



SAINT JAMES'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Report for 2017

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January 28th, 2018

The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector
The Rev. Anna Horen, Associate Rector

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Clergy & Staff Reports

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

The year 2017 found our country and world in turmoil with continued division and stress. Through it, the community of St. James' has gathered together in mutual love and support, looking always for the light of Christ in our common lives and in the world. We have had opportunities to renew our relationships with each other and to establish new relationships with others.

Worship and Liturgy

In February of this year, we said goodbye to our deacon, the Reverend Ken Parris. Ken served St. James' for over three years, and while we were sad to see him leave, we rejoice in his new opportunities. A discussion with the Diocese brought the awareness that there are no deacons not yet assigned to a parish. As a result, St. James' will be without a deacon for the foreseeable future. As Ken was leaving, we were blessed to welcome the Reverend Anna Horen back as a non-stipendiary priest associate. In July, we moved Anna from volunteer to staff status, adding her to the payroll at 33% time and giving her the title of Associate Rector. This is the first significant step taken to realize the parish's goal of having an Associate Rector on staff. Brian Cochran continues to offer his preaching skills on occasion, adding to our pallet of homiletic voices.

Along with the regular services and liturgical calendar of Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Advent, we celebrated Scout Sunday on February 26, Earth Day on April 16, Volunteer Appreciation on June 18, St. James' Day on July 23, VBS Sunday on July 30, St. Francis/Animal Blessing on October 1, and Lessons and Carols on December 31 (Lessons and Carols fell on January 1, 2017 as well). We also serve an outside congregation in Hayward, Sacred Space, on a monthly basis. Under the initiative and leadership of the Reverend Karin White, we started a new service at the Masonic home, serving up 10 seniors living there.

We had 38 children and adults at the Children's Imposition of Ashes on Shrove Tuesday. This is compared to 46 the year before. Over three Ash Wednesday services, we gave out ashes to 78 congregants and visitors (compared to 122 the prior year). This is low for this solemn day, possibly a reflection of the societal sense of weariness.

This year, we modified our Holy Week services. For Palm Sunday, we eliminated the reading fo the full passion in the middle of the liturgy. We added a homily and read a shortened passion at the very end of the service, ending in silence. For Maundy Thursday, we moved the liturgical act of foot-washing into the big church (from the parish hall), bypassed on cross-exchange and added the painting of a Lenten altar cover. On Good Friday, we continued with a traditional Good Friday Service with our music director, Jennifer Carini chanting the Passion. We repeated the service that evening, adding the veneration of the cross. Following the daytime service, participants were invited to walk the Stations of the Cross. A gathering following Holy Week reports that the changes were welcomed and added to the experience of the week.

The Easter Vigil was lively and joyful with 76 people celebrating. At this service, we baptized two of our children and reduced our salvation storytelling to three stories. Our Easter Sunday service welcomed 216 parishioners and visitors, up from 190 but still lower than the high mark of 250+ in 2015. 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 had great joy in celebrating St. James' Day on July 23 with both congregations from the Philippine Independent Church. We held our annual VBS Sunday on July 30 and blessed many animals and people on October 1 for the celebration of St. Francis. The celebration of Thanksgiving was held in the Little Church with 27 participants. This year, Christmas fell on the same Sunday as Advent IV, making for a long, yet joy-filled day. After the two regular morning Advent IV services, we celebrated a service with Sacred Space in Hayward. We then celebrated a 4:00 Family Service that drew 110 participants and a Midnight Mass Service with 88 attending. The late service on Christmas Eve continues to grow smaller, causing us to consider modifying the time to make it more accessible to those who are not able to be away from home at such a late hour. This year, Anna Horen took the Christmas Day service, giving me an opportunity to spend some time with my family.

Our Music Director, Jennifer Carini, contributes to the liturgical life of St. James'. Along with weekly rehearsals and Sunday worship, Jennifer also led our annual Vacation Bible School music, directs the Sunday School in occasional Sunday anthems, participates in off-Sunday services such as Holy Week, offered leadership and music during our Candlelight Vigil for homeless, continues to work with our children to offer seasonal anthems at our 10:30 service, and offers her talents in many other ways.

Our altar servers continue to be a strong group. Janet Fischer having created the bi-annual schedule of the lectors and Eucharistic ministers for Sunday services and for additional services for many years retired at the end of 2017. We offer our thanks and gratitude for her ministry. We have been able to recruit new lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for both our 8:00 and 10:30 services. Our Children's Minister Jan Scrutton continues to schedule the acolytes. Through her leadership, more children are involved in worship than in the past. The First Sundays continue to incorporate children as lectors, ushers and acolytes, helping everyone to have equal opportunity for participation in our worship.

During the year, we baptized five children: Gianna, Isaac, Ian, Danika and Grace. I officiated at the one house blessing, one blessing of a child, two Last Rites. We confirmed six people: Olivia, Malorie, Griselda, Keith, Leticia. We received three: Evelyn, George, Peter, and we reaffirmed two: Sally, Kimberley.

I officiated at three memorials/funerals. Held at St. James': Barbara Lyon, Lawrence Windham. Held offsite: Sylvia Clayton.

On November 17, in partnership with Abode Services and with the help of Jan Scrutton, we held our fourth annual candlelight vigil for those who died on the street. We welcomed several local politicians and officials along with neighbors and friends, with approximately 120 in attendance.

On November 5, we had a grand celebration of Holy Communion in honor of our 150th Anniversary. At our service we had a baptism, confirmations, receptions and reaffirmations. The Eucharist was celebrated by The Right Reverend Marc Andrus, Bishop of California. The Venerable Margaret Dyer Chamberlain, Archdeacon of the Diocese of California served as our deacon. We welcomed home past clergy: Richard Leslie, Anne Kelsey, Mary Ellen Gallagher, and Jim Leib. We were also joined by guest clergy: Mandy deMesa and Efren Picart of the Philippine Independent Church, Jeremey Clark-King of the Diocese of California, Jim McLeod, parishioner and retired Canon to the Ordinary from the Diocese of El Camino Real, and Karin White, parishioner and retired priest from the Diocese of El Camino Real. The service was followed by a wonderful reception coordinated by our Sr. Warden, Vivienne Paratore. Please see her report for more information regarding our year-long celebration of 150 years. The celebration took place in both the Little and Big Churches with 285 people in attendance.

Office Staff, Administration and Finance

We remain in contract with Fernando's Cleaning and Landscaping company to keep our buildings and grounds clean. Our parish administrator, John Trubina, left the position in August. We hired Andrea Ramsamy as our interim Parish Administrator. Andrea has brought a renewed level of organization and efficiency to the office. Our Nursery Care Provider, Nonie Aluzzi, had retired due to illness and subsequently died. We grieve our loss and pray for her family. To replace her, we hired Andrea Ramsamy to cover the nursery as well as the office. Andrea is excellent with the children and parents.

Jan Scrutton continues to bring a level of professionalism and creativity to the position of Children's Minister. This demographic is growing and strengthening each year. St. James' is incredibly blessed to have such a strong minister in our midst. Please see Jan's report for more news about our children and families.

With Anna Horen's return and hiring, our adult education offerings have increased and have been of the utmost quality. Anna has also been instrumental in continuing to connect us to the Tri-City Interfaith Council, and to provide pastoral care for several parishioners. Anna's presence in the pulpit and at the altar allow the congregation to experience a different liturgical presence.

In 2016, the Diocese launched a capital campaign, inviting all parishes to participate. In October of 2016, after much prayer and discussion, the Vestry decided to opt out of this opportunity. However, in order to support the Diocese and to contribute to the larger efforts of our common life together, the Vestry voted to donate \$10,000 towards the campaign. That donation was made in January of 2017.

