Thursday we ate together, sang, shared communion, and stripped the altar. On Good Friday, we meditated for two hours with scripture and reflections on the adversaries and companions of Jesus (reflections given by Bob Doherty, Dave Nelsen, Jennifer Carini, Laura Winter, Jack Rux, Penny Trant, EJ Hilliard, and Brian Cochran). Following the service, Deacon Ken led a group in walking the Stations of the Cross.

Once again, the Easter Vigil brought great joy and laughter with 60 people celebrating. Joyful skits were offered by the St. James' Choir, Stephanie Green, the St. J Youth, and The Giggle House Players (Patty Lacy, Barbara Lyon, Peter Norman, Chris Svenson, Nancy Svenson, Paul Svenson and Leonard). Our Easter Sunday service saw a full church with 236 parishioners and visitors. On Pentecost Sunday, the children once again led us in a dramatic reenactment of the Holy Spirit and Tongues of Fire descending on the first disciples.

We also had a fun-filled celebration of St. James' Day on July 27 with both congregations from the Philippine Independent Church. We held our annual VBS Sunday on August 3 and had a lively St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals Celebration on September 28. The Advent Season brought with it a Service of Lessons & Carols on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. For Christmas, we celebrated a 4:00 Family Service that drew 98 participants, a Midnight Mass Service with 124 attending, and 44 congregants and visitors on Christmas Day.

Our Music Director, Jennifer Carini, continues to bring a spirit of joy, flexibility, and creativity to our music program. Along with weekly rehearsals and Sunday worship, Jennifer also led our annual Vacation Bible School music and played at several memorial services. As an added offering to our Sunday School program, Jennifer spent time in the Sunday School room each week teaching the children any upcoming anthem. As a result, children's formation now includes both music and an easier opportunity to serve in worship as part of the children's choir.

We are also a church that has a solid, dedicated group of adult and youth servers at our Altar and our Lectern on Sunday mornings. For years, Janet Fischer has done an amazing job with recruiting and scheduling the Eucharistic Ministers and the Lectors for both services (see her report for details). Well into 2014, Janet opted to hand the routine scheduling and reminding to our parish administrator, John Trubina (though Janet will continue creating the master schedule twice a year). We also have a great group of young people serving at our services as acolytes: Ian Perry, Caylyn Ramsamy, Chanelle Francis, Tom Scrutton, Jordan Murray, Gloria Amadi, Bryneth Fuller, and Joey Carini have all done a

great job with assisting with our services. Our newest acolyte, Olivia Nabukeera joined early in the year and is a wonderful addition to our team.

During the year, we baptized two children and one adult: Kyler Westra, Evan Lovellette, and Norene Sun (baptized by Bishop Marc Andrus). On his visitation on February 23, Bishop Marc Andrus also confirmed, received and reaffirmed 5 adults: Norene Sun, Mary Morkved, Jim Cunningham, Katie Cunningham, and John Butterfield. We traveled with 1 adult to Grace Cathedral to be received into the Episcopal Church: Monique Manjarrez. I officiated at one wedding: Brandon Hoffman and Dawn Wheat. Stephanie Green officiated at one wedding: Dean Valentine and Marie Robinson.

We also held nine funerals/memorials: Gerry Harrison (off sight), Joan Roberts, Norene Sun, Lorin Decena (officiated by S Green and K Parris), Mary Mitchell (officiated by F Garner-Smith and J Stratford), Doug Hamilton, Johnny Lee Ybarra (officiated by S Green) Florinne Becker, and Franklin Ellis.

On May 31, I presided over a general memorial service that allowed parishioners to remember loved ones in a ritualistic atmosphere. On the same day, I co-celebrated and preached at the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Philippine Independent Church.

### **Office Staff and Administration**

We continue contracting with Fernando's Cleaning and Landscaping company to keep our buildings and grounds clean. This arrangement is working well and has proven to be a good use of our funds. In June, our Parish Administrator, David Goldstein, left his position to work for Morgan Stanley. In August, we hired John Trubina, a vocational deacon and an excellent administrator. John has brought to the position a wonderful sense of warmth, competency and Episcopal knowledge. Our Nursery Care Provider, Nonie Aluzzi, continues to offer a gentle presence to our youngest children during worship.

For 2014, the Vestry continued to do good, solid work. Rather than focusing on specific clusters as was done in the past, the vestry spent time focusing on strengthening existing ministries and creating needed ministries. The most significant accomplishment was the creation and launch of "St. James' Cares", a program that facilitates parishioners helping parishioners in times of need. Treasurer Lynn Locher and Clerk Elizabeth Hart continue to do amazing jobs in supporting the vestry and parish.

### **Children and Teens and Families**

2014 brought with it another transition in the area of Children and Families. In September, Stephanie Green left the position of Children and Family minister. Prior to her leaving, we saw a wonderful transformation of the Sunday School space with the renovation of combining two rooms into one. The children hosted a chocolate party as a fundraiser, and made an adventurous trip to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. They participated in collecting school supplies for underserved children and examined ways to help their neighbors and be of service. Under Stephanie's charge, our children's program strengthened. Upon Stephanie's departure, Jan Scrutton agreed to lead the program. In the last three months of this year, we have been blessed to welcome a handful of new families and children, increasing our number of children to 23. On Sundays, we consistently welcome 9-13 children and their families. Jan Scrutton has been successful in recruiting new teachers and helpers, in creating a solid and engaging Sunday program, and in coordinating the many pieces that is making St. James' the place to be for children's Christian formation. Please see her report for additional information.

### **Welcoming and Integrating New People**

St. James' continues to work at welcoming and integrating new people. 2014 has seen a wonderful influx of visitors and new members of all ages. Throughout the year, we increased our active participants by approximately 17 adults and 7 children.

### **Rector Housing**

Following my commitment and vision of using our home in Newark for the ministry of the church, I hosted several small meetings and the December Altar Guild Brunch. I look forward to opening our home for future events that will strengthen the fellowship and work of St. James'.

### **New and Potential Ministries and Offerings**

On June 1, we held a forum on Equality, offering a presentation and discussion on the Episcopal Church's history of working towards inclusivity. This forum was well attended and well received.

I began a conversation with the Boy Scouts of America and their desire to have St. James' serve as a charter organization for a local Cub Scout pack. This conversation is on-going and may result in the welcoming of a pack of Cub Scouts and their leaders to our campus and community.

With the assistance of Deacon Ken Parris, I held two separate groups for those grieving, one in the spring and another in the fall. Each group drew about eight people together to talk about the dynamics of grief and to support one another.

On May 10, assisted by Janet Fischer, I led a day retreat for women focused on Re-imagining Eve. The day was rich in story, prayer, and connection. It is our plan to make a women's day retreat a routine happening the day before Mother's Day.

Beginning late summer, we welcomed a new meditation group to our space in the form of a women's sitting circle. Each Friday morning, a group of women meet in our education building to meditate, pray, and share. All women of the parish are welcome to join this rich group.

On November 21, with the help of Jan Scrutton, St. James' partnered with Abode Services to hold a candlelight vigil for those who are homeless and those who have died due to homelessness. We were privileged to welcome several local politicians and officials along with neighbors and friends.

### **Strengthening the Body of Christ Pilot Program**

At the invitation of the Diocese, St. James' participated in a pilot program for congregational development called "Strengthening the Body of Christ". Along with Mike Scrutton, Dave Nelsen, Bruce Roberts, Lynn Locher and Lauren Doherty, we engaged in three intensive training sessions geared towards assessing vitality, creating identity and charters, running effective meetings and several other tools. This program was extremely informative and relevant, with the tools and exercises already being implemented locally.

### **Wider Church Involvement**

I continue to serve as a presider for the Sacred Space Hayward congregation, an outdoor church that worships every Sunday at 2:00pm in Hayward.

I also continue to serve on the Standing Committee for the Diocese of California. For 2014, I attended monthly meetings and acted as the primary liaison between the Standing Committee and the Commission on Ministry, the body responsible for moving people through the process of holy orders.

In September, I was invited to attend a two-day training on facilitating Mutual Ministry Reviews and Plans for congregations in the Diocese of California.

### **The 30 Day Ignatian Retreat and CREDO**

With the support of the parish, I was blessed to be able to engage in a Ignatian retreat from June 18 through July 22. I found the time to be life-changing and anticipate it will produce spiritual treasures for years to come. I was also able to attend a CREDO 2 retreat from November 2 through November 10. This retreat, subsidized by the Church Pension Group, is geared towards clergy wellness in the areas of spiritual, financial, emotional, vocational, and physical health. It was well worth the 8 days in North Carolina.

