



SAINT JAMES'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Report for 2019

Submitted for the Annual Meeting Held
January 26th, 2020

The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector

St. James' Episcopal Church
Fremont, CA

37051 Cabrillo Terrace, Fremont, CA 94536
PO Box 457, Fremont, CA 94537-0457

510-797-1492

<http://saintj.com>

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Clergy & Staff Reports

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

Worship and Liturgy

2019 brought changes to our worship leadership with the departure of Rev. Anna Horen and the arrival of Rev. Bill Hale. Our field education student, Andrea Arsene, was with us through May. Anna, Bill, Andrea, and Brian Cochran were all part of the regular preaching rota. In addition, we more fully integrated our Children and Teen Minister, Jan Scrutton, into the schedule. With the departure of Anna and Andrea, the rota now consists of me, Jan, Bill and Brian. We invited the Diocese of California Canon to the Ordinary, Abbott Bailey, to preach on February 10 and the Diocesan Associate for Faith Formation, Caren Miles, to preach on September 29. On October 13, we welcomed supply priest Pamela Cranston to preach and preside.

Along with the regular services and liturgical calendar of Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Advent, we celebrated Scout Sunday on February 24, 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 16, St. James’ Day on July 28, VBS Sunday on August 4, St. Francis/Animal Blessing on October 6, and Lessons and Carols on December 29. Due to city and county regulations, the Sacred Space ministry came to an end in September. Additionally, as the Rev. Karin White opted to move fully into retirement, the Masonic Home weekly service, which began in 2017, also ended in November.

We had 42 children and adults at the Children’s Imposition of Ashes on Shrove Tuesday. This is compared to 34 the year before. Over three Ash Wednesday services, we gave out ashes to 94 congregants and visitors (we had 78 the prior year). The Masonic Home had 9 people in attendance.

Our Holy Week services continued as they have in years past. Palm Sunday included the blessing of palms, a procession into church, a full service of Holy Communion ending with the reading of the passion. For Maundy Thursday we painted crosses and washed feet and on Good Friday, we continued with a traditional Good Friday Service with our music director, Jennifer Carini chanting the Passion. For 2019, we traveled to St. Anne’s Episcopal Church to share in their Good Friday evening service.

Our Easter Vigil was filled with laughter and creativity with 65 people celebrating. Our seminarian, Andrea Arsene, chanted the Exsultet and the salvation stories were told by the Sunday School and the Choir. We renewed our baptismal vows and welcomed the joy of the Resurrection. Our Easter Sunday service welcomed 235 parishioners and visitors, up from 192 in 2018. On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrated our many cultures and tongues by inviting parishioners to share their language in liturgy.

We celebrated St. James’ Day on July 28 with both congregations from the Philippine Independent Church. While I was not present, the service was skillfully led by Anna Horen. We held our annual VBS Sunday on August 4 and blessed many animals and people on October 6 for the celebration of St. Francis. The celebration of Thanksgiving was held in the Little Church with 12 participants, down significantly from last year’s 29 participants. This is the second year

we've had our later Christmas Eve service at 9:00. We had 95 in attendance. Our 4:00 Family Service on Christmas Eve had 86 present.

Our Music Director, Jennifer Ravera (previously Carini), is an integral part of our liturgical life, participating in Vacation Bible School, off-Sunday services during Holy Week and Christmas, the Ash Wednesday Services for adults and children, and the annual Candlelight Vigil for homeless. She also conducts weekly choir rehearsals and directs the choir and plays the music at our Sunday services. She has worked to increase choir participation and commitment with positive results.

Our altar servers are as strong group with new recruits in all areas of service (lectors, acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers). George Seigmann continues to do an excellent job scheduling the lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, while Jan Scrutton schedules the acolytes.

During the year, we baptized two children: Michelle and Max. We confirmed three people: Rebekka, Craig and Linda.

I officiated one funeral and Rev. Anna Horen officiated one in my absence. Held at St. James': Shaun Duncan. Held offsite: Rodney Girard (Anna Horen officiating).

On November 18, in partnership with Abode Services and with the help of Jan Scrutton and Jennifer Ravera, 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. There were approximately 165 in attendance.

Office Staff, Administration and Finance

We saw a few staff changes in 2019. Our seminarian, Andrea Arsene, completed her commitment with us in May. Our Associate Rector, Anna Horen, moved to Colorado in September. Our Parish Administrator, Alice Harrison, left her position for fulltime work in November as did our nursery care provider, Ami Martinez Locher. In order to attend to the absences created by Anna and Alice, we contracted with the Rev. Bill Hale to help out on Sundays and with pastoral care, and Jan Scrutton and I covered the office while Jan Brandt helped with some of the financial and administrative functions. Janet Fischer, Mike Scrutton, and Greg Courville took over other functions. Thankfully, we were able to hire a new administrator, Ron Cook, beginning in 2020 and we've extended Bill's contract for the remainder of 2020. We continue to look for a nursery worker. We remain in contract with Fernando's Cleaning and Landscaping company to keep our buildings and grounds clean.

Our children's program remains strong and our youth group, both led by our Children and Youth Minister, Jan Scrutton, is flourishing. Jan has built an excellent team of Sunday School teachers and Youth Leaders and is working hard to prepare our youth for confirmation. Under Jan's leadership, we have incorporated the youth from St. Anne's into our program with great success. Please see Jan's report for further details.

While with us, Anna Horen led the adult faith formation effort and continued to connect the parish with the Tri-City Interfaith Council. She preached, presided, and offered pastoral care. Anna left in the summer of 2019 to move to Colorado to be closer to family. Please see the Faith Formation Report for more information as to Anna's work.