For the second year in a row, the vestry has been responsible for the stewardship campaign for the parish. Like last year, they did an amazing job of sharing their stories and encouraging others to participate financially. As of this writing, we received 13 new pledges and our pledge income increased over last year by over \$12,000. Mike Scrutton, serving as the pledge secretary continues to be a great resource in painting a picture of our congregational giving.

The rental of our facilities has increased over the year to include additional 12 step groups, additional Cub Scout pack meetings, and various one-time usage agreements. Our past senior warden, Meg Amouroux, continues to be the coordinator of new rentals and has been a Godsend in this area.

Welcoming and Integrating New People

St. James' continues to live into its identity as a welcoming community.

For 2017, we added 27 members to our database. Last January, we held the first annual Epiphany Party for new/er members and potential members of the church. The evening included a modified version of "King Cakes" (cupcakes), a chalking of the door liturgy, and an opportunity for new people to connect and make friends. Throughout the year, I welcome many visitors through emails and phone calls. If a person attends more than a few times, I make an effort to meet with them individually.

Rector Housing

I continue to offer our home in Newark for the ministry of the church. 2017, I hosted several gatherings. In February, we welcomed the Vestry for dinner and team-building. I hosted the Epiphany Party for new/er members and threw a thank you party for those who worked on the 150th celebration.

New and Potential Ministries and Offerings

2017 realized several new efforts. In June, under the leadership of Melissa Mallory, we hosted a benefit opera concert to support persecuted gay men in Chechnya. We donated \$2,000 to the Fremont Unified

School District to support school lunches for four local schools. We undertook an Eagle Scout project to replace the front lawn, install a sprinkler system and plant flowers. We hosted our first Family Camping Night, inviting families to pitch their tents on campus and spend the night.

In May, our annual women's day retreat was presented by Anna Horen and Janet Fischer on "Hidden Figures, Women in the Church" with great success. We continue a strong relationship with our Cub Scout Pack 163. Throughout 2017, we hosted their popcorn fundraisers, celebrated Scout Sunday, welcomed their donation of bark (and their energy in spreading it!), and continue to welcome their efforts in placing the American flags throughout the campus on Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Veterans Day.

Congregational Development

Our Congregational Development team completed their training through the Center for Church Vitality/Diocese of Northern California. Meg Amouroux and John Butterfield will continue as leaders in this area, assisting in meeting facilitation and as an advisory resource to the rector in the area of Congregational Development.

Wider Church Involvement and Personal Formation

After completing a four-year term on the Standing Committee for the Diocese of California, I opted to not seek any elected or appointed committee positions at the Diocesan level. I still participated in the regular offerings of the Diocese and Cathedral such as the Chrism Mass and Convention.

In May, I attended an EcoJustice Conference at Grace Cathedral. The gathering was an opportunity to hear about the various ways Episcopalians are working in the areas of sustainability. We heard about the Farm to Altar movement (sustainable wheat used for Eucharistic bread) as well as various forms of activism and sustainable communities meant to preserve the earth and bring about just food accessibility.

In December, I was elected to serve as the Vice President of our deanery for 2018. Andy Lobban, the rector of St. Bart's in Livermore, was elected President.

Associate Rector's Report – The Rev. Anna Horen

For the period January - June, 2017 I served as a non-stipendiary Priest Associate. Per my Letter of Agreement, I engaged in the following ministries:

- Either presided, preached or assisted at both Sunday services, Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday, and Holy Week services, except for January, due to recovery from surgery and 5 weeks in May and June when I did supply work for two parishes.
- Attended all scheduled Staff Meetings - approximately 2 per month.
- Attended Adult Faith Formation Committee meetings and participated in the planning and implementation of the annual Tuesday Evening Lenten series (March 7 - April 4) and the Women's Retreat on May 13.
- Occasionally presided at the 10:00 am Wednesday Eucharist, per the Rector's request.
- Attended required monthly "Fresher Start" meetings at Grace Cathedral, once per month.
- Authored an article on Lent for "The Window" newsletter.

- Other occasional duties, per the Rector's request.

For the period July - December, 2017, I served as part-time Associate Rector. Per my Letter of Agreement, I engaged in the following ministries:

- With the exception of two Sundays, either presided, preached or assisted at both Sunday services.
- Covered pastoral and other needs, and presided at Wednesday 10:00 am Eucharist during the Rector's vacation, August 13 - Sept. 4.
- Presided at "Sacred Space" Eucharist approximately every two months.
- Met with two parishioners for pastoral care, and met with Episcopalian residents of the Masonic Home on two occasions.
- Presided at a Burial Service at a local funeral home for the relative of a former parishioner.
- Attended all scheduled Staff Meetings.
- Attended Adult Faith Formation Committee meetings and participated in the planning and implementation of a 4-week series, "The Distinctiveness of the Anglican Tradition," and a 4-week Adult Confirmation Preparation series. I authored and presented a 3-week series, "Apocalypse Now, Or Not: Looking Toward the End-Times in Advent."
- Participated in three days of VBS.
- Participated in the liturgical planning, rehearsal, and celebration of the parish Sesquicentennial.
- Authored two articles for "The Window": one on the history and meaning of Confirmation, and an informational piece on Fremont services for elders and caregivers in the Tri-City area.
- Attended Tri-City Interfaith Council monthly meetings as parish representative and publicized events of parish interest in the Sunday Announcements. Wrote and distributed an article on our Sesquicentennial to all TCIC members for inclusion in their congregations' bulletins.
- Attended monthly TCIC "We Are One" street vigils as parish representative.
- Attended Southern Alameda Clericus and Deanery meetings as scheduled.
- Attended Annual Diocesan Convention.
- Attended "Fresher Start" when it did not conflict with TCIC's monthly meeting.
- Joined the Commission on Ministry in November. Attended the Vocations Conference at Bishop Ranch Nov. 12-14 and the December monthly meeting.
- Other occasional duties, per the Rector's request.

Children's Minister Report – Jan Scrutton

While the most visible weekly part of my role at St. James' is to lead Sunday School my weeks tend to be varied and in addition to supporting programs for church families and writing/leading our summer day camp I also work with the staff team and take responsibility for other projects, including our work with Abode on the Hunger and Homelessness Vigil.

During 2017 we have introduced a couple of children/family events that we hope will become a regular part of the church calendar. On February 26th we combined the celebration of Scout Sunday with the diocese Camp Sunday for a fun morning promoting opportunities for our young people. Tents on the lawn and a campfire, with s'mores, on the patio added to the fun. On September 23rd we pitched even more tents on the lawn when families were invited for a campout at church. 38 people joined us for the evening with 30 sleeping the night. Each person made their own foil parcel for dinner which was cooked over hot coals. A camp fire on the patio was enjoyed by all (more s'mores!) and a warm breakfast was enjoyed in the morning before church. Both events relied on the support of many people, particularly one of our Cub Scout leaders and Sunday School parents, Samir Kalitta. Many thanks to him.

During Lent the Sunday School families had the chance to take a poster for one of the Stations of the Cross home with them. They returned them colored in and I had them laminated to use for those people wishing to take a self-guided reflection on Good Friday. The written material and original art work was provided by Illustrated Children's Ministries who I use for most of our curriculum at the moment. The Stations of the Cross were well received. I was also involved in preparing an activity for Maundy Thursday when people had chance to paint a cross onto fabric that will form an altar frontal for use in 2018.

In March I took a group of young people to Grace Cathedral for the third year to Nightwatch. This overnight, including sleeping in the Cathedral, draws young people from across the diocese and beyond. This year eight young people from St James' made the trip and had a great time.

I coordinated the orders for 150th anniversary t-shirts in burgundy which have helped us proclaim our anniversary at church events and, most especially, at the 4th July Parade. Over 150 t-shirts were purchased and worn with pride!

