



SAINT JAMES'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Report for 2015

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The Rev. Ken Parris, Deacon

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Clergy & Staff Reports

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

In October of 2015, we marked the five-year anniversary of our life together. This past year has been one of continued familiarity, new faces, and stability.

Worship and Liturgy

In 2015, we continued to be blessed with a variety of preachers with The Reverend Ken Parris, The Reverend Brian Cochran, and the addition of our ministry intern, Anna Horen. We were also blessed to hear other gifted preachers in our supply clergy: Andy Shamel, Joseph Peters-Mathews, Julia McCray-Goldsmith, and Peter Champion. We are fortunate to reside in an area with so many excellent voices.

On January 4 began the calendar year with the Feast of the Epiphany. On December 27, we ended with a Service of Lessons and Carols. In between, we moved through the seasons with the familiar rhythm of Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Advent.

We had 29 children and adults at the Children's Imposition of Ashes on Shrove Tuesday. This is a significant increase from the 12 we hosted the year before. Over three Ash Wednesday services, we gave out ashes to 108 congregants and visitors. 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 Evelyn Martinez, Jim Cunningham, Connie Rux, Alison Saichek, Karen Koonze, Nancy Svenson, Anna Horen and Ken Parris). While the service was wonderfully enriched by parishioner reflections, the recruiting effort was difficult, causing us to discern whether we revert to a standard Book of Common Prayer Good Friday service for 2016. 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 45 people celebrating. Joyful skits and performances were offered by the St. James' Choir, Music Director Jennifer Carini, the St. J Youth, and The Giggle House Players (Patty Lacy, Robert Lacy, Barbara Lyon, Peter Norman, Chris Svenson, Nancy Svenson, Paul Svenson and Leonard). Our Easter Sunday service saw a full church with 253 parishioners and visitors. On Pentecost Sunday we celebrated our many cultures and tongues by inviting parishioners to share their language in liturgy and favorite food in coffee hour.

We also had a fun-filled celebration of St. James' Day on July 26 with both congregations from the Philippine Independent Church. We held our annual VBS Sunday on August 2 and had a lively St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals Celebration on October 4. The celebration of Thanksgiving was held in the Little Church with 18 participants. For Christmas, we celebrated a 4:00 Family Service that drew 130 participants, a Midnight Mass Service with 109 attending, and 33 congregants and visitors on Christmas Day.

Our Music Director, Jennifer Carini, continues to contribute to the liturgical life of St. James'. Along with weekly rehearsals and Sunday worship, Jennifer also led our annual Vacation Bible School music and accompanied vocalist and ministry intern Anna Horen at the Vigil for Homelessness. Jennifer also continues to work with our children to offer seasonal anthems at our 10:30 service.

We are also a church that has a strong group of adult and youth servers at our Altar and our Lectern on Sunday mornings. While Janet Fischer has given up the day-to-day scheduling and reminding, she continues to do bi-annual scheduling of the lectors and Eucharistic ministers for Sunday services and for additional services. Our Children's Minister Jan Scrutton has taken over the responsibility of scheduling acolytes. With her help, we have added several new children to the ministry. In late 2015, Jan has begun a process of integrating the older Sunday school kids into the worship service on the first Sundays. Under her leadership, the children are serving as acolytes, ushers, lectors, and continue to be oblation bearers.

During the year, we baptized six children: Eva, Payton, Paxton, Owen, Malorie and John. I officiated at two weddings: John Cleary and Thai Nguyen and Alex Keys and Trista Wheat. I officiated at the vow renewals of Marco and Raelene Ramsamy and Ralph and Lynn Locher.

We also held three funerals/memorials: Kimberly Kane, Mabel Long, Greig Reeves. On May 30, I co-celebrated at the anniversary celebration of the Philippine Independent Church. On October 5, we held a candlelight vigil for the life of Nailah Pettigan, a local high school teacher who died.

In early December, we welcomed folks from Alameda county churches and the Diocese in a celebration of AEMCH, a ministry started by Arlinda and Doug Cosby which has reached its end. The day was filled with gratitude, fellowship, and good food.

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. Our parish administrator, John Trubina, marked one year with us in August. John continues to bring 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.

In May, 2015, St. James' made a significant pledge towards our children's program by hiring Jan Scrutton as our Children's Minister. While Jan has been doing this work some time, making it a funded position shows commitment in the program and confidence in Jan's ability to minister to this demographic. As a result, our children's program continues to be a fast-growing segment of our community. Please see Jan's report for more news about our children and families.

In February, we enthusiastically welcomed our ministry intern, Anna Horen, to the team. Anna is a candidate for Holy Orders to the priesthood, and has spent this past year learning various aspects of parish ministry and making significant contributions in the area of faith formation, preaching, and altar service. Anna will continue her work with us through the first half of 2016.

For 2015, the Vestry closely examined our welcoming program alongside our various ministries. One half of the vestry did work on exploring how to welcome visitors, and the other half explored the purpose of our various ministries. The vestry engaged in a significant effort on writing charters for each ministry and creating materials for visitors and new members. This work will continue to be refined in 2016. Treasurer Lynn Locher and Clerk Elizabeth Hart continue to do amazing jobs in supporting the vestry and parish.

Welcoming and Integrating New People

St. James' continues to work at welcoming and integrating new people. In the summer of 2015, the vestry hosted two different new member's events, welcoming 24 adults and 10 children into the wider life of St. James'.

Rector Housing

Following my commitment and vision of using our home in Newark for the ministry of the church, I hosted several gatherings. In January, we had a lively hymn-sing. Later that year, I hosted a vestry dinner, several small-group gatherings and meetings, two new member events, and the Altar Guild Brunch.

New and Potential Ministries and Offerings

2015 saw the launching of our relationship with Cub Scout Pack 163. As the proud charter organization for this group, we host their monthly and weekly gatherings and participate in their fund-raising and events. As this relationship continues to grow, our common life will increase. This pack has been a great addition to the fabric of St. James'.

On May 9, Anna Horen, Janet Fischer, and I led a day retreat for women focused on Mary Magdalene. The day was rich in story, prayer, and connection. We will continue to offer a women's day retreat the day before Mother's Day.

In an effort to jumpstart a young adult ministry, I partnered with Melissa Ferguson to organize two different hikes. While there seemed to be some initial interest, the effort never gained momentum and ceased when Melissa moved out of state.

In August, we held an all-parish retreat where over 50 congregants gathered to talk about what they love about St. James', what they worry about, and what they'd change. We completed our day by identifying bible stories that demonstrate different characteristics of our community.

On November 15, with the help of Jan Scrutton, St. James' partnered with Abode Services for the second annual 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.

Congregational Development

During 2015, I completed the first of a two-year course in Congregational Development. This work, entitled "Center for Congregational Vitality" is a collaborative effort with the Diocese of Northern California to equip parish leadership in the area of organizational development and spiritual transformation. As part of my commitment to St. James', I have brought my learnings to the vestry meetings and other aspects of my leadership.

Visioning Project

Under the leadership of Mike Scrutton, a group of five (me, Mary Casas, Mary Morkved, Jessica Stair, Ken Trant) have been meeting to walk the parish through a visioning process. Along with the all-parish retreat mentioned above, this work has included data gathering, examination of demographics, and looking at the past parish profile in comparison to today's reality. This work will continue into 2016.

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. At the 2015 convention, I was elected to be the President of the Standing Committee, and will serve as such until the October 2016 convention. As part of my presidential responsibilities, I led the Standing Committee retreat in November, and facilitate all meetings and connections with the Bishop and wider church.

In February, I attended a preaching symposium. This was a three-day workshop on creative preaching led by Bishops Marc Andrus, Marianne Budde (Washington DC), and Michael Curry (N. Carolina, now Presiding Bishop).

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

2015 was the year my initial two-year letter of agreement assigning me to St. James' came to a close. As stated in the letter, after two years of service the bishop could, at the request of the rector, renew the letter for another two years or send me to another parish/mission. I am pleased to report our rector, the Rev. Lori Walton, has asked the bishop to renew my letter of agreement, requesting that I remain at St. James'. Therefore, it appears I will be with all of you at least another two years.

As your deacon I am scheduled to perform the diaconal duties for all liturgical services for which I am in attendance and regularly assigned to preach. The rector has conducted regular parish staff meetings to ensure I remained cognizant of the pastoral needs and concerns of the parish. Staff meetings also provide me an opportunity to explore how I might be able to assist in enriching the worship experience of our parish.

Under the rector's leadership, I continue to supervise the Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV) ministry. Two additional members have participated in training this past year. As the need arises, four trained and licensed LEVs are available to regularly visit homebound parish members.

Earlier this year I assisted the rector and our children's minister, Jan Scrutton, in providing training to new acolytes. The training was very well received and provided our acolytes with the knowledge they required to provide valuable assistance to the clergy at our liturgical services.

