



SAINT JAMES'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Report for 2018

Submitted for the Annual Meeting Held
January 27th, 2019

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The Rev. Anna Horen, Associate Rector

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Clergy & Staff Reports

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

After 7 ½ years of service, I was blessed to take a sabbatical in 2018. I was away from the parish from April 2 through August 15. In my absence, the Reverend Anna Horen led the congregation in worship and attended to various pastoral and administrative needs. I am grateful for her leadership, as well as the others who helped move the church through the various months: Jan Scrutton (Children & Youth Minister), Jennifer Carini (Music Director), Lynn Locher (Treasurer), Bruce Roberts (Sr. Warden), Kimberly Patton (Jr. Warden) and many others not named here.

Worship and Liturgy

Our worship leadership remained strong with the assistance of Anna Horen, Associate Rector. Anna went on payroll in 2017 at 33% time. In April, we moved her to 50% time to cover while I was on sabbatical, and in July, we kept her at 50% permanently. This change realizes a long-term goal of St. James' and is representative of the commitment this parish has to strong clergy leadership and to increased ministry. In September, we welcomed a new field education student from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. Andrea Arsene has joined us for 8 hours a week and has added her voice to the pulpit, giving the congregation another perspective and style. Brian Cochran continues to preach, rounding out our pulpit with another strong and prophetic voice.

Along with the regular services and liturgical calendar of Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Advent, we celebrated Scout Sunday on February 4, combining it with Camp Sunday, giving the parish a look at the various options for diocesan summer camps and scouting. We also celebrated Volunteer Appreciation on June 17, VBS Sunday on July 1, St. James' Day on July 22, St. Francis/Animal Blessing on October 7, and Lessons and Carols on December 30. On November 30, we held a special service of Healing and Lamentation to address the ongoing personal and institutional sexual violence and abuse enacted on others in our society. We continue to serve an outside congregation in Hayward, Sacred Space, on a monthly basis. The Wednesday service at the Masonic Home, led by the Reverend Karin White, continues to be a much needed gathering for the residents there.

We had 34 children and adults at the Children's Imposition of Ashes on Shrove Tuesday. This is compared to 38 the year before. Over three Ash Wednesday services, we gave out ashes to 78 congregants and visitors (we had the same number the prior year). We added one Ash Wednesday service at the Masonic Home with 14 people in attendance.

In 2017, we modified our Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday services. For Maundy Thursday, participants created prayer beads as well as washed feet. 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. In retrospect, it was felt that a different service should happen in the evening, distinguishing it from the daytime service, a plan we hope to implement in 2019. Following the daytime service, participants were invited to walk the Stations of the Cross.

The Easter Vigil was lively and joyful with 84 people celebrating. At this service, we baptized four people, two parents and two children from the same family. It was an occasion for great celebration. Our Easter Sunday service welcomed 192 parishioners and visitors, down from 216 in 2017. On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrated our many cultures and tongues by inviting parishioners to share their language in liturgy.

We had great joy in celebrating St. James' Day on July 22 with both congregations from the Philippine Independent Church. We held our annual VBS Sunday on July 1 and blessed many animals and people on October 7 for the celebration of St. Francis. The celebration of Thanksgiving was held in the Little Church with 29 participants. This year, Christmas Eve fell on the Monday after Advent IV, and was met with much-needed, yet torrential, rain. To better accommodate a wider segment of the parish, we moved the later Christmas Service from 10:30pm to 9:00pm, with caroling beginning at 8:30pm. The 4:00 Family Service drew 129 participants and the Chorale Eucharist Service drew 84.

Our Music Director, Jennifer Carini, contributes to the liturgical life of St. James'. Along with weekly rehearsals and Sunday worship, Jennifer also helps with our annual Vacation Bible School, directs the Sunday School in occasional Sunday anthems, participates in off-Sunday services such as Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, offers leadership and music during our Candlelight Vigil for homeless, and offers her talents in many other ways. This year, she invited her grammar school choir to sing at the Abode Candlelight Vigil in November, significantly adding to the participation in this important event.

Our altar servers continue to be a strong group. After many years of coordination, Janet Fischer handed over the scheduling of the lectors and Eucharistic ministers for Sunday services and for additional services to George Seigmann. We are grateful for George's willingness to pick this task up. We have been able to recruit new lectors for both our 8:00 and 10:30 services. Our Children & Youth Minister Jan Scrutton continues to schedule the acolytes. In the fall, she and I conducted an acolyte training, and Jan implemented a scheduling chart that allows the acolytes to mark how many times each month they've served. Through Jan's 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.

In 2017 we began a Wednesday service of Holy Communion at the Masonic Home in Union City. This service is to attend to a group of Episcopalians or those looking for liturgical worship. On average, the service has 7-10 participants. The Reverend Karin White is the person responsible for starting this service and leads the worship each week.

During the year, we baptized two adults and four children (one of which is 16): Christopher, Crystal, Joseph, Christopher, Matteo and Elaine. We confirmed five people: Mark, Tina, Crystal, Christopher, and Melissa. We received one person, Heidi. I officiated three memorials/funerals and Rev. Anna Horen officiated one in my absence. Held at St. James': Marnie Hartmann, Ruby Pike (A. Horen officiating), Susan Ferris. Held offsite: Brian Stevens. I interred the ashes of Dick Aston in the columbarium.

On November 15, in partnership with Abode Services and with the help of Jan Scrutton and Anna Horen, we held our fifth annual candlelight vigil for those who died on the street. We welcomed several local politicians and officials along with neighbors and friends. Music Director, Jennifer Carini, invited her grammar school choir to sing. Despite the problem with poor air quality from the fires in Northern California, there were approximately 232 in attendance.

While the final number has not yet been calculated, it looks like our average Sunday attendance increased from 133 in 2017 to 136 in 2018. In 2016, our count was 120. This may not seem like much, but church growth is a rarity, so increasing our count by 16 over a two-year period is significant.

Office Staff, Administration and Finance

We remain in contract with Fernando's Cleaning and Landscaping company to keep our buildings and grounds clean. During the summer, our interim parish administrator, Andrea Ramsamy, left. We were fortunate to hire Alice Harrington on October 1. Alice brings strong finance and statistical skills along with a friendly and welcoming demeanor. Andrea Ramsamy, while running the office, also served as our nursery care provider. She left that position during the summer as well, and we subsequently hired Ami Martinez to take her place. Ami has both hands-on and educational experience with children.

As our children's program continues to flourish and grow under Jan Scrutton's leadership, several of our children grew up into a youth group. In order to initiate and sustain a youth group along with a children's program, Jan Scrutton's hours increased from 16 to 20 per week, with her title changing from Children's Minister to Children & Youth Minister. Jan continues to do an excellent job with children of all ages and is the primary reason for the success in this area. Please see Jan's report for further details.

Anna Horen continues to guide the adult faith formation effort with skill and creativity. Her connection with the Tri-City Interfaith Council allows the parish to see beyond our own denomination, and her pastoral presence with parishioner's in need has been comforting and healing. With the increase in her hours, Anna's focus on growing the adult formation offerings will increase in 2019. Anna continues to preach and celebrate mass as part of a regular rotation. Please see Anna's report for details on her ministry.

This year, in an effort to examine our expenses and reduce costs where possible, we opted to move our property and liability insurance from Church Insurance to Church West/Brotherhood. This change was thoroughly examined by the vestry, treasurer, and myself, and gives us better coverage at a lesser cost.