I taught a confirmation class for 2 teens this year, Olivia Carini and Malorie Guzior. They were confirmed at the 150th Anniversary Service at St. James' in November. Earlier in the year I also helped prepare 3 children for baptism.

Our Christmas Pageant was narrated this year by Keith Westra with Keira and Kyler. Twenty two children donned costumes on arrival at church on Christmas Eve and joined in the pageant. I get plenty of feedback after this service that people enjoy the opportunity to come to a relaxed yet focused service which tells the story of Christmas and welcomes everyone who comes to be part of the story. The Eucharist was led by Rev. Lori who was assisted by the children to set the table while she explained the significance of each piece. Many adults reflected afterwards that they learnt something about the Eucharist during this process.

Sunday School.

Our key regular provision for children aged 4 and up is through Sunday School which meets weekly during the school year during the 10:30am service. We currently draw from a regular register of 34 children with weekly attendance averaging 13.

Our Sunday School team consist of myself along with Caylyn Ramsamy, Sherea Westra, Penny Trant, Monique Manjarrez, and Julie Guzior. We try to teach in two classes but irregular numbers can mean we often stay together in one classroom. We continue to use a lectionary based curriculum from Illustrated Children's Ministry. Our music director, Jennifer Carini, joins us in Sunday School to help the children prepare for singing in church at regular intervals.

The Sunday school families, in addition to Camp Sunday in February and our Camp out in September also had an end of school year barbecue and worked together to create a new Nativity Creche set for St James'. Over 30 people took some part in 4 craft sessions and the associated Sunday school lessons to help make the figures and backdrop that were then taken into church on Christmas Eve.

Nursery

In 2017 we appointed Andrea Ramsamy as our nursery care-giver. She has settled in well, bringing her organization skills and childcare experience to the nursery. The nursery is well used with 5 families with young children in regular attendance at the 10:30am service.

Sunday Breakfast Club.

Sunday Breakfast Club has continued to meet on the first Sunday of each month as a way for our 5th grade and older students to get to know each other more. I am grateful to Lauren and Bob Doherty for providing breakfast and cooking for us each month. Usually 5-8 young people attend from a list of 17 in the age range. On first Sundays they are then encouraged to attend the service and serve as readers, ushers and acolytes.

Acolytes

Our young acolyte team serves at the 10:30am service while Caylyn Ramsamy remains the only acolyte at the 8:30am service. This year two of our team graduated from high school. We said thank you and goodbye to Bryneth Fuller while Tom Scrutton stepped back into an occasional serving role when he is home. Caylyn and Tom also serve on the Eucharist Ministers team.

Our acolytes Lilia, Stacia, Malorie, Luke, Olivia, and John were joined by Gianna and Caiden this year. Tom Scrutton and Rev. Lori ran a training session and Tom continued to support their learning during regular services. For our 150th Anniversary Lilia, Luke and Caiden served as acolytes while Tom was Bishop's Chaplain for the day.

Summer Day Camp – In This House

This year our day camp ran from July 24th-28th. Forty-six kids, four young volunteers and twenty-five adult volunteers came together for the week. For the first time we had a group of high school students sign up as young volunteers – they worked to support some of the activities while also having chance to do some of their own activities.

Our theme meant the front of church was turned into a living room with sofas and a coffee table where we shared our stories each day – from cleaning up after the paralyzed man was lowered through the roof to see Jesus on Monday to the young Jesus being found safe in God's house on Friday. We remembered that we were in God's house together.

One of the biggest projects we have ever undertaken in terms of preparation was making gingerbread houses for the children to decorate. I know Lauren, Bob, Ruth and Pyper spent several days constructing the basic shapes for everyone to work on.

For the first time I delivered the homily for the Sunday at the end of camp. Sixteen young people took part in the service, helping share songs and to prepare the table for the Eucharist.

Kids Outreach

We have kept up our link with the kids at Abode Sunrise Village by helping out with their kids club occasionally. While we started the year going twice a month visits have become less regular as they have adjusted their scheduling and staffing. This outreach is completed by a small team of three and we see between 2 and 8 kids each time we visit.

In July and August we collected backpacks and school supplies again for distribution by Abode Services and Tri-City Volunteers to children and young people in need. This is the fourth year we have collected, and we delivered over 40 backpacks and additional boxes of supplies. Thank you to everyone who helped out.

Music Ministry – Jennifer Carini, Music Director

I celebrated my sixth 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 7:00 to 8:00 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 8 current choir members. They are: Josephine Amadi, Melissa Mallory, Greg Miller, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, Don Rose, Elaine Vallecillo Miller, and Pat Vlastelica, 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 sixth 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!

Wardens' Reports

Senior Warden's Report – Vivienne Paratore

2017 was an amazing year which contained untold joys and sorrows. Saint James' grew, as a church both in membership and clergy. We said farewell to several parishioners who moved away or went to join our Lord in His Heavenly Kingdom and we welcomed many families into our loving, embracing community. We wished our deacon, Ken joy in his new position at Grace Cathedral and were very fortunate to be able to welcome Anna as a part time associate rector. We said goodbye to our long standing parish administrator, John, and were again extremely blessed to be able to welcome Andrea, who has brought the efficiency of the office to a new level. Throughout all of these comings and goings, the steadfast faith, commitment and tireless work ethic shown by our rector, Lori, has been a rock to which we all cling and the dedication and hard work of the volunteers at Saint James' have kept the community alive and thriving.

On top of all of the usual ministries and ways to volunteer, this year provided an added opportunity with our 150th Celebration. And what a celebration it was! There are so many people to thank for the amazing outcome of this event, that this report would take many pages. Suffice it to say, they know who they are and that our gratitude is boundless. The whole celebration over the weekend encapsulated the community of St. James'. It was tasteful and diverse, enabled many people to come together using their different talents and most importantly was all embracing and God-centered. One moving service, two incredible parties, three amazing publications and hundreds of volunteers made up this wonderful weekend filled with joy and love. At the center of all the joy was a baptism, two reaffirmations, three receptions and six confirmations. This is what we are all about; receiving God's people into God's church and supporting those people all the way through the trials and tribulations, as well as the celebrations and joys of their lives until they meet God face to face in peace and love.

It has been my honor to serve the parish of Saint James' along with my fellow vestry members. I thank each one of them for the various talents they have brought to the table each month. Their true love for the St. James' community, as well as the community at large, and their dedication to helping the parish to grow and thrive has been inspiring. There have been some major renovations to the property this year, as well as some challenges with aging plumbing and termites. However, a few dedicated volunteers have faced these challenges and overcome the obstacles. Many of these initiatives have been headed by our Junior Warden, Bruce, who has been a steadfast, reliable and kind support to me and the whole vestry. It has been a great pleasure working with Bruce for the past two years, especially this last year on lead team. I thank the vestry, lead team and the vestry clerk, Elizabeth, for their patience with my lack of abilities when it came to preparing accurate reports.

Most of all, I would like thank Lori for giving me the opportunity to serve in the role of Senior Warden. It has been a wonderful experience which has deepened my faith. Lori's total and deep seated belief in the absolute, enduring love of God for all people has helped me to see the world in a different way. Her way of seeing God's hand in the sorrows of this life and her ability to bring people closer to God through the pain of human existence is inspiring. I am forever changed because of my experience on vestry and have found a renewed, deeper commitment to serving God through his church.

Junior Warden's Report – Bruce Roberts

Facilities –

- Worked with Jim Cunningham and Anderson Construction on the Little Church straightening the walls. Wrote a grant for \$5000 which we received to help pay for the work.