During Lent, with the assistance of our ministry intern, Anna Horen, I presented a Tuesday evening adult faith formation class titled, "Forgiveness: A Healing Stream." The presentation was well attended and all

who participated gained a better understanding of the role of forgiveness in Christian theology, spirituality and liturgy. I believe it also helps attendees to confront issues and concerns that may have weighed heavily on their hearts for years; understanding that forgiveness allows us to let go of any pain and anger we may have held against those who may have hurt us.

I continue to assist our rector in the development of liturgical resources and have the opportunity to proofread the materials she works hard to develop for the enrichment of the parish's worship experience. On a personal note, I have always been impressed with the time, effort and energy our rector devotes to our liturgy, ensuring it is theologically sound, spiritually enriching and welcoming to the pilgrim seeking a spiritual home.

On December 2nd, I celebrated the 20th anniversary of my ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons. I was touched by the parish's outpouring of well wishes for my ministry both for the past 20 years and what I have shared with all of you the past two and one half years. The singing of "For he's a jolly good deacon" made me smile.

As you know from my previous annual reports, my primary ministry is to serve as a law enforcement chaplain for the Diocese of California. For the past 20 years I have served as chaplain to the Oakland Police Department. When I retired from the Oakland Police Department as a lieutenant of police in November 2012, I sought to serve additional agencies as a law enforcement chaplain. Shortly after my retirement I was appointed a sheriff's chaplain for the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and in later 2014 I was appointed as a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) police chaplain. After attending the BART PD Chaplain Academy in December 2014, I successfully completed a six month training and probationary service period. This past year I participated in several chaplain service "call outs", led invocations at events and provided pastoral counseling to law enforcement officers. 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 and professional expense stipend the parish provides me is much appreciated in defraying some of these costs. 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.

I participated in the following continuing education opportunities this past year:

- Diocese of California Clergy Conference and Retreat, El Rancho del Obispo, Healdsburg, CA
- Civil Air Patrol Pacific Region Chaplain Corps Staff College in Seattle, WA
- International Conference of Police Chaplains Annual Training Seminar in Sacramento, CA
- Concerns of Police Survivor's "Trauma of Law Enforcement" Training Seminar, Long Beach, CA

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. As a CAP CDI, I am also an associate member of the Military Chaplains Association of the United States. 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.

As your deacon and canonically resident in the Diocese of California, I serve as a clergy representative of St. James' at deanery and diocesan convention. Upon learning of two vacancies on the Diocesan Executive Council, I discussed the matter with the rector and submitted a resume for consideration for appointment to the council. As of this report, the council hasn't taken any action to fill the vacancies. It is expected they will do so sometime in January 2016.

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. St. James' was well represented at this fun and informative event.

TCIC sponsors an annual Interfaith Harmony Day in February. This past year I served as the moderator of the interfaith discussion panel, an activity I greatly enjoyed. The passion and enthusiasm the members of TCIC demonstrate in building bridges of understanding, peace and love is, I believe, an incredible example to the world. TCIC will present the third Interfaith Harmony Day at the Niles Veterans Building on Saturday, February 6, 2016, from 1 to 4 pm. Please come and share this time of peace and understanding with your neighbors from the Tri-Cities area. You won't regret it! Information about TCIC may be found at <http://tcicouncil.org/>.

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." Our goal is to get all three cities to sign the charter. It appears that Fremont will be the first of the cities to sign in January 2016. I am also pleased to report St. James' is the first faith community member of TCIC to officially sign the Charter for Compassion. The vestry approved signing the charter a few months ago. More information about the Charter for Compassion will be shared with the parish in the coming year. 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.

Children's Minister Report – Jan Scrutton

In May of 2015 I was honored to be asked by Rev Lori and the Vestry to step into a staff position as Children's Minister. The commitment of the community at St. James' to working with all ages is inspiring and our events and opportunities for young people are underpinned by the work, donations and commitment of so many. Thank you for everything you do, for the cooking, supporting, collecting and most especially for your interest, concern and prayer.

In addition to the events reported on below I have provided support for the Parish Retreat in August when we had a children's track running through the day alongside the main program. I worked with Abode Services on Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in November (also reported on elsewhere). I supported the Stewardship Tailgate where we had a bouncy castle (mainly for the kids benefit but enjoyed by others!) and worked on the Las Posadas celebration. I also attend regular staff meetings with Rev Lori, Deacon Ken and Anna.

My first activity as Children's Minister was to take 5 of our young people to Nightwatch at Grace Cathedral. Activities for Middle School students including playing flashlight tag in the dark cathedral and preceded a night spent sleeping on the cathedral floor!

The under 4's group met just once this year, making an Easter Garden and reflecting on the Easter story. While we don't have an active youth group we still had young people taking part in the Easter Vigil and sleeping over at Church to welcome in Easter morning.

A new Children's program logo was produced this year, in collaboration with Keith Westra. Over 100 blue t-shirts were ordered and can be seen worn by Sunday School children, families, parishioners and clergy! A banner outside the classroom and sticker inside also use the images.

Sunday School

In December 2015 our regular Sunday School members number 25. During the year we have had families move away and new families arrive. Weekly attendance is between 10-14 children. Most Sundays we teach in two classes. Bat Rays are 2nd grade and under while Mola mola's are in 3rd-7th grade. Our fish names reflect the fact that St. James' was a fisherman!

Our classes are supported by a team of teachers. Caylyn Ramsamy, Sherea Westra, Monique Manjarrez, Penny Trant, Tom Scrutton, Chanelle Francis and Julie Guzior. Without this team our program would be severely limited, one children's minister cannot provide a broad Sunday morning program without help!

After many years as a student, doorkeeper, assistant and teacher Ami Locher stood down from this role this year and we are very grateful for all her work in previous years.

We have started using a lectionary based curriculum produced by the Episcopal Church. Lesson Plans that Work offers ideas for older and younger children and gives space for teachers to expand on themes and use their own resources to teach. We value a program that follows the lectionary as it means families will all hear the same stories on any given Sunday and can share what they have learned. The curriculum has the advantage of being published free to all so we are able to enjoy using it while also considering other curriculum and resources for the future.

We ended our school year in June with a Sunday lunchtime barbecue attended by over 50 people. Sunday School families ate around the playground and enjoyed meeting other members of the congregation. We look forward to repeating this celebration next year.

Our annual sock drive in Advent collected 263 pairs of socks for Deacon John to deliver to Sacred Space. We continue to welcome sock donations in the office as the wet winter increases the need for new socks for those living outside. Sunday School also made the lunches for Sacred Space in November. One family joined Jan and Rev Lori at Sacred Space Hayward to distribute those lunches.

Our music director, Jennifer Carini, has joined us on some Sunday's in Sunday School enabling the children to learn new songs to perform in church and to enjoy singing together.

On Palm Sunday the children shared a short presentation of the story of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, for Las Posadas Sunday School families joined the drama as innkeepers turning the Holy Family away and on Christmas Eve 23 children made up the nativity scene as part of our Christmas Pageant. At both Easter and on Christmas Eve children helped set the table for the Eucharist and were able to be up close to see the preparation. We continue to look for ways for all children to be connected to our worship.

Sunday Breakfast Club

Currently we do not have an active youth group with our previous young people having largely moved away for school. In the fall I initiated a new group meeting monthly for 5th to 8th graders. This group is designed to bridge that gap between regular Sunday School attendance and joining in worship in church while also providing a place of engagement for this age range as we plan for a new youth program. Currently 11 children fall into this age range and 7-8 have been present each month.

Sunday Breakfast Club meets on the first Sunday of the month from 9:15-10:15am. We eat together and then talk about something of interest. We have so far worked out what roles people play in services, and how lay and ordained people have different roles. This led to a question about deacons and a visit from Deacon Ken to tell us about his roles and about what a deacon is.

Having had time together these children then attend the 10:30am service. There are opportunities for them to serve and we have seen them as lectors, ushers, and acolytes in this service. The opportunities for these young people to experience being responsible in a service is invaluable, it gives them experience and prepares them to be involved with the wider community.

Having young people serve in the service would not be possible without the active support of those already in those roles in a first Sunday, lectors Pat and Linda, ushers Dave, Evelyn, Cathy and Jan and acolyte Tom. Thank you to all of them and to Bob and Lauren who so kindly prepare breakfast each month.

Acolytes

Our acolyte team is currently small with 5 regular acolytes serving at the end of the year. Ian Perry stepped down in the summer after years of service, but returned to help out on Christmas Eve. Joey Carini also stepped down as an acolyte at 10:30am this year. We thank them both for their service and continued connection to St. James'.

Caylyn Ramsamy serves as acolyte (and EM) at 8am while at 10:30am Tom, Chanelle, Olivia and Bryneth serve.

In October Rev Lori and Deacon Ken hosted an acolyte training attended by 4 existing acolytes and 5 new trainees. Those young people are currently getting chance to experience being an acolyte before deciding to commit to a regular slot.