## ***Deacon's Report – The Rev. Kenneth W. Parris, CMC***

2014 marked the first full calendar year that I have served as your deacon at Saint James, Fremont. It has been a busy and exhilarating year to say the least!

As the parish deacon I am scheduled to perform the diaconal duties for all liturgical services for which I am in attendance and regularly am assigned on the preaching rota. The rector conducted regular clergy staff meetings to ensure I was aware of the pastoral needs and concerns of the parish. These meetings also provide me an opportunity to explore how I might be able to assist in enriching the worship experience of the members of the parish.

Under the rector's leadership, I continue to supervise the Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV) ministry. Two members have explored participating in this ministry this past year and are undergoing training. The LEV team regularly visits four homebound parish members at this time.

At the request of the rector, I provided enrichment training to our lay liturgical ministers (acolytes, lectors, lay Eucharistic ministers). This training was very well received and provided these important ministers with some added knowledge and understanding about their ministries and how to perform them in the context of a liturgical service.

During Eastertide this year I presented a Tuesday evening adult faith formation class in four parts titled, "Water for the Journey." The presentation was well attended and all who participated had an opportunity to learn from each other.

This past year I assisted the rector with the facilitation of two grief support groups at St. James. In assisting her I was able to draw upon my experiences as a law enforcement chaplain to provide comfort, support and encouragement to the members of the St. James family, and others who joined us from the community, who might be dealing or struggling with grief over a loss.

Our rector was fortunate to be able to spend time on a 30 day Ignatian Retreat this past summer. During her absence, I made myself available to the St. James community for any pastoral emergency that may have arisen. I was also available on Sundays to assist whoever was assigned to be our celebrant for that day.

My primary ministry is to serve as a law enforcement chaplain for the Diocese of California. For the past 19 years I have served as chaplain to the Oakland Police Department and a little over a year ago I was appointed a sheriff's chaplain for the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. A few months ago I was appointed as a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) police chaplain. I attended the BART PD Chaplain Academy in December and will undergo a six month training and probationary service period. All of these law enforcement chaplaincy ministries are volunteer positions, meaning I receive no compensation for the services I perform. In fact, it costs the volunteer some significant personal resources to perform these duties, paying for professional association dues, continuing education, uniforms and equipment, transportation and other related expenses. The continuing education stipend the parish provides to the deacon is much appreciated in defraying some of these costs.

I participated in four continuing education opportunities this past year:

- Civil Air Patrol Pacific Region Chaplain Corps Staff College at Travis AFB, CA
- California POST Chaplain Basic Course at Huntington Beach Police Department
- International Conference of Police Chaplains Regional Training Seminar at Hilo Police Department
- BART Police Department Chaplain Academy in Oakland, CA

If you want to learn more about what a law enforcement chaplain does, please visit the International Conference of Police Chaplains website at [www.icpc4cops.org](http://www.icpc4cops.org).

Another chaplain related activity I participate in is serving as a Character Development Instructor (CDI) for a local Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadet squadron. CDIs are non-chaplain members of the CAP Chaplain Corps who provide education and training in the areas of values, ethics and character. As part of the cadets' training, I lead a monthly discussion group at the local squadron. Cadets range in age from 12 to 21. You can learn more about the squadron I serve and the Civil Air Patrol at the following websites: <http://sq18.cawgcap.org> and [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com).

As a deacon canonically resident in the diocese and assigned to this parish, I serve as a clergy representative of St. James at deanery and diocesan convention. This past year I was appointed by the Bishop to serve on the diocesan Gun Violence Task Force. The task force completed its work in understanding the root causes of gun violence and make recommendations as to what the church might do to reduce or eliminate this scourge from our communities. Our report and recommendations was presented to the 2014 Diocesan Convention. More information on the work of the task force can be found at <http://www.diocal.org/task-force-action-against-gun-violence>.

I continue to represent St. James on the Tri-Cities Interfaith Council (TCIC), meeting once a month to discuss issues of concerns to all faith communities in the tri-cities of Fremont, Newark and Union City. TCIC is responsible for coordinating the annual Tri-Cities Thanksgiving Service that was hosted by the Roman Catholic Mission San Jose. Information about TCIC may be found at <http://tcicouncil.org/>.

TCIC also presented the first annual Interfaith Harmony Day at the Niles Veterans Building this past year and have been planning for another Interfaith Harmony Day at the same location on February 7, 2015, from 1 to 4 pm. This day is an opportunity for the tri-cities communities to learn about its diverse faith traditions. I have been invited to serve as the master of ceremonies for this event. I encourage the St. James community to come out and explore your neighbors' traditions at this wonderful and harmonious event.

TCIC has been involved in the Compassionate Communities Movement founded by former Roman Catholic nun and author, Karen Armstrong. I serve on a committee that is working toward Fremont, Newark and Union City to be recognized as "Compassionate Communities." Further information about this movement and its objectives can be found at <http://charterforcompassion.org/>.

While you might not be able to physically participate in all the ministries of your parish family, you can contribute immensely through your supportive prayers. I ask your prayers for the ministries in which I am involved as well as all the ministries the people of St. James engage in this next year. Through your support we can work to make Christ's redemptive love known among those with whom we live, work and worship.\

## **Wardens' Reports**

### ***Senior Warden's Report – Mike Scrutton***

I'd like to start by thanking the vestry on which I've served this past 3 years and in particular those with whom I've shared my monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday evenings this past year: Bob, Bev, Bud, Al, Ralph, Alison, Meg, Nancy, Karen, Elaine, Dave, Lori, Lynn and Elizabeth. A special thank-you to Dave in his role as Junior Warden this year – it's been a pleasure to get to know him better and enjoy his dedication and support for the life of St. James'. Know that you are in very safe hands this coming year. My thanks also go to Lori for asking me to serve as Senior Warden. As I shared with the Bishop when he visited early in my term, my goal was to get to the end of my year and not be "glad that it's over", and I'm pleased to report that while I'm ready to hand the responsibility to someone else, it's not with a sense of relief or exhaustion!

During the vestry retreat this year, we looked at the ministries here at St. James' and plotted them on a chart of Importance & Engagement. Importance - based on our perception, ranging from little or not important to very important to the members of St. James'. Engagement - based on our perception of the current success or participation by members, ranging from little or not engaged to very engaged. The aim of the exercise was to attempt to ascertain not only where St. James' priorities and strengths lie but also where we might have gaps or opportunities to grow our ministries. What it revealed was that we have over 70 active ministries here at St. James', all of which are important! What it also helped us determine was that there are some opportunities for growth; for new and reimagined ministries that are close to our hearts and 'important' but which perhaps are not being resourced as well as we would like.

We're so fortunate and grateful for every St. James' member who makes up this community, and everything that you do – with 70+ ministries, it's impossible to summarize all of them at once but know that you are appreciated with grateful love. Thank you.

This year, the vestry undertook the bold (and sometimes scary) experiment to move the vestry away from the comfortable and familiar, "two people in a cluster" reporting on a narrow area, to a more holistic approach where the entire vestry could look at and consider the needs of the community. The idea was to move away from the clusters as a means of reporting what was going on in the ministry life of St. James', to the vestry as an active body of visioning and initiating ministry.

A primary example of this, on which we focused a lot of energy during the year, was what we termed "congregational care" – the wellbeing of our members. As a community, we'd identified this as an area of

importance during our search process, and while in Lori we have a Rector who is beyond our wildest dreams in the “caring” department, it’s not always the faith or pastoral needs that folks have that is the most urgent. There’s only one Lori, but in the caring community that is St. James’, we sensed a large number of folks who could contribute to such a ministry once it was off the ground. The vestry split into teams to consider the topic from different angles, from “what folks might need” to “what folks might offer”, and the potential problems and opportunities that might arise, before reporting back and further discussion. The entire process took several weeks and months, and resulted in a vision and execution plan for “St. James’ Cares” which is still in the process of being rolled out.

For a parish to be vibrant and healthy, we need to be looking out not only for the maintenance of what we do today, but also be looking for the opportunities of what we can become. That might seem like a bold statement, but I’m reminded of the series of readings and sermons we had over the Fall, which included the Parable of the Servants and the Talents. Rather than acting like the servant who buried his talent in the ground (repeating the traditional activities of the past, or relying on reporting the work of our existing ministries), the vestry were at first-hand exploring the growth that can come through investing our talents in new areas. Such endeavours are not to be undertaken lightly! It is clear that the membership of St. James’ entrusts the vestry with a responsibility for the well-being of the parish, and that means making sure that we take care of the traditional and existing as well as the new.