- Worked with Dave Nelsen on possible bids for repair/replacement of the Education Building roof, an expense that looms over us.
- Worked with Ness Backflow to replace the church's backflow valve.
- Worked with Hi-Tech Termite Control to fumigate the Little Church.
- Acted as liaison for the Road Crew to the Vestry in audio and visual matters.
- Photographed the Eagle Scout project replacing the front lawn and sprinkling system.
- Participated in the church Insurance project and obtained an appraisal of the value of the stained and faceted glass windows.
- Worked with others to inaugurate St. James' Going Green to start composting appropriate waste.
- With Dave Nelsen, Greg Miller and Al Casas - we conducted a light bulb survey to find out what St. James' need to replace to become more efficient in our lighting.

Vestry Articles – Oversaw the writing of the Vestry articles “How Jesus Changed My Life through St. James’”. Also wrote a couple of Lead articles.

150th Anniversary Celebration – Assisted in the initial planning of the events and participated with photographs in the St. James' Episcopal Community, The Gardening and Cooking Book, and Historic Windows of St. James'. Patty Lacy and I created the historical display in the office hallway. Went to the Fremont City Council with the Rev. Lori Walton, Sr. Warden Vivienne Paratore, and others to receive the proclamation citing St. James' 150th Anniversary.

Stewardship - Vestry Meeting at my residence – Our August Vestry Meeting was held at my place to discuss generosity and stewardship. I gave a stewardship talk at the 10:30 Service.

With other members of the Lead Team I worked on changing the St. James' Bylaws regarding the number of Vestry members. To be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Committee Reports

150th Celebration

November 2017 saw the celebration of Saint James' 150 years of being in Fremont. It was a weekend event that took many months of planning by many different people. It was an event that brought together the Saint James' community in an unprecedented way.

Parishioners brought their talents together from the beginning. Starting with the joyous participation in the Fremont 4th of July Parade and historical displays at the Fremont Library and the Fremont Historical Society, and recognition by the City of Fremont City Council Meeting, we moved to planning for the celebratory weekend on All Saints' weekend. Many people participated, from designing T shirts and stationary, updating the website, compiling lists of people to invite, writing proclamations and advertisements, securing display places for our history to be seen by the community, taking photographs, creating displays, and upgrading our sound system to decorating the church and hall, planning for and preparing food, organizing attendees, donating funds, arranging music, writing an anthem, preparing candidates for their baptism, confirmation, reception or reaffirmation and finally to two amazing events.

The two events also required many hands to make them successful, decorators, servers, cooks, musicians, crafters, organizers, clergy and the behind the scenes folks who prepared the campus, set up and tore down each day on the famous weekend. On top of all of this, we had a beautiful display in the

entry hall, a wonderful cookbook, a gorgeous book about the historic stained glass windows in the little church, beautiful bookmarks to commemorate the windows, and an informative and entertaining book about the history of Saint James' Episcopal Church. These publications each represented many hours of hard work, research and love as well as several parishioners' considerable talents.

At our beautiful and holy service on Sunday morning, the whole St. James' community, along with Bishop Marc Andrus, welcomed Grace Zarovy through the sacrament of Baptism. We supported Keith Westra, Griselda Prather, Leticia Rodarte, Esther Maina, Malorie Guzior, and Olivia Carini in their confirmations. We received Peter Maina, Evelyn Martinez, and George Siegmann into the Episcopal Church and rejoiced with Kimberly Patton and Sally Morgan as they reaffirmed their faith. Bishop Marc brought with him the baptismal bowl used by Bishop William Kipp who recognized St James' as a mission church 150 years ago. This act completed the circle from our inception until now as a community. However, St James' circle is not closed as we still have much work to do in the world and our closer community.

The 150th celebration was incredible. It brought back previous clergy, old friends who had moved away, community members, local government officials, and family members who do not regularly attend St James' together for one united purpose. It was an opportunity to connect our present to our past and look forward to our amazing future. The best part about the 150th celebration was seeing St. James' pull together to provide experiences that everyone could enjoy. To see the joy on our clergy's faces, especially Lori's beaming smile made all of the work worthwhile. To see families and friends working together for a common cause is heart-warming and encapsulates who we are as a faith community. We should be proud of our accomplishments and the care and love that we show each other. Every volunteer, regardless of the size of the part they played, did it out of love for this community of believers we call Saint James' Episcopal Church.

~Vivienne Paratore, Sr. Warden

Abode Dinners

The Cook Team for the 3rd Saturday-even months consists of 10 adults and 2 young people plus 2 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. All food must be prepared at the shelter and meet strict standards according to Health Department standards. We are asked to have enough food for 40 people. Each person attending contributes \$10 towards the cost of the food. The most of the team members eat together, once the clients are done eating.

In December the Joseph family took over buying the food and leading the preparation and serving the food at the shelter. Other months have been led by Bruce Roberts and Byron Bader, Ruth Poole and Marlene Benedict, Vivienne and Charlie Paratore and Lynn and Ralph Locher. Karin and Steve White have helped as needed. The group would like to add another family even if they could only serve a few times a year.

The team derives a great deal of pleasure working together and seeing how grateful the clients are after receiving a good meal.

There is another group that prepare dinners at the shelter led by Mary Casas. For more information contact Lynn Locher.

~Lynn Locher

Abode Services Rapid Re-Housing Program

St James', along with 17 other faith-based churches and organizations, meet throughout the year to pool resources and ideas on getting families and veterans rehoused. Abode Services qualifies the candidates and the member churches partner up and pool our monies and donations of gently used household items or new items to help a family get settled into their new home. We have our own storage unit which is used to store items donated by our church members or other folks within the faith-based community.

St James' has fundraisers and part of the proceeds go to Abode Services. In addition to the fundraisers, we've pooled our resources from the Lucky Stores stamp redemption program and have collected 6 sets of brand new pots & pans, kitchen knives, coffee makers, and waffle makers. St James' sponsors at least 2 families per year with our neighbor Harbor Light. With the rental rates so high, it takes usually 3-4 churches to pool our monies to help on a down payment and security deposits.

We know that we'll never eliminate homelessness in the Tri-C- city area or Alameda County but our church members and the vestry really come through when asked for donations and funding. St James' does make a difference and will continue to honor our commitment to Abode Services Rapid-Rehousing Program.

~Gregg Feeny

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is comprised of 20 women who work in four teams. Once a month, each team prepares the Altars of the churches for Sunday services. After each service is over the team cleans and puts everything away. The Wednesday service in the little church is prepared by Rose Hoffman and Rebecca Herrera.

In addition to weekly services, the altar guild members prepare the churches for special occasions including baptisms and celebrations of life services. The care and dedication from our altar guild members is appreciated by all of St. James' parishioners.

Vivienne Paratore and Lauren Doherty bake the communion bread that is used in the 10:30am Sunday service. Mary Casas orders supplies for the altar guild. Jan Scrutton adds her expertise wherever it is needed.

The Altar Guild is responsible for ordering the flowers that decorate the Churches each week. Our congregation donates towards the weekly flowers and the Sanctus Candle. A sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall. In addition to the weekly flowers, the Altar Guild furnishes beautiful Christmas Poinsettias and Easter Lilies each year. Members of our church generously donate for these flowers in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for loved ones and family members.

In December we held our annual Altar Guild Christmas Brunch in the Parish Hall. It was enjoyed by many of our members. This yearly event is an opportunity for all of the altar guild members to be together and celebrate our ministry. The Reverend Lori Walton and Reverend Anna Horne celebrated with us.

We are always looking for new members to join our teams. If you are interested in becoming part of the St. James' Altar Guild, please contact Katie Cunningham or Ruth Poole.

~Katie Cunningham, Directoress

Archives

The St. James' archives consist of 20 boxes of materials organized into 28 categories. There are also three locked cabinet drawers in the church office containing personnel related materials and unique items of historical interest (e.g. the original two-page, handwritten attestation by Bishop Kip in 1867 that he consecrated St. James; as an Episcopal Church). For the edification of future parishioners, the Archives now include copies of the three books published for the 150th anniversary of St. James'. (Nostradamus has prophesied they will be astonished.) In 2018, plans are being developed to implement a formal sign-in and sign-out system for access to the Archives and guidelines for its use to help avoid the disappearance or misplacement of material. Metaphysical "fire and fury" will descend on those who ignore the guidelines.

