



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

*Respecting the dignity of every human being*

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**Annual Meeting**

Sunday, January 26, 2020

## **Rector's Welcome**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to your Annual Report for 2019, a year bursting with energy and activity, from a musical tour in Ireland to the growth of our outreach ministries. As you read this report, please notice and give thanks for all the ways that God is blessing St. James' in-the-City.

Peace and blessings,

Kate+

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>AGENDA</b>	Page 4
<b>RECTOR'S REPORT</b>	Page 5
<b>SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT</b>	Page 7
<b>HEAD OF ST. JAMES' SCHOOL REPORT</b>	Page 8
<b>MINISTRY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>	Pages 10-22
<b>VESTRY BIOGRAPHIES</b>	Page 23-24
<b>FINANCIAL REPORTS</b>	(separate handout)
• Year End Financial Report: General Ledger Statement for twelve months ending December 31, 2019	
• 2020 Budget	

**St. James' in-the-City  
Los Angeles, California  
The Rev. Dr. Kate Cress, Rector**

**The 2020 Annual Meeting  
Agenda**

**Sunday, January 26, 2020  
After 10:30 Service, in the Church**

- Welcome - The Rev. Dr. Kate Cress
  
- Senior Warden, Cathy Helm
  
- Vestry Election
  
- Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates
  
- Financial Presentation – Spencer Hong, Treasurer
  - Year End 2019
  - Budget for 2020
  
- Other Business
  
- Adjournment

Every week, St. James' School holds chapel service here in the church. Canon Aidan Koh leads worship, and Jim Casey conducts the St. James' Children's Choir. Sixth graders in sharp, navy blazers set the elegant tone. Parents join their children in the pews. Sometimes I preach, and always offer a blessing at the end. And, every week, at the beginning of chapel, headmaster Peter Reinke calls to all assembled: "Good morning! And how are we today?" Every time, 350 students respond in unison: "Blessed and highly favored!"

I love this moment, how it captures the collective joy and gratitude of being in this school and this church at this moment in time. And I shout out the words right along with the students, because I feel blessed and highly favored to be here too.

To me, 'blessed and highly favored' means believing and receiving God's grace. And we really do receive God's grace at St. James'. Our blessings include:

- A dynamic Preschool-6<sup>th</sup> Grade school.
- A warm and welcoming soup kitchen and food pantry
- Creative and growing outreach to the unhoused
- Reverent and beautiful worship
- Exquisite choral and organ music
- A new and eager musical audience on Sunday nights
- Rich cultural traditions expressed through our African Christian Fellowship and Korean worship

We are blessed to have a hardworking vestry and many groups led by strong lay leaders. 2019 brought the creation of a Ministry Council led by the Rev. Betsy Anderson, designed to draw together ministry leaders for mutual support and envisioning the future. Another team gathered for a Stewardship Breakfast and also attended a daylong Stewardship Workshop put on by our diocese. Moving forward, they hope to help us engage in year-round stewardship activities. An important new committee was formed in 2019, which focuses on looking after our investments. This committee advises the vestry and we are very grateful for their collective expertise. And yet another team continues to oversee the work and mission of St James' Manor, a nearby apartment complex for low-income elderly men and women founded by St. James' Church.

This has been a year of partnerships and collaborations to help those in need. We have partnered with the diocesan farming group Seeds of Hope and now receive mountains of fresh produce each week to benefit our food pantry and soup kitchen. Partnering with another organization, the Shower of Hope, means now we offer showers for our unhoused friends every Saturday morning in the St James' parking lot. And a collaboration between St. James' School, St. James' Church and Stories from the Frontline led to two days of learning about the housing crisis and the challenges encountered by our friends facing homelessness. All of this powerful work is ongoing.

2019 was also a year of celebrations, beginning with my installation in February, on Candlemas. I will never forget the drama of the Korean drums, the magic of the children's bell choir, the glory of our St James' Choir and Korean Choir, Bishop Taylor's rousing sermon, and the joy of celebrating with all our guests. Not to mention the feast afterwards. What a day!

The other preeminent celebration of 2019 was the St. James' Choir's incredible tour of Ireland. Led by the incomparable Canon James Buonemani, our choir sang in Dublin, Tullamore, Cork and Galway, both during worship services, and concerts. Everywhere we traveled, listeners were deeply moved by the precision and beauty of the music. I give thanks for the opportunity to have accompanied our choir, and come to know them as friends. Every single choir member amazes me. They are people of great artistry and purpose, and we are profoundly blessed by the mission that is their music. Blessed and highly favored indeed.

