



**ST. JAMES' IN-THE-CITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Respecting the dignity of every human being

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2018

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**Saint James' in the City
Los Angeles, California
The Right Reverend Catherine S. Roskam
Bishop-in-Charge**

**The Annual Meeting
Agenda
Sunday, January 28, 2017
12:15pm, Parish Hall**

- Welcome, Reflection, and Sharing the Good News
The Right Reverend Catherine S. Roskam

- Senior Warden

- Vestry Election

- Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates

- Financial Presentation – Spencer Hong, Treasurer
 - Year End 2017
 - Budget for 2018

- Other Business

- Adjournment

BISHOP-IN-CHARGE

Dear Members and Friends of St. James',

Welcome to our Annual Meeting, the yearly gathering of the St. James' family to review the year past and to look to the time ahead.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be a part of the St. James' family as Bishop in Charge for these past three and a half years.

As you listen to the presentations at the meeting and read the reports in this booklet, I hope you will have a sense of how far we have come together in terms of serving God's mission and ministry, whether in the parish in support of our common life or in the interface with the wider world.

And of course there is more ahead, not the least of which will be the call in the next few months of your new Rector.

I profoundly believe that this parish is more than ready to step into a new and exciting future, cognizant of the past but unbound by it, free to follow where Christ leads, bound in love for Christ and for each other.

May God bless you and keep you. May God make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; may God lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace!

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a small cross symbol followed by the name "Catherine" in a cursive script.

The Right Reverend Catherine S. Roskam
Bishop-In-Charge

January, 2018

Today marks almost exactly the one-year anniversary since I agreed to try to walk in the very large shoes of my predecessor and admired colleague and friend, the late John Daum. This report offers a brief summary of some of the major events this past year. But before I report, let me thank from the bottom of my heart the many blessings conferred on me and all of us by Bishop Catherine—a wise and Spirit-led pastor and priest, who has helped me to focus on the truly important rather than the merely urgent. Serving with Bp. Catherine is the Rev. Jenifer Chatfield, to whom we are all likewise indebted for many thoughtful contributions, particularly about the search process. The parish is blessed to have two such priests. Beyond that, I must thank two Junior Wardens, Arnold Blanshard, who served during the early period of my wardenship and Emily Abbott who has served more recently; both have taught me a great deal about the parish and about faithful service. Finally, I need to thank the wonderful vestry with whom I've now completed a year of service: they have entered into the task of mutually respectful listening and sharing of views, and volunteering for various tasks, in ways that have made it a blessing to serve with them and which has served the parish well.

The major development of the year past, is, of course, the commencement of our search for a new rector. Who knew—certainly not your Senior Warden—that there were so many stages and so many documents entailed? But with the wise guidance of Canons Joanna Satorius and Eric Law from the Diocese, we have undertaken and completed a significant review of our collective history, and with input from every part of the congregation, have identified the principal qualities we seek in a rector at this phase of our collective life. That history and those qualities are captured in the documents posted in the Rector Search tab on the parish website; if you haven't already viewed them, I hope you will.

After completion of those steps, your vestry, after long discussion and with the benefit of input from the Diocese and others, unanimously appointed a search committee that was, with the exception of a liaison vestry member, independent of the vestry. That committee is not just up and running; it has completed an initial screening of the 20+ dossiers received from the Diocese and is in the process of conducting initial interviews with those it has identified as the most promising candidates. The goal is to turn over up to three names to the vestry, who will then do additional screening, interviews, and discernment as we seek the person whom the Spirit has identified as your next rector. Our goal is to have such a person in place sometime this summer—but, as many have told us, it is more important to be right than to be fast, so this timetable is aspirational rather than fixed. What I want to emphasize is that the process, both in the vestry and, I am told, in the search committee, has been marked by the thoughtfulness with which everyone has approached this important process, and the consensus which has led to unanimity on important decisions. Helping us achieve this thoughtfulness has been aided by the wonderful work of the Rev. Betsy Anderson, who grew up in this parish and following her retirement from St. Matthews' volunteered to serve as Chaplain to the Search, aiding us with readings, reflections and prayers as we move forward. She deserves the thanks of all of us, and I hope you will tell her so personally.

In terms of other major developments this past year, we faced two challenges related to our facilities. One flowed from a City of Los Angeles seismic upgrade project. Briefly put, the City has identified older concrete buildings (like our Church) that must either meet new seismic safety standards or be torn down. The good news is that the City has set relatively generous time limits: three years to survey the structure and identify any needed improvements; ten years to create a plan either to meet those standards or plan demolition and replacement; and twenty-five years to accomplish one of those alternatives. Several members of the parish with technical and construction backgrounds are at work on the first stage of this process. Depending on their initial findings, we may face the need to raise substantial capital, but we are hopeful that there are both public and private funds on which we might draw to preserve the neighborhood architectural and cultural treasure that is St. James'. We will, of course, inform you as we learn more.

A second facilities-related challenge arose this year when the owner of the parking lot on the east side of St. Andrews commenced the process to develop that land as a residential apartment complex. Because both the

School and the Church currently rely on that space for parking—and because the plans for the development will not create enough additional parking capacity to accommodate those needs—your vestry has pursued a two-prong approach. For some Church needs we believe we can rely on an existing agreement with the county building (Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services) located directly across Wilshire Boulevard from the Church; that lot has substantial capacity available on Sundays and holidays that an existing agreement allows us to use and when construction starts on St. Andrews we will shift all parking to that facility on Sundays. That space, however, cannot address the School's needs for weekday parking for faculty, staff, and parents who might need to visit the School. As a result, we entered into negotiations with the developer of the parking lot and with his assistance have a long-term agreement with a property on Gramercy that will assure us sufficient weekday parking for the School for the next 35 years, parking that will also fill some of the Church's Sunday needs. We are grateful to the developer for his help in reaching such an agreement.

As you will see from the accompanying financial reports, we face short-term challenges that will require prayerful discernment and generous giving. Looking forward, we believe that, given Los Angeles' need for more housing and the construction of the Wilshire corridor subway, we can expect more changes in our neighborhood that could adversely affect us—but also important opportunities in the medium- and long-term. More, denser residential construction means an opportunity for evangelism: the Church and our associated School help make the area attractive and present opportunities for congregational growth. Our parish real estate assets may also offer, with careful planning and prayerful discernment, a means for us to expand the Church's reach and its ability to seize opportunities. The Church owns significant parcels of land on and adjacent to Wilshire Boulevard. Skillful multiple-use development of those parcels could continue to meet pre-School, School, and parish needs, and, at the same time potentially create additional, needed local housing, and create an income stream that could fund important Church programs. These possibilities are not an answer to our current needs—which we need to address now with prayerful generosity. But they tell us that we should also be taking a careful long-term view of all our challenges and options, and that in looking into the future we should see opportunities as well as challenges.