What is also clear to me as I complete my term on the vestry, and my year as Senior Warden, is that we are in the beginnings of a new chapter in the story of St. James’. The core of “who we are” is established and sitting on firm ground. As evidence, I’d offer that:

- Our Rector, Lori, is settled, established and much loved by this community.
- Our members are committed, and we’re continuing to welcome new individuals and families on a regular basis – in Lori’s report, she noted an increase by 24 in the number of active participants this past year which should be taken in the context of Canon Stefani Schatz’ observation that in a time of nationally declining congregations, even “holding level” is a net increase!
- Our buildings and campus are well looked after, as is evident by our continued restoration of the Little Church.
- We continue to burn ever brighter as a beacon in our wider community, for example the candle-lit vigil for homelessness held at St. James’ this year, and our several collections such as back-to-school drives.

The challenge for St. James’ as we look forward is “where do we go from here?” Do we, the people of St. James’, want to put our metaphorical talent in the ground and bring it out every year to count it, or do we want to use it and see it grow?

If you close your eyes and think about it for a minute, what could the church you worship at, the place you call your “church home”, St. James’ look and feel like in 3, 6 or 10 years’ time? Being established and comfortable as we are, let’s all “be bold.” It might be scary, it will take some extra work, and there might be a financial cost.

How will you play your part? What can you offer?

It has been an honor to be a Senior Warden of St. James’ Episcopal Church, Fremont. Thank you for the support you’ve given me; please join me in not only supporting our Rector, Lori, and the vestry of 2015/16, but in being an active participant in the exciting years to come.

### ***Junior Warden’s Report – Dave Nelsen***

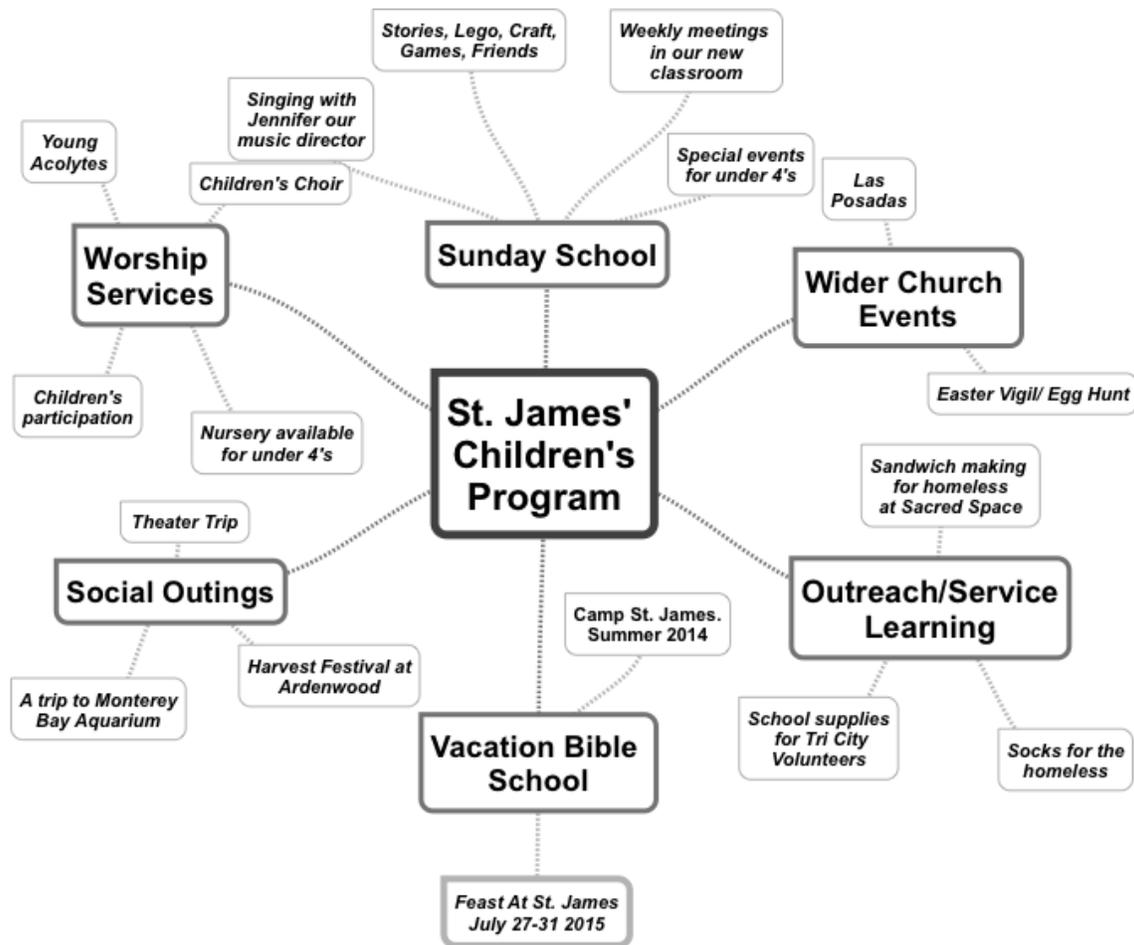
One of my primary roles as Junior Warden was as a member of the Lead Team, offering support and bringing my perspective to the conversations and issues we dealt with throughout the year. I’ve worked closely with the Lead Team as we prepared for coverage and contingencies during Lori’s Ignatian Retreat. This year, I have collected ministry reports each month and consolidated them into a single document for the Vestry and submitted articles to the Window newsletter sharing highlights of our Vestry meetings.

I took part in a pilot program in congregational development, **Strengthening the Body of Christ**, offered by the diocese. During three gatherings our team learned useful and practical methods of leading congregations and communities. I also took part in several project teams working on solar panel installation, earthquake preparedness and facilities issues including roofing, heating and lighting.

Serving as Junior Warden has been an enriching experience. I was somewhat unclear about the role back in January, but confidence came quickly as we worked through the year. I thank the vestry for all their support, especially Mike Scrutton as Senior Warden. His management skills and depth of knowledge of Church canon offered tremendous support to the Lead Team and to me personally. Working with Mike, Lynn Locher and Rector Lori has been very rewarding.

## Children's Programs

As 2014 draws to a close we have begun create a complete picture of our Children's Program at St. James'. In reflecting on the breadth of the offerings we see many adults and young people supporting our program, and for all of their support we are very grateful.



### VBS 2014: Camp St. James'

VBS transformed the church into a Tent of Meeting for a week this summer. A place where children and adults could gather to hear stories, sing and play together. Campus had a healthy orange glow as 45 campers and over 20 volunteers in orange shirts joined together for our activities. Our stories moved from Abraham and Sarah to Paul the tentmaker as the week went on. Now in our 4<sup>th</sup> year, our campers were drawn from our own church community and their extended families, returning campers and people from

the community who saw our banner. Ages ranged from 4 to 13 years. One mother told us her daughter had been looking forward to coming all summer, because we are the camp where “grandmas teach crafts.” And what an active group of grandmas, grandpas and younger volunteers we had. The mixing of ages and commitment to the children evident daily is a real benefit to all involved.

## ***Sunday School***

Our regular Sunday School members number 21 in December 2014, with weekly attendance regularly between 9-13 children. We are settling in to the wonderful new classroom creating spaces for reading (among our new books are the Lego Old and New Testaments!), crafts and stories. We are also being joined regularly by our music director Jennifer for singing, making all the children part of the Children’s Choir. Teaching duties are being shared by Sherea Westra and Jan Scrutton with Ami, Tom, Chanelle and Caylyn assisting.

During Fall, the unit about Loving our Neighbor included the Sunday School leading a church sock drive for Sacred Space. With over 550 pairs of socks eventually collected, there will be warm feet this winter for many of those people served by Deacon John. The Sunday School also took a turn in preparing lunches for Sacred Space in November.

A new resource in December was Lego. Introduced into the classroom as an alternative way to respond to the weekly stories, it is popular with all the children. The children created a short slide show for Christmas illustrating the Christmas Story using Lego, dressing up and clay models.

The Christmas Eve pageant starred 20 children and supporting teens and adults as part of the Christmas Eve 4pm service. Our policy of inviting all kids who turn up to be part of the play continued meaning friends and visitors can join in the fun.

In late December, a box arrived containing the new Sunday School Bibles, which will be introduced in February with our ‘Learn the Bible’ unit. Look out for more information in 2015!