~John Maloney, Church Librarian/Archivist

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. If you have any suggestions of what to do or where to go for lunch, please let Sylvia Ma or Meg Amouroux know.

In 2017 we celebrated the Lunar New Year (Year of the Rooster) on March 5 with delicious Chinese food at Newark Buffet.

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

7 am Bible Study

The Bible Study group meets on Thursday mornings (yes, at 7 AM) at Bruce Roberts' house for one hour. Currently we use the guide, Understanding Sunday Scriptures as we read, mark and learn from the Revised Common Lectionary. We usually bring our own Bibles, and the different translations often stir up discussion on their own, without the use of the guide. Currently we have eight members, having lost Marnie Hartmann recently. She always offered wise input into our discussions.

~Bruce Roberts

Coffee Hour Hosts

It is remarkable that nineteen committed individuals volunteer on a regular monthly basis, once a month, to set up and clean up for the 8 AM and 10:30 AM Coffee Hour. So, when you see them: 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, say "thank you" for setting up the coffee, hot water, juice, and placing any donated snacks on the snack table. Because of family commitments, December was the last time that Barry Hedgpeth was a Coffee Hour Host. We all valued his time to this important ministry. Dave Nelsen continually maintains and updates the Coffee Hour Hosts list and schedule. Andrea, our new parish administrator, has taken up the task of notifying the weekly Sunday hosts and any snack donors.

With regards to our Sunday snacks, we all have been witnessing the remarkable Miracle of Fishes and Loaves. Many might ask, "How is it so?" Over the years, we have asked for people to sign up on the Snack Donor list, but this has been ineffective. However, snacks of all varieties appear each Sunday for

both coffee hours. If there are none we simply serve refreshments. I want to say “thank you” to those snack elves who unselfishly and willingly bring something to share with others.

We are constantly looking for new Coffee Hour Hosts for either coffee hours. So, if you feel inclined to help on a monthly, quarterly or on the fifth Sunday, please contact Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, or any of the hosts.

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

Counters Report

The counting teams (two parishioners each) work behind the scenes several hours each week to count the offerings received at regular and special services plus at other occasions such as the pancake supper. We coordinate with the stewardship leader and treasurer at many times throughout the year to give them accurate information and to solve any issues.

Counters are faithful workers who put confidentiality and accuracy as their first priority. Two of the counters then post your pledges to the pledge software which tracks your pledges and other contributions. Quarterly statements are generated from this system.

~Jan Brandt

Cub Scout Pack Report

Cub Scout Pack 163 had a very successful Scouting program year in 2017, thanks in great part to a very healthy and mutually supportive relationship with St. James' as its Chartered Partner with the San Francisco Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Since 2015, St. James' has not only offered support and encouragement; but has provided a treasured place in our community, “a home”, for Pack 163 and its six dens of Lions, Tigers, Bears, Wolves and Webelo Cub Scouts (over 50 boys ages 5 to 10). This physical location in our community and the availability of St. James facilities has been a major contributor to the growth and success of the Pack.

In addition to traditional Scouting program activities, Pack 163 has proactively incorporated parish activities into their calendar to support Saint James'. A few examples include:

- Campus maintenance
 - Pack 163 adults and youth helped spread tanbark and gravel that the Vestry ordered for the 150th Anniversary.
 - Pack 163 even purchased an additional tanbark and gravel when there was not enough to finish the campus.
- Eagle Scout Projects
 - Cub Scout Pack 163 does not have Eagle Scouts – that is the highest rank in Boy Scout troops. But Pack 163's connections with local Scout Troops (with Boy Scouts ages 11-18) has led to the first of hopefully many future Eagle Scout projects at St. James', like the recent replacement of the main lawn area.
- Participation in St. James' activities
 - Camp Sunday
 - The Cub Scouts coordinated with Jan Scrutton to incorporate Scouting's annual “Scout Sunday” celebration into a co-celebration for all Youth Ministries at St. James'.
 - Placing of Flags on Campus
 - The Cub Scouts place the American Flags around campus for Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Veterans Day.

The Cub Scouts conduct reverent flag retirement services, and starting in 2018 will also provide reverent retirement service for stained or aged St. James Altars cloths.

- National Night Out Vigil
The Cub Scouts were well represented for the Candle Light vigil.
- Financial Support
Pack 163 donated \$1,000 to St. James' 2018 operating budget.
The Cub Scouts had a very successful fund raising effort in 2017, and felt it was only right to share some of their success with their chartered partner.
The Cub Scout's Pop Corn sales, that so many St. James parishioners participated in, was part of their fund raising efforts.

Cub Scout Pack 163 looks forward to celebrating the successful partnership with St. James' for many years to come.

Yours in Scouting and St. James',
~Bob Doherty
Chartered Organization Representative
St. James' and Cub Scout Pack 163

Deanery Report

At the March 2017 Deanery meeting:

- We discussed the Chow Down Smackdown Cook Off for the upcoming year.
- Mark Spaulding brought up the idea of Deanery workday for each congregation to host a joint work party where all congregations in the deanery could participate.
- Elaine prepared packets for each congregation and asked for everyone to provide a confidential phone list for disaster preparedness.
- Kathleen Paraino, from the Episcopal Church Impact (formerly Episcopal Charities), attended the meeting looking for grants for the annual \$10,000 for three years.
- The Corazon group picked June 24th for their annual trip to Mexico to build a home.

At the June 2017 Deanery meeting:

- It was reported that 3 congregations had hosted Deanery workdays so far.
- It was decided that as of July 2, Sacred Space is no longer a specialized ministry of the Diocese and is now being coordinated through a collaborative effort of the deanery.
- Davidson Bidwell Waite is chairing the Sanctuary Task Force, getting as ready to decide as a Diocese how to vote at the Convention.

At the September 2017 Deanery meeting:

- Katie Evenbeck, from St. Dorothy's Rest, attended to ask us to consider them for any special gathering we may wish to hold.
- Tom Ferguson, the Treasurer of the Diocese, attended to report on the financial state of the Diocese. Our budget is flat because of assessments are flat. He also reported that the Endowment distribution would be reduced from 5% to 4.5% this year.
- We discussed the resolutions for the Diocesan Convention to be held in October.

At the December 2017 Deanery meeting:

- Members elected new officers –
President – Andy Louvan
Vice President – Lori Walton

Treasurer – Jim De Mersman

Secretary – Diane Granlund

~Scott Whitaker, Deanery Representative

Disaster Preparedness Team

Wild Fires, mud slides, floods and just a few days ago we had a 4.4 earthquake. Though we don't always want to think about it, one of the roles as a church in the community is to be prepared to be of assistance after a disaster. We plan for four basic reasons:

1. To mitigate the damage to our church.
2. To be able to resume the business of the church as soon as possible post-disaster.
3. To support our parishioners in times of crisis.
4. To assist our vulnerable members and neighbors after an emergency.

The above goals are as you might imagine are only the tip of the iceberg. Some of the activities the DPT has been engaged in involve update and maintaining the physical inventory of the church. Should we suffer a devastating event it is necessary to know the amount and cost of our loss. It is necessary to know how to react and protect ourselves in the event of a disaster. To that end we have sponsored PEP (personal emergency prepared) classes in conjunction with the Fremont Fire Department.

To be able to assist our community in case of a crisis we have to know our community. To that end we participated in the National Night Out in association with the Fremont Police Department. Other projects are in the mill such as the acquisition of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for our church. Much work left to do.