The vestry continues to be responsible for the stewardship campaign for the parish. The campaign consists of personal sharing and encouragement for all members to pledge. As of this writing, we received 12 new pledges and our pledge income increased over last year by approximately \$10,000. Mike Scrutton, serving as the pledge secretary continues to be a great resource in painting a picture of our congregational giving.

In January, with the help and leadership of Dave Nelsen, we initiated the Green Team. This team is a group that was charged with helping to make our campus more green. As a result, we secured a composting bin from the City of Fremont and several green and recycling bins for each room. Dave Nelsen and Gregg Feeney offered a presentation to the parish on how to distinguish various throw away items. It is because of Dave Nelsen's efforts that this program has been such a success.

To comply with California State law, we modified one bathroom in the Big Church to be an all-gender bathroom. The second bathroom cannot be converted as it has stalls and is not a single-use bathroom.

Welcoming and Integrating New People

St. James' continues to grow, a testament to our ethos as being a welcoming and integrating community.

For 2018, we added 28 members to our database. In January, we held the third 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. 2018, I hosted fewer than normal gatherings due to being on sabbatical. In February, we welcomed the Vestry for dinner and team-building and I hosted the Epiphany Party for new/er members.

New and Potential Ministries and Offerings

We began a few new efforts in 2018. We began a new youth group for children in the 6th grade and up. This group will eventually be studying for confirmation (see Jan Scrutton's report for more).

We welcomed students from the School for the Blind to assist us in setting up our Sunday worship materials. Each Thursday, they come to St. James' to collate and distribute the materials we use on Sunday morning. This is part of a work-study program for the school. They have been a tremendous amount of help to the office.

We began a relationship with Maisha Bora, an organization in Kenya that assists children in going to high school and college. Through this program, we "adopted" two children, Hope and Miriam. Through generous donations and fund-raising, we have been able to assist with the cost of their first year in high school and intend on continuing our efforts and relationships with Hope and Miriam.

During the spring, we contracted with LifeTouch to have a photo directory done of parish members. The last directory done was over six years ago and became outdated. In the fall, we welcomed Carin Miles from the Diocese of California to talk with us about being a Whole and Healthy Church, a place where physical and other boundaries are respected.

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.

For the start of Advent, we introduced a new way of celebrating the season, moving from our traditional Las Posadas event to a broader Advent Celebration Evening. In 2018, we ushered in Advent with a talk on the meaning of Advent, congregation prayers for the season, music, wreath making, and a pasta dinner. Next year, we will have a different focus with the idea being a rotation of activities and emphasis.

Wider Church Involvement and Personal Formation

As mentioned above, I took a sabbatical from April through mid-August. While on sabbatical, my husband and I traveled to India and made a couple of out of state trips to visit family. I spent a significant time in doing my own study on the craft of preaching and visited many churches of different denominations.

I also engaged in several civic duties. In June, I offered the opening invocation at the Families Belong Together Rally held near the Courthouse in Fremont. I also co-wrote a letter to the Diocese of California delegation to General Convention compelling them to take a public stand against the current Administration Immigration policy of separating families and gathered signatures from clergy throughout the Diocese. Later in the summer, I participated in a panel of

religious leaders to discuss faith and the LGBTQ+ community. This panel was organized by Empathy Alliance.

In December, I was elected to serve as the President of our deanery for 2019.

Associate Rector's Report – The Rev. Anna Horen

The year 2018 was busier than usual for me; in addition to my usual responsibilities, I took on various rector duties during the four and one-half months of Rev. Lori's sabbatical. The experience was a very positive one, as I was well-prepared by Rev. Lori, and well-supported by the Vestry, Staff, and others in parish leadership, particularly Sr. Warden Bruce Roberts, and Children and Youth Minister Jan Scrutton. Our wonderful parishioners contributed as well, by being their usual kind and helpful selves. It was a rewarding learning experience for me that underscored the importance of an engaged and loving community.

Worship, Liturgy and Sacramental Rites

With the exception of customary time off, I participated in Sunday worship at both services as either celebrant, preacher, or assistant. During the rector's sabbatical, I both celebrated and preached at most Sunday Eucharists and took over the 10:00 am Wednesday Eucharists. It also was my great privilege to celebrate Pentecost and St. James' Day. In the late spring and summer, I celebrated the Eucharist several times at the Masonic Home (see Pastoral Care, below). On June 3rd, we welcomed the Ven. David Stickley, who preached at both Sunday services. I participated in the planning of the VBS Sunday liturgy with Jan Scrutton and Jennifer Carini, and celebrated it on July 1st. Throughout 2018, I celebrated the Eucharist with the Sacred Space congregation in Hayward, alternating with Rev. Lori. In October, Rev. Lori and I began alternating at the Wednesday Eucharists.

With respect to non-Eucharistic liturgy, I celebrated the memorial for Ruby Pike in April, and the Reconciliation of a Penitent with a parishioner. In November, I led prayer in the rector's stead at the Candlelight Vigil for Hunger and Homelessness, and planned and participated in our first-ever Service of Lament and Healing for those injured by sexual harassment and violence.

Regarding sacramental preparation, I participated in the baptismal preparation of two adults and one teen, and prepared six adult parishioners for confirmation/reception at Grace Cathedral in June.

I participated in meetings with staff and the Worship Committee for the purpose of planning and debriefing and coordinated the planning for Pentecost and St. James' Day in the rector's absence. Also, Bruce Roberts and I met with Bev Cannon Mosier to discuss preliminary plans for a Deaf Ministry in the parish during Rev. Lori's sabbatical.

In 2018, the parish moved to a unified liturgical rota planning spreadsheet that I designed, implemented, and documented in consultation with staff and leadership. By all accounts, it is working well for all involved in liturgical liturgy. In addition, I continue to proof-read and adjust the format of the Sunday lesson sheets.

Adult Faith Formation

Throughout 2018, I attended all meetings of the Adult Faith Formation Committee, chaired by Janet Fischer. Please see the committee's report for a detailed account of the year. In addition to these offerings, some of which were led in part or entirely by me, I examined and assessed materials for possible future use. Working together, the committee compiled a list of past offerings for reference and planning purposes. I also contributed several education/formation articles to the parish newsletter.

Pastoral Care and Newcomers

As mentioned above, I substituted for the Rev. Karin White at the Masonic Home at various times May through July. During Rev. Lori's sabbatical, I visited and brought communion to patients at various health care facilities, and made pastoral care telephone calls. I also brought communion a parishioner twice in October, and met with a parishioner for spiritual counseling.

Also during the sabbatical, I met with two parishioners to welcome them to the parish.

Staff Meetings and Parish Administration

I attended our regularly scheduled staff meetings. During the sabbatical, I updated the Sunday parish register and other sacramental registers. During the interim between parish administrators, I updated the Prayer Request spreadsheet regularly, and updated the Attendance spreadsheet and composed and sent weekly reminder emails for liturgical ministers as needed.

Parish Events

I attended the Annual Meeting in January and the VBS program the week of June 25th.

Community Outreach

As parish representative to the Tri-City Interfaith Council, I attended monthly meetings and various events organized or sponsored by the council. The 2018 events include: the Fourth-Thursday "We Are One" Rallies at the corner of Paseo Padre and Walnut in Fremont; the April Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance and November Bystander Intervention Training, both at Temple Beth Torah; and the Women's Passover Celebration, with Rev. Lori and Jan Scrutton.