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 9 new pledges and our pledge income increased over last year by

approximately \$7,600. Mike Scrutton, serving as the pledge secretary continues to be a great resource in painting a picture of our congregational giving.

The students from the School for the Blind continue 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.

Welcoming and Integrating New People, Outreach

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

For 2019, we added 22 members to our database. In January, we held the fourth 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.

We continue to support schooling for Hope and Miriam, two children in Kenya. This effort is through the organization Maisha Bora. In addition to school support, we have also provided the girls with Christmas gifts, food items, and bibles.

In June of 2019, we partnered with the deanery for the Corazon Build, an effort to build a house in Mexico in a day. Money was raised by the parish to fund the build and four of our parishioners made the trip to Mexico to build the house. It is our intention to continue this effort in the years to come.

Wider Church Involvement and Personal Formation

At the October Diocesan Convention, I was appointed by the Bishop to serve on the Commission on Ministry, a four-year term. In December, I was re-elected to serve as the President of our deanery for 2019.

Children & Youth Minister's Report – Jan Scrutton

Another busy year at St. James' and as I look back I can see the consistent programs and people that underpin our work, I see new faces and new opportunities and I have seen opportunities, for me and for our young people, to connect to the wider church outside St. James'. These things blend together to form a picture of learning, worshipping, sharing and outreach.

Sunday School meets weekly during the school year with a regular attendance of 8-12 children. I'm grateful to our team – Sherea, Monique, Penny & Peter for assisting with teaching and for Callie who often comes along to help out. Some of our younger members have joined our acolyte team this year (see acolyte report). Before Lent we made Alleluia banners which we buried outside church at the start of Lent and dug up to hang outside on Easter Sunday. A few families joined our September camp out on campus with 11 people spending the night. And 7 young people went up to join in the Harry Potter Day at Grace Cathedral in November (more on that later).

I was able to take advantage of two opportunities for professional development this year. The first was my first Forma Conference, a gathering of Episcopal Educators held in Indianapolis in freezing temperatures. The greatest gift this gave me was to see myself as part of a bigger

world, people – some very like me and some very different – trying to share their faith and church with others. It was inspiring and reminded me how important it was to encourage our young people to see themselves as part of a larger church. The second opportunity was the Youth Symposium at CDSP which this year was about research into confirmation teaching through The Confirmation Project. This day, that both Mike and I attended, was very valuable when making decisions about our own confirmation program for Episcopal Youth Fremont.

I worked on some outreach projects this year. I contacted Newark Unified School District to ask for ideas as to how we might support them, they put me in touch with the Title 1 elementary schools who were able to share things they needed help with. One asked for support raising funds for enrichment projects at school while the other wanted supplies, including clothes, coats and underwear, which we were able to help with. We also supported Union City Family Center with supplies needed for families sleeping in their cars in their safe parking lot program. Along with Abode Services we supported Union City Family Center again in the summer with our backpack and school supplies drive. On a smaller scale I worked on two art projects with students at Blacow Elementary.

One new event we had chance to take part in this year was Harry Potter Day at Grace Cathedral in November. Eight adults and 7 young people enjoyed playing quidditch, making wands and classes in defense against dark arts and potions – otherwise known as prayer and the Eucharist! The Harry Potter series of books have strong links to Christianity and bringing the enthusiasm of people for the stories into the cathedral and worship was inspiring. I was fortunate to be involved in the planning and execution of the day as well.

Acolytes

Our acolyte team has seen some changes with some acolytes stepping down and a younger crew stepping up to fill in the gaps. After training in the fall we finished 2019 with a regular team consisting of Malorie, Gianna, Caiden, Ian, Bethany, Ella, Kai and Owen.

Summer Day Camp: On Top of Mountains.

39 children, 7 youth and over 20 adult volunteers helped keep campus busy and joyful for another week this summer. From July 29th – August 2nd we sang, played, talked and made things. We heard stories that took place on top of mountains (the transfiguration) and heard how people believed God came close to man on mountaintops. 2020 will be our 10th year of summer camp so plans are already underway for us to celebrate 'God's Garden' from July 13-17 2020.

Music Ministry – Jennifer Carini, Music Director

I celebrated my eighth 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, Janet Fischer, Tim Fortescue, Angela James, Melissa Mallory, Greg Miller, Bud Pearson, Lyn Pulliam, 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. We have also been blessed to have professional instrumentalists and vocalists join us on Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve.

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!

~ Jennifer Ravera, Music Director

Wardens' Reports

Senior Warden's Report – Monique Manjarrez

2019 was a great year for the St. James' Vestry. During our monthly meetings, no matter how long or short the agendas, we always seemed to fill the meetings with deep conversations, gained insight on ourselves and others, and it was always an opportunity to understand all the moving parts of St. James'.

During this past year, the Vestry added an Oral Communications segment at the beginning of our meeting for any parishioner wishing to address the Vestry on church matters. Our meetings this year welcomed visitors from various committees (to do presentations) and on occasion, we welcomed other parishioners that were visiting to make a public comment. It was great to hear from others about issues that were important to them.