Vacation Bible School: Feast at St. James'. July 27-31, 2015

Our summer day camp took over campus and the lives of 55 children, 24 volunteers and their families for a week in July. Our theme – FEAST- enabled us to tell the stories of meals in the Bible. Each day started with the children setting the table, laying out the plates, putting out candles, bowls and cups and preparing to hear the story. From Daniel and his friends, who said no to the king's food, to the Prodigal Son, and on to the Last Supper and the Eucharist. Our mornings included stories, music, games, snacks, cooking and crafts put together and delivered by a strong team of new and returning volunteers.

On VBS Sunday 20 children returned to share the story and pictures of their week and to help set the final table of the week, the table for the Eucharistic Feast.

Thank you so much to all those who volunteered, collected supplies and supported us this year, you are the heart of this program!

For 2016 our Summer Day Camp will take place between July 25-29th.

Back to School Drive

As part of our commitment to children and young people, in our community and beyond, we took part, for the second year, in a drive to collect backpacks and school equipment for children served by TriCity Volunteers. Arriving back at school with the same equipment as your peers is an important to a child and supports their success in the new school year. Your generosity meant we were able to donate over 55 backpacks and supplies to fill them.

Abode Kids.

We continue to support the team at Sunrise Village Shelter by running their kids club for 2 nights each month. The club meets twice a week to enable parents to attend a meeting and parenting classes/discussions. I am joined by Gail Blalock, Ruth Poole, Mary Morkved and Tom S and we take along activities and games including painting, sewing, and clay beads. The age range of the children can be very broad but the most important thing we can offer them is our time to be interested and involved in what they are doing. This ministry would welcome new hands and if anyone is interested in coming along and seeing what we do please speak to Jan Scrutton.

MUSIC MINISTRY – JENNIFER CARINI, MUSIC DIRECTOR

I celebrated my fourth 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 15 current choir members. They are: Josephine Amadi, Olivia Carini, Julie Guzior, Malorie Guzior, Charles Hall, Greg Miller, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, Alison Saichek, Don Rose, Jessica Stair, Elaine Vallecillo Miller, Pat Vlastelica, Jackie Whitehouse, and Rod Whitehouse. The choir has a fun time rehearsing and being in community with one another each Wednesday and Sunday! Come join us!

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, Joey Carini, John Maloney, Nancy Svenson, Paul Svenson, George Vlastelica, and Laura Winter. We have been blessed to have professional instrumentalists and vocalists join us on Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve.

The Children's Choir practices during Sunday School. All children are welcome to sing! The children's choir sings approximately once per month. I really enjoy singing and working with our kids each week!

I was blessed to be a part of Vacation Bible School at St. James' for the fourth 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.

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 and we can figure out the best way for you to be involved!

Ministry Intern – Anna Horen

Our diocese requires that all seeking ordination to the priesthood participate in field education in a parish. I opted to complete this requirement during a one-year intensive internship here at St. James' under Rev. Lori's supervision. My learning contract was comprehensive, embracing many aspects of parish life, and we met on a weekly basis. During the past year, I have participated consistently at Sunday worship, preaching and serving as a Lay Eucharistic Minister. I have assisted in children's Sunday school and VBS, and attended vestry meetings as an observer. I "shadowed" Rev. Lori as she prepared parishioners for baptism and marriage. My area of greatest focus was Adult Faith Formation. I attended the committee's monthly meetings, assisted in visioning, planning, and presentation of periodic offerings. The five-part series, "The Culture Behind the Bible" was planned and presented entirely by me in the fall. Finally, I participated in various parish events, such as the Stewardship Kick-Off Party, the John McCutcheon concert, and the Candlelight Vigil for Homelessness and Hunger. My intern year has been very rich. I am so deeply grateful for Rev. Lori's time and wisdom, and the way the people of St. James' welcomed me and took me into their hearts.

Wardens' Reports

Senior Warden's Report – Dave Nelsen

When I was asked to be part of the vestry three years ago it was difficult to say yes, but I knew it would be a growth experience and I felt it was time I give back to the church which has been so important to me. It's been a wonderful experience and I have enjoyed working with everyone over the last three years. I especially thank the members of this past year's vestry; Al, Ralph, Alison, Meg, Elaine, Karen, Nancy, Vivienne, Ashley, Charles and Barry. To Meg, our Jr. Warden, I extend a special thanks. I have enjoyed working with you and getting to know you better.

I also want to acknowledge Elizabeth for her accurate record keeping of our vestry meetings - for how many years? And Lynn for her accounting of the church finances. These are essential jobs and your dedication to completing them each and every month is sincerely appreciated.

During our vestry retreat in January 2015, we imagined which attributes of St. James' we would look for, should we move far away and want to find a new spiritual home. We spent time in pairs, small groups and the whole group, examining the culture of St. James', how we appear from a seeker's perspective. On the other side, we looked at St. James' from the inside. Who we are, what makes us unique, what do we do and what do we offer which is different from other churches, volunteer groups and community clubs?

As part of our work this year the vestry divided into two sub-groups. One group examined the invitation, welcoming and integration of visitors and new members. They visited other parishes and contrasted what they found with what we do at St. James'. An extensive list was compiled by the team with several data points.

The other group focused on existing ministry teams. They visited ministry team meetings and assisted in developing Charters of these ministries. This process was to help the members of each team fully understand their purpose and connection to the mission of the church. Charters are meant to increase visibility of the many ministries at St. James' in an effort to increase participation by new members.

A major task of mine is to give you a state-of-the-parish report. From my perspective the state of St. James' is Very Healthy.

Nearing the 150th birthday of the Little Church building, we continue to work toward repairing the structure so it remains sound well into the future. With other buildings and infrastructure approaching 60 years and our "new" buildings nearly 20 years old, we continue to address many replacement and repair issues. Fortunately, the state of our finances has allowed us to keep up with repairs and capital needs in the near future will be covered as well. However, we will be facing some large expenses in the 5 - 8 year range which we need to plan for. Two of these projects will be re-roofing the flat portion of the Big Church and maintenance of the parking lot.

Our ministry for the youth and children is stronger than ever. Hiring Jan Scrutton was a blessing for St. James'. Her enthusiasm and dedication are what we see on the outside, what she does on the inside is nourish and enrich the spiritual lives of our children.

Our kitchen has been kept clean and clutter-free for many years. This is something many of us have taken for granted. But the work was being done, almost entirely, by one person; Sandra Motley. Due to a few surgeries Sandra dealt with, a Hospitality Host Team was formed. This group is 18 people strong and is a healthy ministry team. We have modeled our work after the many years of service you have dedicated to the task. Sandra, Thank you, and thanks for remaining part of this important ministry.

Anna Horen, as a Ministry Intern is completing her education process and in doing so we are benefiting by the many perspectives and programs she brings with her. Helping with chaplaincy and pastoral care, the Faith Formation ministry, developing the Foyer Dinner Groups and delivering some awesome sermons, Anna's presence with us is truly a blessing.

In August, the Visioning Team, headed by Mike Scrutton engaged us by asking who we are in 2015 and what we're called by God to become. This process helped us understand how our purpose may have changed over time based on the evolution of our community and change in circumstances. The Visioning Team will involve us in more engaging activities in 2016.

These are but a few of the many aspects about St. James' which make me feel proud to be a member. We are a welcoming, diverse and generous congregation working together to share God's love with each other and the community around us.

It has been an honor serving St. James' as the Sr. Warden. I have been a member of this parish for 33 years. With my family and often individually, we have been involved in countless activities and ministries, sometimes as participants, other times as leaders. During these years I have grown to realize that it's been God's call to me to be active with St. James' as part of my journey through life. It's been a challenge at times to find the right balance between work, time with family and friends, time for myself and time for spiritual growth and development. Thank you Lori, for asking me to be Sr. Warden. You have been a mentor to me. I have learned a great deal and the year has been full of spiritual growth. It has been a year of good balance indeed.

Junior Warden's Report – Meg Amouroux

As is typically the case, the role of the junior warden changes a little bit each year, based on the strengths and needs of the vestry and the parish. My role this year had some tasks that suit my skills right off the bat, and others that stretched my abilities and helped me grow and be more helpful and effective.

Each month, I would meet with the lead team (comprised of Rev. Lori, the Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, and Treasurer), to discuss topics of note and interest, and help set the agenda for the upcoming vestry meeting. I was encouraged to bring forward messages from the parishioners, as well as topics I'd noticed needed to be addressed. I was happy to see ideas turned into action items.

Ahead of each monthly vestry meeting, I sent out a call to the various ministries, and groups, requesting a report of their recent activities. I would collect these into a packet, which was then emailed to the vestry members ahead of each meeting. Each month's packet has proved to be a great central location for the wider parish activity news and minutes, as well as financial updates.

During the year, I worked with Dave Nelsen, our Sr. Warden, to provide lead team meeting updates for the monthly vestry meeting report packet, and shared with him responsibilities for writing and submitting an article covering the monthly vestry meetings, for the Window newsletters.