While we are considering our present and future, I want to celebrate an important milestone: St. James' School is the largest and most complex of our parish ministries, serving several hundred families and creating an island of educational excellence and spiritual growth in the neighborhood. The School has for the last seven years been blessed with the leadership of Debbi David, who, will at the end of this academic year be stepping into a well-earned retirement. Debbi—and her wonderful life partner, the Rev. Cn. Ron David, MD—has earned our warm thanks and best wishes. The School has also been blessed this year with strong board leadership; William Walton, who has served both on the Vestry and as President of the School's Board has also earned our gratitude for his leadership of that Board and for his care in maintaining good communications between the two communities.

As you read the rest of this annual report, I invite you to note and to celebrate the multiple ministries of this Spirit-filled and spirited group of God's people. From book groups to prayer ministries to our thriving feeding programs to those who create and serve our liturgical ministries, this is a remarkable place to worship, learn, and enjoy the fellowship of Christians from all over the earth. As former Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, who visited us at Pentecost, put it, if the rest of the Episcopal Church looked like St. James', he would think that the Church had entered a new stage in bringing about the Kingdom of God!

With thanks for all our blessings,

Stephen Yeazell

St. James' Episcopal School: A Mission of St. James' Church

Every year we select a school-wide theme. It's an idea that guides our work, inspires our curriculum, provides fodder for our sermons in chapel and centers all of us on a single unifying concept. A toy invented over a century ago inspired this year's theme. It's a simple tube filled with little bits of glass in colors like ruby red, emerald green, glistening gold and sapphire blue. When you shake the toy, the colored glass falls into brilliant, magical patterns and every time you move it, the patterns change... bursting into one explosion of color after another. We are transfixed, enchanted, mesmerized by its beauty. The toy is, of course, the Kaleidoscope. And our theme this year is *Kaleidoscope: Imagination, Innovation, Renovation and Celebration*.

This has been a remarkable, memorable, and truly kaleidoscopic year for St. James'. It is a year of beginnings and endings, of arrivals and departures. I will leave in June, and the extraordinary leadership of Peter Rienke, our new Head of School, will ensure that the school continues to cherish its roots and grow upward into the future as well. It is the year in which we begin to celebrate our 50th anniversary as a school... fifty years as a beacon of academic excellence, 50 years of open hearts and minds, 50 years of honor and compassion, of service and moral certainty. 50 years of a community... bound by shared values that transcend our many religions, our cultures and our racial identities. Though we are different, *we are one*. In fact we are the kaleidoscope: diverse, colorful and capable of creating great beauty. We are the multi-colored jewels that form new and beautiful patterns every day that we spend together.

To celebrate our 50th year and as part of our Campus Master Plan and the Kaleidoscope theme, St. James' has committed over \$8,000,000 to updating our classrooms, uniting our two buildings with a bridge, and creating four entirely new classrooms where none existed before. The project reaches completion this summer. This year also saw the foundation of our Teaching and Learning Institute, giving our faculty the gift of \$150,000 in on-site, intensive professional development. Our remarkable faculty is energized and creative and they fill each day with engaging activities to stimulate and challenge the children. Our students are curious, omnivorous consumers of knowledge and adept at creating meaning out of their independent research and experiences. We are more ready than ever before to embrace the skills of 21st teaching and learning. As a school we are also completing our five-year Strategic Plan this year, including as one of our major goals "Increasing Church/School Synergy. Thanks to both institutions' caring hearts and open-minds, that goal has been accomplished. We are ever grateful for the support of our church and its faithful members and most especially the Vestry and Bishop Catherine for their constant guidance, support and understanding.

MINISTRY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Liturgy, Formation & Spiritual Life

Submitted by the Rev. Jenifer Chatfield

ROOM TO GROW!

During the week, the Saint James' School presence continues to be a blessing to our church campus and community. The clergy preach monthly in school chapel, teach religion on occasion and generally make ourselves available for bridging our school/church relationship. We have continued to focus on making a steady and positive effort toward bonding both the parish and school communities. One of the ways we have done this is by sharing office and communal space over the past few years. With the first phase of the school's renovation nearly complete, we are now able to once again have the permanent use of the downstairs office space (the former school business office) for our parish children and youth. Yay! Every Sunday our children and Youth now have a room of their own complete with piano (donated), learning materials, a computer, art supplies, snacks, comfortable chairs and other welcome attractions!

YOUTH GROUP

St. James' has not had a youth group in a very long time. This March we will begin a Young Adult-led Youth Group one Sunday per month. There will be more to follow as we continue to plan for this exciting new beginning!

LITURGY AND WORSHIP

Our spiritual life at St. James' continues to revolve around, and is informed by our worship together. Because we are a wonderfully diverse parish, we are always looking for ways to offer worship services that will speak to our diversity. In 2017, the 2nd Sunday of the Month continued to offer a service where the 10:30 service was joined by our Korean Speaking congregation with music provided by the growing St. James' Korean Choir. With this service, the Gospel was read in Korean and English along with other aspects of the liturgy. The 4th Sunday of each month we pulled out the stops with a Solemn Eucharist which included incense and rich choral Settings.

Aside from our regular worship services, we offered special liturgies throughout the year as we celebrated our African Fellowship, The Scouts, Martin Luther King, School graduates, Michaelmas, and everyone's favorite, the Blessing of the Animals. The main area of growth has been the success of our 9:30am "Family Service" which was added last February on the second Sunday of the month. This 45-minute service includes a shorter homily, with music provided by James Casey and the Saint James' School choir (with the occasional guest musician), is geared toward families with children, but is open to all. We have had occasions where this service has surpassed the attendance of our main service during the academic year, and we are thrilled to improve upon and continue this offering in the year ahead as we continue to focus an outreach to families with children.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

With the success of the Ministry Fair, many expressed interest in serving in various roles as acolytes, chalice bearers, ushers, readers, crucifers, vergers and Lay Eucharistic Visitors. Training followed throughout the year and will continue in the new year to accommodate all who wish to serve.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In the fall of 2014 we began building a Sunday School which started when we brought back the Christmas Eve Pageant that year. Since then we have made a continual effort to provide steady formation for our children and have been blessed to have a continual Sunday School offering year-round. While it has been a challenge to find permanent instructors and volunteers to fully invest in this ministry, we decided to develop a program that fit our children's talents as we continued to meet this challenge. Last year we drew upon our children's love of art and music and built a curriculum around the church seasons and art, calling it HeARTs for God. This continued into 2017 and ended with *Choir Camp* during the summer of 2017 when the kids sang for our Summer Family Services. This Fall we began a much more structured, but still fun curriculum called *Whirl*. The kids started with the Old Testament stories about faith which led to the Birth of Jesus at the ever-popular Christmas pageant. We hit record participation this year in both Sunday School attendance and the pageant! While we have one teacher who has been teaching every Sunday, we are

in need of more volunteers and ultimately a permanent teacher who can build this ministry even further. Because we believe strongly in Christian education, as well as fellowship for our children, Bishop Catherine and I will be popping in and out of the 10:30 service in order to help teach the children on any given Sunday. Sustainability of both our children and Youth programs will depend on the commitment of volunteers and parents as we go forward.