Throughout the year you may have been witness to the good hands and spirit of the St. James' Vestry through various projects and events. Here are just a few highlights: In early Spring, the Vestry discussed ways to raise money for Corazon so that we could help build a home in Mexico. A successful fundraising campaign was put together and fully financed our portion needed to participate in this endeavor (as well as in the future). In April, the Vestry provided refreshments and food for Easter morning, as well as recognizing Earth Day a week later. In June, we hope you enjoyed cake and ice cream for Volunteer Appreciation Sunday. It is always a pleasure to say "thank you" in this sweet way. Then in July, it was another special St. James' Day celebration. This event requires many hands, and it was with the collaborative help of the Vestry that we were able to make it as wonderful as it is every year. In November, we hosted food and refreshments for the Ingathering Celebration to thank all those that had turned in their pledges for 2019. In January, we welcomed parishioners new and old at a small annual Epiphany Party at Lori's home, as well as providing food and refreshments before our Annual Meeting.

Although the Vestry is "empowered and authorized with managing affairs and conducting the business of the church", I would be remiss in not mentioning that our monthly gatherings also nurtured our spiritual growth. By looking after the well-being of our beautiful St. James', we were doing God's work and ensuring God's spirit radiated throughout every part of our parish.

I would like to thank the entire Vestry for their time and commitment throughout the year. It was my absolute honor and pleasure to be your Warden for 2019 and I look forward to another amazing year on the St. James' Vestry.

Junior Warden's Report – Katie Porter

The role of the Junior Warden is largely one of service and support of the Lead Team, the Vestry and the St. James' community. I've learned so much about all the different groups and individuals who contribute their time and talent to St. James'. This year, I've summarized the discussions of the Vestry for The Window newsletter and helped with various other matters as requested by Rev. Lori.

I'd like to thank the vestry for their enthusiasm and dedication. Special thanks to the Lead Team: our Senior Warden, Monique Manjarrez, for her knowledgeable, steady presence; Lynn Locher, our treasurer, for her patience and dedication, and to Rev. Lori for her leadership and support.

Committee Reports

6 & 7 am Bible Study

Last Report from the 6AM/7AM Bible Study - 2019

Bible Study, which has met in two locations, Genore Schaaf's house and Bruce Roberts' house, in the course of its 39 year history, closed with a luncheon at Bruce's house on October 29, 2019 with The Rev. Lori Walton, Scott Whitaker, Alice Johnson, Roberta Tomkinson, Margaret Broun, Richard Reynolds, Robert Sigmon and Bruce Roberts in attendance. The Bible Study functioned as a Bible Study, a support group, a greeting card ministry and much more over its existence.

Let me close with Proper 28 from the Episcopal Eucharistic Lectionary, read at the opening of nearly every Bible Study session in all those years:

“Blessed Lord, who has caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning: Grant us to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.”

Attendees of Bible Study over the 39 years:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| David Abernathy-Deppe + | Yvonne Archer |
| Laura Ashley-Spencer | Dorothy Balderston |
| Marie Beebe | Bob Bell |
| *Margaret Broun | Kathy Crary + |
| Carmelia Cravatt | Elizabeth Greene |
| *Lori Hedvall | Brad Hoffman |
| Alice Johnson | Larry Koenig |
| Barbara Kostick | Lisa Larman Molina |
| Mary Morkved | Sandra Motley |
| Richard Leslie + | Eloise Lewis |
| David Nelsen | Linda Nelsen |
| Patricia Page | Bobbi Phillips |
| Margaret Rainey | Wanda Ramero |
| Adina Reynolds | Florence Reynolds |
| Richard Reynolds | Bruce Roberts |
| Julie Roberts | Mary Robinson |
| Robert Sigmon | Nancy Svenson |
| Roberta Tomkinson | George Vlastelica |
| Patricia Vlastelica | Chris Wash |

Laura Winter
Scott Whitaker

**Denotes original members of Bible Study*

Karin White
John Wrinkle

Deceased Members of the 6/7 AM Bible Study:

Bill Archer
Betty Dalgliesh
Brad Hoffman
Margaret Loosmore
*Boyd Lyon
Bill Rainey
Joan Roberts
*Genore Schaaf
Bill Tucker

Dorothy Cox
Marnie Hartmann
Don Hutcherson
*Barbara Lyon
Betty Owens
Pam Rice
*Don Schaaf
Shirley Schader
Sylvia Wessel

~Bruce Roberts

Email Summary of the Bible Study from Alice Johnson:

The 6 a.m. Bible study group began one Wednesday morning in September 1980 out of a spiritual need felt by nine men and women. The original group (Don and Genore Schaaf, Boyd and Barbara Lyon, Margaret Broun, Lori Hedvall, Marnie Hartmann, Margaret Rainey and John Wrinkle) decided to meet for one hour once a week for three months. We have since voted seasonally and annually to decide whether or not to reconvene. The group is now celebrating 39 years! It is the longest on-going ministry of St James'!

Over the years more than 50 family members, parishioners, friends and neighbors have joined the discussions. We have lost 18 members, and several others have moved away. Three clergy have joined us briefly.

Since that first meeting the group, averaging 10 folks, has met an approximate and astonishing 1,216 times! And consumed more than 12,160 cups of coffee, tea, or hot water! We have enjoyed continental breakfasts - that miraculously appeared with no signup sheets. Our gracious hostess for over 34 of these years has been Genore Schaaf. One member even came in her pajamas! And it was a big decision, duly voted on, to change the meeting time to 7 a.m.

We have followed the Episcopal Church Liturgy using over 10 different versions of the Bible from King James to Peterson. Proper 28 of the Episcopal Eucharistic Lectionary became "our" collect to "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" the lessons each week. We have had three separate month-long studies of the Lord's Prayer. Each hour concluded with individual prayers and the Lord's Prayer. We tried three different Bible study methods and settled on the familiar three year cycle of study. Weekly vignettes of the lives of the saints widened and enriched us.