After hearing a TCIC presentation by Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Coordinator Tori Bommarito, I was inspired to organize participation in a June Build Day at Central Commons in Fremont for both our parish and St. Anne's. I was ably assisted in this effort by vestry member Evelyn Martinez. Eighteen parishioners participated along with three from St. Anne's. It was an inspirational day.

In August, I participated in National Night Out at the parish.

Participation in the Wider Church and Personal Formation

I am in the second year of a 6-year term on the Commission on Ministry and was elected Vice-Chair in October. The COM meets monthly. I attended Southern Alameda Deanery meetings, and participated in the annual Diocesan Convention in October. In January, I attended a Compassionate Communication class for professional growth. In May, I attended an Eco-Justice Conference at Grace Cathedral and learned a great deal about the challenges of sustainability, particularly with respect to food growth and distribution. I attended the Women's Clergy Welcome for Canon to the Ordinary Abbott Bailey in April. October events attended were Women's Clericus and Clergy Conference. I worked with Transitions Officer Denise Obando and the Rev. Julie Wakelee-Lynch of St. Alban's to produce an updated database of women clergy in DioCal.

Temporary Duties During the Rector's Sabbatical

In addition to additional duties described above, other responsibilities were regular meetings with Jan Scrutton and Bruce Roberts, and monthly meetings with the Lead Team and Vestry.

As ever, it is a joy and privilege to minister to this faith community.

Children's Minister Report – Jan Scrutton

Children's programs, just like children, grow if they are nurtured. The commitment of the whole parish to welcoming and including children, and supporting those working with them, has led this year to an increase in my hours and the creation of a new youth program (more details below). We have built on new events from recent years which focus on children and families, while often benefitting the whole congregation.

My working week continues to be varied and interesting – this year you could have found me sleeping at the cathedral – twice, and on campus – twice also! I attend staff meetings, visit Sunrise Village, plan and run summer camp – including the planning, testing and teaching of a variety of crafts! I help train acolytes and, new this year, help lead a youth group. I've visited Diocesan House once and welcomed the Associate for Faith Formation to St. James' twice this year. I've lost count of the number of things I've cut, colored, printed, glued, laminated and hung up – but I don't forget the times kids have been involved and connected to their church home, have been welcomed by a community and have made a connection between themselves and God (even though one child reported to their parents that they liked Sunday School but that I 'talked about God too much!'). Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time and energy within our programs for children and young people.

In February we celebrated for the second year a combined Camp and Scout Sunday. In addition to Pack 163 being present we also welcomed representatives for Bishop's Ranch and St. Dorothy's Rest to tell us about their summer camp offerings. Sunday School enjoyed camp activities and after church we had a camp fire and s'mores.

I enjoyed two nights of (little) sleep at the cathedral one in January and one in March. In January I was joined by three young people for an overnight followed by walking in the MLK Day march in San Francisco. In March four young people joined me again for the sleepover at Grace Cathedral where I had helped plan some of the activities we enjoyed. These opportunities to enjoy not just the location but to meet up with youth and youth leaders from around the diocese and beyond are valuable for the kids and for me!

In addition to collaborating with Pack 163 for Scout Sunday I also taught an Emblem of Faith course for five Cub Scouts and their parents in the spring. The boys completed a course themed around the building of our family's faith and relating it to pizza – a perfect excuse to enjoy a pizza outing when they completed the course!

We continued our tradition of offering a sleepover to young people after the Easter Vigil and were joined by 9 young people who then helped hide eggs for our Easter Sunday Egg Hunt. A second opportunity to sleep on campus was open to families when we camped out in September. Nine tents, with 30 people, spent the night on the grass outside church.

I helped coordinate a group training in November on Whole and Healthy Church. This gathered over 50 members of our congregation together to hear Caren Miles deliver training to cover our important responsibilities to care each other within the context of our church community and to follow best practices. It was particularly great for me to see so many summer camp volunteers updating their training.

Thank you to everyone who teaches, leads, supervises, prepares, feeds, cleans up after and generally supports all our children and youth programs – you are all appreciated. For information on any of our children or youth programs or events, or to volunteer please email me at jan@saintj.com

Sunday School

We have continued this year using, for the most part, Children's Illustrated Ministry to provide our curriculum. The program follows the lectionary so most of the time the readings match those the parents will have heard in church.

I have 25 children on the register with regular attendance around 10-14 kids each week. Our teachers this year have been Sherea, Penny, Julie, Caylyn and Monique. We have been working as one class and have been joined regularly by our music director Jennifer to learn new songs and sing together.

In addition to our regular schedule Sunday School made lunches for Sacred Space one week and were involved in many of the events mentioned elsewhere.

Nursery

We started the year with Andrea as our nursery attendant. After she left we relied on the support of one of our parents until we appointed Ami in December. We have certainly seen a growth in the number of young children and parents using the nursery – two new babies born to families in church and new families arriving. It is not unusual for there to be up to eight children in nursery!

Episcopal Youth Fremont

After some thought and plenty of prayer, supported by meeting with Rev. Lori and Rev. Stephen (then of St. Anne's) and with the energy of working with a great team we launched Episcopal Youth Fremont, a youth group for 6th – 12th grade at St. James' and St. Anne's, in September. I am very grateful to be joined by Lauren Zarovy and Mike Scrutton in this project.

In our first four months we have drawn from a pool of 17 young people and have had an attendance of 12-16 at our monthly meetings. We start with dinner, provided each month by families within the group, and on one occasion by a very kind donation for pizza from a parishioner. Meetings include games, conversations and some teaching. In November, when we talked about Episcopal tradition, Rev. Lori joined us for the evening.

We continue to meet with the St James' youth for Sunday Breakfast on the first Sunday of each month, supported by Lauren Doherty who lovingly cooks for our small group. This is an opportunity to catch up with busy teenagers but also to encourage them in serving in church where they can acolyte, read or assist the ushers which they do with increasing confidence.

Acolytes

Our acolyte team has increased this year following a training in September. Regularly serving we have Malorie, Stacia, Gianna, Lilia, Caiden, Lucy, John, Gavin, and Ian. All acolytes now have their own engraved crosses which they wear when they serve. They also record serving on a chart in the sacristy – thanks to Julie. We introduced colored cords so you can spot the experienced acolytes (2 years served) from those new to serving.

Summer Day Camp: Follow

Summer Day Camp had to move forward by a month this year to June 25th- 29th. Our theme was Follow which meant we thought about sheep, camels (passing through the eye of a needle) and following Jesus (both the disciples and us!)

We had some great new crafts and even some new volunteers. Marbling jars and mugs was a big project that took place on the patio while the parish hall was full of other activities. We reached 27 kids with 7 youth volunteers and 23 adults on the team.

Next summer our day camp will run from July 29th – August 2nd and it will be called On Top of Mountains.

Music Ministry – Jennifer Carini, Music Director

I celebrated my seventh 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 Taize music at 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 11 current choir members. They are: Josephine Amadi, Jacob Edmonds, Tim Fortescue, Julie Guzior, Angela James, Melissa Mallory, Greg Miller, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, 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: 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 four times per year. 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.

This year, I brought my 4th and 5th Grade Choir from Kitayama Elementary School to the Candlelight Vigil put on at St. James' by Abode Services. My choir and I enjoyed singing at the event. Thank you for having us participate!

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 – Bruce Roberts

After the spectacular year of 2017, St. James' 150th Anniversary, we could say there is very little to say about 2018. Let's look back over the year and see just what happened.