CHILDCARE

Going with the premise that all children benefit when exposed to Christian formation, even our littlest ones get to participate. Childcare is offered in the Sunday School room during the 10:30 service alongside Sunday School. This not only affords parents easy accessibility to their children during the service if needed, but it also enables toddlers to mingle at their own leisure and participate in their own way with what is happening with Sunday School and the “bigger” kids.

FORUMS, FORMATION AND INFORMATION

We continued to offer Confirmation Classes, Marriage Preparation and Baptism Instruction throughout the year. The *Young Adult Prayer Group* met faithfully and our *Education for Ministry* (EFM) group continued to be a staple for adult formation. Special forums were held with guests Sr. Greta from the *Community of Divine Love* who spoke about Prison Ministry and Former Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold and Barbara Braver who joined us at Pentecost. A very meaningful interfaith prayer breakfast was given which highlighted the relationship between our local police precinct and our interfaith communities. This year in Lent we will have two forums dedicated to “end-of-life” issues. We also are in the process of creating a “Legacy Society” which will provide a financial vehicle for the sustainability of St. James’ for generations to come.

PASTORAL CARE

The clergy are always on call for pastoral emergencies and for pastoral counseling. Along with clergy home visits, office visits and hospital visits, our Lay Eucharistic Visitor Team has also been an essential part of meeting the needs of those who are homebound. Throughout the year there were numerous visits by LEVS who brought news, communion and fellowship to homebound parishioners. Our Intercessory prayer team of over 60 participants continues to be a vital ‘behind the scenes’ ministry—bringing the power of prayer and faith to those who ask for prayers.

Vergers, Lay Clerks, Acolytes and Lay Eucharistic Ministers for 2015

Submitted by Emily Abbott

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Canon John Thies for his years of service scheduling and organizing Lay Ministry here at St. James’. Although he is still very much participating in services, scheduling duties are now in the hands of Emily Abbott. I look forward to building on the amazing work that John has done.

This group of dedicated people numbering over 50 people, volunteer their time and talents to make sure that our community worship is celebrated and God is glorified. We continue to welcome more people to our ranks. This year we served at the normal Sunday liturgies, Special Liturgies and Evensongs. We encourage all who would like to join this hardworking group to email emily.mariah.abbott@gmail.com.

Acolytes: These are the Crucifers and Torchbearers and Servers that so ably offer their service at the Sunday Liturgy. They range from 9 years of age upward and consist of the broad diversity of our parish. They not only serve on Sunday, but at special liturgies, and holidays. In addition we have two sets of teams from St. James’ School that serve at the 10:30 a.m. service on the second Sundays of the month.

The Eucharistic Ministers: This group also known as chalice bearers assist by administering the chalice at the Sunday Liturgy. They are appointed by the Rector and with his/her consent licensed by the Bishop to administer the chalice. We have over 20 people serving in this ministry and in 2015 we have added a couple of young people to this group. In addition we now 10 people who are licensed as Lay Eucharistic visitors who take the sacrament to the shut-ins on Sundays following the principle service, so they are a part of our community worship.

Vergers: This group is charged with the responsibility of seeing the services flow and that those involved are at their appointed places at the appointed moment. In essence they are the behind-the-scenes directors. They coordinate all ceremonial facets of the Liturgy.

Subdeacons: This group is chalice bearers who are chosen by the Rector represent to assemble at the Altar. Vested, they assist the celebrant at the liturgy by standing with the Ministers during the Great Thanksgiving, and doing other acts as designated.

These people deserve our thanks and congratulations on a job well done each and every week. Without their willingness to function in these roles our liturgy would not be complete.

Stewardship Committee

Submitted by Emily Abbott, Mumbie Fredson-Cole, and Ola Thomas

This year the Stewardship Committee started to take a more comprehensive and holistic view of our stewardship. Recognizing that Stewardship is much more than taking care of our money. It includes taking care of our time, talent and treasure. It must be admitted that we are just getting started but the baby steps taken includes the committee's work and support for the semi descriptive budget for this year's pledge campaign and volunteer guides to help parishioners with questions and concerns that they had during the campaign. It is our hope that these guides will serve as the seeds from which will blossom warm and vibrant relationships that will strengthen and serve the diverse needs of our spiritual community and glorify our Father. We want to encourage every parishioner who has an interest in sharing their time, talent or treasure to contact any one of the guides so we can develop and take care of the abundant blessings at Saint James'.

Communications Committee

Submitted by Justin Baker and Canon Robert Williams

The parish Communication Committee continues its work of increasing external and internal awareness and vitality of the ministries of St. James' Church. Meeting monthly on first Thursday mornings, the committee is chaired by Canon Robert Williams, whose experience with the parish spans 32 years. The committee is unanimously appreciative of the free-lance work provided under contract by parishioner Justin Baker, owner of the PR firm Fuzzy Image Media. This partnership was formed in 2015 through a best-practices initiative of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles Office of Communication. Members of the Communication Committee include:

- Canon Robert Williams (Chair)
- The Rt. Rev. Catherine S. Roskam (Bishop-In-Charge)
- The Rev. Jenifer Chatfield (Associate Rector)
- The Rev. John Kim (Associate Rector)
- Lauren Azeltine (Parish Administrator)
- Canon James Buonemani (Director of Music)
- Justin Baker (Consultant)

Current projects include drafting a crisis-communication plan for vestry review and implementation in collaboration with St. James' School.

Particularly effective 2017 projects included the launch of #IntoTheWorld online features; social-media support of the "Giving Tree" Christmas gift-card drive; and logistical support of the Pentecost weekend visit of the Episcopal Church's 25th Presiding Bishop, Frank Griswold, and author Barbara Braver.