Our card ministry signed and sent over 1,000 cards to mark births, deaths, illness, birthdays, baptisms, weddings, old and new vestries, thankyou's and other noteworthy events.

Patricia Page used us as a resource for her PhD studies of small groups. She was interested in the dynamics of our group and interviewed several members about what kept this one going! We noted we had no leaders, no rules and no bylaws and lots of voting.

We were together when the towers in New York City came down on 9-11. We learned to listen. We shared deeply.

Our final group is still Margaret Broun as well as Bob Bell, Roberta Tomkinson, Rob Sigmon, Richard Reynolds, Scott Whitaker, Alice Johnson, and our current host Bruce Roberts. Margaret noted recently that she never would have signed up if she knew this would last 39 years!!
~In Thanksgiving, Alice Johnson and Margaret Broun

Abode Dinners

No report submitted.

Abode Services Rapid Re-Housing Program

St James', along with 18 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, but it has ended and we can only hope they re-start it. .

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 Program.

~Gregg Feeney

Advent Evening Celebration (formerly Las Posadas)

Our Advent Evening this year explored the stories of St. Nicholas, including the children leaving out shoes in hope that he might leave a gift. Rev Bill Hale assisted as St. Nicholas and a child Bishop was appointed, a role Kai took on enthusiastically. This opportunity in early Advent to discover traditions from other places is a great way to share the cultural richness of our community. Some people recalled family traditions around St. Nicholas while for others his story was new. We shared singing and a pasta dinner in the Parish Hall after our service. Many thanks to all who participated.

~Jan Scrutton

Altar Guild

St. James' Altar Guild is currently made up of 21 volunteers, who work in four teams. Each team serves one Sunday a month. The Altar Guild ministry prepares the sanctuaries for weekly services and cleans up afterward. Some team members are available for only set-up and some are available for clean-up only. Altar Guild member Rose Hoffman also prepares the Little Church for the Wednesday, 10:00am service.

2019 saw three members move and retire from St. James' Altar Guild. Sharon Caputo and Rebecca Herrera moved out of this area. Alison Saichek retired from the Atar guild. We will miss them and thank them for their past service.

In August, after the Little Church renovations were completed, St. James' Altar Guild volunteers spent an afternoon cleaning the little church sacristy and organizing the communion items required for Sunday service.

During September, St. James' Altar Guild had a campaign to recruit new members. We had an information table in the Parish Hall with details about what is required to ensure lovely presentations on Sunday. We had four parishioners join our Altar Guild. We welcome Chris Nance, Vivienne Paratore, Letty Rodarte and Nadine Yother.

The Altar Guild was able to purchase two new Cruet Sets this past year from a donation made in loving memory of Lawrence Windham. Each church received a new Cruet Set to be used during the Eucharist. Donations from parishioners and Altar Guild members are greatly appreciated and it helps us to purchase needed items for our church.

Thank you to Lauren Doherty and Vivienne Paratore for the fresh communion bread they bake year round for the 10:30am service.

Thank you to Barbara Johnsen and Maggie Shalar for the fresh flowers that are placed in the little Church Columbarium area twice a month.

Thank you to Richard Reynolds and Robert Sigmon for the lovely Lenox vase that holds the flowers in the Columbarium area. They also donated a matching set of vases to the Little church.

Thank you to all of the parishioners who make up our Altar Guild Ministry. Week after week they lovingly prepare the Churches for Sunday services and clean up after each service has ended.

St. James' Altar Guild held its annual Christmas Brunch in December 2019 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. The Rev. Lori Walton attended the brunch.

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, St. James' Altar Guild

Archives

No report submitted.

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 2019, we celebrated the Lunar New Year (Year of the Boar) on February 24 with delicious Chinese food at Newark Buffet. Our next get-together is to celebrate the Year of the Rat. 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

Blessing Bags

With the ending of Sacred Space, we continue our ministry to the needy by handing out "Blessing Bags." These are 1-gallon zip-lock bags that contain a pair of socks, a washcloth, assorted toiletries, a small bottle of water, and something to eat. The bags are available in the Parish Hall for anyone to take and distribute. Thank you for your contributions to this new ministry.

~Janet Fischer

Coffee Hour Hosts

There are two teams of designated hospitality hosts each Sunday. The early team set up the coffee, drinks and any snacks before the 8:00 service and cleanup following. The later team put out available snacks and fresh drinks before the 10:30 coffee hour begins and cleanup the kitchen and parish hall after. With 8 teams of hosts, 17 individuals, each of us serves just once each month.

Snacks are served when provided by volunteers. When fresh snacks are not provided we pull from the freezer. Everyone is welcome to bring food or snacks to share, but please sign up on the orange sheet by the door to the kitchen. This will enable the host team better plan for that coffee hour, especially if someone is sharing something special or celebrating a special event.

Thank you, hosts, for all your time and energy setting up and cleaning up and thanks to everyone providing food throughout the year. You have made our coffee hours a friendly and inviting place to meet and socialize with friends and visitors. If you are looking for a way to serve St. James' in meaningful way, consider joining our fun group of hospitality hosts.

~Dave Nelsen

Counters Report

The Counters are a key part of St. James' Accounts Receivable. The teams are led by Jan Brandt and Gail Blalock. Jan and Gail enter the trackable donations into the soft wear program (Church Windows) that produces the pledge statements. Pledge statements are produced several times a year and at the end of the year.

Teams of two counters meet on Sunday or Monday to record donations received during the church services or by mail during the week. Additional counting is done after special services such as Christmas. All donations are individually recorded and then added up so they can be recorded in Church Windows and Quickbooks. The counters are responsible for taking the funds to Heritage Bank of Commerce.