St. James' is blessed to have a number of groups who use our various rooms and spaces on campus. Many are long-time renters, others are brand new, and more still contact us for information throughout the year. In 2015, I worked closely with our Office Administrator, John Trubina, to streamline and coordinate the tasks associated with facility use rentals. This involved an update to our Facility Use Agreement (and some modest rate increases), writing out a procedure for new inquiries, correspondence with inquirers, and keeping up-to-date our Use Agreements with our recurring renters. It was my job to take John's collected contact information, bring the request to the Lead Team, and then follow up with the inquirer with additional questions and/or to convey our regrets or facilitate the paperwork for a new rental.

In 2015, the vestry took on what we called a "major ministry project." With this, we were asked to look at two things: (1) how visitors and newcomers see us, and how they're invited and integrated into the parish, and (2) how might we make more accessible the multitude of ministries and programs to the wider parish. I was asked to lead the former, with 5 other vestry members. We toured other local parishes to compare welcoming practices, reviewed our own approaches, and hosted two welcome events for newcomers over the summer. For more information about this task force, their objectives and ideas, please see the Invitation and Integration Task Force report found on page 21 of this document.

Also in 2015, I worked with the management association of the condos across the street, and got our parking lot situation under control.

I have been honored to serve this past year as Jr. Warden. It's incredibly rewarding to work on behalf of my friends and neighbors, helping to make St. James' a place where all can grow and serve others in Christ. I'm grateful for the guidance and direction from Rev. Lori., and the support and teamwork from Dave as our Sr. Warden and my fellow vestry members, Al Casas, Nancy Castaneda, Ashley Francis, Charles Hall, Barry Hedgpeth, Karen Koonze, Ralph Locher, Vivienne Paratore, Alison Saichek, and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller.

Committee Reports

Abode Dinners

The Cook Team for the 3rd Saturday-even months consists of 10 people plus 4 substitutes. The 10 people are divided into 5 lead teams. Each lead team is responsible for picking the menu, buying the food and leading the other members in preparing and serving the food for the clients of the shelter on one or two Saturdays of the year. Our menu is as varied as tamale pie, meatloaf and chicken with barbeque sauce. We are asked to have enough food for 60 people. Each person attending contributes \$10 towards the cost of the food. The team members eat together, once the clients are done eating.

In October the Ramsamy and Francis families took over buying, preparing and serving the food at the shelter.

The team derives a great deal of pleasure working together and seeing how grateful the clients are after receiving a good meal. For more information contact Lynn Locher.

~ Lynn Locher

Abode Services Rapid Re-Housing Home Warming Program

St James', along with the help of its parishioners, coordinates with Abode Services to place homeless single persons, veterans and families into permanent housing. In addition to St James', there are 15 other churches working together to help get the homeless folks into housing.

The very expensive housing market in the Bay Area made it very challenging placing families into permanent housing in 2015. The deposits are heftier and more churches are pooling their resources to get more families into housing.

We partnered with Harbor Light Church to help with the deposit for the families and share in the household donation requests.

During 2015 we housed a Vietnam vet & his 4 boys, with Abode Services providing the beds and St James' came up with the bedding, towels, TV, microwave, new pots & pans from our Lucky Stores stamp drive and cleaning supplies.

Our second candidate was a single male who just needed to rent a room in a house in Union City. We got him set up for that with all the items we had in our storage unit.

At our December meeting with the member churches supporting the program, we learned that a mother and 3 kids lost their housing and many of their possessions due to a fire. All the member churches are pooling their resources for the deposit and the material goods needed to house the family. The hardest challenge is providing new beds, sheets, pillows and blankets for a large family. St James' is helping with the deposit and some of the larger items to furnish an appt.

During the year, parishioners and friends donate many items to support a household and we share it with other churches trying to house families. Our collective effort with the faith-based community in Fremont, Newark, and Union City is making a difference and we will continue working together to house families with Abode Services. Scott Whitaker and I appreciate everyone's support.

~ **Gregg Feeney**

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is comprised of 17 women who work in four teams. Each team, once a month, prepares the Altars of the churches for Sunday services. The Wednesday service is prepared by Ava Moore. In addition to the teams weekly service, Vivienne Paratore bakes the communion bread and Genore Schaaf launders and cares for the linens.

The Altar Guild is responsible for ordering the lovely flowers decorating the Churches each week, including the Christmas Poinsettias and the Easter Lilies. Members of our church generously donate for flowers in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving year round.

In March this year, the Altar Guild held a tea/lunch for all members. We reviewed weekly preparations together. We introduced a manual which aids in the training of new Altar Guild members.

Reverend Lori hosts an annual Christmas Brunch in December for all the Altar Guild members. This special time of fellowship is looked forward to by all members.

During the past year, working with Reverend Lori, we completed our Altar Guild Charter. In addition, an inventory of all assets used by the Altar Guild was completed.

The Altar Guild happily added a new member this year. Kim Patton joined us this past June. We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in becoming part of the St. James' Altar Guild, please contact Katie Cunningham or Ruth Poole.

~**Katie Cunningham**

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 2015 we celebrated the Lunar New Year (Year of the Ram) in March 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.

Our next get-together is to celebrate the Year of the Monkey. 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***

Bible Study

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 began its 35th year! The group hosted a December coffee hour to note this remarkable achievement and to happily celebrate the 90th birthday of our host Genore Schaaf.

Currently the group is reading the Old and New Testament lessons and psalm/s assigned for the upcoming Sunday. Members continue to volunteer to lead these sessions. A study guide is available for reference. Everyone has a different version of the Bible so discussions can be quite lively. This year music was added on several occasions.

The group continues to meet 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, almost 60 parishioners, friends and neighbors have participated in the early morning discussions. Currently the average attendance ranges from 6-12 people. All are welcome to attend.

~***Alice Johnson***

Coffee Hour Hosts

With Sandra Motley retiring from her regular Hospitality duties for the two coffee hours for many years, the lead team met and decided to reorganize this ministry. The lead team approached various parishioners to be hospitality hosts for the four Sundays and occasional fifth Sunday of the month and asked Elaine Vallecillo-Miller to be the team leader.

St. James' Coffee Hour Hosts (formerly called Hospitality Hosts) consist of the following individuals: Bob & Lauren Doherty; Bryon Bader; Jan Brandt; Robert Lacey; Patti Lacey; Gail & Tom Blalock; Dave Nelsen; Ruth Poole; John & Meg Amouroux; Lynn & Ralph Locher; Barry Hedgpeth; Gregory & Elaine Miller; Peter Norman; Sandra Motley. The Hosts are divided into two teams: one for set up before the 8:00 AM service and the other for clean up after the 10:30 AM service. This is commendable, having 19 faithful individuals who provide a welcoming, warm atmosphere with refreshments for our parishioners and guests in the parish hall. Hopefully, this list will expand in 2016 whereby another 18 faithful individuals can alternate bimonthly with these original hosts. This is the vision and hope of this ministry.

As for snacks, we have had anonymous donors and specific ministry groups, e.g., Memorial Garden, Stewardship, Vestry, Altar Guild, etc. who have provided snacks throughout the year. Every Sunday we have witnessed the miracle of the fishes and loaves, whereby snacks appear on the table. Everyone is encouraged to donate a platter of fruit, cookies, cheese & crackers, especially to celebrate one's birthday or anniversary or special day. Please sign up on the Snack Donor List in the Parish Hall. Rev. John Trubina, our parish administrator, sends a weekly reminder to all.

~***Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, Coffee Hour Host Coordinator***

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. For 2015 Counters were Jan Brandt, Margaret Broun, Lauren Doherty, Avis Gonzales, Cathy Knotts, Ruth Poole, and Gail Blalock. This year Marnie Hartmann was welcomed to the team. You can help our Counters by including your pledge number on any checks or with cash if it is not submitted in a pledge envelope.

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

~Gail Blalock

Cub Scout Pack Report

Cub Scout Pack 163, Mission Peak District, San Francisco Bay Area Council, Boy Scouts of America

In early 2015 the Reverend Lori Walton commented about the need for St James' to get more involved with families with children in our community. As luck would have it, at that time Pack 163 was in search of a Chartered Partner like St James' who was interested in incorporating Scouting programs as an integral part of the church's youth ministry. Bob Doherty was appointed the "Chartered Organization Representative" by Rev. Lori, to act as the liaison between St. James' and Pack 163, and was asked to draft a set of "Policy and Guidelines for Scouting Activities for the Parish of St. James", which were approved by the Vestry in March. On Sunday, May 3, 2015, during the 10:30 Service, a Charter from the San Francisco Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, for Cub Scout Pack 163, was formally presented to St James' Episcopal Church.

Pack 163 has six dens and over 40 boys ages 6 to 10 (grades 1 to 5). They have been very busy in 2015. Activities included learning Scouting skills, hiking, camping, crafts, advancing in rank, a Pinewood Derby, participating in Fremont's 4th of July Parade, Rain Gutter Regatta races, Scouting for Food in November, a Snowball Fight in December (between parents and Cub Scouts), etc..

All uniformed (registered) Scout leaders of Pack 163 are required to complete the BSA Youth Protection Certification program every year. In addition, all uniformed leaders who are key holders for St. James' facilities have completed certification in the Shield the Vulnerable program. All new adult leader registration applications must be approved by the head of the Chartered Organization (Rev. Lori) or the Chartered Organization Representative (Bob Doherty) during the annual re-chartering process (done every November-December). Each month the Pack 163 Committee meets to plan and evaluate the Scouting program they are presenting, and the minutes of these meetings are forwarded to the Vestry committee for their records.