Ongoing:

- Maintain updated weekly events happening in parish on website and on social media platforms.
- Maintain weekly "blog" for website and social awareness.
- Maintain daily and weekly posts for social media accounts: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- Monitor and continually develop updated visual stories of St. James' community through photos, videos, events and social media campaigns.
- Create online social media advertisements and postings to reach outside the walls of the parish and meet the larger community of the Wilshire corridor. (see attached campaign results)

Recently completed projects include:

- Newly designed website with over 30+ pages of visual-based content conceptualized and formatted to meet current interactive and mobile-friendly devices.
- Updated branding including newly designed logo, color scheme, text format and public online presence and clear partnership with St. James' School.
- Established new social media platform campaigns and designs: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Formulated Social Media Business Plan (SMBP) and campaign schedule.
- Newly designed business cards for all staff members including updated branding and social media.
- Created "social cards" for welcome table including all communication pathways for parishioners and visitors using unifying campaign of #AllAreWelcome.
- Developed and managed #ComingHomeLAevent to include multiple faith organizations, City of LA, HOWSLA, outside speakers, celebrities, press and photo opportunities for awareness and outreach to improving homelessness efforts through HHH measure.
- Newly crafted, designed, printed and distributed Welcome cards in pews and welcome table reflecting a more genuine and lively picture of St. James' community for new comers and frequent attendees.

Great Music at St. James'

Submitted by Canon James Buonemani,
Organist & Director of Music

The year 2017 marked the twenty-second anniversary of our series *Great Music at St. James'* as well as the twenty-second anniversary of the rebuilding of our magnificent organ in St. James' Church.

- In recognition of the success of the David John Falconer Memorial Organ and in appreciation for how it has brought together music lovers from throughout our community and beyond, the Ahmanson Foundation continues to generously provide funds for the International Laureates Organ Series. The series features recent winners of the world's most prestigious international organ competitions alongside seasoned performers and laureate winners from years past. This current season features American organists David Ball (Christ Cathedral, Oange County), Caroline Robinson (Rochester, NY), Adam Pajan (University of Oklahoma), Michael Hey (St. Patrick's Cathedral, NYC), French organist Johann Vexo (Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris), British Organist Colin Andrews, and Korean organist Namhee Han (Los Angeles).
- On Sunday, March 12, 2017, we offered a "Concert of Remembrance for Those Who Have Entered the Larger Life." A full orchestra accompanied our choir in a performance of Mozart's towering REQUIEM with members of the choir serving as soloists. The program also included "Take him, earth, for cherishing" by Herbert Howells, written upon the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and "O Beauty Ever Ancient Ever New" written for the 100th anniversary of our parish by James Buonemani in 2012. Dr. Tom Mueller began the concert with a stirring performance of Howell's "Master Tallis' Testament."
- On Sunday, July 23, 2017, we welcomed *Les Petits Chanteurs de Monaco (The Little Singers of Monaco)* to our morning service. The magnificent singing by this choir of boys, ages 8 to 14, was a truly inspiring experience. It was a joy to mingle with them and their adult entourage as we served them lunch in the parish hall afterward.
- Evensong continues to be sung on the second Sunday of the month (October through May). Perhaps the most characteristically Anglican of worship services, the Office of Evensong draws a loyal and diverse congregation from throughout the greater metropolitan area. The music performed at Evensong represents the pinnacle of Anglican Cathedral repertoire, both old and new. Our choir is steeped in this tradition and has become a training-ground for a number of local choral directors who have launched similar programs in their own parishes. Our special thanks to our reception host, Louisa Adams, who coordinated the lovely receptions following our Evensongs, as well as Dermot Kiernan (wine bar) and many other members of the choir for their support in hospitality. We are grateful that Adolfo Angulo, husband of Adam Noel, has become our new reception coordinator starting January 2018.

- Begun in the Fall of 2001, the singing of Compline on the 4th Sunday of the month has emerged as one of the most unique liturgical/musical offerings in the Los Angeles area. It draws a diverse body of worshippers, believers and non-believers alike. Patterned after the monastic offices begun in the middle ages, it features music from Gregorian Chant and early polyphony to the music of modern mystics sung by the Schola Cantorum of St. James'. This meditative service in the heart of the city is a refreshing oasis for those who attend. Services of Compline this past season were presented on the 4th Sundays of November, February and April.
- The ever-popular *Advent Procession of Lessons and Carols* continues to draw a capacity congregation from throughout Southern California and beyond. Our most recent service took place on December 10, 2017, included works by living composers Randall Svane, Bob Chilcott and locals Sean McDermott and Morten Lauridsen alongside more traditional works of the season.
- Many of our musical performances can be heard in "live" recordings available online at www.stjla.org. Just click under the Great Music tab: "Listen to the music". We thank François Vaillancourt, recording archivist, for donating this ministry to the parish. New works are periodically added to this archive, and we encourage people to check back often.
- Another important service of outreach and publicity is performed by Justin Baker, choir member and parish communications consultant. His photography, videography and maintenance of our Facebook page "Great Music at St. James'", has extended our reach far and wide. Thank you, Justin!
- An important educational and cultural ministry is offered by our St. James' Children's Choir. This choir continues to nurture the artistic and spiritual lives of our children. The children sing on the second Sundays of the month (Nov-May) at our Family Service of Holy Eucharist, a new offering for this season. In addition, the children sing for "all-school" Chapel services as well as the school Christmas Pageant, the Christmas Eve Family Service and at various school outings. Jim Casey continues to lead and inspire these talented children as well as instructs them with other children in musical classroom education at St. James' School.
- The Choir of St. James' is the principal choir of the parish and offers both amateur and professional musicians an opportunity to explore a rich repertoire of church music. Many thanks to the members of the choir who generously give their time and talent to enrich our worship with music. A particular congratulations to George Marks and Mary Abbott who this season are celebrating their 36th and 34th years respectively of devoted service to the choir. We also congratulate Megan Malone-Franklin for reaching 10 years of service and the following choir members reaching 5 years: Kara Morgan, Stephen Salts, Amelia Tobiason and Jimmy Traum. This current season we welcome the following new members to our choir family: Breena Loraine (soprano) Laura Roethe (alto) and Jason Tong (tenor). Finally, we bid fond farewells to members Paulina Francisco and Matthew Seider, who have moved to Bloomington, IN, to continue their musical education. We wish to thank our current music librarians, Lucy Wegner and Mary Abbott, and our Choir Council Members: Adam Noel (Choir Dean), Susie McDermid, Anna Cave, and Jae Park. These and other choir members go above and beyond the call of duty and we are truly grateful for their service.
- We are also grateful to our various cantors – Jae Park, Kara Morgan, Sarah Lynch, Michael Barnett and Dermot Kiernan, for their uplifting style of leading the chant portions of our service. To them and to the many outstanding solo singers of our choir who frequently adorn our worship with their singular talents (especially during the summer months when the choir-at-large is on vacation) – applause is due!
- Gratitude is also extended to our Assistant Conductors, Jae Park and Stephen Salts, who graciously lead the choir in rehearsals and services when the Director of Music is absent. We are richly blessed with the extraordinary talent in these and so many of our singers.
- In his fourth season with us, we are honored to have Dr. Tom Mueller as our Associate Organist. Tom is an award-winning graduate from the Eastman School of Music who is Assistant Professor of Church Music and University Organist at Concordia University in Irvine, CA. We are extremely grateful for Tom's impeccable musicianship and delighted to have his wife Kristina and daughters Isabella and Billye Simone participate within our parish family.