## ***Under 4’s Parent and Child Gathering***

A new offering in December 2014 Lori and Jan utilized the new Sunday School classroom to host a meeting for families with young children. A story, song, crafts and snacks anchored a time of fellowship and fun for the youngest of our community. Eight children from 5 families along with parents and grandparents joined us for the afternoon.

The intention is to hold these events every 2-3 months to enable families to meet together, and for children to gain familiarity with our classroom and be introduced to our program.

## ***Abode Kidz Club, Sunrise Village.***

A small outreach activity now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year and undertaken by a small number of people serves the smallest residents of Sunrise Village family center but has an large impact! Jan Scrutton, Gail Blalock, Ruth Poole, Laura Winter, Tom Scrutton, Chanelle Francis, Ami Locher, Beth Scrutton and Lauren and Bob Doherty have served in this ministry this year. Particular thanks for their dedication to Ruth, Gail and Tom. Each month the two weekly Kidz Club sessions one week are led by our group with activities as broad as cookie decorating, bead making and flower arranging. We try to include crafts the kids may want to keep and take to their new home when they move; our tie pillows activity always goes down well. Thank you to St. James’ for financially supporting this outreach and enabling us to share time with these children. Anyone interested in joining the group should talk to me.

***~Jan Scrutton***

## ***St. J Youth***

Youth Group has transitioned to being a group for High School and College age children who meet twice a month. Three members graduated from High School this year and two moved away from the area – we enjoy seeing them when they are home. The group performed again as part of the Easter Vigil and enjoyed another sleepover on campus. Many of the group is part of other activities at St. James including choir, acolyting, VBS, Sunday School and even making chili for the Stewardship event this year.

***~Mike & Jan Scrutton***

## **Committee Reports**

### ***Abode Dinners***

Dinners at Sunrise Village: Three teams of volunteers led by St. James' members purchase prepare and serve dinner at the Sunrise Village Shelter every month. Additional help is always welcomed. If you are interested in participating in this important ministry, please contact any one of the team captains listed below:

- 1st Saturdays (Even Months), contact Cathy Knotts or Dorothy Balderston;
- 1st Saturdays (Odd Months), contact Mary Casas;
- 3rd Saturdays (Even Months), contact Lynn Locher.

*~Lynn Locher*

### ***Abode Services Rapid Re-Housing Home Warming Program***

The St James' community has continued to support the Abode Home Warming program via cash contributions, donating gently used household items, furniture, linen, pots, pans, flatware, lights, and gift cards. We received word in late November that we would be sponsoring a family. The family is still in the qualifying process. A homeless vet & his 3 children have been given to us just around New Years. They expect to be moved in by January 8, 2015. I believe we will have their needs met fairly easily with the support from our parishioners and our co-sponsor and neighbor Harbor Light Church.

Anyone who would like to help in the future should contact Gregg Feeney or Scott Whitaker. On-going donations of cash or household items to the St James' Home Warming Program are also always greatly appreciated.

*~Gregg Feeney & Scott Whitaker*

### ***Acolytes***

Acolytes are members of the congregation who trained and commissioned to assist the clergy and other lay ministers during the conduct of public worship. Primarily they are responsible for lighting and extinguishing candles; processing with the crucifix, Gospel Book and torches; receiving the gifts and the offering and delivering them to the clergy; assisting the clergy with setting the altar for Holy Communion; and ritually washing the hands of the clergy.

This important ministry is usually undertaken by the youth members of our parish family. Most of the preparation to serve as an acolyte comes from on-the-job training provided by the experienced senior acolytes, the deacon and the rector.

Members of the St. James family who have gifted us with their service as acolytes this past year: Joey Carini, Chanelle Francis, Bryneth Fuller, Jordan Murray, Olivia Nabukeera, Ian Perry, Caylyn Ramsamy and Tom Scrutton.

*~Deacon Ken Parris*

### ***Altar Guild***

The Altar Guild is made up of 15 women who work in four teams. Each of the teams, once a month, prepares the Altars for both services on Sundays. The Guild also prepares the Altar for Memorial Services, weddings or any other special services during the year. For our Wednesday service Ava Moore sets up and takes down the Altar in the Little Church. The linens are laundered and cared for by Genore Schaaf.

Each year a brunch is held in December at Rev. Lori's house.

In 2015 there will be a change to the Altar Guild. Ruth Poole is stepping down as Directress. Katie Cunningham has agreed to step in. There will be training and this transition will happen after Easter. Please wish her well when you see her.

We are always looking for and need new members. If you are interested please contact Ruth Poole or Katie Cunningham.

*~Ruth Poole, Directress*

## **Available For Lunch**

The aim of the Available for Lunch ministry is to organize informal luncheons and events to promote fellowship within the St. James' community. We get together to have some wonderful conversation and to enjoy some great foods. In 2014 we celebrated the Lunar New Year (Year of the Horse) in February with delicious Chinese food at Newark Buffet.

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

*~Sylvia Ma*

## **Counters Report**

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 compilation of quarterly giving statements.

Counters frequently volunteer to serve as cashiers and counters for special events such as the Pancake Supper and fund raisers. They are faithful behind-the-scene workers. This year it was necessary for counters to work additional hours because of the lack of four two-person teams. A new counter is being trained to help with the workload.

Many thanks to our counters who are dedicated to their responsibilities of accuracy and confidentiality.

*~Gail Blalock*

## **Deanery Report**

*Jan Brandt, Alice Johnson, Jim McConnell, Scott Whitaker, Deanery Representatives*

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

Meetings are held quarterly at the various churches to discuss church matters on a regional basis, get updates about wider diocesan concerns and review matters to come before the convention.

In addition to the business meetings, the deanery:

- Engaged in several discernment sessions and interview process to select an agency or activity to receive a \$10,000.00 grant from Episcopal Charities. This year we have nominated FESCO. FESCO is currently comprised of over 24 churches/community members in Mid-Alameda County, most located/living/working in Hayward. FESCO serves low/extremely low-income homeless families with food, emergency, transitional, and permanent housing, and supportive services in furtherance of its mission to move these families toward self-sufficiency and permanent housing.
- Prior to the 165th Convention in October 2014, we reviewed the agenda, the budget and discussed the various resolutions. The convention delegates approved resolutions as follows:
  - Episcopal Diocese of California endorses Proposition 47: The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act of 2014, a California voter initiative on the ballot in November, and urges individuals and congregations to support its passage;
  - That the 165th Convention of the Diocese of California submits the following resolution to the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church:
  - Resolved, the Houses of Bishops and Deputies concurring, that the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church authorize the use of "The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage," "The Blessing of a Civil Marriage," and "An Order for Marriage" from The Book of Common Prayer 1979, and "The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant" from Liturgical Resources I, for all marriages legal in the civil jurisdiction in

which the liturgy takes place. In civil jurisdictions with same-sex marriage, the language “man and woman” and “husband and wife” and other such gender-specific language shall be equally applicable to two people of the same sex, and may thus be modified whenever necessary for the purposes of the Canon “Of the Solemnization of Holy Matrimony” (Canon I.18) and “The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage,” “The Blessing of a Civil Marriage” and “An Order for Marriage” in the Book of Common Prayer 1979;

- o Socially Responsible Investing in compliance with the Episcopal Church Portfolio restrictions
- o Climate Change

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

*~Jim McConnell*

## ***Disaster Preparedness Team***

During the 2013 Diocese of California Convention, Bishop Andrus mandated every congregation to submit an emergency preparedness plan by October 1, 2014.

Senior Warden Mike Scrutton approached me, Elaine Vallecillo-Miller to be the vestry liaison for the development of St. James’ disaster preparedness (DP) plan. Junior Warden Dave Nelson, Sr. Warden Mike Scrutton, and Lead Team approached eight parishioners to be on this team due to their past and present involvement and interest on this topic. The nine member team was composed of the following members: Mike Scrutton, Dave Nelson, Al Casas, Bud Spaulding, Greg Miller, Scott Whittaker, Steve and Karin White, and I, Elaine Vallecillo-Miller.

Later this team was reduced to seven since Karin was called to assist at a church in Santa Clara in August. Bud Spaulding will end his tenure in January 2015 Annual meeting.

The Diocese held a special training event for all congregations on disaster preparedness (DP), facilitated by the Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) staff. There are three levels of plans: **Bronze** (basic administrative information); **Silver** (identifying assets, possible disasters and emergencies at the church and our neighborhood and community, and more congregational information) and the **Gold** (developing templates for initial response to disasters and emergencies, networking and partnering with St. James’ outside users of the buildings, and local neighborhood businesses and organizations).