Rev. Lori, Deacon Ken and Jan Scrutton have agreed to work with Scouts interested in earning the BSA Religious Award, and a meeting was held in December to work out the implementation details. This will be added to the Pack 163 program in 2016. Pack 163 will also participate in service projects at St. James' in 2016, such as: placing US Flags in the Memorial Garden and campus for Veterans Day, Memorial Day, etc. Pack 163 has also volunteered to help spread wood chips in the Memorial Garden and around campus where needed (a date will be set soon).

2016 will be the first full year of the Charter relationship with Pack 163, and on Scout Sunday, February 7th, at the 10:30 service, Pack 163 will present the official Charter from the Boy Scouts of America to St James', and St James will present a new Cub Scout flag to Pack 163. (Bob Doherty has covered the cost of the flag.) Anyone who was ever in Scouting – Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts Girl Scouts, Girl Guides, Explorers, etc. are invited to come and help celebrate the anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America (founded February 8, 1910). Everyone is also encouraged to bring any Scouting memorabilia they may have on Scout Sunday and share in the celebration in the Parish Hall following the 10:30 service on February 7th.

As St. James' Chartered Partner Representative, Bob Doherty is available to answer any questions about Pack 163, or Scouting in general.

Yours in Scouting and St. James'
~**Bob Doherty**

Deanery Report

Scott Whitaker, Jim McConnell, Alice Johnson and Jan Brandt, Deanery Representatives.

St. James' presently has four deanery representatives and is part of the Southern Alameda Deanery comprised of Deanery Representatives and Clergy from St. James' and St. Anne's Fremont, All Saints San Leandro, Holy Cross Castro Valley, St. Clare's Pleasanton and St. Bartholomew's Livermore. The Objectives of the Deanery as set out in the Canons of the Diocese of California; to paraphrase, ... shall be the development and implementation of the policies and plans of the Diocesan Convention and of the Executive Council, education & participation governance, leadership training & development & communication between the Diocese and congregations...."

At quarterly meetings, the deanery was notified that Episcopal Charities was renewing the grant to Big Heart Wellness Center (St. Bartholomew's) and the deanery renewed its recommendation to Episcopal Charities of FESCO (a collaboration of 24 churches in the Hayward/San Leandro serving low income & homeless families with a goal to help them move toward self-sufficiency).

Jim McConnell's term on Executive Council has ended and Scott Whitaker will now be on Executive Council.

Prior to and at the October 165th Convention, Deanery members, reviewed the agenda, budget, resolutions and convention materials. The Convention adopted the following resolutions (in brief):

- Admission of a New Skellig Celtic Christian Community
- Authorization to Apply for Group Tax Exemption Determination, by the Franchise Tax Board/California (on behalf of the Cathedral and parishes and missions).
- Environmentally Responsible Investing:
 - For the Diocese to honor the principles of Resolution CO45 of the 78th General Convention (national convention).
 - For the Diocese (while acting within its fiduciary obligations and always in a fiscally responsible manner) to divest and refrain from investing in fossil fuel companies, and encourage a change in behavior to reduce their carbon footprints. Additionally, the resolution adds instruction to the Socially Responsible Taskforce created at the prior convention entitled "Socially Responsible Investing" and shall be regarded as an expression of the "values of the people of the Diocese".
- Financial Resolutions:
 - 2015 Assessment Formula, Salary Resolution (addressing both clergy and to some extent lay staff), 2016 Budget
- Courtesy Resolutions: There were three resolutions to honor:
 - Former Diocese of California Bishop Millard, celebrating his 101st birthday and his great distinction as (among others) Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of California.
 - Rev. Salying Wong, for distinguished service to the Convention.
 - Mary Louise Gotthold; for her three decades of service in (too many to be named herein) roles for the Diocese and worldwide Episcopal Church.
- Mental Health Resources and Advocacy; The Discipleship Ministries Working Group and Task Force on Mental Health/Illness will partner to help equip congregations to become supportive and safe places for those living with mental health issues and their families.

Disaster Preparedness Team

The task of DEP is to create the disaster preparedness plans for the faith community and our outside group participants when using our facilities. During 2014 the DEP met and develop the Bronze plan,

which fulfilled the diocesan requirement and deadline by the 2014 Fall Convention. The Bronze Plan only consisted basic contact information of the church and diocesan staff and our insurance policy.

The task of the 2015 DEP team members was to continue with developing the Silver Plan, creating a detailed parish asset inventory. The team members, consisting of the following: Al Casas, Dave Nelsen, Greg Miller, Scott Whittaker, Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, Laura Winters, Bub Pearson, Jill Buono, Bob Bynum, Gloryanne Bryant, and Marlene Benedict, were divided into groups of two to work with current ministry group leaders of St. James'. This has been the focus of 2015. I am grateful for Laura Winter to locate the 2009/2010 inventory database as a baseline for all ministry group leaders to review with their assigned DEP team members. Digital record will also be made as a record of our church's property assets for the benefit of our insurance policy holder and disaster preparedness.

This task will be completed in the beginnings of 2016. Then the focus for the DEP team is to create various disaster preparedness scenarios for everyone. On Sunday, February 28th, St. James' DEP will be hosting a PEP class, from 12:30 Pm to 3:30 PM by the Fremont CERT. Please mark your calendar for this important event. If anyone has questions, please contact Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, vestry liaison of St. James' DEP at 510-793-5344

Endowment Fund Report

In 2015 the Endowment board has developed a Charter which its purpose is to be: Manage the funds of the Endowment Fund of St. James'. Educate and inform the congregation about the endowment and how and why they can become members of the Shell Society (individuals who will provide funds to the endowment through their will or estate plan).

The majority of the funds are still with Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF), with a small portion in the State Street Heritage account and overseen by the Endowment Board: Attendees: Tom Blalock, Jan Brandt, Scott Whitaker, Bruce Roberts and Jeanne Morris.

The Endowment Fund for St. James' as of 11-30-15 has a value of \$165,775.89.

Facilities

Facilities had a full and busy year. Facilities focus this year was on energy efficiency and/or better managing our energy usage. I'm happy to say we definitely moved in the right direction and that most of the 2014 carryover projects were accomplished this year.

One said project was looking at Solar panels for our campus. After months of meetings and discussions it was determined that solar panels were not cost effective for St. James' at this time. A few reasons were, our roof needed to be redone for the solar company to guarantee no leaks. Since we still have about 8 to 10 years of life remaining in our roof and the cost of a new roof is well over \$20,000. Plus the majority of our power consumption is at night. It was determined to look at cost savings somewhere else. And then low and behold, a parking lot light burns out and started us in that direction.

Parking lot lights

We upgraded our three parking lot light poles to LED lights. A total of 5 light bulbs were changed. Our math suggests we will save over \$1,000 each year in electricity cost by changing these lights to LED technology. At that rate, our break-even-point for this investment will be about 3 years. The warranty period for these lights is 5 years and their life expectancy is over 20 years.

We contracted with Sundance Lighting to do the work. The lights were installed on Jan 15. One of the glass lenses was found to be broken and a replacement was ordered. The replacement glass was installed for an additional cost of \$270. Sundance Lighting applied for a rebate with PG&E on our behalf - \$70 per LED unit. A check for \$350 was received from PG&E late January. In the end, cost for the new lighting was \$2,914.90. Our treasurer did a PG&E cost comparison from 2014 to 2015 and found a cost different of -\$1,085 in 2015.

Lighting

In our continuing efforts to reduce our night time energy costs even more, Facilities thought it was a good time to go ahead and start switching all outside lights to LEDs. Mind you the cost for these LEDs was high.

But Facilities was replacing 1 to 2 bulbs per month at a cost of about \$120 per year. The cost of not having to replace the old style light bulbs alone is worth the high upfront cost. Plus we get the added cost benefits of lower energy usage. All outside lights have now been changed to LEDs minus the playground light.

Exit Lights

As per Fremont Fire Department annual inspection the Exit lights in the Main church were found to be out of compliance. Four LED Emergency Exit signs were purchased along with 11 backup batteries. The four Emergency signs were installed in the main church and replaced all of the 11 backup batteries in all of the emergency exit lights of the parish hall. 4 in parish hall, 5 in the hallway and 2 in the parish hall restrooms.

Parish Hall Floor

Another carryover project that was accomplished this year was the Parish hall flooring. After many bids, Ashley Interiors was picked for the job. After the new floor was installed, we contracted out to have the new floor and the hallway around the parish hall to be buffed and sealed. It was recommended by the flooring company to have the new floor buffed and sealed at least twice a year.

Thanks to the Men's Group in helping to clean, prep and paint the parish hall prior to the new floor going in. Also a special thanks to Dave Nelsen for spearheading the painting project not only in the parish hall, but in the kitchen as well.