- We are blessed with the talents of other musical parishioners who occasionally enrich our worship with their talents. Among our many musical parishioners and parish friends we particularly wish to thank trumpeter Philip Ditmer, and flutists Luisa Cartagena and Martin Glichlich.
- The hard work of promoting, producing and organizing many of our musical activities falls on the shoulders of the members of the Parish Music Guild. They are indispensable volunteers to the success of our series *Great Music at St. James'*. Many thanks to the members of the Music Guild and to the other volunteers who make it all look "so simple": Tom Abbott, Margaret Ecker, Ingrid Ralston, Geri Hurley, Steve McLean, Gregory Miller, Ingrid Ralston, Kevin and Kathleen Rice, Gillian Rodriguez, Betty Stephens, and Thomas Tunde. This fine group is headed by Linda Whittlemore, who after 20 years of service as a singer in our choir has kindly offered to devote her energies to this important ministry. (If you would like to help out, please email GreatMusic@SaintJamesLA.org.)
- The Parish Budget alone cannot afford to maintain the scope of this ministry. *Friends of Great Music* was founded in 1995 to give individuals an opportunity to contribute toward our music ministry. As we rely more and more on voluntary contributions, we are truly grateful to our generous parishioners and friends of the parish who make our musical outreach possible. (You can make a donation to Great Music on our website by clicking on "Friends of Music" under the Great Music tab.)
- It is said that imitation is the greatest flattery. *Great Music at St. James'* has served the wider Diocese by spreading beyond our walls the inspiring services of music we regularly offer. Today, a growing number of parishes have launched their own services of Compline, Evensong and Lessons and Carols, in large part due to the models set forth by St. James'. Of course, St. James' cannot claim credit, for we also have drawn upon the glorious historical traditions of the wider church, especially within the Anglican Communion. It is with great joy that we see our efforts enriching the liturgies of parishes throughout Los Angeles and Southern California!

I usually end my report with a quote from one of the heart-warming notes I receive from parishioners, friends and guests of the parish. It is very uplifting to receive notes that affirm our music ministry at St. James', and I'd like to share an excerpt from a most touching note I received following our Concert of Remembrance:

Somewhere between the discipline and the passion, that's where truth, or is it beauty, wait it might be love, resides. Or where That Which We Seek floats. And even though you can listen to a recording a million times to refresh a memory, there's nothing like the piercing of the live moment. Sunday's performance served us listeners such a gift, delivered to a private space we might not even have understood was ready for your solace, yours and the performers' . . .

A Goal for the Year 2018

Sunday Worship Services

- Sunday 12:15 p.m. Rite II Korean Language Service except 2nd Sunday.
- Joint Service – No Korean Service Sunday – Every 2nd Sunday include Pentecost, Feast of St. James', All Baptism Sundays, and other special occasions.

Outreach and Community Services

- Encourage the members to serve for Altar flower, food pantry, soup kitchen, ushers, Oblation bearers, acolyte, church events and activities.
- Food Pantry – 9 Korean volunteer – Tuesdays and Thursdays 8-9 a.m.

Christian Education

- Korean Language Newcomer class & Korean Language Baptismal classes.
- Bible Study for Korean Members – every Sunday after Korean Lunch.

Pastoral care for Korean members

- Conduct Home & Business Blessing. Hospital visits for patient,
- Call and Visit non-active Korean members
- Send birthday cards, sending Sunday bulletin for Sunday absent members
- Sacramental confession & counseling and care for Korean members

Stewardship Training

Increase Pledge Members up to 10% & total amount increase 10%. Encouraging members to pledge.

Adullam Korean Residence

Begun in October, 2009, Adullam Korean residence, located at 2251 21st St. in Koreatown, currently houses 20 occupants. Over the years, 100 people have benefitted from staying at the home, and left after finding new jobs, or they died, or they went back to Korea. Many of them volunteer for the Food Pantry, or sing in the St. James' Korean Choir.

African Christian Fellowship

Submitted by Elizabeth Igwe
ACF President 2016-2017

The purpose of this fellowship is to provide a forum for all people: men, women, and children in Southern California, most especially at St. James' Church, to embrace and maintain unity, culture and values of Africans both in the United States and Africa, with emphasis on religious closeness and family values.

Membership is open to all Africans and other interested people of all religions. Please feel free to join us during our regular monthly meetings which are generally held on the 1st Sunday of each month after the 10:30 am service in the school hall.

Highlights of Fellowship's Customary Activities:

- Active participation of members in different activities and committees of the church, such as the Vestry, Women's group, Intercessory prayer group, Soup kitchen, Greeters, Ushers, Lay Readers, Intercessors, Lay Representatives, Oblation Bearers, youth programs and Sunday school.
- Financial donation to St. James' Church and school, Soup Kitchen, charitable organizations and natural disaster relief as able.
- Hosting Coffee hour at least three time a year.
- Attend and participate in St. James' annual church picnic.
- Attend "wake keeping" for bereaved members' families.
- Celebrate monthly birthdays of members.
- Provide lunch during our monthly meetings.
- Celebrate Mothers' and Fathers' Day with special gifts.
- Celebrate the births and baptism of members' children.
- Provide lectures in a variety of topics including but not limited to Financial and Health literacy

All of these activities would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the Executive and members of the African Christian Fellowship and St James' Church Community at large.

Education for Ministry – "EFM"

Submitted by Mary Manning

Education for Ministry (EFM) is an educational program of for lay people developed by the School of Theology of the University of the South, one of the Episcopal Church's accredited seminaries. Over the course of four years EFM gives its participants a solid grounding in: (Year 1) The Old Testament; (Year 2) New Testament; (Year 3) Church History; (Year 4) Theology, as well as ethics, liturgics, and spirituality. EFM develops the skills of theological reflection in a small group setting and helps participants define their ministries in the church and the world. EFM is sponsored by the diocese, but it receives no financial subsidy from the parish.

The EFM program is limited to 12 students per year. The EFM program at Saint James' currently has nine students. Four are beginning the program this year, studying the Old Testament. We have one student in the second year, studying New Testament. Four students are in the third year, studying church history and historical theology.