Steve and Karin White, who assisted in the development of DP plans at their former church, and Greg and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, who are active with the Newark CERT/Communication Volunteers (ham radio), represented St. James. They shared the information and distributed **the ERD’s U.S. Disaster Program: Preparedness Planning Guide for Congregations and Parishes to the team.**

The Team has met about seven times in 2014, to develop and complete the Bronze Plan on June 12, 2014, fulfilling the Diocesan mandate. Both the Lead Team and vestry approved the plan and submitted to the Diocese. Then, the team has been focusing on the Bronze Plan, soliciting information from various parish staff and members. We are expectant to present The Silver Plan before the Lead Team, vestry, and diocese at the beginning months of 2015.

As the result of St. James’ EP team meetings, our parishioners, outside users, and guests will note the recent installation of the “**Emergency Evacuation Area**” sign by the Labyrinth area. Al Casas and Greg Miller installed the post during the Christmas holiday.

I am truly touched by the willingness, knowledge and insight that each former and present team members have brought to develop St. James’ DP Bronze and upcoming Silver Plans. During 2015, we will work further on how we can better prepare everyone for any type of disaster at our church, at our workplace, and our neighborhoods. The team is seeking other parishioners who are interested in disaster preparedness. In closing, as the Boy Scouts’ motto says, “Let’s Be Prepared.”

*~Elaine Vallecillo-Miller*

## ***Endowment Fund Report***

In 2004 the St James Endowment Fund was established when parishioners indicated they had included St James in their estate planning. In 2006 the Memorial Garden Endowment was established followed by the Little Church Endowment in 2007. In addition to estate planning gifts are given to the funds as celebrations, memorials or to honor friends and those who serve at St James.

The funds presently invested with the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) are overseen by the Endowment Board: Tom Blalock, Jan Brandt, Scott Whittaker, Sylvia Ma secretary, and Marnie Hartmann chairperson. ECF provides management guidance to the board. While protecting principle, distributions are made annually and reflect the growth of the fund. The initial distribution in 2006 was \$655. In 2013 distribution was \$5559: \$3146 to vestry (some used to redecorate the Sunday school room), \$1429 to the Memorial Garden, \$984 to the Little Church.

~ ***Marnie Hartmann***

## ***Facilities***

St. James was undergoing operational changes as 2014 began. Without a Sexton, daily operations were being handled by the Rector, Parish Administrator, or available parishioners. Weekly internal and yard maintenance had been contracted out. Plans were that Parish **Work Parties** would be scheduled on the third Saturday of each month to take care of the more major maintenance projects on the campus. Two unpredictable events upset the plans. The Spring/Summer like weather and the drought restrictions changed yard care planning; and, for the second consecutive year, the tool shed was broken into and over \$1000 worth of yard and maintenance equipment was stolen. To compensate, it was decided to broaden the responsibilities of the contractor.

Facilities personnel have been meeting in an effort to restructure our **Maintenance and Work Party** programs, in order to facilitate the care and maintenance of the Church property and to encourage greater participation and "ownership" by parishioners. Among plans being considered is the concept of scheduled quarterly or bi-monthly Maintenance work days, inside as well as outside, possibly in conjunction with or in addition to the current maintenance schedule.

At the start of the year, Facilities had several projects planned during the year. However, several more pressing issues came up during the course of the year and required more immediate attention. One pressing issue that was ongoing, continued through the year, and will continue into the future is the repairs to and maintenance of the safety and integrity of the **Little Church**. Fortunately, the Committee has knowledgeable members who are coordinating their progress toward restoration with Vestry approval. In order to enhance the Sunday School and attract young families **Ed Bldg. rooms 3 and 4** were combined into one larger, more spacious class room under the leadership of Dave Nelsen. In order to improve the facilities for youth activities, the **playground** bark was replenished by a Spring-planned work party. The planned renovation of the **Parish Hall** encountered more problems and concerns than originally anticipated and was not done in 2014. The project of sub- flooring, floor materials, and paint needs to be planned, coordinated, and contracted out in 2015/16

For years, St .James has accumulated miscellaneous materials such as tables and chairs roll-away bed, hand-made signs of type or another, and other miscellaneous cast-offs. This year, a concerted effort was made to clear out this excess material and to make better use of our facilities.

Two major breakdowns occurred during the year, requiring significant time and financial commitment. In early fall, the **Water Heater** servicing the Kitchen area ceased to function. Because of the importance of this equipment, it was imperative that an immediate replacement be made. Then, in November in conjunction with the first true cold snap of the fall the **furnace** of the **Little Church** quit, and replacement for health and comfort was necessary. The failure of one Parking Lot light stanchion has pointed out that the facilities and equipment of St. James is aging, and will increasingly need attention and service, frequently needing special resources and equipment not available "in house".

Regular maintenance activities continued throughout the year. There were always lights needing replacing, and thermostats to be reset and retimed and timers for lights to be adjusted to accommodate the various time and groups using our facilities.

In November, we started to look into acquiring Solar Panels as a means of offsetting utility costs and benefitting the environment. This has led to an evaluation of the condition and possible repair or replacement of the flat roof areas where possible Solar Panels might be located.

There are many projects that have been submitted over the years that could or should be done. Every year, new projects and needs become obvious. Our recommendations are:

- (1) The Parish Hall floor needs replacement
- (2) The Tar and Gravel Roof should be evaluated and repaired or replaced if needed.
- (3) Enhanced Outdoor Lighting

We extend our Thanks to Dave Nelsen who took on and assisted in completing much of the Facilities tasks.

***~Al Casas and Bud Spalding***

## ***Faith Formation***

Faith Formation split its endeavors into two phases for 2014. Sunday mornings were devoted to Contemplative Practices. Multiple session studies took place on Tuesday evenings.

Janet Fischer took charge of Contemplative Practices. Instruction in meditation was followed by practice. Specifically the following:

- Passage Meditation – Brian Cochran and Barbara Dabney
- Anglican Rosary – Bill Mosier and again with Janet Fischer
- The Examen – Alison Saichek
- Meta/Loving Kindness Meditation – Janet Fischer
- I Chuan Meditation – Sylvia Ma
- Labyrinth – Barbara Dabney
- Passage Meditation, Mantra Repetition, Slowing Down, Spiritual Fellowship and Reading – Brian Cochran and Barbara Dabney
- Centering Prayer – Brian Cochran and Barbara Dabney
- Lectio Divina – The Rev. Lori Walton
- Praying with Icons – Bill Mosier

Tuesday Evening Classes of differing lengths and subjects were led or facilitated as follows:

- “Episcopal Church, Confirmation and Baptism” – The Rev. Lori Walton – four weeks
- “A Place at the Table” – The Rev. Lori Walton and Bruce Roberts – five weeks
- “Water for the Journey” – The Rev. Ken Parris – four weeks
- “Embracing Spiritual Awakening” – Bruce Roberts, The Rev. Lori Walton, Lynn Locher, Penny Trant, and Karin White – five weeks
- “Ignatian Spirituality” – The Rev. Lori Walton – two weeks

Some of the classes were preceded by a soup supper for which the participants were most thankful.

EJ Hilliard led a Sunday morning examination on September 21 of the Diocesan Resolutions in preparation for the Diocesan Convention.

For 2015 Faith Formation will continue with the same type of Sunday morning and Tuesday evening schedule, Contemplative Practices on Sunday and instructional classes on Tuesday evenings, the first being “Bible Study and the Parables” with Janet Fischer as facilitator.

Thanks to the Faith Formation Team, The Rev. Lori Walton, Janet Fischer, EJ Hilliard, and Alison Saichek for all their work and insight. And thanks be to God for guidance and direction.

***~Bruce Roberts, Chair***

## ***Friend and Fellowship Dinners***

In 2014 many St. James’ friendly diners enjoyed dining and socializing in homes of parishioners. May found us at the home of Jackie and Rod Whitehouse. July and September weather cooperated allowing

us to gather first in the backyard of the Lochers and then again outdoors at the Miller residence. These pot-luck dinners are a very enjoyable way to socialize with your fellow parishioners outside the church. We schedule three or four such dinners during the year. These gatherings normally start around 5:30 pm and go to 9-10 pm. Typical attendance has been around 20-24. The event is open to all adult parishioners.