Facilities has continued to contract out our Janitorial and landscaping work to Fernando Janitorial and Landscape Service. Fernando submitted a new contract for 2016 and with vestry approval has agreed to a new contract for 2016.

Unfortunately, we end 2015 the same as 2014, with another furnace break down. The furnace near the restroom in the parish hall was making a very "loud" noise. Glover and Son heating service was called and determine that the motor bearing to the blower was shot. Since the heater is 18 years old and the life-span for this type of furnace is between 15 and 25 years, plus with the added benefits of a more energy efficient furnace, it was decided to purchase a new furnace. Furnace was installed on December 22nd. The cost for replacing the furnace is \$3,298. The unit comes with a 10 year warranty.

Thermostat:

With the installation of the new thermostat wire under the little church. A new Nest thermostat was installed on 9/30/15. The Nest thermostat is a smart and learning thermostat and has been paired with our Wi-Fi. With this capability, an account was created to monitor and/or change times and heat settings via laptop or mobile devices.

Since the Nest thermostat was installed and with the resent cold snap and various seasonal activities, the Nest has been working perfectly. The added benefit of Wi-Fi has been quiet useful. Times and temperature setting with the Nest can be set without having to make a special trip to the church. Another benefit with the Nest is, it will shut itself off when it senses no one is there. No more running all night long when someone forgets to turn down the temperature. A special thanks to Mike Scrutton in creating the Nest account. Facilities will be looking at other areas that the Nest thermostat might be a good fit.

These are just some of the major projects that Facilities tackled in 2015. Of course there were other items that needed looking at and/or fixing. A stuck door, a running toilet, a new water heater in the sacristy, and of course regular maintenance throughout the year. As there is every year.

I'd like to thank the Vestry Facilities team and all those who helped throughout the year to keep our campus running.

(Side note): On January 3, 2016 around 8:30am, Facilities received a text from Fernando Janitorial and Landscaping that we had a water leak near the fence line behind one of our trees. Fernando was able to turn off the water but that left the entire campus without water. Thank goodness that Dave Nelsen was home and was able to head down to church and evaluate our situation. There is indeed flooding, and tree roots were suspected to be the problem. Mr. Rooter was contracted out to make the said repairs and by 8pm that night repairs were completed. Hats off to Fernando for reporting the problem so quickly and for

Dave for high-tailing over to church mid-morning and for contacting and coordinating the emergency estimates and repair.

~ **Al Casas and Barry Hedgpeth**

Faith Formation

Faith Formation at St. James' has offered two tracks for 2015: Sunday Contemplative Practices took place between services at 9:15 AM and Tuesday night classes were held from 6:30 PM to 8 PM usually with a simple meal preceding the class at 6 PM.

Contemplative Practices: January and February started the year with Centering Prayer. Praying with Icons led by Bill Mosier and Janet Fischer was done in the month of March. Barbara Dabney led "Walking the Labyrinth" April 12-26. Contemplative Practices continued during the time between Sunday services throughout the spring, summer and fall.

Tuesday Evening Classes: Spring

January and February – "Bible Study and the Parables" led by Janet Fischer with lively discussion. It generated a poem "I, Terrarium" by Diane Morninglight published in the Window.

March – "Forgiveness – A Healing Stream" led by the Rev. Ken Parris and Anna Horen. March 3-24, four sessions, Average attendance, 18.

April and May - "Being Episcopalian: Claiming Your Christian Faith," a confirmation class, was led by The Rev. Lori Walton, and assisted by Janet Fischer and Anna Horen, started April 14 and concluded May 19. Attendance was low for the amount of work going into the class.

Tuesday Evening (and Sunday) Classes: Fall

September and October

EJ Hilliard presented the resolutions to be presented at the Diocesan Convention on October 17 between services.

"The Culture Behind the Bible," a five-part presentation (9/8 to 10/6) and discussion led by Anna Horen, gave to us a deep understanding of the culture at the time the Bible was written, and an understanding of the Mediterranean today. A well-attended series with lively discussion.

November – The Rev. Lori Walton presented "The Year of Luke," on November 17. It introduced the Parish to the Gospel readings of the coming year. Attendance was low for the amount of preparation. Debbie Fuller gave a talk and slide show on November 22 about her spiritual adventure on the *El Camino Santiago de Compostela* earlier in the year. Well attended.

December - A book study program was started for Sunday mornings using the book *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans. Lively discussion among the 12 to 18 participants was facilitated by The Rev. Lori Walton, The Rev. Ken Parris, Anna Horen and Janet Fischer. On Sunday mornings it ran from October 10 until December 20 in the Education Room. More book studies are expected for next year.

A "Hymn Sing" held at the Rev. Lori Walton's house on January 10 was a great success, attended by more than 20 people who sang, dined on delicious desserts and quite enjoyed themselves. Music Director Jennifer Carini provided piano accompaniment and vocal lead. The 2016 January Hymn Sing will be postponed until after the Rector returns from her January month of sabbatical, 2016

Anna Horen, Ministry Intern, participated in many Faith Formation activities as noted above and led a number of them to the betterment of us all.

The Faith Formation Committee thanks all the presenters and leaders (for their preparation and presentation), and attendees for the success of this year's program. 2016 may provide some pleasant surprises.

Committee members: EJ Hilliard, Janet Fischer, Anna Horen, The Rev. Ken Parris, The Rev. Lori Walton
~ **Bruce Roberts, Chair**

Foyer Groups

The impetus for Foyer Groups was the desire to integrate new parishioners into the life of the parish, as well as to provide established parishioners an opportunity to broaden their parish connections. The groups consist of eight parishioners who come together for dinner four times per year. They can meet at one another's homes or at the Parish Hall. The dinners are potluck with the host family providing the main course.

Five couples were initially invited to serve as the "kick-off" hosts for the first dinner. Signups took place throughout September, and four groups were formed, for a total of 33 parishioners. All groups have met once and have planned to meet again in early 2016. The feedback has been very positive, and so it seems likely that this will be offered again in September, with new signups and new groups being formed.
~**Anna Horen**

Greeters

The purpose of the greeters ministry team is to help visitors feel welcome. This may involve directing them to the nursery or Sunday school room and introducing them with people currently staffing these areas. It may involve finding someone to sit near a visitor to offer aid with the worship service, bulletins or hymnals if needed. The greeter is positioned next to the rector following the service to invite visitors to sign our guest book and join us in the Parish Hall for coffee. The greeters, standing with the rector, are the first face of St. James' a visitor encounters. They represent St. James' and serve the rector by being a host at a time the rector is far too busy to give a visitor the time they deserve and the attention they may need. For all of those participating as greeters this year, thank you all for your welcoming presence.
~**Dave Nelsen**

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**

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

St. James' again partnered with Abode Services to help put on events and raise awareness during this national week of awareness (November 14-22) We hosted the Candlelight Vigil on November 15th which was well attended and included elected officials and people from across the Tri-City area. After presentations inside we lit candles around a display remembering those who are known to have died while homeless in the county in the last year. Anna Horen and Jennifer Carnini performed a musical piece before the reading of the names and interfaith reflection.

In addition to the vigil I was also responsible for creating a display at Fremont Central Library bringing attention to the issues around hunger and homelessness in the US, Alameda County and the Tri-City area. This was an opportunity neither St. James' or Abode Services had explored before and while we cannot be certain of its reach or impact it was a good experience and drew positive feedback from a few people.

~Jan Scrutton

Invitation and Integration Task Force

The Invitation and Integration Task Force is a Major Ministry project of the 2015 vestry, comprised of six vestry members. We have been responsible for examining the ways St. James' Episcopal Church is seen from the perspective of visitors, seekers, and newcomers. We looked at how a new visitor might experience their first venture onto our campus, along with the ways we invite them to explore our programs and opportunities. We also looked for the areas in which we might improve our welcoming, inviting, and integrating.

After (1) visiting other parishes and playing the part of a "Visitor", (2) looking at what St. James' is already doing to welcome and greet newcomers, and (3) seeing where gaps might be, we feel there is much we are doing well, as well as areas for improvement.

From a visitor's view point, a lot of what we do is already working well: on-campus wayfinding signage, curb appeal and campus visibility, our website and other online presence, the Greeters program at 10:30 service, friendship and interaction at both services, coffee hour congeniality, and at the services, the projected text at 10:30 service, and page numbers called out for prayer book used at 8am. Among the things we see needed for future improvement are activities such as tracking newcomers, (getting contact information), a regular or annual newcomer brunch or gathering, adding Greeters at 8am service, and re-working of printed materials for first-time visitors and newcomers.

What's next? Improvement in this area might mean shifting the many programs in which a newcomer or visitor comes into contact with into a new parish-led team-- a "Welcoming Ministry." We see the need for a team of folks dedicated to Welcoming, with the goal of overseeing the welcoming and integrating of visitors, guests, and newcomers. This team would also be helpful in working with the rector in tracking visitors, guests, and newcomers, and organizing annual newcomer gatherings.