We meet every Tuesday night from 6:45 pm to 9:00 pm from September through June. The members of the group take turns leading worship and contributing topics for reflection. While EFM requires substantial commitment of time for independent reading and class participation, members of the group report a great deal of personal and spiritual growth. Many of our past students, graduates, and current students are actively involved in the life of this parish, and contribute their time and energy to St. James'. We hope to expand the program, and will be providing opportunities for new members to join us in the fall.

Men's Group

Submitted by Alan Heppel

The Men's Group is a loose-knit volunteer organization of men at Saint James' who meet for monthly fellowship to explore their lives as Christians in this world. It welcomes the participation of each and every man in the parish. It provides a chance to get to know one another, and to engage with each other as members of this faith community.

About fifty parishioners are on the mailing list. Each month about a dozen or so members from the Group gather at the home of one of the participants, for a social hour and dinner, followed by a general discussion. Conversation springs from a topic or brief reading contributed by a volunteer moderator, and often moves off in mysterious, sometimes hilarious, ways. In addition, each year has featured a weekend retreat. Last July a group of interested members went to the Mount Calvary Retreat House and Monastery in Santa Barbara, where we shared in the Brothers' daily offices, and engaged in lively discussions moderated by Brother Adam, prior of the monastery, on the nature of truth. Wine was consumed. This coming July we will again go on retreat to the Mount Calvary Monastery. These retreats have been an annual highlight for many years, and the monthly meetings grew out of our desire to continue our fellowship throughout the year. We have also been exploring ways to grow our mission. Anyone who is curious about our activities or would like to sample one of our monthly meetings or join in the monastery retreat can contact Alan Heppel (323-463-1100 or alanheppel@gmail.com).

Women's Retreat

Submitted by SaraJane Thies, Holly Holyk, and Ingrid Finley-Scott

The 2017 Women's Retreat was held March 31st to April 2nd. Led by Joanne O'Donnell at the Mount Calvary Monastery and Retreat House in Santa Barbara, we settled in for a time of renewal and learning about useful tools in reconciliation. Joanne presented the 5 aspects of reconciliation we focused on: Listening, risk-taking, forgiveness, healing wounded communities, trusting in God. We discussed the challenges of listening with our hearts and how especially challenging it is to be in dialogue with others of different opinions. By preparing for these discussions through prayer this spirit can lead us to respectful and intentional discussions. We affirmed the value of speaking from our hearts and being open to offering unconditional apologies and or accepting forgiveness. We acknowledged the many benefits of being willing to be in conversation and recognized the playing field of reconciliation as a place in which miracles can happen.

Returning to the Order of Holy Cross Monastery to experience the brothers' hospitality of sharing in the monastic traditions of community prayer, bottomless cups of coffee or tea, beautiful scenery, great food, quiet walks, and the wonderful silence from late evening through breakfast is always a treasure for our women. We also reveled in our fellowship traditions on Friday and Saturday evenings as our opportunity to establish new relationships and deepen old ones.

We are happy again this year to offer the women of St. James' a time to deepen their spiritual life in community. The retreat will be held after Easter at Mount Calvary on the weekend of April 20-22.

Sharon Crandall, leader of Centering Prayer at the Church of Our Savior San Gabriel and a member of Prism ministries will lead us in a retreat about seeing ourselves as God's beloved. We have 12 spaces reserved and the cost is \$300. Speak to Speak to Holly, Ingrid, or Sara Jane if a scholarship would help you to be able to attend the weekend, or if you're interested or have questions. Make a deposit of \$50 today to reserve your space either by check to St James' (write women's retreat on the memo line) or via the churches online donations page selecting Women's Retreat. The remaining balance can be written to St James' by April 8th.

Young Adult Prayer Group

Submitted by Joannza Lo and Lawrence Yeo

Young Adult Prayer Group, affectionately known as YAPGES, is the monthly gathering of twenty- and thirty-somethings for food, fellowship, discussion and prayer. Sometimes the conversation focuses on the bible, sometimes on church history, sometimes on spiritual practice, sometimes on theological questions as they relate to life in this early 21st Century. We catch up with each other on what is going on in our lives and just about all of the above gets folded into our prayer in some way at the end of the evening. Why the acronym YAPGES, you might ask? It stands for Young Adult Prayer Group and Eating Society, the last two words added when members began to host the meetings in their own homes and providing dinner. Roster of attendees is now 17, although attendance at a particular meeting is generally around eight or so, depending on which day of the week the meeting falls. YAPGES is open to all in the 20's and 30's age range. Check the bulletin or our Young Adult FB page for meetings.

OUTREACH

Food Pantry

Submitted by Cathy Helm

The Food Pantry gives food once a week to needy families and individuals. To those with cooking facilities—about three-quarters of our clients—we provide what we call our “regular bags.” The regular bag usually contains five cans of fruits, vegetables, soup, or, sometimes, peanut butter or canned meat or fish, and four or five non-canned items such as rice, dried beans, cereal, fresh produce, frozen meat, or yogurt. To homeless people and anyone else who does not have access to a kitchen, we give a “quick bag.” The quick bag contains foods that come in single-serving sizes. A typical quick bag will include ten or eleven non-perishable items (such as cereal, granola bars, pop-top cans of chicken or beef or pasta, crackers, canned fruit, and cookies) and an assortment of frozen, chilled, and fresh foods, such as juice, milk, yogurt, bagels, oranges, and frozen yogurt bars.

The volunteers work at the pantry Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. On Tuesdays a group of us prepares the regular bags. On Thursdays, we prepare the quick bags, and then we open the doors on Wilshire Boulevard and distribute the bags to clients from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Clients may get a bag every week. We ask regular-bag clients to bring their own empty bags to the pantry, which almost all have done; that has cut down substantially on the number of plastic bags we use.

In 2017, for reasons we do not know, our numbers of clients were down from previous years. We distributed, on average, about 650 bags per month (versus 750 last year), serving a monthly total of about 1100 people (compared to about 1450 last year). The number of people includes the family members of whoever picks up the bags. We hope that the reason for the shrinking of our client numbers is an improving economy.

Much of the pantry’s food comes from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. The Food Bank supplies us with free and low-cost government food, as well as grocery-surplus items. We buy most of our single-serving foods for the quick bags from a wholesaler, however, because the Food Bank does not carry what we need; those purchases usually are the food pantry’s largest yearly expense. Parishioners and the students and parents of St. James’ School donate food to us as well.

St. James’ Church gives financial support each year to HopeNet, an entity that has organized mid-Wilshire churches, synagogues, and mosques into a group that helps the needy. HopeNet in turn uses grant money from the federal government to pay for much of each food pantry’s food supply. St. James’ parishioners and others have contributed money for that purpose, too.