*~Ralph Locher*

## ***Greeters***

The function of our greeters is to help visitors feel warmly welcomed and help ensure new members are integrated into the life of the St. James' community. You will see a greeter each Sunday before the 10:30 service standing with the clergy at the door to identify visitors and say hello. If it seems appropriate, they will sit near a visitor to ensure they are not struggling with the worship service, bulletins or hymnals. They will also stand with the clergy following the service to be ready to invite visitors to sign our guest book and join us in the Parish Hall for coffee. Acting as greeters over this last year have been: Adrienne Farrell, Gregg Feeney, Alice Johnson, Jeanne Morris, Dave Nelsen, Jan Pearson and Scott Whitaker. Thank you all for your welcoming presence.

*~Dave Nelsen, Jr. Warden*

## ***Healing Ministry***

The Healing Ministry at St. James' consists of a small group of people who cover the healing stations at the regular Sunday services. They offer prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing with oil blessed by our bishop. Individuals come forward for these prayers after communion and stand or kneel at the rail, voicing their concerns or joys for themselves or loved ones. The 8:00 am service has a healing station available the first Sunday of each month. The 10:30 am service has a healing station attended most Sundays. The team meets periodically for planning, mutual encouragement, and meditative prayer together.

*~Brian Cochran*

## ***Hillside Senior Care Center***

The Center is located at 38650 Mission Blvd, Fremont, Ca 94536. The resident population fluctuates between 63 and 70. The St James' team that has been organizing Easter and Christmas visits consists of Lauren Doherty, Alice Johnson and Sandra Motley. Our team is fortunate to have the loyal support of the congregation at St James and we extend our sincere appreciation to all of you. For many years the Activities coordinator was the same person; however the past 3 years has brought a turnover of this staff person, which can create a little difficulty in scheduling our visits. We were lucky in 2014; we've worked with Agnes Santos for both our visits. She is pleasant and helpful.

The Easter visit was on Thursday, April 10th. The EASTER BUNNY made a personal visit and Stacia Morkved, daughter of Mary & Terry, performed 2 tap-dance routines. Byron Bader was on his "keyboard", and Nancy Svenson brought her puppet "CC". Bruce Roberts did photography. A delightful time was enjoyed by the residents and the Bunny Brigade.

The Christmas visit, originally planned for Dec. 11th, was rescheduled because of heavy rains and high winds. George Vlastelica was going to do a reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" with Byron Bader background music, and St James Elves doing "prop" work! Oh well, now everyone has a year to practice! We did visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus, Nancy & "CC" and Alice Johnson on Wed, Dec 17 at 10:00am. The residents and staff welcomed us enthusiastically! Maybe morning visits is the way to go!!

*~Sandra Motley*

## ***IT Report 2015***

The biggest focus this year for IT at St. James' has been the replacement of the telephone system. The goal of the project was to reduce the annual combined phone and internet invoices from the previous \$3000 per year. By investing in a new, Voice-Over-the-Internet system, we've halved those costs and now have a state of the art system that's easier to maintain.

We continue our 4-year computer replacement program. During the year, we completed the transition of the Treasurers' PC to a replacement machine, and have purchased a new, faster PC for EB1 which will

go live in 2015. Lori's original laptop has been retired in favor of a "used" unit that we had available due to Stephanie's departure.

At the end of the year, we looked at the cost of the copier in the office since it accounts for a significant proportion of our running expenses. We found that we're still under contract with our current supplier, but once it expires we'll consider a purchase rather than a leasing option.

**~Mike Scrutton, Sr. Warden**

### ***Ladies Flatlanders***

Fourteen ladies from St. James got together for the annual Ladies Flatlanders trip September 4-7. We enjoyed four days of rest, relaxation, and fellowship at a wonderful unit overlooking the beach in Pajaro Dunes. We were joined by a special guest – Flat Jesus (you may have seen some of our adventures). Other special visitors were Joanne LaRocque and Kelsey Peterson who joined us for dinner Saturday night. Next year's event is September 10-14.

**~Nancy Castaneda**

### ***Las Posadas***

John Maloney has orchestrated this community, fun-filled annual Christmas event since 2007/2006. Historically, Las Posadas is a Mexican December tradition whereby it was introduced by John to St. James. It has grown over the years, from starting in the office lobby with about 20 people in the first year to 60-80 people attending in the Big Church. John approached various parishioners to assist with this event: processional volunteers, meal, set up/clean up, decorations, music, and publicity. At the end of the music program, all participants look forward to the Mexican dinner and the two piñatas for the small and older children- from the congregation, guests, and Tin Whistler Players from the Sacred Heart Nativity Schools in San Jose, Ca. Mr. Maloney has handed over the reins of this celebration to Gregory and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller as program chairpersons. John Maloney will continue to simply be the "Master of Ceremony" in the future.

St. James is truly blessed for having John, who introduced us to Las Posadas. Everyone who has participated and attended in past look forward to this annual Christmas celebration. Also, thanks to the Las Posadas Committee who willingly has given their time and their talent.

**~Elaine Vallecillo-Miller**

### ***Lay Eucharistic Visitors***

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV) are members of the congregation who are trained and licensed by the bishop to take Holy Communion to the homebound or those individuals who are otherwise unable to attend regular church services. The LEV visits are usually conducted on Sundays immediately following services and coffee hour. (It is important for the LEV to have an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of the St. James community!) Carrying specially prepared communion kits with pre-consecrated bread and wine, the LEV conducts a brief service with the homebound member and shares Holy Communion with them. Often the LEV will summarize the sermon of the day and update the homebound member on what's happening in the parish family.

Preparatory training for this important ministry is provided by the diocese with follow-up on-the-job training conducted by experienced LEVs and the parish deacon. LEVs meet on an occasional basis for mutual support and to share ideas about providing a loving ministry of presence to the homebound.

Members of the St. James family who have participate in or started training for this important ministry during 2014: Lynn Locher, Alison Saichok, Marilyn Rose, Laura Winter and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller.

**~Deacon Ken Parris**

### ***Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers***

During 2014 Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers served at over 150 services at St. James'. These dedicated parishioners handle holy things by reading the scripture lessons and assisting in the liturgy and at the altar. They work hard to make each church service a worshipful experience for everyone, and have

been wonderfully flexible as schedules change. During 2014 our Deacon, The Rev. Ken Parris, led training/refresher sessions for both Lectors and LEMs.

**Members of the 2014 teams include:**

- **Lectors:** John Amouroux, Tom Blalock, Bob Doherty, Joan Kimber, Patty Lacy, Jim McConnell, Linda Nelsen, Pegeen Perry, Raelene Ramsamy, Bruce Roberts, Jack Rux, Mike Scrutton, Brad Smith, Pat Spalding, Ken Trant, and Jackie Whitehouse.
- **Eucharistic Ministers:** Barbara Dabney, Janet Fischer, EJ Hilliard, Lynn Locher, Ralph Locher, Greg Miller, Caylyn Ramsamy, Marilyn Rose, Connie Rux, Alison Saichek, Bud Spalding, and Laura Winter.

After a number of years coordinating the schedules for LEMs and Lectors, mid-year I retired from this task and the weekly coordination is now done by John Trubina, our office administrator. I am very grateful that he was willing to take on this task. It has been a pleasure to work with all of these faithful lay ministers.

*~Janet Fischer*

### ***Little Church Renovation Committee***

The Little Church Renovation Committee was commissioned by the Vestry in 2012 to study and recommend repairs/maintenance/renovation of the Little Church. We have been meeting and submitting written reports to the Vestry on a regular basis. The Vestry reviews each repair/maintenance /renovation proposal and approves each funding. The Committee consists of The Rev. Lori Walton, Sylvia Ma (chair), Scott Kennedy (emeritus), Patty Lacy, Jim McConnell, Mary Casas, Chris Perry, Tom Blalock, Jan Brandt, Bobbie Tomkinson, Laura Winter, Bruce Roberts and Jim Cunningham. Repairing and renovating our beloved Little Church is a multi-year endeavor. We are happy to report that we have made considerable progress.

In 2014, the Little Church Renovation Committee investigated the best way for St. James' to repair the bowing walls of the Little Church. We postulate that the bowing might be resulted from the move from the corner of Fremont Blvd and Thornton Ave. 60 years ago. We need to straighten the wall with temporary cables which will take 3-4 months. After the walls are straightened, we need to use permanent rods to keep the walls plumb or install stronger buttresses to support the building.

Our Little Church is supported by 10 buttresses on the outside. We have found that repairs had been made to at least one buttress, probably right after the move 60 years ago. Currently, at least one of the buttresses has dry-rot damage and needs repair.