As we sit in our pews and take stock of what did happen in 2018, we look to Sunday as a day of rest, but that is when we get to see each other, and when we are renewed by Jesus example. What about all the times that there are very few cars in the parking lot? What about all the things that happen in parishioners' homes like Bible Study? We weren't here when we visited the Hillside Care Center. No cars in our parking lot when we stood on the corner of Paseo Padre and Walnut with TCIC. No cars at St. James' when we cooked at Sunrise Village or the

Centerville Free Dining Room. And no cars in the lot when our youth slept over at Grace Cathedral. Lest you misunderstand me, a lot happened on campus as well.

In a year when our Rector, The Rev. Lori Walton, refreshed herself with a Sabbatical from April through July and into August, a lot happened around here. With the resignation of Andrea Ramsamy, our Office Administrator, Jan Scrutton organized volunteers to handle the administrative load until Alice Harrison was hired as Office Administrator in September. Our Vestry Class of 2016 made it through the last of three years. The Vestry made three steps toward lower utility costs, switching from PG&E to East Bay Energy for actual electricity and to Centerpoint Energy for natural gas, and we converted for the most part from fluorescent and incandescent lights to LED lighting. Under the threat of losing our band-width for our wireless microphone system we converted to a new bandwidth updating our whole sound system. We kept our campus looking clean and tidy through the work of dedicated volunteers. We updated our first aid kits and increased their number. For the most part we changed our Insurance provider at the end of the year, which will save us thousands of dollars on a yearly basis. Tis campus was really alive with Summer Day Camp, entitled "Follow." After the project in 2017 replacing the front lawn, the Scout in charge obtained his Eagle Scout Badge in the August ceremony at St. James'. We were able to expand the hours for both our Associate Rector and our Youth and Children Minister. We produced a new Parish photo Directory. We continued our year-round focus on stewardship with Vestry articles in the Window newsletter each month. And we managed to support Hope and Miriam in high school in Kenya.

The St. James' Community worked hard this year on and off campus. We, all of us, clergy and lay people alike, with Jesus as our guide, we got a lot done. Is there more to do? Always, but the St. James' Community is here to do God's work. We have lists.

Thanks to all in support of the Vestry in 2018. May 2019 be a fantastic year!

Junior Warden's Report – Kimberly Patton

2018 was a time for learning and understanding the role and responsibilities of Junior Warden. I'd like to start by thanking Reverend Lori for this opportunity to be St. James' Episcopal Church's Junior Warden and Meg Amouroux for her training and always being there to lend a hand!

I now have an in-depth understanding of the business operations at St James' Episcopal Church. It truly has been an honor and a privilege to work with all the vestry members: Bruce Roberts, John Butterfield, Penny Trant, Evelyn Martinez , Katie Porter, Sally Morgan, John Kimber, Josephine Amadi, Monique Manjarrez, Laura Winter, as well as Rev. Lori Walton, Assistant Rector Anna Horen, Treasurer Lynn Locher, Children's Minister Jan Scrutton, and Vestry Clerk Elizabeth Hart.

I'm so grateful for everyone who has helped me along the way, as it has been my pleasure to work with everyone!

One of my tasks as junior Warden has been to compile the monthly vestry packet which has allowed me to understand all of the efforts of our congregation, and their dedication and continued support of St James' Episcopal Church on a daily basis, is outstanding.

A huge thank you to all of the people who have submitted their progress on so many projects throughout the church to the vestry packet, creating a beautiful historical document that shows all the many moving pieces of our Church Operations and how we all help each other to become successful at every endeavor as part of a team. Everyone works towards the goals of the church helping where ever it is needed.

There have been many projects requiring more hands to see them through. One of these projects included researching several companies to install air conditioning in the big church. I

worked on securing several bids for the Sr. Warden so we could all finally have air conditioning in the big church! Big thank you to Dave Nelsen, Jim Cunningham and Bruce Roberts, Sr. Warden for meeting with each company. We attended all meetings and worked with the contractors to secure accurate bids so we could select the best local contractor. Jim's knowledge of the equipment in the big church was incredible, he knows not only the equipment but when it was installed, over 20 years ago. Thank you to the AC Team for helping so much! We should all be more comfortable during the summer months!

Committee Reports

7 am Bible Study

The Bible Study group meets on Thursday mornings 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 differing translations often stir discussion on their own. We often look to the guide to steer us into better understanding of often coordinated scriptures. Currently we have eight members and are looking for more. 7 AM isn't that early!

~Bruce Roberts

Abode Dinners

There are two teams preparing and serving dinner at the Sunrise Village in Fremont. One team serves on the first Saturday of the odd months and the other team serves the third Saturday of the even months. All meals must be prepared at the shelter and follow the strict Health Department standards. The teams are asked to prepare for 40 clients. Once the clients have eaten, most of the team members enjoy the meal together. If you are interested in becoming a member of one of these amazing teams of people please contact Lynn Locher or Penny Trant.

~Mary Casas

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 re-housed. Abode Services qualifies the candidates, many of which come through their shelter at Sunrise Village. 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. We will continue to use the store programs to obtain kitchen items and small appliances. 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 down payment and security deposits. We know that we'll never eliminate homelessness in the Tri-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.

~Gregg Feeney

Advent Evening Celebration (formerly Las Posadas)

For well over a decade St. James' has marked early Advent with our Las Posadas celebration including a service and shared meal. This year we opened up this tradition to begin exploring

the many ways Advent and Christmas are celebrated around the world. This seemed a great opportunity to explore traditions familiar and less so over the next few years while maintaining the relaxed, friendly and much-loved style of the evening.

We opted to start this year with an Advent Wreath evening. Fifty-one people attended and a total of 16 advent wreaths were taken home. A pasta dinner was shared in the Parish Hall to round off the evening. Thanks to Penny for helping coordinate the food for the evening and to everyone who came and joined in with something a little new.

~Jan Scrutton

Altar Guild

Twenty-two volunteer members of our parish make up the St. James' Altar Guild Ministry. They are divided into four teams, with each team serving once a month. The Altar Guild ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuaries for weekly services, and clean up afterward. St. James' Altar Guild has two bread bakers and a talented seamstress who helps in many ways. We have one teen member on the Altar Guild.

Each week, the sanctuary of the little church is prepared by Altar Guild members Rose Hoffman and Rebecca Herrera. Services are held at 10:00am every Wednesday in the little church.

St. James' congregation donates towards fresh flowers and the Sanctus Candle for our churches each week. The Altar Guild supervises the ordering and maintenance of fresh flowers for both churches. Two parishioners provide fresh flowers each month for the Columbarium area in the little church. These flowers are provided in remembrance of loved ones.

In addition to weekly services, the Altar Guild prepares the churches for special occasions during the year. These include baptisms and celebration of life services. The loving care and dedication from the Altar Guild Ministry is appreciated by the St. James' parishioners.

The St. James' Altar Guild Ministry purchased a new Paschal Candle for the little church during 2018, with donations made to the Altar Guild. The Altar Guild Ministry maintains care of the vessels and linens and replaces them when required. Thank you to St. James' Parishioners, whose donations into the Altar Guild Special Interest fund, make it possible for us to replace needed items for our church.

St. James' Altar Guild underwent several personnel changes during the last year. We had three long-time Altar Guild members retire from the Altar Guild and three new members join the Altar Guild. Harriet Nabbaale moved away. Pat Vlastelica and Barbara Gifford retired from the Altar Guild. We thank them for their many years of service to our ministry. We welcomed new members Sharon Caputo, Lynate Dalton and Sally Morgan to our Altar Guild.