~ Meg Amouroux, Jr. Warden

IT Report

During 2015, we completed the upgrade of the computer in the Education Building, and replaced the projector. The combination means that we have a much more reliable facility for the showing of videos and presentations, and it's been used for such varied events as Faith Formation and the live-streaming of the installation of Michael Curry as Presiding Bishop.

The former projector from the Education Building is now available as a floating resource, and has been used for slide shows in the Little Church during services, as well as 'town hall' events in the Parish Hall.

Due to some unreliability issues with our hosting provider, we've begun the process of transitioning email services for our staff to Microsoft's Office365 platform. While we've had a few 'learning moments' along the way, this is seemingly more reliable and available to us free of charge as a non-profit. We'll continue the gradual rollout during 2016.

~Mike Scrutton

Ladies Flatlanders

The weekend of September 10th through the 13th, eleven women met at Pajaro Dunes, a beach side resort on Monterey Bay, for fellowship, food and fun. The group shared meals, prayers, games and walks on the beach. We will meet again next year in the same location on September 8th through the 11th.

The Flatlanders group began over forty years ago as a healing ministry for the women of the church. Today it continues to be a place where you can feel God's love – through prayer, song and fellowship.

~ **Nancy Castaneda**

Las Posadas

St. James' has celebrated Las Posadas, introduced by John Maloney. He orchestrated this wonderful, cheerful event with the assistance of various parish members. However, in late 2014, he announced his retirement. For this year, Rev. Lori and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller co-lead the event, transitioning from John's leadership to Mrs. Miller. As with previous years, the faithful participation of the Las Posadas's volunteers: Penny & Ken Trant, Jan & Mike Scrutton, Al Casas, Don Rose, Road Crew, Sandra Motley, Greg Miller and others, made it successful.

~**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. Two members of our parish family completed their training as LEVs this past year, Elaine Miller and Connie Rux. They will be continuing to develop their skills as an LEV with the supervision and assistance of our two experienced LEVs, Lynn Locher and Marilyn Rose.

As the parish deacon, I greatly appreciate the ministry of these dedicated volunteers. As an extension of the deacon's ministry, their pastoral presence to the homebound of our community is invaluable.

Members of the St. James' family who have participate in or started training for this important ministry during 2015: Lynn Locher, Marilyn Rose, Elaine Miller and Connie Rux.

~**Deacon Ken Parris**

Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers

During 2015 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. Members of the 2015 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, Nancy Svenson, Ken Trant, and Jackie Whitehouse.

- **Eucharistic Ministers:** Barbara Dabney, Janet Fischer, EJ Hilliard, Anna Horen, Lynn Locher, Ralph Locher, Greg Miller, Mary Morkved, Caylyn Ramsamy, Marilyn Rose, Connie Rux, Alison Saichek, Bud Spalding, and Laura Winter.

~**Janet Fischer**

Library

During 2015, the St. James' Library was reorganized and revitalized for the benefit of parishioners. Approximately 100 outdated books were withdrawn and sold to Half Price Books. Nancy Svenson donated 10 DVDs she had produced based on parish events; one parishioner donated a personal theological library of 120 books and 6 DVDs; and another 51 books plus 19 DVDs (the books and DVDs were mostly second-hand) were also donated.

The library now possesses approximately 750 books and 35 DVDs. The books have been organized into 35 categories and shelved with labeled call numbers. A detailed catalog has been developed for parishioners' use, and books and DVDs are promoted on posters and in the monthly Window newsletter.
~ **John Maloney**

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.

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 from the corner of Fremont Blvd and Thornton Ave. Currently, at least one of the buttresses has dry-rot damage and needs repair. We would also like to strengthen the buttress support of the walls.

In 2015, after receiving final engineering calculations by Thuy Fontelera of Element Structural Engineers Inc. in Newark and engineering drawings by our parishioner, Jim Cunningham, the Committee recommended and received approval from the Vestry to accept a bid from a contractor to strengthen the walls of the Little Church and to repair the middle three buttresses on each side with steel buttresses. Unfortunately we did not receive a signed contract from the contractor.

The Committee continued to evaluate the best way to repair the buttresses and discovered that on an old blue print (circa 1955) of St. James', there was plywood support drawn on the buttresses of the Little Church. On the two buttresses opened by Jim and Bruce, there was only one small plywood gusset on the buttress, not the two (one on each side) called for in the drawings. After talking to structural engineer Thuy Fontelera, Element Structural Engineers Inc., the plywood repair method was deemed to be a viable option for repairing the buttresses of the Little Church, with or without straightening the walls first. The new gussets are to be full height (10 feet) by 2 feet and screwed to both sides of the existing braces. The engineer, Thuy, believes this will greatly strengthen the walls. After much prayerful considerations, the Committee voted to proceed with the plywood buttress repair.

The funding for the repairs is from the Schader Fund (from Shirley Schader's estate, a former parishioner), the distribution from the Little Church Endowment Fund, a special grant of \$5000 from the Niles Rotary Club, 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.

We would like to thank the Lead Team and the Vestry for their support throughout the year.

In 2016, the Little Church Renovation Committee will seek bids for the plywood buttress repair and will recommend our proposal to the Vestry. Please don't hesitate to contact any members of the Little Church Renovation Committee if you have any questions or comments.

~***the Little Church Renovation Committee***

Liturgical Design Team

The team, composed of Gregory and Elaine Miller, collaborates with Rev. Lori regarding the liturgical seasonal designs for the two churches. The team as well as the faithful volunteer decorators for Easter and Xmas draped the Big Church with different veils, to evoke the vision of sacredness in these space. For this Xmas, the sanctuary was draped with silver and gold veils which matched the Beige Gold Frontal, made by Jan Scrutton.

The team is grateful for the families and individuals who volunteer their time to decorate the churches. Team always appreciates any constructive feedback to make our churches holy and sacred for worship and more participants from our faith community with liturgical design ideas.

~Greg and Elaine Miller

McCutcheon Concert Fundraiser

Our 12th Annual John McCutcheon Concert on Monday Jan 19, 2015 was another great success. We had a sold out crowd of over 250, with many non-parishioners. Our Bishop Marc was there. John McCutcheon gave us another very entertaining evening. Ticket sales totaled over \$7100. The prize drawing, with 23 prizes donated by 15 generous parishioners, generated drawing ticket sales of \$879. The cookies from the snack bar were delicious and brought in an additional \$179.

In June, John McCutcheon returned to St. James' and performed 'Joe Hill's Last Will', a play on the famous labor activist and song writer. We had more than 150 in attendance and ticket sales totaled over \$4200. The snack bar brought in an additional \$170. The Vestry approved and donated \$1500 from the concert and play proceed to ABODE Services. In addition, we raised over \$2700 for our Operating Fund.

These fundraising and community outreach events 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 events but in the months preceding the concert and the play. 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 events; 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, play and drawing tickets; bought concert, play and drawing tickets; invited their family, friends and neighbors to the concert and to the play; cleared the facility calendar for the events; got contracts signed; signed contracts; booked hotel rooms for John McCutcheon and his road manager; borrowed and returned the stages (from Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park for the concert ; and from Mark Aragon for the play) and the extra chairs (from Harbor Light); made and set up the props on the stage for the play; 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 events and cleaned-up afterwards; baked dozens of delicious cookies; made coffee and lemonade; helped with the snack bar inside the Parish Hall as well as outside; decorated and set up the Vestry Room and the foyer for the Artist and Crew Dinner; cooked and served wonderful dinners for the crew before the events; donated wine, soda and water for the crew dinners; 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 events and to pack everything up afterwards; 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.

~the McCutcheon Team

Memorial Garden/Columbarium

The Memorial Garden/Columbarium is currently maintained by a committee consisting of 18 members. Meetings are held once a month. Membership is open to anyone who is interested. Two people are assigned and scheduled to oversee the care of the garden each month. If interested in becoming a member please contact Ruth Poole or any committee member. In 2015 we had two people interred in the

Columbarium and one an "In Memory Only" stone was placed in the Memorial Garden. One Columbarium niche that had been sold at an earlier date was released and one niche in the Columbarium was sold.

The Memorial Garden Committee hosts the coffee hours on Memorial Day. Flags are placed by each grave on appropriate holidays.

~ Ruth Poole, Chair

Men's Group / Men's Trip Report

Beginning with the Pancake Griddle Break-in breakfast in February the men's group met each month. We alternated between having a social breakfast at a restaurant one month and doing a service project at church the next. Our services included painting the kitchen and parish hall, washing windows and screens throughout the campus, roof and gutter maintenance, several plumbing projects, trimming of trees and painting the bell tower. Our meetings typically brought 10 to 12 men together to enjoy social time and doing work projects.

~Dave Nelsen

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 to the mountains celebrated its eighth year, and we headed back to Twain Harte right off Hwy 108 for our second year. 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 and we succeeded with inviting our new parishioner, Mario Galvez. We also were able to get a long-term member to attend who also enjoyed the camaraderie. The group returned to 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 a little farther drive out by Angels Camp, but it was worth it. The golfers also tried out the local course which was good for 9 hole course. The hiking was to Lyons Lake this year and the lake level was way down due to the extended drought. Bob Bynum and Bruce Roberts took some great pictures and will most likely be shared at the annual meeting. The hikes are usually not too strenuous some a wide range of men can enjoy. You do have to be aware of heat and altitude challenges.