With the Vestry's approval, we have retained Thuy Fontelera of Element Structural Engineers Inc. in Newark to do a feasibility study on installing new steel or wood buttresses to support the Little Church after the bowing walls are brought to plumb. She also will provide us with the engineering calculations to apply for a building permit with the City of Fremont.

The funding for the repairs is from the Schader Fund (from Shirley Schader's estate), the distribution from the Little Church Endowment Fund, and the generous donations of parishioners into the Little Church Special Interest Fund.

The Committee would like to acknowledge Jim Cunningham and Bruce Roberts who are instrumental in working with the structural engineers and the City of Fremont to come up with a plan forward for this phase of the project. Jim also did the engineering drawings for us.

We would like to thank the Lead Team and the Vestry, especially Bud Spalding and Al Casas from Facilities, for their support throughout the year and for their approval of funding in 2014.

In 2015, the Little Church Renovation Committee will continue to finalize the plans to repair the bowing walls and the buttresses. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated.

*~the Little Church Renovation Committee*

## ***Liturgical Design Team***

Presently, the Liturgical Design Team is composed of Gregory and Elaine Vallecillo Miller. However, for special liturgical feast days, like Easter, Maundy Thursday, and Christmas, parishioners volunteer to decorate the two sanctuaries and parish hall.

The Millers consult with Rev. Lori about theme/colors/presentation. This year, we re-used and re-worked the "bridal veils"/"sheers" in the Big Church, giving the spiritual effect of tents. Many parishioners have given positive comments to Rev. Lori and the team about appearance- festive, holy, and somber, depending upon the liturgical season. The team is looking for additional individuals who would like to assist, creatively and/or physically, to stage our two churches, parish hall, and breezeway.

*~Elaine Vallecillo-Miller*

## ***McCutcheon Concert Fundraiser***

Our 11th Annual John McCutcheon Concert on Monday Jan 20, 2014 was another great success. We had over 200 in attendance, with many non-parishioners. John McCutcheon gave us another very entertaining evening. Ticket sales totaled \$5100. The prize drawing broke our record both in terms of the number of prizes donated (23) as well as the income generated (\$933)..The cookies from the snack bar were delicious and brought in an additional \$157. The Vestry approved to donate \$500 from the concert proceeds to ABODE Services. In addition, we raised over \$1700 for our Operating Fund.

This fundraising and community outreach event could not have happened without all your help. There were more than 60 people who contributed time, talent and treasure not only on the night of the concert but in the months preceding the concert. They wrote, sent out and uploaded publicity notices/articles/blog; bought advertisements; designed, printed and posted flyers and signs; updated, hung and took down banners; set up email address and phone message for this special event; printed tickets; took messages; donated all those marvelous prizes for the drawings; took out and put away all the prizes on Sunday mornings; sold concert and drawing tickets; bought concert and drawing tickets; invited their family, friends and neighbors to the concert; cleared the facility calendar for the concert; got contracts signed; signed contracts; booked hotel rooms for John McCutcheon and his road manager; borrowed and returned the stage (from Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park) and the extra chairs(from Harbor Light); wrote and made verbal announcements on Sundays; wrote announcements and articles for the weekly newsletter, Sunday bulletins and for the Window; cleaned up the campus; printed and posted no-parking signs to clear out our parking lot; put up the lights and a canopy on campus; directed traffic; set-up before the concert and cleaned-up after the concert; baked dozens of delicious cookies; made coffee; helped with the snack bar inside the Parish Hall as well as outside in the cold; decorated and set up the Vestry Room and the foyer for the Artist and Crew Dinner; cooked and served a wonderful dinner for the crew before the concert; donated wine, soda and water for the crew dinner; washed all the dishes; cleaned up the kitchen; set up and take down the dressing room; ushered; sold CDs for John McCutcheon; created and printed the programs and program inserts; showed great hospitality; did a wonderful job as MC/announcers; took photos; took John McCutcheon from and back to the hotel; waited for the sound crew (Tesser et al) to set up the sound systems and the lights before the concert and to pack everything up after the concert; volunteered to be the docent of our Little Church; did all the accounting and analysis ...and countless people who offered prayers and encouragements along the way. Thank you, we appreciate all your support and ministering.

We especially want to acknowledge Joan Roberts who helped with the McCutcheon concert for so many years, and in 2014, organized the ticket sales and printed the tickets. We surely miss her.

Our 2015 McCutcheon Concert will be on Jan 19. We have been busy organizing another wonderful evening for our communities. Part of the proceeds from the 2015 concert will again go towards ABODE Services to fight homelessness.

*~the McCutcheon Team*

## ***Memorial Garden/Columbarium***

The Memorial Garden Committee continues to maintain the garden. It looks great and has survived the drought. Each year on Memorial Day the Committee hosts the coffee hours for both services. On

appropriate holidays flags are displayed by each grave. In 2014 we had two people interred in the Memorial Garden and two people interred in the Columbarium.

We recently had new plaques made for each person interred in the Columbarium. Please look at them if you get a chance. They really look nice.

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

Please contact Ruth Poole or any Committee member if you are interested in joining our team.  
~*Ruth Poole, Chair*

## ***Men's Group / Men's Trip Report***

The Men's Group at St. James' is a loosely knit group of guys willing to help at St James' in just about any needed capacity. In January and February we begin to review what areas we would like to venture to and do our planning. The Men's Trip celebrated its seventh year, however, this time we headed to Twain Harte right off Hwy 108. The distance and drive was similar to our trips to Arnold, CA.

One of our goals is to have at least one new member join us but this year, due to illnesses and scheduling conflicts it did not happen. We did, however, manage to add a long-term member to the group. Only 11 guys attended this year and we broke even by renting just two homes, the Dearborn's Button Willow cabin and Shadow Ridge Vacation Rentals -Mt Ridge Cottage. The cabins were about a 7 minute hike between then and a short distance to town which made it easy for dinner at The Rock of Twain Harte on our first night there.

Golfing, hiking, and fishing are the main priorities and with a new area, there are more areas to explore. The golf course we attended was in rough shape and the layout was poor. We will probably stick to the local course for next year or head to our favorite course in Arnold. Ralph Locher and Bob Bynum had some great hikes and many pictures were taken by Bob Bynum. Our cooks, Al Casas, Charlie Dickinson, Ralph Locher and Gregg Feeney enjoyed making some great breakfast and dinners. Our kitchen clean-up crew made it great for all.

We kept the price close to \$170.00 per person. A decision will be made in early February to confirm our return trip to Twain Harte and a sign up list will be circulated. The group welcomes suggestions and other input from our interested parishioners. The tentative date for 2015 will be Aug 20-23 and returning to the same cottages in Twain Harte.

~*Gregg Feeney*

## ***MUSIC MINISTRY***

I celebrated my third year of working at St. James' at the beginning of September! I am very happy working with the wonderful people of St. James'. Thank you for being so welcoming to me and my family!

Music is provided at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. At the 8:00 a.m. service, the congregation sings two hymns, a sequence, and the doxology each week. There is instrumental music provided during the offertory and communion. The 10:30 a.m. service has many hymns and songs for the congregation and choir. The Adult Choir meets to rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. We sing at the 10:30 Eucharist on Sunday mornings, rehearsing prior to the service at 10:00am. The choir is open to all parishioners.

Adult Choir: There are 12 current choir members. They are: Josephine Amadi, Joey Carini, Charles Hall, EJ Hilliard, Greg Miller, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, Alison Saichek, Don Rose, Jessica Stair, Elaine Vallecillo Miller, Pat Vlastelica, Jackie Whitehouse, and Rod Whitehouse. We have also had guest singers during the year, including Jack Becker, Isaiah Lute, and Anthony Prickett.

For Easter and Christmas Eve, members of the congregation were invited to join the choir. Singers from the congregation that chose to join the Adult Choir include: Leslie Almond, Tom Blalock, Paul Cudlip,

Nancy Svenson, Paul Svenson, and George Vlastelica. We have been blessed to have professional instrumentalists and vocalists join us on Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve.

The Children's Choir met to rehearse for 10 – 15 minutes directly after the Sunday 10:30am service during the months of January through June. The Children's Choir now practices during Sunday School. All children are welcome to sing! The children's choir sang during the Epiphany and Lenten seasons, on Easter Sunday, during the months of May and June, on St. Francis Day, All Saints' Day, and at the Las Posadas celebration.