St. James' Altar Guild held its annual Christmas Brunch in December 2018 in the Parish Hall. It was attended by several retired members of our altar guild. The annual brunch is an opportunity for all guild members to be together and celebrate our ministry. We honored the Altar Guild Members who were retiring and welcomed the three new Altar Guild members. The Rev. Lori Walton, Rev. Anna Horen and other members of the clergy attended.

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

~Katie Cunningham

Archives

The archives consist of 20 boxes of materials organized into 28 categories and stored in an area behind the altar of the Big Church. No substantial changes have been made during 2018; however, a list of new items added to the boxes has been developed and during 2019 the archives catalog will be updated. There are also three locked cabinet drawers in the church office containing personnel related materials and some unique items of historical interest to the parish.

~John Maloney

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

In 2018, we celebrated the Lunar New Year (Year of the Dog) on February 25 with delicious Chinese food at Newark Buffet. Our next get-together is to celebrate the Year of the Boar. 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

Coffee Hour Hosts

Dave Nelsen and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller are co-coordinators of this warm, welcoming team that comprises of 21 individuals who serve with joy as coffee hour hosts each month on a designated Sunday. Each Sunday there are two teams: one who set up the coffee and set out the snack table before the 8 AM service; the second team will also place snacks and refreshments and clean up.

Every Sunday we witness the "miracle of fishes and loaves" whereby parishioners will bring fruit, cheese, and other snacks to share with everyone. Over the years, we have encouraged everyone to sign up on the Snack List, located on the bulletin board. This has worked and sometimes has not. For those Sundays whereby there are no snacks, the team just simply serve the refreshments. Hopefully, it is a reminder for everyone to share.

If anyone has an interest in being a coffee hour host on a semi-regular basis, please see and talk with any of the coffee hour hosts. We gladly welcome individuals and families to participate.

~Dave Nelsen and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller

Counters Report

The counting teams of two parishioners 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 frequently coordinate with the treasurer, stewardship and clergy, checking for new parishioners, updated addresses & special deposits (such as memorials donations). Counters are faithful workers who put confidentiality and accuracy as their first priority. After each batch is counted, your pledges are then posted to the donation software which tracks your pledges and other contributions. At the end of June, September & December statements are generated from this system.

~Jan Brandt

Cub Scout Pack Report

Cub Scout Pack 163 of the San Francisco Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Chartered to St. James' Episcopal Church, Fremont, is entering into its fifth year of a very successful partnership that links St. James' parish with the youth in our community. Pack 163 has been in existence for 17 years, but St. James' became Pack 163's Chartered Partner in 2015 when they found themselves in need of a new sponsor and home. As of January 2019, Pack 163 has about 46 Scouts in seven Dens. The Dens meet weekly, and all Dens meet together in a Pack Meeting once a month. The number of Scouts varies throughout the year as Scouts progress through the program, with a varying number of Cub Scouts bridging over to the Boy Scout program each year.

In June of 2018, Pack 163 opened their program to welcome girls, and beginning in 2019, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has officially expanded all of its programs to welcome Girls from Cub Scouts to the highest Rank of Eagle Scout. As a result, the Boy Scouts of America organization is changing its program name to "**Scouts BSA**".

The Scouting year starts in February (February 8 being the anniversary date of the BSA founding). By February of each Scouting year, all units go through a re-chartering process to update registrations of its youth and adult members, makes sure all adult leaders complete mandatory Youth Protection Training, and the Chartered Partner (St. James') has approved all registered members of their unit (Pack 163). St. James' will be presented with its new Charter for Pack 163 in February 2019.

Program year 2018 was a very successful and busy year for Pack 163. In addition to completing individual advancement requirements, here is a brief list of just some of the Pack activities the Scouts participated in during 2018:

- January – Pie in the Cubmaster's Face (Any Scout who sells at least \$600 in popcorn, gets to throw a pie in the Cubmaster's face)
- February – St J Campout and Pack 163 Charter presentation, Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold Dinner
- March – Webelos Bridging over to Boy Scouts, BALOO Training for Adults,
- April – Earth Day event at LEAF Community Garden, Chabot Space and Science overnighter,
- May - Ice Cream Social and last Pack meeting of the school year.
- June – Garin Park Promotion Ceremony and Family Overnight
- July – 4th of July Parade, Cub Scout Day Camp
- August – Summer Pack 163 Picnic & Bubble Soccer at Los Cerritos Park
- September – Family Games at Lake Elizabeth, Popcorn Fund Raiser
- October – Fall Campout at Del Valle
- November – Scouting For Food (collected food for Second Harvest Food Bank), St J Hunger and Homelessness Candlelight Vigil
- December – Model Rocket Day and Pack Snowball Fight

Pack 163 Finances are managed independently and not co-mingled with St. James' finances. Throughout the year, the pack has fundraisers (Popcorn being the biggest) to cover the costs of operating Pack 163. The Charter presented to St James' authorizes it to use the Scouting program as part of its ministry to youth, and asks that St. James' provides meeting facilities for the Scouts, and St. James' Charter Partner Representative reviews and approves the adult leadership of the pack to assure that the shared goals of St. James' and Scouting are carried out to provide a safe environment and quality program for our youth.

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

Chartered Partner Representative for Pack 163 and St. James'

Deanery Report

(The report presented here is a copy of the December meeting minutes)

Disaster Preparedness – Elaine Vallecillo-Miller gave a progress report on Disaster Preparedness and the following changes for 2019 Rector will be the contact person and the cell phone number will be available.

- Rector will appoint a replacement in their absence.
- Elaine will hold a workshop for rectors and 2 more congregants.
- The disaster in Paradise and the surrounding region was brought up relative to the conversation.

The Deanery – supported subsidizing \$20.00 per person to attend the vestry retreat at Bishop's Ranch which would amount to about \$1,200.

Annual Election We held our annual election with the following results:

President	Lori Walton
Vice-president	Andy Lobban
Secretary	Dianne Lundgren
Treasurer	Jim DeMersman
Executive Council	Richard Patenaude

Sacred Space – Tracy Brown reported that 6 members have passed this year and donations of socks, etc. are greatly appreciated. One member has become sober and is an effective advocate for shelter.

Corazon – The annual Corazon trip to Mexico will be on June 1st.

We adjourned for the Annual Smackdown/Chow-down and decided to have a nice, non-competitive curry pot luck instead!

~Scott Whitaker

Disaster Preparedness Team

The St. James' Disaster Preparedness Team is a group of parishioners working at ways to take care of the church, its members and members of the surrounding community in the event of an emergency. It is our goal to help everyone become better prepared.

In May we sponsored a PEP class (Personal Emergency Preparedness) presented by the Fremont Fire Department Community Emergency Response Team. The class followed the same curriculum that the FEMA program offers to CERT members.

In August we sponsored the National Night Out event in the St. James' parking lot. Designed to strengthen our neighborhoods through police-community partnerships, the goal is to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness and build support and participation in local anti-crime programs. It's also the perfect opportunity to get to know our neighbors a bit better.

In the interest of convenience and safety new first aid kits were purchased this year and an existing one was refreshed with new supplies.

Our team has taken the responsibility of creating and maintaining an inventory of church assets. Keeping this updated is an ongoing task. Updates which currently need to be incorporated include adding the new microphones and sound equipment and LED lighting.