The counters are Jan Brandt, Gail Blalock, Mary Casas, Katie Cunningham, Avis Gonzales, Cathy Knotts and Ruth Poole.

~Lynn Locher, Treasurer

Cub Scout Pack Report

Cub Scout Pack 163, Chartered to St. James' Episcopal Church, completed a very successful program year in 2019, and recently submitted the registration of 44 Cub Scouts for program year 2020. Pack 163 participated in many Scouting activities throughout 2019, including but not limited to: a Pine wood Derby, a Rain Gutter Regatta, a Pop Corn Sale Fundraiser, a 'Blue and Gold' awards dinner, a Trail Trek and Geocaching at Quarry Lakes, an "Overnight" on the USS Hornet, the SFBAC Spring Camporee, a Trail Trek at Lake Chabot, the SFBAC Webelos Woods, and an overnight camping and Bridging Ceremony at Garin Park. Pack 163 Cub Scouts Bridged (advanced) 6 Cub Scouts to Scout Troops in 2019. Pack 163 also achieved the

Summertime Pack Award in 2019. Pack 163 has also actively participated in activities at St. James', including but not limited to: Candle Light Vigils, waiting tables at Shrove Tuesday, service projects, etc.. The Charter from the San Francisco Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America recognizing St. James' Episcopal Church as the official sponsor for Cub Scout Pack 163 will be presented to St. James' in February which will mark the 110th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Note: as of 2019 the BSA has opened all program areas to girls including Cub Scout Packs and Scout Troops. (Boy Scout Troops are now officially referred to as "BSA Scout Troops".) Prior to this The BSA offered co-ed programs for both boys and girls age 14 -21: Venture Crews and Explorer Posts. The entire BSA program is now open to both boys and girls.
~Bob Doherty

Deanery Report

No report submitted.

Disaster Preparedness Team

The St. James' Disaster Preparedness Team is comprised of the following individuals: Josephine "Jo" Amadi, Robert "Bob" Bynum, Jill Buono, Robert "John" Kimber, Gregory Miller, Bud Pearson, and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller. We seven worked six months of last year accomplishing the following: 1) Having our ministry on the St. James' website; 2) updating the Campus outdoor maps; 3) creating evacuation maps for each public gathering space on the campus; 4) proposing and being approved as a Red Cross-managed evacuation shelter for small incidents and as feeding site for first responders with the City of Fremont and Red Cross; 5) updating and completing our Congregational Comprehensive Disaster Preparedness Plan; and finally, 6) hosting two educational programs for the congregation and general public: home security and violent intruder classes with Fremont's Police Department and the Office of Emergency Disaster Services.

This is not an exclusive group. Anyone who has an interest in safety and preparedness for our congregation and community is welcomed to participate – actually more the better. If interested, you can approach anyone of us at coffee hour, phone, or email. We are listed in the church directory, or our office administrator can provide our contact information.

For 2020, your DPT will examine various educational classes with the City of Fremont, Red Cross and other county agencies. As we have witnessed in recent years, we must be prepared for any type of emergency, from power outage and personal safety to wildfires and weather. So, please participate in any surveys that we might create to solicit all your opinions on classes you have interest.

Lastly, I am grateful for the dedication and passion that the team members have for this ministry.

~Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, Congregational Disaster Coordinator

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 over \$200,000. 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 favorable market conditions and upon request for specific activities, the Endowment Board can annually distribute part of the accrued interest back to the endowment fund with the principal remaining in perpetuity.

The Endowment Board currently includes Mary Casas, Jino Joseph, John Butterfield, Ralph Locher, and St. James' Treasurer, Lynn Locher, who is an ex officio member of the Board. Cathy Knotts recently stepped down from the Endowment Board. And Craig Genter has agreed to be nominated to fill this vacancy.

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. If you may be interested or want to learn more about the Endowment Board, please contact us for more information.

~Cathy Knotts

Episcopal Youth Fremont

Episcopal Youth Fremont continues as a youth group for both St. James' and St. Anne's. On average 9 young people from a regular pool of 13 meet monthly. In September we began a program that will help prepare those who are ready to make a decision about confirmation in 2020. The program has been based on the book *My Faith, My Life* by Jenifer Gamber. Each month we share dinner, games and learning and finish our meetings with Compline.

In January a group of 8 EYF students went up to Grace Cathedral to take part in the MLK overnight and march in San Francisco. Opportunities to gather with other young people from around the diocese are valuable and the focus of this event, on social issues ties in well to our review of our Baptismal Promises.

Earlier in the year we also hosted a meeting run by CAIR-SFBA (Council for American- Islamic Relations) when they offered Bystander Intervention Training. This training had been offered in other places for adults but we felt there was value in having a session for young people. Despite not being able to draw people in from outside our group the session was well received by those who took part.

For our Easter meeting we undertook an interactive Stations of the Cross and were joined by Rev. Jeff from St. Anne's. In November some of our young people also attended Harry Potter Day at the Cathedral (see Jan Scrutton's Children & Youth Minister's report)

The St. James' young people also meet monthly on a Sunday morning for breakfast, thanks to Lauren Doherty for cooking so faithfully for us. This same group also had the chance to sleep on campus for Easter and to help with the egg hunt.

In planning youth events and when encouraging our young people to access diocesan opportunities we look to encourage and create opportunity for their own spiritual growth through connection to their church, peers and wider community.

~Jan Scrutton, Lauren Zarovy, Mike Scrutton

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.