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

I had a wonderful time being the choir director of the Interfaith Choir for the Tri-City Interfaith Council's Thanksgiving service for the third year on Monday, November 24th. Directing a choir of people from many different faiths was a great opportunity for me, and a great opportunity for St. James' to be a part of such a moving service within our wider community.

The St. James' music program is an integral part of worship on Sundays and other services. All are welcome to be a part of it! Please see me or email me at [music@saintj.com](mailto:music@saintj.com) and we can figure out the best way for you to be involved!

~ **Jennifer Carini, Music Director**

## ***Newsletter – The Window***

Thanks to Mike Scrutton internet wizardry, the average number of web views is 62 per month. This is down by three from last year. Our average printed circulation remains around 50, of which 10 copies are mailed out.

Ralph Locher, Marilyn Rose and Penny Trant take turns putting out the newsletter by the first of the month. However, it is your newsletter so we implore all of you to submit articles, pictures, announcements, thank you notes, etc., to keep *The Window* interesting, lively and timely and pertinent to the life of St. James'.

~**Ralph Locher, on behalf of the editorial staff**

## ***Sacred Space East Bay***

Sacred Space East Bay is a mission of the Diocese of California that provides a worship service and a lunch to homeless communities in Oakland and Hayward. St. James' participates in Sacred Space Hayward by providing bag lunches once each month in rotation with other parishes in our Deanery. Our Rector, Lori+, also rotates with other priests in the Deanery to preside over the worship service. Members of the congregation sign up to provide sandwiches, fruit cups, water, and granola bars; the bags are packed after church and then delivered to the meeting location at a park in Hayward for the 2pm service. As often as we are able we stay to participate in the service and help distribute lunch. St. James' has faithfully provided lunch each month this year, as well as held special collections for socks, scarves, and similar items. Sometimes the Youth Group or the Sunday School kids are responsible for the lunch in a particular month. The whole congregation participates in this ministry.

~**Janet Fischer, Sacred Space Coordinator**

## ***Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Supper)***

This year Shrove Tuesday landed on March 4th and again the men of the parish prepared a traditional meal of pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage. 122 plates were served to a hungry house. A big thanks go out to the youth who served plates and the ladies who wrote the tickets and managed the money. This help enabled the men to focus on the set-up, cooking, making plates, serving drinks and ice cream and cleaning up in the kitchen. 23 gentlemen took part in the fun - and you did a fantastic job.

~**Dave Nelsen, Jr. Warden**

## **St. James Cares: Offering to help + Asking for help**

What if you found yourself in need of help? Perhaps you've gotten sick and need a hand around the house, or you can't get to the store, or you need a ride to the airport? Or maybe your schedule is one that prevents you from getting home to let your dog out? All sorts of everyday things can be a challenge if you can't find a way to get them done.

This is where congregational care, or in-reach, can help. We can expand our natural friendliness and willingness to help one another. Everyone here has something they can do for someone in need. The purpose of this new ministry, "St. James' Cares," seeks to make this congregational care easier: it is a place where all members of St. James' can volunteer to be of help, and it is a central contact point where parishioners can contact when they could use help.

The program was launched in September 2014. The first phase generated (and continues to generate) rosters of St. James' volunteers who have offered to help. We have collected volunteers who can help with some basic needs: rides, meals, help with local errands, and personal help such as social calls, visits, dog walking, etc. Folks have been asked to consider the various ways they can help: can you provide a ride to the airport? Can you help with some light cleaning? Can you stop by or call for a chat? Maybe you can cook but can't deliver it; maybe you can't cook but can deliver it! The list is truly endless.

The second phase will begin in early 2015: announcements will be made to publicize the ways folks can ask for help, that people may begin contacting the Cares' team. There will be a variety of ways which the requests may be made: phone, pew cards, email, and a link on the [www.saintj.com](http://www.saintj.com) website. By contacting the Cares team, those in need of help will be put in touch with a fellow parishioner who has offered to help.

We will accept *offers for help* at any time throughout the year, and encourage everyone to consider participation. And watch for messages as to how to *ask for help*, coming soon. Thank you for your continued support in this new and growing ministry!

**~Bev Mosier, Karen Koonze, Meg Amouroux, Nancy Castaneda**

## **Stewardship Committee**

The Stewardship Team for 2014 was comprised of Sandra Motley, Ruth Poole, Adrienne Farrell, George Vlastelica, and Gail Blalock. Lauren Doherty joined us on occasion to help with the annual fall Stewardship event. The team met most months throughout the year to plan stewardship-related activities. Our mission focuses on "year" 'round stewardship and being mindful that all things come from God and of our responsibility to be faithful disciples, caring for and managing all that God has given us.

Monthly articles on the many aspects of Stewardship were included in *The Window* newsletter ("Stewardship Corner"). This year the brief "Stewardship Moment" message in the St. James' weekly email and the Sunday bulletins was replaced with an Appreciation Statement expressing thanks to individuals and groups for volunteering their time and talent to the many ministries at St. James'. In April, we again focused on Earth Day and being stewards of the environment. Following both services on Sunday, April 20, parishioners were given pencils inscribed with *reduce, reuse, recycle, and respect* the earth. Messages and inserts regarding the environment were included each week in the Sunday bulletins during the month of April.

The Fall Stewardship Program centered on teamwork and the many things we do and accomplish at St. James' as a team. The entire Parish was invited to attend the First Tailgate Gathering in the Church parking lot on Saturday afternoon, October 25, to celebrate our work together as a team. The theme focused on football but could have been any sports activity. Ministry groups were encouraged to participate in a Chili Challenge and to also prepare a poster for the St. James' Hall of Fame (all major sports have their "*hall of fame*"). There were ten different and delicious chili entries for everyone to taste. The Parish Hall was decorated with posters depicting the various ministries at St. James'. Dino's Restaurant brought their BBQ and equipment and served hamburgers and hot dogs in the parking lot. Competitive team games and contests entertained adults while children played games and visited a children's face painting artist. Not even the first threatening rain of the season could dampen the St. James' Spirit that afternoon! In early November, a letter from our Rector, Lori Walton, was sent out along

with a pledge form for 2015. The Stewardship Team hosted the Sunday coffee reception following both services on November 23.

On Pledge Sunday (November 23, 2014), 71 pledging units responded, compared to 65 the previous year. As in past years, we lost several members in 2014, but we were also blessed with the arrival of new ones. As of the writing of this report (January 4), pledging units total 90 compared to 88 at this time a year ago. If you have not turned in a pledge for 2015, please do so now. It's never too late, and St. James' needs everyone's participation.

	<b>for 2014</b>	<b>for 2015</b>
<b>Total Pledges</b>	88	92
<b>Operating</b>	\$240,446	\$260,825
<b>Other</b>	\$600	\$600

Thank-you to the many people who participated in making this year's Stewardship Event a very enjoyable afternoon. We invite you to help us with the Second Tailgate Gathering in the Fall, 2015. Give me a call at 490-7565 if you'd like to help!

I would like to thank the members of the Stewardship Team for their support, dedication and hard work. The Stewardship Team is grateful to Lori for her guidance and encouragement throughout the year. We would especially like to extend a huge thank-you to Lauren Doherty for her ideas and her assistance. She is a wonderful inspiration to us all. And to the St. James' Community, *thank you* for being cheerful givers (time, talent, and treasure) all year long!

~**Gail Blalock, Chair**

## **Tai Chi Class**

Tai Chi class, a ministry of St. James', is being held in the Parish Hall every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30pm. All are welcomed and there is no fee for the class.

The classes are led by Sylvia Ma, a certified SiFu (Master Instructor) in the TIMA School of internal martial arts. We gather to do stretching and warm-up exercises, to learn the relaxing breathing exercises of QiGong and to practice the fluid movements of Guang Ping style Tai Chi. The exercises are not strenuous and could be done sitting down or standing up. No prior experience is necessary.

Our classes are growing over the years but are still small. We held 47 classes in 2014 and averaged about 4 students per class. We have both St. James' parishioners and non-parishioners in attendance. If you are interested in finding out more about these ancient Chinese internal martial art forms, please come and join us on Wednesday night at 6:30.

~**Sylvia Ma**

## **Website**

Our website at [saintj.com](http://saintj.com) continues to draw newcomers to St. James' and to keep all of us up-to-date with our many events. But we agree that the look of the site is a bit stale and has become cumbersome with so much information. During 2015 Lori+, Mike Scrutton and I will be looking at new designs and seeking advice from the Rev. Joseph Peters-Mathews, Working Group Head for Communications at the Diocese on how to make our website even better.

~**Janet Fischer, Webmaster**