Our team members this year were: Co-leaders Dave Nelsen and Bud Pearson, Elaine and Greg Miller, Jill Buono, Laura Winter, Josephine Amadi and Bob Bynum. Dave and Laura are retiring from the team and Elaine Miller has offered to lead the team in 2019. Thank you all for your participation.

~Dave Nelsen

Endowment Fund Report

For over 150 years, St. James' has been an active presence in our Fremont community. In 2003, a group of forward-thinking parishioners shared a long-term vision of creating an Endowment to ensure that St. James' would continue to be a welcoming place for worship and service in our community long into the future. They began by first declaring their intention to include St. James' in their estate planning, and then followed up by donating funds or by including St. James' as a beneficiary of their wills, trusts, insurance policies, IRAs or other investments.

This was the beginning of the St. James' Endowment Fund and the St. James' Shell Society (which is simply the group of people who stated their desire to support the St. James' Endowment). In addition to the original general endowment fund, additional funds were subsequently added for the St. James' Little Church and the Memorial Garden.

With support from those original visionaries and others who joined their ranks over the years, the Endowment Fund has grown from \$7,200 in 2004 to \$189,323 at the end of 2018. The bulk of the St. James' Endowment Fund is managed by State Street Global Advisors (which is part of the Episcopal Church Foundation Endowment Management Services). With recent market volatility, the State Street funds lost \$9,811.51 in 2018 (approximately 5.5% of the value of State Street funds). However, with favorable market conditions, the Endowment Board can annually distribute part of the accrued interest back to the St. James' Vestry, and the principal remains in perpetuity.

In June 2018, the Endowment Board organized an Estate Planning Seminar by Alan Khalfin from Vaksman Khalfin. We provided lunch and packed the Education Room for this insightful presentation and discussion! If anyone has follow up questions about wills, probate, inheritance taxes, asset protection, trusts, or other estate planning options, please let us know and we can try to help. We are discussing plans for a general financial planning seminar later this spring/early summer, but if there are other topics of interest to our community, please let us know.

The Endowment Board currently includes Cathy Knotts, Jino Joseph, Scott Whitaker, Mary Casas, and St. James Treasurer Lynn Locher who is an ex officio member of the Board. In 2018, Jeanne Morris stepped down from the Endowment Board, so we have an opening. Scott Whitaker will complete his term in April, so we will soon have another opening. If you may be interested or want to learn more about the Endowment Board, please contact any one of us for more information.

Planning ahead to get your financial affairs in order and indicate your wishes, including providing for charities closest to your heart, can lead to greater peace of mind for yourself and for your family. With this in mind, please consider joining the St. James' Shell Society and including the St. James' Endowment Fund in your estate plans. Thank you.

~Cathy Knotts, Endowment Chair

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.

We have 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.

In February an underground wasp nest was discovered in the park. Alameda County Vector Control was called and they came out and exterminated the nest. This service is provided by taxpayer funds.

Dry-rot was detected in the over-hang area of the Sunday school roof in 2017. After assessing the issue with several roofing companies we decided to postpone the costly replacement of this roof, in part because it's in the over-hang and not in danger of leaking inside the building. Several areas of flat roof portion of the big church have also developed dry-rot. These are in the over-hang as well and not causing leaks inside. We can mitigate these issues to some degree, but these roofs will need to be replaced some year soon.

A big thank you goes out to Barry Hedgpeth and Dave Nelsen 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 and John Amouroux gave the ride-on mower an extensive tune-up this summer, including replacement of the blades. This mower gets heavy use on our uneven weed fields. This tune-up will keep this machine running well and safely.

The St. James' sign at the church entrance was washed in June, painted with primer in September and given its final coat of paint in October. This project involved intense detail work around the lettering and each step took considerable time. A big thanks goes out to John Amouroux, Meg Amouroux and Laura Winter.

A large project accomplished this year was the replacement of most incandescent and fluorescent lighting with LED technology. 136 4 foot fluorescent tubes, 36 bulbs and 12 flood lights were replaced. These new lights will use approximately 70% less energy and pay for themselves in less than two years. Six 8 foot fluorescent fixtures in the big church were replaced with 22 LED strip light fixtures. These new lights provide nearly twice the amount of light than was there before but use 22% less energy. These lights can also be dimmed, a nice enhancement for this wonderful worship space.

The cost for this lighting upgrade was \$5,200. Thanks go to the vestry for their understanding and courage to make this investment. The pay-off period will be short and the savings in our electricity cost will be available for other uses forever. The cost for contracting this project to a professional would have been substantial. This cost was saved by numerous volunteers giving of their time and talents; Thank you Al Casas, Bob Bynum, Bruce Roberts, Bud Pearson, Dave Nelsen, Greg Miller, John Amouroux, Ken Trant, Laura Winter, Meg Amouroux, Mike Scrutton, Ralph Locher, Robert Lacy, Scott Whitaker and for his professional knowledge guiding us in doing everything correctly, Ron Larson.

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

In 2018, The Rev. Anna Horen was tasked with being our clergy leader. With her extensive experience in adult faith formation, it is a perfect fit! Members of the committee for 2018 were The Rev. Anna Horen Janet Fischer, EJ Hilliard, and Bruce Roberts.

The mission of the Faith Formation committee is to provide adults with classes and programs that educate us about our faith, our church traditions, enhance our understanding of God, ourselves and our neighbors, and deepen our spiritual life and practice. During 2018, the committee offered the following programs:

- Contemplative Practices:
 - The Sunday morning *lectio divina* meeting sunset about half-way through the year. We thank Brian Cochran for his faithful leadership of this group.
 - 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.
- We held our first Annual Quiet Day @ StJ on March 10, with guest speaker Dr. Joe Neary who spoke on the neuroscience of meditation. The day included meditation time, walking meditation, two short talks by Joe, and readings from the desert fathers and mothers during a silent lunch. Approximately 25 people attended with a number of people joining us from outside the parish.
- Lenten Program: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John, using materials from the Society of St. John the Evangelist. Led by Anna+, the class was well-attended with an average of 20-22 people each class.
- Anna+ conducted an 8-week inquirers/confirmation preparation class in April and May.
- Women's Day Retreat on May 12. We repeated the format of last year's study of "Hidden Figures" and explored the lives of six women of faith that we don't usually hear much about. The men's group graciously provided lunch for us.
- Janet led a summer book discussion on *Whole: Restoring What Is Broken In Me, You, and the Entire World* by Steve Wiens.
- Following up the book discussion, the Rev. Karin White led a small group discussing a Life Review and writing a spiritual autobiography.
- On September 16, EJ Hilliard led a session on the Diocesan resolutions to be presented at the Diocesan Convention this year.
- Advent Program: using materials from the Society of St. John the Evangelist, the class explored *It's Time To...Stop, Pray, Work, Play, Love*. This was attended by an average of eight people. An additional three to four people followed the program at home.

The committee works hard to present offerings that might appeal to different people. Look for some exciting events coming in 2019.

~Janet Fischer

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 to 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 offered an open space this past year during worship for prayers, laying on of hands, and anointing with oil for self or others. For the 8:00 am service, the healing station

has been available on the first Sunday of each month. At the 10:30 am service it was available every week. All are welcome to visit the stations after communion.