This year we saw few issues with large equipment which is often expensive to fix. We did experience a break in the water main, a back-up of the sewage line, several toilets required attention and a new faucet was installed in the kitchen sink. Three new campus signs were made an installed and their posts given a coat of paint.

The large tree next to the sacristy of the little church was removed this year. This not only caused a slipping hazard and constant clean-up efforts due to its fruit dropping, it was too close to the building and we felt it may affect the foundation of the building in time.

We have seen further deterioration of our roofs. We mitigated some issues with the education building by applying special tar coatings in some areas. This roof will need replacing soon. The roof of our big church has major issues in several areas. Although this has affected the overhang areas and not caused leaks inside the building so far, we cannot delay replacing this roof covering without experiencing structural damage which would cost much more money to repair. John Kimber has contacted several companies and received quotes for this project.

Every other month parishioners participate in campus clean-up projects. Activities include trimming our many trees and shrubs, painting, window washing, clearing rooftops and gutters of debris, sweeping, pulling weeds, mowing weeds, whacking and blowing of weeds. It is often hot and dirty work, but there is a feeling of camaraderie and a sense of accomplishment when complete. We usually socialize and share pizza together following these events.

We have a very large campus which takes a great deal of time and effort to maintain. Thanks to the many volunteers who lend their time and talent to this purpose.

~Dave Nelsen

Faith Formation

Members of the committee for 2019 were The Rev. Anna Horen, Janet Fischer, EJ Hilliard, and Bruce Roberts. The Rev. Dr. Bill Hale joined the committee later in the year. We were very sad to lose the talents of Rev. Anna when she moved out of the area, and happy to welcome Rev. Bill when he joined the St. James' staff in the fall.

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 2019, the committee offered the following programs:

- Contemplative Practices: 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 second Annual Quiet Day @ StJ on June 29 with the return of guest speaker Dr. Joe Neary. The day included meditation time, walking meditation, two short talks by Joe, and readings from *An Ocean of Light* by Martin Laird during a silent lunch. Approximately 20 people attended with a number of people joining us from outside the parish.

- Lenten Program: “The Way of Love.” Led by Rev. Anna, the class was well-attended with an average of 30 people. For the first time we offered a parallel class during the weekday for those who do not drive at night. It was well received. The Tuesday evening class included our traditional soup supper.
- On March 19, our seminarian, Andrea Arsene, taught a class on the prayer book. The committee supported her with providing lunch and several BCPs to give to those who wanted one. Approximately 26 people attended.
- Rev. Anna conducted a 3-week class on “What Makes Us the Episcopal Church” during the Easter season.
- Rev. Anna conducted a 3-week class during the summer on “Getting Comfortable with the Bible.”
- Women’s Day Retreat on May 11, discussing “The Feminine Face of God.” Approximately 18 people attended. Once again, the men’s group graciously provided lunch for us.
- On September 8 EJ Hilliard led a session on the Diocesan resolutions to be presented at the Diocesan Convention in 2019.
- Advent Program: “Beyond the Christmas Card,” exploring the Christmas stories in Matthew, Luke, and John, led by Rev. Bill.
- A new daytime Bible study began in June, meeting on Mondays at 11am. This is led by Rev. Lori.
- Book Club @StJ: About four of us meet on the first Sunday of each month to discuss an assigned book. We hope this group will grow in 2020.

The committee works hard to present offerings that might appeal to different people. Look for some exciting events coming in 2020.

~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. Thank you Jan Pearson, Gregg Feeney, Craig Genter and Dave Nelsen for your welcoming presence.

~Dave Nelsen

Healing Ministry

No report submitted.

Hillside Senior Care Center, Fremont

Hillside is a long-term care facility with 70 beds. The average number of residents is usually around 60. St James' visits at Easter time with the Easter Bunny, and again in December with Santa & Mrs.Claus. The St.James' congregation generously supports this ministry and whenever we visit each resident receives a gift. Lauren Doherty, Alice Johnson & Sandra Motley co-ordinate this activity.

~Sandra Motley

Hunger and Homelessness Vigil with Abode Services

Rev. Lori led our sixth Hunger and Homelessness Vigil with Abode Services in November (during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week). After increased attention on the homelessness issue in Fremont due to the proposed building of a Navigation Center the vigil did get some additional local attention and new attendees. We remembered by name 28 individuals from local counties who passed away due to impacts of homelessness. James Logan High School Chamber Choir performed as part of the candlelit portion of the evening and we heard from Abode staff and Fremont Mayor, Lily Mei. Reflections and prayers were offered by representatives of Muslim, Sikh and Christian congregations. Our Cub Scouts, Pack 163, helped with the candle lighting.

~Jan Scrutton

IT Report

During 2019 we deployed a new PC for the office administrator, as well as a new fileserver. We also implemented a new service for off-site backups, which ensures we're protected and our data intact should any disaster strike on campus.

~ Mike Scrutton

Ladies Flatlanders

No report submitted.

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. In 2019 we also trained Mary Morkved as a LEV. Homebound and ill parishioners are visited either in their homes or hospital. With Anna Horen's departure, I took over the supervision of this team. During the fall, we had a meeting to discuss process, materials, and specific concerns. I also created a booklet for the LEVs to use. This will provide consistency amongst the team.