~ Your DP Team

Endowment Fund Report

In January 2017, the Endowment Board distributed to St. James' \$5532.81 and \$1075.10 to the Little Church Fund from the Endowment Fund. The Memorial Garden Committee declined their distribution.

The money distributed is done for "developing...ministries beyond what is possible through its annual operating funds...limited to capital needs of the Parish...outreach ministries and grants...seed money for new ministries and special one-time projects and...other purposes...designated by donors..."

The actual use of the funds is determined by the Vestry, the Little Church Committee and the Memorial Garden Committee – all in accordance with the guidelines above. The Endowment Board will distribute checks to the committees again in 2018 at the Annual Meeting. The Endowment Board thanks St. James' for support in 2017. Donations to the Endowment Fund totaled \$7400 in 2017.

Current members of the Endowment Board: Bruce Roberts, Scott Whitaker, Cathy Knotts, Jeanne Morris, and new member Jino Joseph.

~Bruce Roberts, Jr. Warden

Facilities

Our old buildings and large outdoor area demand a lot of attention, care and maintenance. This brief list covers some of this year's significant activities;

Facilities has continued to contract out our Janitorial and some landscaping work to Fernando Janitorial and Landscape Service. Fernando cleans and vacuums our buildings and keeps up the grounds adjacent to the buildings.

An inspection of our back-flow-valve by the water company revealed the need to have it replaced.

The parish hall and office entryway floors were striped and re-waxed in October.

Dry rot was detected in the over-hang area of the Sunday school roof. Several roofing companies were contacted to help us assess the condition and give quotes for repairs. The condition is serious in only a couple areas. Because it's in the over-hang and not in danger of leaking inside the building we decided to postpone the costly replacement of the roof - which was the advice of all three contractors. Additional assessment will be done in the spring of 2018.

In October the cub scouts purchased and spread 10 cubic yards of tanbark in the planter beds around the buildings. Gravel was also distributed adjacent to the little church. What a wonderful gift to St. James'. Thank you scouts!

Signs of termites were detected in the little church in September. Hi-Tech, who we had a contract with for other buildings, came out to assess the problem. Found to be quite extensive, we decided to have the building tented and fumigated. Our contract with Hi-Tech will include this building as well from now on.

Lighting is a big part of our PG&E bill. We have steadily been upgrading to LED technology over the years and further investment in replacement lighting will offer us on-going savings. Recently we took count of all florescent and incandescent lighting still on the campus and soon will be suggesting a plan to upgrade these lights.

A big thank you goes out to Barry Hedgpeth and Dave for their extra efforts mowing and trimming the front park and the "back 40". This work has been done primarily on week days and takes a long day to complete. Barry is quite the mechanic and has done repairs on our mowers as well.

The men's group sponsored campus clean-up days are held on odd numbered months. Two unplanned days were added in October as well, prior to our 150th celebration. Some of the work we accomplished was; Installation of new lights and wiring for the cross and banner out by the street, pruning trees and shrubs, pulling weeds, clearing roofs and gutters of debris, fixing leaks and performing various cleaning projects including washing windows of all our buildings.

The large lawn at the entrance of our church has been replaced. Connor Hunt, of Boy Scout Troop 449 lead this effort as his eagle scout project. He was responsible for the design and getting approvals from St. James' and the Eagle Board of Review. As part of his project he determined everything that would be needed. He acquired the materials, some donated or discounted, enlisted the help of a professional landscaper and many helpers who removed the old lawn, installed a sprinkler system, yards of compost, bender board and plantings against the fence and after careful leveling the new sod was laid down. What a wonderful gift to St. James'. Thank you Conner and congratulations on a well-executed project.

We have a very large campus which takes much time and many hands to maintain and looking nice. Thanks to the many volunteers who lend their talent and time to this purpose.

~Dave Nelsen

Faith Formation

The mission of the Faith Formation committee is to provide adults with classes and programs that educate us about our faith, our church traditions, and enhance our understanding of God, ourselves and our neighbors, and deepen our spiritual life and practice. During 2017, the committee offered the following programs:

- Contemplative Practices:
 - Sunday mornings between services, *lectio divino* led by Brian Cochran. In the lectio class, we choose a sentence of Scripture from the day's lectionary and do a group lectio process, with some silence in the middle. We start with a little qigong stretching and close with a simple prayer circle.
 - Wednesday evenings at 6pm, sitting meditation led by Janet Fischer. There are consistently 5 people who attend, sometimes more. Several are not members of St. James', so this provides a great outreach opportunity.
- Sunday mornings: we attempted a bible study using the Immersion Bible Study series, but it was not well-attended.
- Lenten Program: beginning the evening with our traditional soup suppers, our Lenten program was *Growing a Rule of Life* with materials provided from the Society of St. John the Evangelist.
- Women's Day Retreat, May 13. The theme was *Nevertheless, She Persisted: Hidden Figures in the Church*. This program was well-received, and several people asked for it to be repeated in 2018. Once again, the Men's Group provided us with a beautiful luncheon.
- June: *Ethical Will Form & Last Letter*, workshops led by the Rev. Karin White.
- Confirmation Classes: September through October, 4 weeks covering The Distinctiveness of the Anglican/Episcopal Church, and 4 weeks preparing for Confirmation and Reception. Led by The Rev. Lori Walton and the Rev. Anna Horen, and using some curriculum from ChurchNext.tv. Confirmation was held at St. James' on Nov. 5, with the bishop presiding.
- On September 17, EJ Hilliard led a session on the Diocesan resolutions to be presented at the Diocesan Convention this year.
- Advent Program: *Apocalypse Now...Or Not*. Researched and taught by the Rev. Anna Horen.

Members of the committee for 2017 were the Rev. Lori Walton, the Rev. Anna Horen Janet Fischer, EJ Hilliard, and Bruce Roberts. We would love to have you join us if you are interested!

~Janet Fischer, Chair, Faith Formation Committee

Greeters

It is the task of the greeters ministry team to help visitors to St. James' feel welcome. This may involve directing them to the nursery or Sunday school rooms 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, standing with the rector, is often one of the first faces 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. 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. For all of those participating as greeters this year, thank you for your welcoming presence.

~Dave Nelsen

Healing Ministry

The healing ministry consists of several members providing a space for prayer at a healing station for those attending church on Sunday mornings. Prayer can be received standing or kneeling, for self or a

loved one. Participants can choose to have hands placed on them during prayer and anointing oil, or not.

~Brian Cochran

Hillside Senior Care Center

Hillside is a long-term care facility located on Mission Blvd., Fremont. St James' has maintained a relationship with this facility for close to 40 years. The population is a mixture of bed-ridden and non-verbal, wheel-chair bound with a very small number who are ambulatory. There is no Dining Room per say, but an Activity Room also doubles as a Dining Room. Currently, St James' visits the residents during Christmas time and again about 10 days before Easter. With the support and generosity of our congregation, we bring each resident a small gift and spend some time visiting and singing. Our visits are on a weekday because more Staff is available to assist the wheel-chair bound and those who need assistance walking, to get to the Activity Room. We are able to continue our association with Hillside due to the on-going support of our Clergy and Congregation. Thank You.

~Sandra Motley

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

For the fourth year we co-hosted the Hunger and Homelessness Vigil with Abode in November (17th). This year the numbers were the highest we have seen with over 120 people in attendance. Melissa Malory sang as part of the vigil and Pack 163 helped lead the candle lighting. In addition to hot chocolate and cookies the Vestry laid on soup for those in need of a warm meal after the vigil. We worked this year to get more Abode staff involved as they are often the ones who personally knew the people we are remembering. The reading of the names, done by a member of staff from the outreach team, including an observation about each person who had passed away, helping us reflect on the individual lives.