~*Brian Cochran*

Hillside Senior Care Center

St. James' continues its support of this facility that accepts mostly senior adults. The residents' conditions are wide-ranging, e.g., non-verbal, wheel-chair & bed-bound, and some with degrees of dementia, to mention a few. Our focus at this time is making two visits a year, near Easter time and during the Christmas season. Our congregation is generous in their support of our visits. The facility has a capacity of 71, but the usual number is 60-65. Our Easter visit includes the Easter Bunny with gifts for each resident and a sing-along. We time our visit at Christmas so that Santa & Mrs. Claus and their Elves can join us. We appreciate the continued support from our Clergy and all the members of our St. James' Community.

~*Sandra Motley*

Hunger and Homelessness Vigil with Abode Services

For the fifth year we hosted a vigil with Abode Services to mark Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and to remember by name the 40 people known to Abode who were impacted by homelessness and died this year. For the first year we had to hold the entire vigil inside due to the bad weather. We also moved the day to a Thursday night.

We were joined by the 4th and 5th Grade Choir from Kitayama Elementary School in Union City, led by our own Jennifer Carini. A total of 232 people attended the Vigil and prayers were offered by Rev Anna from St. James' and representatives from the Jewish and Muslim faiths as well. Pack 163 joined us to help with the lighting of the candles.

~*Jan Scrutton*

IT Report

During 2018 we replaced the Rector's laptop. A replacement PC for use by the office administrator has been purchased to be deployed early in 2019, as has a replacement fileserver.

~*Mike Scrutton*

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. Thirteen ladies from St James' spent a lovely weekend at the shores of Monterey Bay on September 27st thru September 30th. 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.

Next year's event is scheduled for September 26-29, 2019.

~*Nancy Castaneda*

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. We continue to have a strong team with Lynn Locher, Marilyn Rose and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller. Throughout the year, several home visits were made, some on a regular basis and others for a short time while the person was homebound. The LEVs were coordinated by the Reverend Karin White. In 2019, the coordinating responsibility will go to the Reverend Anna Horen.

~The Rev. Lori Walton

Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers

During 2018 Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers served at over 150 services at St. James'. These dedicated parishioners read the scripture lessons and assist in the liturgy and at the altar. They work hard to make each church service a worshipful experience for everyone, and have been very flexible as schedules change. Members of the 2018 teams include:

- Lectors: John Amouroux, Tom Blalock, Brian Cochran, Bob Doherty, Sunita Joseph, Joan Kimber, Patty Lacy, Jim McConnell, Linda Nelsen, Raelene Ramsamy, Bruce Roberts, Mike Scrutton, Pat Spalding, Nancy Svenson, Richard Reynolds, Peter Maina, Mary Frances Leopold 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. During 2018, Nancy Svenson retired to Arizona and Bruce Roberts retired from reading. Peter Maina, Richard Reynolds and Mary Frances Leopold joined the Lector ministry. At year end, we celebrated Lessons and Carols at both of our services, giving non-lectors the opportunity to read along with regular lectors.
- Eucharistic Ministers: Meg Amouroux, Janet Fischer, Lynn Locher, Ralph Locher, Greg Miller, Mary Morkved, Vivienne Paratore, Caylyn Ramsamy, Marilyn Rose, George Siegmann, Andrea Arsene, and Laura Winter. Bud Spalding retired from the LEM ministry and Tom Scrutton is attending college. Seminarian Andrea Arsene joined the LEMs. In 2018, I volunteered to coordinate the Lectors and LEMs and am happy to work with people who are so generous with their service to St. James'.

~George Siegmann

Library

During 2018, 10 parishioners checked out 15 books from the St. James' library. 33 books and 1 DVD were added to the collection of approximately 800 books and 32 DVDs, which are divided into 37 categories. One new category with 16 "Parishioner-Written Books" was added to the collection and a second category titled "Archived Books" with 29 books was developed.

~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), Chris Perry (emeritus), Patty Lacy, Jim McConnell, Mary Casas, Tom Blalock, Jan Brandt, Bobbie Tomkinson, Laura Winter, Bruce Roberts, Jim Cunningham and Dave Nelsen.

In 2018, the Committee was working on repairing the siding of the outside wall behind the altar as well as looking into repairing the pews and the floor of the Little Church. We worked hard to obtain bids from contractors but were not successful in getting a signed contract. We are hopeful that when the 'housing binge' slows down, we will be able to proceed with the repairs.

Over the years, the funding for the repairs has been 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.

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.

~The Little Church Renovation Committee

Liturgical Design Team

Presently, the Liturgical Design Team comprises Gregory and Elaine Miller who consult and collaborate with Rev. Lori and Jan Scrutton regarding particular themes for the liturgical seasons: Epiphany, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Pentecost, the long "green" season of Penecost, Vacation Bible School, and Feast Days.

This year we assisted with setting up a wedding at Big Basin State Park for one for our parishioners in June. Sometimes, by request of the parishioners for certain special occasions, we have changed the hangings in the sanctuary

Many parishioners saw new additions during Advent, four banners depicting the progression of the Advent candles, hung at the pillars.

This is a team that welcomes the input and participation of parishioners with setting up decorations for Easter and Christmas. Thanks for those individuals who assisted us. If anyone has an interest in being part of this ministry, please see or contact us.

~Gregory and Elaine Miller

McCutcheon Concert Fundraiser

Our 2018 John McCutcheon Concert on Monday Jan 15 was another great success. We had a large crowd of over 240, with 59% non-parishioners. John McCutcheon gave us another very entertaining evening. Ticket sales totaled over \$6300. The prize drawing, with 20 prizes donated by 15 generous parishioners, generated drawing ticket sales of \$672. The cookies from the snack bar were delicious and brought in an additional \$173. After deducting all the reimbursed expenses, we netted \$2828.20.

The Vestry approved and donated \$1000 from the 2018 concert proceeds to ABODE Services, \$500 to Centerville Free Dining and the remaining \$1328.20 for purchase of wireless microphones for St. James'.

This fundraising and community outreach event could not have happened without all your help. There were more than 50 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; baked dozens of delicious cookies; made coffee; helped with the snack bar; decorated and set up the Vestry Room for the Artist and Crew Dinner; cooked and served wonderful soups, corn bread and desserts for the crew; donated wine and water...; washed all the dishes; cleaned up the kitchen; set up and take down the dressing room; ushered; sold CDs and books for John McCutcheon; created and

printed the programs; showed great hospitality; did a wonderful job as MC/announcers; took photos; waited for the sound crew (Tesser and helper) 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.

Our 2019 McCutcheon Concert will be on Jan 21. We have been busy organizing another wonderful evening for our communities. Part of the proceeds from the 2019 concert will again go towards ABODE Services to fight homelessness.

~McCutcheon Team

Memorial Garden/Columbarium

The Memorial Garden is maintained by a committee of 14 members. We meet as needed usually on the second Sunday of the month. Much of our business is done via email. We normally have 2 work parties a year. The rest of the time we take care as needed. We are in need of new members. Please contact Ruth Poole or any Committee member if you are interested in joining our Committee.

The year 2018 was a big year for us. We had a new pathway put in the garden. It had been talked about for some time and finally came to fruition. A lot of work and many hands made it possible. If you have not seen it please visit. We have had many favorable reports. It makes the garden more accessible to people with disabilities.

In 2018 we had two people interred in the Columbarium, three people interred in the Memorial Garden and one In Memory Only stone placed in the garden. We have only 2 niches left to be sold in the Columbarium. If interested in purchasing a spot in either 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 Pack 263 continues to put out the flags on appropriate holidays.