The food pantry is staffed entirely by volunteers. Some attend St. James’ Church, but many do not. Father John Kim has been very helpful in introducing us to a number of Korean volunteers who not only participate in the normal work of the pantry but also translate as needed between Korean and English. This is a crucial contribution to the pantry, because the majority of our clients speak Korean as their first language. All of our volunteers are enthusiastic and dedicated, and are a pleasure to work with. More volunteers are always welcome!

Soup Kitchen

Submitted by Elizabeth Harris

Volunteers gather in the kitchen each Friday to prepare a meal for those in need. Doors open at 5:00 pm and the serving continues for one hour. Cleaning up takes another 45 minutes. We have been averaging about 95 people to feed each time, with the numbers usually larger later in each month than at the beginning of the month. Furthermore, we have seen that the number has been somewhat greater in the summer than in the cooler months.

The menu each week centers on the soup, which one of us prepares each Friday. In addition to soup, we offer several kinds of sandwiches, salads, a pasta dish, and sometimes an additional hot vegetable dish, fruit and cookies, or other similar simple dessert, and, of course, various breads.

Some of our food is purchased from the Regional Food Bank; other items are from a commercial restaurant supplier; some is donated; and the remainder is purchased from Smart and Final.

Since preparation requires a few hours’ time from several people and at least fifteen are needed to make up the serving line and to provide all the help necessary to keep that process continuing well each evening, we are always glad to

have new volunteers in addition to the experienced regulars who join us when they can. Our volunteers include both church members and non-members. The volunteers who helped us during 2017 included the following: Kathleen and Kevin Rice, Brenda Bass-Roper, Tim Wood and wife Sharon, Tunde Thomas, Sara Jane Thies, Kozue Takei and family, Bunny Svatos, Todd Mashlan, Todd Geyer, Jim Stewart, Judith James, Patricia Waldeck, Marsha Vargas, Margaret Ecker, Bejan Damavandi, and John David Bassett.

One segment of our volunteer group is always made up of young students from various area schools including St. James' School. They are devoted and enthusiastic; we look forward to having them with us each week.

One aspect of our dinner routine which continues to be popular is our First Friday Dinner Music provided by one of our guests, who treats us to some trombone solos each First Friday. A group of volunteers, who are talented musicians from St. James' School and the associated alumni, parent, and staff group, sometimes join in to create a festive background for the meal.

A portion of our Soup Kitchen hour each week is devoted to prayers in the St. James' Chapel. The opportunity to attend this chapel service is made available to those who would like to participate. The attendance at these chapel sessions has been steady and even growing.

Frequently we have used clothing to distribute to our clients. During December we had a clothing drive which provided us with many warm items to distribute. These offerings are made available during the week that they have been donated. We welcome donations! Soup Kitchen is truly a most important and definitely vibrant ministry at St. James'.

Soup Kitchen Chapel

Submitted by Sara Jane Thies

Weekly following the Friday soup kitchen meal there are now 8-12 folks who regularly gather at 5:45 in the chapel to pray the book of common prayer service of compline. A passage from scripture is read, often a commentary is shared, which is followed by a group discussion. Sometimes our meal volunteers also join in after the cleanup work is done. We close by requesting prayers or sharing praises of blessings received, pray the Lord's Prayer joining hands in a circle, and end by proclaiming "Prayers go up, and Blessings come down."

I was happy to welcome this year for the 4 weeks I was away on vacation, Holly Holyk, the Rev. Betsy Anderson, and Elizabeth Harris as chapel leaders. We also for the 1st time welcomed a guest speaker. Albert, from a downtown Bible Study group, came to share his story of conversion when in prison from gang life to following and preaching about Jesus. On this special day the chapel was filled with people who welcomed Albert and marveled at his eloquent sharing of the gospel message.

All are welcome to join our Friday group to pray, share the Word, and discuss how we can live with confidence, love, and hope in Gods Kingdom. Hope to see you one Friday evening

Intercessory Prayer Group

Submitted by Anne M. Combs

Prayers are said daily by members of the congregation in this prayer group for those who are ill or otherwise suffering and in need of support. The prayer group was started by Mina Post years ago, and has continued uninterrupted since that time. In January, prayers include "God's blessing and freedom from pain," "continued healing and peace of mind," "thanksgiving for prayers over many years," "healing, strength and God's comfort for those struggling with cancer." Members offer these prayers privately at home, or wherever they may be, with an updated list each month as a guide. Requests come from Prayer Request Cards found in the pew racks, requests from church members and friends who let prayer ministers or the clergy know their wishes, or from calls to the church office. We receive a monthly Intercessory Prayer list to refer to in our prayers. We also supplement the list with prayers added during the month through e-mail, or by a small telephone chain.

This January's Intercessory Prayer List has prayers being said for 65 people as well as those suffering from addictions, disasters, the deceased, and for our church ministries. Please let Rev. Chatfield know if you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry.

Scouting

Submitted by Matt Rauchberg and Diane Gilmore

Boy Scout Troop Ten is the oldest Boy Scout troop in the United States. Since 1914, Troop Ten of St. James' Church has introduced boys in the mid-Wilshire area to life in the outdoors, through hiking, camping, swimming, fishing, boating, and other outdoor activities aimed at developing young men whose Scout Oath pledges them to be "physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

Troop Ten also engages in a number of community service projects, including cleanup at the Taste of Larchmont, volunteering at the St. James' Soup Kitchen and the One Voice Christmas Charity (handing out presents and food to 300+ underprivileged families in East Los Angeles) and volunteering at the downtown Midnight Mission.

Currently, over 50 boys belong to Troop Ten. The Scouts have monthly overnight campouts at local campgrounds including Malibu Creek State Park, and this summer will attend Camp Cherry Valley for the 35th consecutive year. A high-adventure trip is also scheduled each summer, including last summer's 20-mile, 3-night backpacking trip in the Jennie Lakes Wilderness near Sequoia National Park. The Scouts represent more than ten different local public and private schools and virtually every ethnic group and income level in the area.

Key to the Boy Scout program, which includes boys in the age group 11-17, is weekly repetition of and adherence to the Boy Scout Law: "A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent."

Cub Scout Pack Ten has been sponsored by St. James' Church for over 75 years and currently has 36 boys ages 6-10. The goals of this Scouting program are to instill good character, fitness and citizenship at an early age through active adventure and service to others.

Diane Gilmore is retiring from the Cub Scout program this May, 2018. We will be celebrating Diane's leadership and many years of service on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018, at the Scout Sunday Church Service at 9:30am, followed by a reception in St. James' Parish Hall immediately after the service, around 10:30am.

Attitude is everything for Cub Scouts. They have great fun when they complete their adventures. They participate in activities such as camping, cooking, cleaning and building the famous Pinewood Derby cars. Good citizenship, service to others and FUN underlies each adventure. Today's program encourages outdoor experiences that bring boys closer to nature and encourages both self-reliance and teamwork.