On the Saturday of our trip, many of us traversed to Jamestown and toured the local Railtown USA and took the little train out on an excursion to see the lay of the land and to see where some of the old western and favorite shows were filmed. The shows were Little House on the Prairie and Petty Coat Junction. Our docent had great stories and it was a trip worth going on. After the train ride we toured the old round house and the areas where they rebuild and service these steam locomotives. After the trip to the Traintown USA, we settled in for an afternoon light snack and good refreshments at the famous Historic National Hotel & Restaurant. Some of our group stayed behind for more sight-seeing at Jamestown.

Our cooks, Bob Bell, Al Casas, Charlie Dickinson, and Gregg Feeney enjoyed making some great breakfast and dinners. Our kitchen clean-up crew made it great for all. It's great cooking and not having to wash a pan or a dish while you are there!

We kept the price \$155.00 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 2016 will be Aug 18-21. We will be returning to Button Willow cottage but will try another rental unit just down the street from Button Willow and at bit more updated. I hope to keep the rate at \$155.00 per person. It all depends on the housing costs.

Be on the lookout for a SAVE THE DAY notice.

~Gregg Feeney

Ministry Chartering Task Force

The Ministry Chartering Team consists of six vestry members. Our purpose was to aid ministry teams through the process of creating charters of their ministries. The intent of going through this process is for every member of a ministry team to fully understand their purpose and connection to the mission of the congregation. Charters will clearly state the ministry's goals, how members contribute to those goals and how the ministry contributes to the mission of our church.

We began by reading and discussing a paper titled "Working Groups in Organizations" which speaks of the importance of chartering each group or team in an organization. The process ensures members share a common understanding of the groups purpose, leadership of the group and responsibility of the leader to the group. It outlines communication policies with others, life span and expectations of the group.

We chose to work first with ministry teams we felt would benefit most by the chartering process. Several other ministry teams will develop charters in the near future. So far charters have been written for the following ministries: Adult Faith Formation, Women's Spirituality, Memorial Garden, Abode Meals, Sacred Space, Hospitality Hosts, Receptions, Newsletter Committee, Altar Guild, Ushers, Deanery, Endowment and Stewardship.

The next step in this process will be developing position descriptions of each ministry. These will be short, concise statements offering parishioners and guests a quick overview of the ministries they might become involved in at St. James'.

~Dave Nelsen

Newsletter – The Window

We are happy to report that Katie Porter agreed to become a co-editor, replacing Marilyn Rose. We are indebted to Marilyn for her many years of service and are delighted that Katie has stepped forward to help with producing our monthly newsletter.

Each month we distribute 60 printed copies and we estimate that it is viewed online about 75 times.

Please remember that *The Window* is your newsletter so we implore everyone to submit articles, pictures, announcements, thank you notes, etc., to keep it interesting, lively, timely and pertinent to the life of St. James'.

~Ralph Locher, on behalf of the Newsletter 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 children 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)

Shrove Tuesday fell on February 17 this year and again the men of the parish prepared a traditional meal of pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs. 25 gentlemen helped with the operation, setting up, cooking, making plates, serving drinks and ice cream and cleaning up afterward. Several youth served plates to guests and several women sold tickets and managed the finances. Thanks to everyone who helped or participated in making this a fun and successful event.

A pancake griddle was purchased this year and during a break-in breakfast meeting held on Feb 7, a pancake breakfast was cooked for thirteen men. This was a time to assign duties for the pancake supper and generally have a good time.

~Dave Nelsen

St. James' Cares

St James' Cares' is a resource for help - for our parishioners, supported by our parishioners. This ministry was piloted in the fall of 2014 and enjoyed a successful launch in 2015. We have approximately 40 volunteers to meet the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to serve 3 parishioners this year. We are using the website Lotsa Helping Hands to manage requests. Requests can be made via phone to the St James' office, through email to the church or through the St James' website.

~Nancy Castaneda

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Team for 2015 was comprised of Sandra Motley, Ruth Poole, Adrienne Farrell, George Vlastelica, Lauren Doherty, and Gail Blalock. 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 *The Window* newsletter ("Stewardship Corner"). In April, we again focused on Earth Day and being stewards of the environment. The Stewardship Team hosted both coffee hours on Sunday, April 19, to celebrate "Earth Day." A display on recycling was set up in the Parish Hall and included a quiz on how to "dispose" (recycle/reuse/repurpose/discard) of certain items. Information on recycling in our three cities (Fremont, Union City, Newark) was provided and the information is also available on the information shelf outside the Church Office.

The Fall Stewardship Program again 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 Second Tailgate Gathering in the Church parking lot on Saturday afternoon, October 3, to celebrate our work together as a team. The theme this year focused on baseball. Ministry groups and individuals were encouraged to participate in the second annual Chili Challenge. There were eleven different and delicious chili entries for everyone to taste and enjoy. Volunteers grilled hot dogs on the edge of the parking lot, and there was plenty of food and lots of St. James' Spirit! Table games and contests entertained adults while children had fun in a "bouncy" house. A pie eating contest was held for adults and one for children. Thank-you to the many people who participated in making this year's Stewardship Event a very enjoyable afternoon.

With the assistance of our Rector, Lori, and Junior Warden Meg Amouroux, a "Stewardship at St. James'" brochure was developed explaining the "how to" and "whys" of pledging. The brochure is intended to be used as an educational tool for those who are new to pledging and also new to St. James'.

The Fall Pledge Program included a letter from the Senior and Junior Wardens mailed out in mid-October. In early November, a letter from our Rector, Lori Walton, was sent out along with a pledge form for 2016. The Stewardship Team hosted the Sunday coffee reception following the ingathering of pledges at both services on November 22. Handwritten thank you notes were sent out as pledges were received.

On Pledge Sunday (November 22, 2015), 61 pledging units responded, compared to 71 the previous year. As in past years, we lost some members over the year, but we were also blessed with the arrival of new ones. As of the writing of this report (January 1), pledging units total 88 compared to 90 at this time a year ago. If you have not turned in a pledge for 2016, please do so now. It's never too late, and St. James' needs everyone's participation.

	<u>for 2014</u>	<u>for 2015</u>	<u>for 2016</u>
Total Pledges:	88	92	88
Operating:	\$240,446	\$260,825	\$259,990
Other:	\$600	\$600	\$600

I would like to thank the members of the Stewardship Team for their support, dedication and hard work over the years. This will be my last year as Stewardship Chair and Team Member (having served on the Team for over 10 years and five years as Chair). It's time for someone else to take the reins. I have enjoyed the journey and received back much more than I have given ("*Give, and it will be given to you*" is very true). Thank you to the St. James' Community for allowing me to serve and always being cheerful givers of 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 49 classes in 2015 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 in the Parish Hall.

~**Sylvia Ma**

Visioning Team

A visioning process for St. James' was started early in 2015 and has been focusing on the key questions *Who are we? What has God called us to do? Who is our neighbor?*

A pair of Town Hall meetings were held in June after the Sunday services, and the Visioning Team - consisting of Mike Scrutton (chair), Lori Walton, Ken Trant, Jessica Stair, Mary Casas & Mary Morkved - facilitated a retreat at the end of August where attendees were invited to reflect and share thoughts about the place of St. James' in their lives.

The Visioning Team has met every 4-6 weeks since early summer and has been looking at various sources of information including past Parish Profiles, material shared at the retreat, and demographic information. Our work will continue in 2016.

~**Mike Scrutton, Visioning Chair**

Website

Our website at saintj.com continues to draw newcomers to St. James' and to keep all of us up-to-date with our many events. During 2015 Lori+, Mike Scrutton and I met with the Rev. Joseph Peters-Mathews, Working Group Head for Communications at the Diocese on how to make our website even better. Following his few suggestions, this year we added to the website:

- Biographical information for our clergy and staff
- Activated the blogging feature where news and other information is posted
- Added an online payment feature through PayPal for pledges and gifts. Many thanks to our Treasurer, Lynn Locher, for setting up the PayPal account.

~**Janet Fischer, Webmaster**

Women's Spirituality Group

The Women's Spirituality Group meets in the Study at 2:00 PM on Tuesday except holidays and days when no one can meet. Our meeting lasts for an hour. Our current group consists of four 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 have read and discussed a number of books this year including *The Intentional Woman* by Carol Travilla and Joan C. Webb and *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Some of our meetings are spent just listening to each other share what is going on in their lives. On occasion we take a break and see a movie of interest to all of us. We ended our year seeing *The Letters*, a movie about Mother Teresa.

In 2016 we will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 2 PM. Women's Spirituality is open to all women of the church. Please come and join us. For further information contact Lynn Locher, Barbara Dabney, Elaine Miller, , Sandra McKinnon or Ava Moore.
~Lynn Locher