~Jan Scrutton, Children's Minister

IT Report

During 2017 we completed the move of our email services to Google for Business – all staff emails are now fulfilled using this service. A new projector was obtained for use in the Big Church, which is providing a much brighter image that we enjoyed in time for our 150th Celebration. A new laser printer was procured for use by the treasurers in the printing of checks.

~Mike Scrutton, IT

Ladies Flatlanders

This gathering is open to all ladies twenty-one and older whether you are a current parishioner, a past parishioner, or a friend or family member of a parishioner. It is a special time of renewal, bonding and fellowship.

This year 11 ladies from St James' spent a lovely weekend at the shores of Monterey Bay on September 21st thru September 25th. We relaxed, shared stories, laughed a lot, and had a wonderful time! The weather was stunning, and the walks in the beach inspirational. The Reverend Karin White led our Sunday worship service. We all talked about how special the time together is for us and we remembered those who can no longer join us. Next year's event is scheduled for September 27-30, 2018.

~Nancy Castaneda

Las Posadas

The Las Posadas Crew, composed of Rev. Lori Walton, Mike & Jan Scrutton, Al Casas, Penny and Ken Trant, Jennifer Carini, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, Gregory and Elaine Miller, had a successful event.

There were 65 parishioners and guests who participated with singing Christmas carols, and feasting the delicious tamales (Old Tortilla Factory), rice (Al Casas), and beans (Penny Trant) and hitting the pinata. Jan Scrutton involved some of the Sunday school children, youth, and parents to act the characters of Mary, Joseph, and the innkeepers. We all enjoyed their enthusiasm. It is our St. James' tradition to welcome the season of Advent.

~Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, Coordinator

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) are members of St James who take communion to those who cannot attend worship services for some reason. In 2017 there were three LEVs: Lynn Locher, Marilyn Rose, and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller. They visited several people on a regular basis and also others during short illnesses.

In addition to bread and wine, LEVs take a simple worship service bulletin, lessons for the week, and news of the church. As Lynn shared with us, "The visits are an outward sign that they are still part of the community of St. James and continue to be God's people". Lynn loves putting together the service and seeing the joy of those to whom she brings communion.

In 2017 a woman at the Masonic Home in Union City expressed her desire to worship with others, and in October we added a weekly communion service on Wednesday afternoons. About 10 Episcopalians and friends have attended. Rev. Karin White (a retired priest and long-time member of St James) usually leads the service assisted by Elaine. In past years, Deacon Ken Parris was the coordinator of this ministry, and Karin is now the coordinator. People who would like to have a visitor can contact Karin at karinreedwhite@gmail.com.

~The Rev. Karin White

Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers

During 2017 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 2017 teams include:

- Lectors: Leslie Almond, John Amouroux, Tom Blalock, Brian Cochran, Bob Doherty, Sunita Joseph, Joan Kimber, Patty Lacy, Jim McConnell, Linda Nelsen, Pegeen Perry, Raelene Ramsamy, Bruce Roberts, Mike Scrutton, Pat Spalding, Nancy Svenson, and Ken Trant. On the first Sunday of the month at the 10:30 service, mature members of our Sunday school have been reading the lessons, assisted by our regular readers.

- Eucharistic Ministers: Meg Amouroux, Janet Fischer, Lynn Locher, Ralph Locher, Greg Miller, Mary Morkved, Vivienne Paratore, Caylyn Ramsamy, Marilyn Rose, Tom Scrutton, George Siegmann, Bud Spalding, and Laura Winter.

At the end of 2017, I realized it was time for me to retire as the coordinator for Lectors and LEMs. It has been a privilege to work with these people who have been so generous with their service to St. James'.

~Janet Fischer

Library

During 2017, 15 parishioners checked out books from the St. James' library. 25 books and 3DVDs were added to the collection of approximately 800 books and 31 DVDs, which are divided into 35 categories.

16 mostly old bible editions, found on St. James' campus by our hard working archivist, have been added to our catalog, including an 1857 edition of the bible. The catalog is being updated to reflect the inclusion of the 2017 additions to the library, even as this report is being written. Since no one filled in one of the available suggestions forms during 2017, it is assumed that the St. James' library is perfect.
~John Maloney, Church Libraria/Archivist

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), Chris Perry (emeritus), Patty Lacy, Jim McConnell, Mary Casas, Tom Blalock, Jan Brandt, Bobbie Tomkinson, Laura Winter, Bruce Roberts, Jim Cunningham and Dave Nelsen. Repairing and renovating our beloved Little Church is a multi-year endeavor. We are happy to report that we have made considerable progress.

With the support from structural engineer Thuy Fontelera, Element Structural Engineers Inc., and the excellent work from our contractor, Anderson Constructions, the walls of our Little Church had been gradually pulled with steel cables to plumb. The six outside buttresses had been repaired with plywood. After the buttress repair, the steel cables inside the church had been removed.

Also in 2017, a new section of stained glass window was installed in the Little Church. The inscription now reads: "Dedicated to all who worship here".

Over the years, 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, two generous grants from the Nile's Rotary Club, and donations from parishioners into the Little Church Special Interest Fund.

Looking forward, the Committee is working on repairing the sidings of the outside wall behind the altar as well as looking into repairing the pews and the floor of the Little Church. We would like to thank the Lead Team and the Vestry for their support throughout the year. Please don't hesitate to contact any members of the Little Church Renovation Committee if you have any questions or comments.

~Little Church Renovation Committee

Liturgical Design Team

With the collaboration of Rev. Lori, Jan Scrutton, and the Team (Gregory & Elaine Miller), both Churches are staged for the four liturgical seasons. Under the guidance of Jan Scrutton, our Children Ministry leader, the space is prepared for the Vacation Bible School children, displaying the theme within the sanctuary. The Sunday school children also have contributed by adding décor, like the novel Stations of the Cross for Holy Week and the new crèche figures for Christmas.

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 14th Annual John McCutcheon Concert on Monday Jan 16, 2017 was another great success. We had a large crowd of over 230, with more than 58% non-parishioners. John McCutcheon gave us another

very entertaining evening. Ticket sales totaled over \$6100. The prize drawing, with 21 prizes donated by the Cabrillo Café and 14 generous parishioners, generated drawing ticket sales of \$979. The cookies from the snack bar were delicious and brought in an additional \$185. After deducting all the reimbursed expenses, we netted \$2746.24.

The Vestry approved and donated \$1000 from the concert proceeds to ABODE Services, \$500 to Centerville Free Dining and \$1000 for future purchase of wireless microphones for St. James'.

This fundraising and community outreach event could not have happened without a lot of help. There were more than 60 people who contributed time, talent and treasure not only on the night of the concert but in the months preceding the event. 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; printed tickets; took messages; donated all those fabulous prizes for the drawings; took out and put away all the prizes on Sunday mornings; sold concert and drawing tickets; bought concert and drawing tickets; invited their family, friends and neighbors to the concert; cleared the facility calendar for the event; got contracts signed; signed contracts; booked hotel rooms for John McCutcheon and his road manager; borrowed and returned the stage from Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park and the extra chairs from Harbor Light; wrote and made verbal announcements on Sundays; wrote announcements and articles for the weekly newsletter, Sunday bulletins and for the Window; cleaned up the campus; put up lights and a canopy; directed traffic; set-up before the event and cleaned-up afterwards; donated snacks for the Coffee Hour and for the setting-up lunch; baked dozens of delicious cookies; made coffee; helped with the snack bar inside the Parish Hall as well as outside; decorated and set up the Vestry Room for the Artist and Crew Dinner; cooked and served wonderful soups, salads and desserts for the crew; donated wine, soda and water...; 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; showed great hospitality; did a wonderful job as MC/announcers; took photos; took John McCutcheon to the hotel; waited for the sound crew (Allen Lam) 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 the support and ministering.

Our 2018 McCutcheon Concert will be on Jan 15. We have been busy organizing another wonderful evening for our communities. Part of the proceeds from the 2018 concert will again go towards ABODE Services to fight homelessness.