~Rev. Lori

Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers

During 2019 Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers served at over 150 services at St. James' parish. 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 2019 teams include:

- Lectors: John Amouroux, Tom Blalock, Bob Doherty, Chris Nance, Sunita Joseph, Joan Kimber, Patty Lacy, Mary Frances Leopold, Jim McConnell, Linda Nelsen, Raelene Ramsamy, Mike Scrutton, Pat Spalding, Allison Ferro, Richard Reynolds, Peter Maina, Getzi Wesley 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 2019, Allison Ferro and Richard Reynolds moved from the area. Chris Nance and Getzi Wesley joined the Lector ministry. Janet Fischer and George Siegmann serve as substitute Lectors as needed. 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: Laura Winter, Meg Amouroux, Janet Fischer, Lynn Locher, Ralph Locher, Greg Miller, Mary Morkved, Vivienne Paratore, Caylyn Ramsamy, Marilyn Rose, Bekka Murray, George Siegmann, Brian Cochran, and Andrea Arsene. Tom Scrutton serves when he is home from college. Seminarian Andrea Arsene moved on from St. James' to the next step in her studies. Caylyn Ramsamy was unable to continue in the

LEM ministry due to work commitments. Brian Cochran and Bekka Murray joined the Lay Eucharistic Ministers. I enjoy coordinating the Lectors and LEMs, because the ministers are so generous and responsive with their service to St. James'.
~George Siegmann

Library

No report submitted.

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.

We are happy to report that the pew and floor repairs of our Little Church are complete, and we are on budget. The Vestry approved up to \$10,000 for the expenses of this phase of repair. After a few exploratory sessions, we started the repairs on April 22. We did 43 three-hour sessions with an average of 6 volunteers per session. More than twenty parishioners contributed labor and materials to the project. All the pews are cleaned and repaired. The floor has been repainted. All the new braces (designed by Jim Cunningham and made by Dave Nelsen) have been installed to secure the pews. The pulpit, the lectern, the altar, the priest's chair and the bishop's chair are all cleaned. A step-nose has been installed on each of the three steps to the altar. A transition strip has been installed between the floor and the new carpet in the congregation areas. Old book racks have been cleaned and reinstalled. New book racks have been made by Dave Nelsen and have been installed. Prayer book, blue hymnals and LEVAS hymnals were dusted and placed in the book racks. Cleaned kneelers have been reinstalled. The marble baptismal font has been repaired, cleaned and letterings repainted. An end table was refurbished as a bulletin stand in place of the wicker hamper. The round piano stool has been refurbished. New carpet was installed by S and G Carpet. All seat cushions and altar railing cushions were cleaned by Integrity Cleaner. The cost of cushion cleaning was covered by a generous donation. The inside of the Little Church was enthusiastically dusted. A new altar railing kneeling cushion and a new acolyte pew seat cushion were made by Waggoners. 8am service was resumed in the Little Church on August 11. A dedication and celebration of our Little Church was held on September 22. We received many positive feedbacks.

There are a few items we are still planning to do inside the Little Church: replacing the worn-out kneeler pads; replacing the cardboard on the bottom of the Columbarium with a piece of wood front; replacing the 2 sconces by the front door and the florescent lighting on top of Columbarium (with approval from The Memorial Garden Committee). We are also looking into repairing the lights inside the crown fixture above the altar. All these will be covered by the \$10,000 approved by the Vestry. There is a related item: the 113 folding chairs on campus were cleaned by Integrity Cleaner. The cost of the cleaning was covered by a generous donation.

Looking ahead: Jim Cunningham is working on a proposal for the next phase of Little Church repairs. It will include replacing the rotted sidings at the back of the Little Church after adding insulation and adding plywood for seismic strengthening. We are also planning to paint the exterior after repairing window trims and paint the white walls and ceiling inside the Little Church. We will work to establish clearance around the base of the building from siding to ground to prevent water damage of the sidings.

We are very grateful for all the support we received in 2019 and looking forward to your continuing support in 2020.

~Sylvia Ma and the Little Church Renovation Committee

Liturgical Design Team

Presently, this ministry only involves Greg and Elaine Miller. At one time, this ministry had more members; but due to personal obligations, it became smaller. Because of Greg's and my various mobility issues, I invite anyone who has an interest in transforming our sanctuaries in holy places visually, invoking God's spirit and presence. Even if you cannot sew, draw, or paint, your ideas are welcomed and relate them to us personally at church, phone or email.

Gratefully, many members assisted in decorating the church for Christmas. It made it your church even more. This team continues to collaborate with Rev. Lori, our Rector and Jan Scrutton, our Youth and Children Minister. Also, if there is a special occasion you are planning, we can possibly assist with.

~Gregory Miller and Elaine Vallecillo-Miller

McCutcheon Concert Fundraiser

Our 15th Annual John McCutcheon Concert on Monday Jan 21, 2019 was another great success. We had a large crowd of over 240, with more than 64% non-parishioners. John McCutcheon gave us another very entertaining evening. Ticket sales totaled over \$6500. The prize drawing, with 20 prizes donated by 17 generous parishioners, generated a record \$966. The cookies from the snack bar were delicious and brought in an additional \$247. The net proceeds (income minus expenses) was \$3118.09. The Vestry approved our donation of \$1000 to support ABODE services to fight homelessness; \$500 to Centerville Free Dining; \$500 to Tri City schools; \$600 to Maisha Bora and \$518.09 to St. James' park/labyrinth renovation fund.

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 and desserts for the crew; donated wine, water and sodas; washed all the dishes; cleaned up the kitchen; set up and took 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.

We are currently busy planning and selling tickets for our 2020 McCutcheon Concert, with special guest Red Tail Wing. We are very excited about this January 20, 2020 show. Hope to see you there. Thank you for your continuing support
~*Sylvia Ma and the McCutcheon Team*

Memorial Garden/Columbarium

The Memorial Garden is maintained by a committee of 14 members. We had one new member join us in 2019—Chris Nance. We are always looking for new members. Please contact Ruth Poole or any committee member if you are interested. It would be great having you on board.