VESTRY NOMINEES

Cathy Helm

I grew up as an Episcopalian, although that was mainly because my mother was determined to choose a church that we could walk to from our house. Still, I was baptized and confirmed at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Rochester, NY. When I moved to Los Angeles in 1984, I discovered St. James', the only Episcopal church I could walk to from my Hancock Park apartment. I thought it was exceptionally beautiful. My husband Mark and I later moved to a house on Plymouth Boulevard. I soon learned that it was next door to the rectory, a fact that kicked my church attendance into higher gear. In 1994 I joined the board of trustees of St. James' School. In 1996 our twin daughters started kindergarten at the School, which they attended through the sixth grade. I continued on the School Board (with one year off) until 2006, serving as president from 2000 to 2004. I also was a member of the Vestry from 2000 to 2003. In 2003 I began working at the St. James' Food Pantry. I became the coordinator of the pantry when Andy and Emily Maverick retired, in about 2012. In 2008 I joined the Audit Committee of St. James' Manor as an advisor. That same year, I joined the L.A. Diocese's Commission on Schools, the group that visits all Episcopal school in the diocese to evaluate and advise them. Finally, throughout most of my time at the Church, I have served as an acolyte. I am now one of the vergers.

Spencer Hong

Spencer is currently the Treasurer of the Vestry who regularly attends St. James' with his wife, Sandra, and daughters Zoey and Sidney. He is a certified public accountant by profession and recently became the COO/CFO of a Los Angeles clothing manufacturer. Spencer and Sandra were married at St. James' in 2015 and both have remained active, generous members of the parish since that time.

Kathalina Hwang

Kathalina has been a member of St. James' since 2006, with her daughter Lisa Yang and her family. She was born and raised in Korea until she immigrated to the United States with her family in 1984. She is an educator, having been a middle school teacher in the early days of her career in Korea, and a Korean language teacher later in the US. She is joined in her faith by her husband Henry Kim, who recently passed his citizenship exam. She is an active member of the Korean congregation of St. James', volunteers for the food pantry, helps to count the Sunday offering, and assists Fr. John Kim with the street ministry. She has been a longtime volunteer and advocate for the Center for Pacific Asian Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting victims of domestic violence. Kathalina previously served as a member of the St. James' Vestry from 2013-2016.

Merv McIntosh

Moving to Los Angeles in 1979 to attend University it was automatic that the attraction of my Anglican roots and firm Altar-boy pride would gravitate to a familiar source, St. James' Church – both spiritually and structurally. But, as many Anglican/Episcopalians sometime do, by 1983, I found our relaxed worship style to not be most trending, I deviated to St. Brigid's [Catholic church] where they had discovered what it took to attract, develop and hold an active congregation [a young adult ministry...I was immediately called into service there]. I just knew we should have been able to do the same at St. James' in the City. I returned to my roots [St. James'] in 1991 where we were about to undergo major changes, and Fr. Kirk Smith said "welcome home," I never deviated again. So I have personally and/or collectively participated in the renovation and modernization of our current Parish-hall, the installation of the David Falconer pipe-organ and the expansion of our renowned St. James' Grade School. Having been indoctrinated in all things Anglican/Episcopalian I found it most beneficial to St. James' in the Usher ministry and its Caribbean Parishioners ministry, to invite and/or welcome visitors to St James' in the City, as well as encourage others who visit us, to become part of our St. James' family. Over the years I have been very reluctant to be seated on the vestry or any other ministry, but I have decided now is a good time to participate in a different capacity, where both my professional experience and degrees in Accounting, and Business Administration [BSc., MBA and PhD], and other advanced professional experiences might prove useful to the Church's overall mission.

Fatemeh Panahi

I was born in Iran, Isfahan, in a Muslim family. On September 2009 I moved to Sweden to continue my education, there, I experienced culture and a feminist country, the power of women and a christian life—loving, so empowering, and so supportive.... When I was there I got a Quran and found that I don't really believe in its sentences; I don't ever give the permission of hitting me one day. So I always wanted to search—what talks to me and choose one but I didn't get a chance to. After my studies I went back to Iran, and after awhile I decided to visit the first place that I used to live, which was exactly

in front of St. James'. One day I came to see the church and the service. The first steps I took in this church spoke to me—special energy, shining candles and impressive music—I was in tears.... I saw lovely Catherine saying here in St. James' religions whoever you are join us at this table...I was in more tears as well. After the service I asked if I could have a talk with dear bishop Catherine that day. I wanted to be converted....and I got baptized in November 201 Since then I got what I asked from God, he heard my prayer and he is with me as always...this church is my new life and a blessing to me.

Stephanie Reynolds

I first encountered the beauty of Episcopal liturgy and worship while serving as a long-time volunteer at my daughters' school (St Paul's Episcopal, Oakland). In September 1991, seeking a way to deepen my commitment to a life of faith, I joined the reaffirmation class at Grace Cathedral and was received into the Church by Bishop William Swing during the 1992 Great Vigil of Easter. I relocated to Los Angeles in 2008 and I was warmly welcomed on my first visit to St. James' that same year. I joined the congregation in 2010, and remain grateful for the many opportunities I have found for worship, fellowship, and ministry. I am in the midst of my third year of the Education for Ministry Program and currently serve on the board directors of St. James' Manor.

David Shaw

I was raised a Roman Catholic, and attended catholic grammar and high schools in Los Angeles. I later graduated from U.S.C. with M. Arch and M.CE. degrees, and am both a licensed architect and licensed geneneral contractor.

I first experienced St. James' Church thirty years ago when my daughter was in kindergarten at the School. My family and I were quickly convinced that we wanted to make St. James' our church home. My wife, who was raised Protestant, and my daughter were baptized at St. James' at the same time in the late 1980's and I was also received into the Episcopal Church later that year.

Over the last thirty years I have been involved in many aspects of the community and religious life at St. James'. During the early nineties I served on the Vestry as Junior Warden; was intergrally involved with the planning and construction of our parish hall and the installation of the David John Falconer organ. In subsequent years I was in charge of the preparation for the trumpet section and Antiphon sections of the organ. Over the years I have also been involved in the maintenance and/or rennovation of all the St. James' church and school properties, including the Rectory and the Head of School's House.

My first love at St. James' for the last 29 years has been my participation in the alter guild glorifying God at St. James' by arranging flowers on the altar and the Church on our major feast days (Christmas, Palm Sunday, Easter, and Pentecost.) For 28 of those 29 years I was in charge of selecting and purchasing and managing the arrangement of the flowers that adorned the altars on those feast days.

I am also enjoy being part of the Men's Group, which I attend regularly.

Notes

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