Looking forward to 2019 we are hoping to have the stones cleaned and restored. We also hope to replace the bird bath with a statue.

Again, please contact Ruth Poole, 510-471-7695 or ruth.poole@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in joining our Committee. We would love to have you.

~Ruth Poole

Men's Group

The men's group has been meeting on a regular basis for four years now. We generally meet on the fourth Saturday of each month alternating between having a social breakfast and performing work projects around the church. Our breakfast meetings are held at My Cafe in Newark. We share stories, talk about what's on our minds and make plans for future meetings. Our work projects are often seasonal and consist of tasks needed at the time, like clearing roofs and gutters of debris, pruning trees and shrubs, pulling, whacking and blowing of weeds, fixing leaks and plumbing issues, washing windows and performing various cleaning projects. It's a big campus and many thanks go out to the men and women and cub scouts 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 on May 19. Our meetings typically bring between 8 and 18 men together to enjoy these social and work activities.

~Dave Nelsen

Men's Trip Report

For the past eleven years the Men's Group has made their trek to the Blue Springs district of Arnold located in Calaveras County, and to Twain Harte in Tuolumne County. Our trip is usually in the 3rd week of August, Thursday – Sunday, and we average about 12 guys ranging in age from 21-80+.

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/Tuolumne County and Stanislaus National Forest. The last 5 years we've been enjoying Twain Harte. It's about 130 miles from Fremont. We decided to rotate between Arnold and Twain Harte beginning in 2019. In 2019 we return to the Blue Lake Springs district of Arnold.

If you are new to St James' and to California, it's a good time to take in the beauty of the mountains. 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're all about. It's really about fellowship and a chance to unwind. At a cost of \$175.00, meals included, it's hard to pass up. A friendly reminder and save the date notice will go out in our monthly newsletter as well as weekly email notices and the St James' email group.
~Gregg Feeney

Newsletter – The Window

I am happy to report that *The Window* enjoyed a very good year thanks to the many excellent articles and other items submitted by our clergy and many parishioners. It also saw readership grow modestly. The on-line newsletter page was visited 845 times in 2018, which is about 70 per month. The average printed readership is up by six to 40 per month. However, the best news is that Janet Fischer has volunteered to be an editor, bringing the editorial staff to three. We are also grateful to Laura Winter, who has proofread all our issues for many years and keeps us on our toes.

~Ralph Locher

Payless Shoe Drive for Abode Services

The congregation donated \$760 to support the children's shoe drive in 2018. The contact at Abode Services was on holiday when we went to drop the Payless cards off on Christmas Eve so we haven't heard from them to date. The amount equals about 50 pairs of shoes (averaging about \$15 a pair). This last-minute program during the holidays really shows the giving spirit of the congregation as a whole. Thank you to everyone who supported this last-minute request!

~Kimberly Patton

Road Crew

A few years ago Jennifer Carini, Our Music director, realized that worship at St. James' was becoming more and more mobile. We had an outdoor procession on Palm Sunday, an outdoor service on the feast of St. Francis to bless the animals, and Easter Vigil services in various places. It was obvious that a permanent moving crew with necessary skills was needed. Like any rock star, Jennifer formed her own Roadies and the St. James' Episcopal Church Road Crew Was born. Originally it was comprised of Bruce Roberts, Greg Miller and Bud Pearson. Over the years others have been added to make use of specific skills. Mike Scrutton, Laura Winters, Tom Scrutton and Dave Nelson are the most recent additions.

In addition to the usual physical moves, 2018 challenged the Road crew with a far more technical problem. In its great wisdom our US Federal Communications Commission chose to write new rules regarding the Radio Frequencies (RF) that were occupied by, among other services, our wireless microphone system. They felt that the Cell Service Company's needed

more space. (Read: VERIZON, T MOBILE et al.). It would be required that all entities using those frequencies for wireless systems cease and desist by 2020. No easy solutions were offered. We would need to scrap our existing equipment. After much research, and the assistance of ZAMAR MEDIA SOLUTIONS it was determined that equipment was available on small splinter frequencies between TV channels. The equipment we purchased was expensive but necessary.

~Bud Pearson

Sacred Space Hayward

This ministry supports the congregation of unhoused or hungry people who gather in Cannery Park in Hayward each Sunday afternoon. The parishes of the Southern Alameda County Deanery continue to rotate the responsibility for providing lunch and presiding over the worship service, and St. James' has consistently covered the 4th Sunday of every month. You have all wonderfully supported this ministry, and throughout the year we have faithfully provided not only bag lunches but also hot meals, socks, gloves, coats, and toiletries. The deanery leaders for this ministry say that St. James' is one of the few parishes that offer all of those things. Our clergy continue to provide care, counseling, and communion. Once again, the Trants provided a special hot lunch for the Christmas celebration on December 23, and we distributed many of the coats you have all donated. This is a wonderful ministry that could not continue without the support of all of you. Thank you!

~Janet Fischer

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Supper)

Shrove Tuesday fell on February 13th this year and following a long tradition, the men of the parish prepared a meal of pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs. Seventeen 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 bussed tables. Dealing with all the tickets, finances and coordinating guests were several women who help with this each year. This is a wonderful occasion to serve, to be served, and to reflect on the upcoming season of Lent. Over 110 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 2018. We have approximately 40 volunteers to meet the needs of the community. We had the opportunity to serve 2 parishioners this year (1 visitation request and 1 ride request).

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

Each member of the Vestry wrote an article on stewardship entitled "Why Regular Worship is Important to Me." Most talks focused on personal relationships to the St. James' community in the form of time and talent. Being connected to the community is a key to Stewardship.

The Stewardship drive near the end of the year is a Vestry function as well. While the monitoring of stewardship (time, talent and treasure) is spoken of and monitored year 'round, the Vestry sets up 3-minute talks during the October-November period leading up to

Stewardship Sunday for pledge gathering. The talks at announcement time at the 8 AM and 10:30 AM services gave the Vestry members a chance to grow in their understanding of stewardship. Response to the talks often resulted in applause.

St. James' Composting and Recycling program was launched in 2018 and has been very successful. We are still working to grasp understanding the compostability (or not) of food-contaminated paper. As stewards of God' creation we have room to grow.

~Bruce Roberts, Sr. Warden

Tai Chi Class

Tai Chi class, a ministry of St. James', is held in the Parish Hall every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30pm. All are welcome 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.

Our classes have grown over the years but are still small. We held 38 classes in 2018 and averaged about 3 students per class. We have both St. James' parishioners and non-parishioners in attendance.

In 2019, we are adding a morning class on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 in the Parish Hall. If you or your family members or friends are interested in finding out more about this ancient Chinese moving meditation/internal martial art form, please come and join us. Please contact Sylvia Ma if you have any questions: 510-552-6549 or by email hsiehtingsueh@yahoo.com
~Sylvia Ma

Website

This year Mike Scrutton and I worked to keep our website fresh and up-to-date. The use of the slide show on the front page keeps all the upcoming events at hand without taking up too much "real estate" on the home page. Our web site continues to be a major draw for visitors. It also serves as the archive for past newsletters, the church calendar, as well as the blog feature which highlights articles that are also posted in The Window.

Some user statistics: In 2018 the site had over 7,400 visits, over 4,500 unique visitors, and 4,400 new visits. Approximately 43.5% of our visits were on mobile devices. Our blog had over 1,500 visits. The newsletter page was visited 845 times and the sermons page 701 times.

~Janet Fischer