The committee meets as needed. We now do much of our business via email. We usually have 2 work parties a year and do a thorough cleaning of the garden. The rest of the time we take care as needed.

In 2019 we decided it was time to retire the birdbath. We contacted the donors of the birdbath and they were in agreement. A new statue has been purchased. Once the birdbath is removed the statue will be put in place. The new statue is of St. Fiacre, Guardian of Gardens.

We had 2 people interred in the garden in 2019. We sold 5 plots. The final two niches were sold in the Columbarium. Nobody was interred in the Columbarium.

We continue to host the coffee hours on Memorial Day. Cub Scout Pack 263 puts our flags out on appropriate holidays. We are looking forward to a great 2020. Please join us if you are interested. Any suggestions or comments are appreciated.
~*Ruth Poole*

Men's Group

No report submitted.

Men's Trip Report

For the past twelve 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. In 2019 we decided to rotate between Arnold and Twain Harte. In 2019 we returned to Calaveras County and ended up staying in a large house in Camp Connell.

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*

Monday Morning Musings, Scripture Study

In June of 2019, we began a new bible study taking place on Monday mornings at 11:00. Each morning 8-10 of us gather to study scripture. We are using the book "We Make the Road by

Walking” by Brian McLaren with great success. The book assigns scripture to read and discuss and then offers a 2-3 page reflection on the text. The book will take us through the spring of 2020 at which time we will reassess.

~Rev. Lori

Newsletter – The Window

The Window continues to be published monthly both in print and online. The online newsletter page was visited 870 times in 2019, which averages about 72 visits per month. We depend on YOU to submit timely articles about upcoming events and other newsworthy items, and we thank you for your wonderful submissions this year. At the end of 2019, Ralph Locher retired as editor. We are so grateful for his many years of service to the parish through the newsletter.

~*Window Editors*

Road Crew

Bruce Roberts, Greg Miller, Bud Pearson, Laura Winter, and Dave Nelsen make up the Road Crew. They provide audio and technical support for worship services, special events (such as the McCutcheon concert), and any other church event that requires speakers, microphones, music (the kind that has to plug into something), or audio-visual technology.

Sacred Space Hayward

This ministry supported 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 rotated the responsibility for providing lunch and presiding over the worship service, and St. James’ 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. Sadly, the city and county authorities required us to cease unless we purchased a permit for every week, which was prohibitive. This ministry sunset mid-year. Thank you to everyone who supported this ministry. Please see the entry under “Blessing Bags” to see what we’re up to next!

~*Janet Fischer*

Senior Lunch

A new event for St. James’, our first Senior Lunch saw 21 people gather for lunch in the Parish Hall one Wednesday in October. This ministry is intended to provide a social lunch gathering, approximately once a quarter, for those who can make it. Good food and fun conversation was enjoyed by all.

~*Jan Scrutton*

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Supper)

Shrove Tuesday fell on March 5th this year and following a long tradition, the men of the parish prepared a meal of pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs. Many men helped coordinate the operation, setting up, cooking, making plates, serving drinks and ice cream and cleaning up afterward. People of the youth group and scouts have helped with serving and bussing tables every year, but this year the scouts of troop 269 took it up a notch; They cooked all the pancakes! We had a second griddle as well, thanks to Kimo Awana, the Dohertys’ son-in-law. With that second griddle we were able to serve meals with very little delay. Dealing with all the tickets, finances and guest co-ordinating were several women lead by Jan Brandt. Their help with this every year is greatly appreciated. This is a wonderful occasion to serve, to be served and to reflect on the upcoming season of Lent. Approximately 120 people participated. Thanks to everyone who helped or participated and made this a fun and successful event.

~*Dave Nelsen*

St. James' Cares

No report submitted.

Stewardship

This year every Vestry member wrote an article for the newsletter entitled "Why I choose/chose St. James'." In these articles you would have read about how members' journeys brought them to St. James' or perhaps why they have chosen to grow spiritually in the Episcopal Church. Part of our stewardship to St. James' includes protecting something considered worth caring for and preserving it. In our stories, you read how special St. James' is to each and every one of us. In realizing how special our church is, it is no wonder that we are called to protect and preserve our place of worship, so that we can continue to connect with God. In the Fall, the work of the Vestry also included stewardship talks during the announcements of both Sunday services. These talks were about 2-3 minutes in length and were intended to call on the parish to reflect on their own gifts of time, talent, and treasure. These talks were held during the months of October and November, and lead up to our Pledge Ingathering Sunday on November 24th.

-Monique Manjarrez, Senior Warden

Tai Chi Class

Tai Chi classes, a ministry of St. James', are being held in the Parish Hall every Tuesday from 10:00-11:30am and 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.

Our classes are growing over the years but are still small. We held 48 morning classes and 49 evening classes in 2019. The morning classes averaged about 8 students per class. The evening classes averaged about 2 students per class. We have both St. James' parishioners and non-parishioners in attendance.

In 2020, we will continue to have the Tuesday morning (Tai Chi for Balance) and the Wednesday evening (Quang Ping Yang Tai Chi Chuan) classes 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 hsiehtinghsueh@yahoo.com

~Sylvia Ma

Website

This year Mike Scrutton and I continued 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 statistics: In 2019 the site had over 6,900 visits, over 4,400 unique visitors, and 4,300 new visits. Approximately 41.7% of our visits were on mobile devices. Our blog had 1250 visits. The newsletter page was visited 870 times and the sermons page 771times.

~Janet Fischer