~The McCutcheon Team

Memorial Garden/Columbarium

The Memorial Garden is maintained by our Memorial Garden Committee. We currently have 17 members. We are in need of new people to help us maintain the garden. You do not need a green thumb to be a member. We currently meet every other month at 9:15 in the Vestry Room. If you are interested in joining us please contact Ruth Poole.

Our plans to redo the main path through the garden was again put on hold. However it is our main priority for 2018.

In 2017 we had 2 people interred in the Memorial Garden. One person had a plaque placed on a niche in the Columbarium but no ashes interred. This was at the request of the family. We sold 3 niches in the Columbarium. As of now we have only 4 niches remaining to be sold. If interested in purchasing a spot in the Memorial Garden or the Columbarium please contact Ruth Poole.

The Memorial Garden Committee continues to host the coffee hours on Memorial Day. Our Cub Scout Troop #263 continues to put out the flags on appropriate holidays. Again, please contact Ruth Poole if you are interested in joining our Committee.

~Ruth Poole

Men's Group

The men's group has been meeting for three years now. We generally meet on the fourth Saturday of each month. On even numbered months we meet at a restaurant for a social gathering. We share stories and talk about what's on our minds. Naturally we eat breakfast and we make plans for future meetings. On odd numbered months we meet at church to do service projects. We work all over the campus cleaning, pruning trees and shrubs, pulling weeds, clearing roofs and gutters of debris, fixing leaks and performing various cleaning projects. It's a big campus and many thanks go out to the men and women who help maintain it during these service days. Once again we had the opportunity to provide lunch for the Women's Day of Renewal, held in May. Our meetings typically bring between 8 and 18 men together to enjoy these social and work activities.

~Dave Nelsen

Men's Trip Report

Ten years ago, we started heading to the mountains up in Calaveras County and stayed at rental homes in the Blue Lake Springs district of Arnold. One of our members owned a home up there at one time and had some good connections. For a while there we rented 3 homes and had up to 19 men sharing these homes. The trips include a wide variety of activities such as hiking, golfing, kayaking, reading, napping, swimming, beer & wine tasting, visiting parks and exploring the wonders of Calaveras County and Stanislaus National Forest. The last 4 years we've been enjoying Twain Harte. It's about 130 miles from Fremont.

These trips have been a good time to reflect on our church and hash out ideas. Usually every year we have a new member join us or even a long-term member finally comes to see what we all about. It's really about fellowship and at a cost of \$175.00, meals included, it's hard to pass up. We leave on Thursday and return on Sunday. All men 21 and over are welcome and we usually go up around the 3rd Thursday in August but that could change in 2018.

~Gregg Feeney

Newsletter – The Window

The Window is our church's newsletter, published each month. Ralph Locher, Penny Trant, Laura Winter and I enjoy editing the newsletter each month. Please continue to submit articles, pictures, announcements, stories and suggestions. Each month about 60 printed copies are distributed, and it is viewed online about 75 times per month.

~Katie Porter on behalf of the newsletter staff

Road Crew

The Road Crew works behind the scenes at St. James' to make sure parishioners can see and hear what is going on, usually in the Big Church, Little Church, the Education Building and the Parish Hall. 2017 brought changes in projectors, a new camera, a screen panel update, and updated connections for sight and sound.

Just a quick list of some Road Crew work – Barbara Lyon's Memorial Service including audio for the band and an audio-video relay to the Little Church, music and amplification for the Blessing of the Animals,

Palm Sunday procession amplification to the memorial garden and playground, and support for the Abode Services Candlelight Vigil. The highlight – Led by Mike Scrutton, the Road Crew brought sound and video to the Little Church for the 150th Anniversary celebration.

Possibly as soon as 2018 the church's wireless microphones and receivers will have to be replaced due to changes in FCC regulations. The Vestry has been setting aside monies for the last couple of years to assist with the changes in microphones.

The Road Crew consists of Bud Pearson, Greg Miller, Bruce Roberts, Laura Winter, Dave Nelsen, Mike Scrutton and Tom Scrutton – working tirelessly for your audio and visual benefit.

~Bruce Roberts, Jr. Warden

Sacred Space Hayward

This ministry supports the congregation of unhoused or hungry people who gather in Cannery Park in Hayward each Sunday afternoon. Sacred Space has undergone some major changes this year. The Hayward and Oakland locations have been separated. The Oakland location continues to be a mission of the Diocese, while the Hayward location is now supported by the collaborative effort of the Southern Alameda County Deanery. The parishes of the deanery continue to rotate the responsibility for providing lunch and the worship service. St. James' has been a wonderful supporter, and throughout the year we have faithfully provided bag lunches, hot meals, socks, gloves, coats, and toiletries. Our clergy continue to provide care, counseling, and communion. This is a wonderful ministry that could not continue without the support of all of you. Thank you!

~Janet Fischer, Sacred Space Coordinator

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Supper)

Shrove Tuesday fell on February 28th this year and following a long tradition, the men of the parish prepared a meal of pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs. 19 men helped coordinate 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. This is a wonderful occasion to serve, to be served and to reflect on the upcoming season of Lent. Over 116 people participated. Thanks to everyone who helped or participated and made this a fun and successful event.

~Dave Nelsen

St. James' Cares

St James' Cares' is a resource for help - for our parishioners, supported by our parishioners. This ministry piloted in the fall of 2014, enjoyed a successful launch in 2015 and has continued to serve the parish in 2017. We have approximately 40 volunteers to meet the needs of the community.

We had the opportunity to serve two parishioners this year (one meal request and one ride request). Unfortunately there was one request that could not be met (gardening help).

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.

Karen Koonze has resigned as one the coordinators of this program. Meg and Nancy are looking at ways to revitalize the program in 2018.

~Nancy Castaneda

Stewardship Committee

The stewardship committee was absorbed by the Vestry during 2017. It was decided that stewardship should be a function of the vestry rather than a separate committee. The vestry was very grateful to the previous stewardship chair, Gail Blalock, and the whole team for their wonderful work. Each vestry member wrote an article each month for The Window regarding the importance of St James' in their lives.

In August, the vestry had a special session to reflect on stewardship and did some in depth discussion during which time topics were decided for the 'stewardship campaign'. Each week for 6 weeks prior to in gathering Sunday, a vestry member gave a short 3 minute presentation at announcement time at either the 8:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. service. The response to the presentations was very positive and each member of the vestry was given the opportunity to grow personally in their own understanding of the meaning of stewardship.

Additionally, St. James' is expanding the recycling program to include composting in an effort to be better stewards of God's creation. This effort will be launched in 2018.

~Vivienne Paratore, Sr. Warden

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 instructor for Tai Chi For Balance and 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 an easy set of 8 Tai Chi movements called Tai Chi For Balance. The exercises are not strenuous and could be done sitting down or standing up. No prior experience is necessary.

In 2017, we lost a dedicated student, Barbara Lyon, who was practicing Tai Chi at age 96. Our classes are growing over the years but are still small. We held 46 classes in 2017 and averaged about 3 students per class. We have both St. James' parishioners and non-parishioners in attendance.

If you or your friends 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

Website

This year, thanks to the efforts of Mike Scrutton, our web site has been refreshed with a new look and the addition of a slide show on the front page. It is also now friendly to use on mobile devices. Our web site continues to be a major draw for visitors. It also serves as the archive for past newsletters and the church calendar, as well as the blog feature which highlights articles that are also posted in The Window. We work to keep the site as up-to-date as possible.

Some user statistics: In 2017 the site had almost 6,600 visits, over 3,900 unique visitors, and 3,791 new visits. Approximately 40% of our visits were on mobile devices. Our blog had over 1,400 visits.

~Janet Fischer, Webkeeper