Other celebrations last year included a joint worship service between St John's Cathedral and St. James' on Ascension Day and held at the Cathedral, followed by dinner; Episcopal Night at Dodger Stadium with lots of St. James' parishioners; a fabulous diocesan Asian Immersion Day at St. James' focusing on Korean Culture; my own

trip to Korea in March as part of a St. James' School delegation, which included the opportunity to preach at Seoul Cathedral; and of course our annual St. James' Day Parish Picnic (which this year we held inside due to the heat). And we enjoyed, as we do every year, the African Christian Fellowship's special day of worship and wonderful celebration on African Partnership Sunday.

One more celebration is ongoing, and that is the monthly meeting of the YAPGES group (Young Adult Prayer Group and Eating Society), made up of parishioners in their 20s and 30s. Gathering this past year in my home, we enjoyed potluck dinners and great conversation and look forward to many more similar occasions.

Here at St. James', we also celebrate the opportunity to learn, and give thanks for excellent adult education sessions led by Bishop Frank Brookhart, as well as the ongoing Education for Ministry classes, and International Book Group that so enrich the spiritual life here at St James' in-the-City. And we appreciate our dedicated church school and nursery teachers who work with our children week after week, and 2019's wonderful and ambitious Christmas pageant.

A few more updates. Good synergy work is underway between our church and St. James' School. We are eager to explore ways to share costs and support each other better. Expect to hear more about this in the coming year. For now just know that our two institutions are committed to helping each other thrive. Although I have been dreaming of air-conditioning and heat for our church, we do not yet have the money. However, we have made many other repairs and improvements to the physical plant, including a more careful focus on cleaning routines and numerous improvements to the basement/Boy Scout area. Expect to hear about more improvements this year. And I would like to give a special shout out to our Communications Committee so ably led by St. James' Vestry member Canon Bob Williams, and for the social media magic worked by Justin Baker. Our story is reaching a wider audience, and we see this through many new visitors. And thank you, greeters, for welcoming them when they come.

And thank you to the many teams that work year after year with such dedication: our lay Eucharistic ministers and other servers, Altar Guild members, ushers, Pew Patrollers, offering counters, and those who oversee coffee hours and special events.

Here at Saint James', without a doubt, we have so much to be thankful for. If you have been thinking about joining one of the ministries I have mentioned, or any activity here at St. James', please do! You will feel the blessing that comes from loving and serving God through the life of this amazing place.

May we all continue to feel blessed and highly favored.

*Kate* †

## A Message from the Senior Warden

Submitted by Cathy Helm

*Senior Warden*

Dear St. James' friends:

I am excited to be writing my first senior warden report for an annual meeting. Though I entered on the senior warden position a bit anxiously (mainly because of my worry that I didn't really know how to do the job), it has turned out that I love the work. It is demanding, but fascinating. And Mother Kate is absolutely wonderful to work with, as are all the vestry members, and the staff. So for me it has been a marvelous year.

It has also been a difficult year, of course. As you know, after several congregation-wide meetings about the church's finances, and after many, many hours of discussion by the vestry and others whom we consulted, the vestry decided to sell the Plymouth Boulevard rectory. Perhaps the main reason for that decision was that the rectory needed extensive repairs that we did not have the money to make and would not have the money to make in the foreseeable future. In November 2019, the sale closed. (Charmingly, the buyers have a young daughter who goes to St. James' School!) The church netted about \$2.8 million from the \$3 million sale price. With the help of the recently formed Investment Committee (Ken Robbins, Robert Ronus, Junior Warden Adaobi Obijiaku, Arnold Blanshard, and Mary Nichols), the vestry promptly invested the entire \$2.8 million. In the coming months, we will look for a new rectory that is smaller and in better repair than the old rectory, and will use a portion of the \$2.8 million to buy that. The remainder of the money will continue to be invested.

Mostly behind the scenes, Mother Kate and I have worked on another project: cleaning up some nagging legal situations that I believe everyone has been intending to get to for some time. Two employees of the church needed to receive overtime pay for some of their work; we needed to extend health care coverage to some family members of a couple of employees; the health plan itself needed reexamination; we needed to revise the employee handbook. We are close to completing most of these changes. We think the changes will put us on an even more solid legal footing than we were on before.

Another focus has been improving the links between the church and the school, and in particular the connections between the vestry and the school board. We have created a committee with members from both bodies that will look at the school's bylaws to see if changes or updates need to be made. Headmaster Peter Reinke graciously held a joint vestry/school board dinner at his house, and we plan to have several more similar events.

Perhaps the most important work of the year has been the attempt to improve the church's finances. As of the end of 2019, we still have a deficit, pledges are lower than we need them to be, and other financial issues abound. This is going to be the primary topic Mother Kate and I will address at the Annual Meeting, so I will not give much detail here. Some leading points, however, include the following: On the income side, pledges are about \$50,000 below the minimum number we were aiming for—and we were hoping for more than the minimum. A bright spot is that we will be able to draw the interest on our investment accounts this year, including interest on the entire \$2.8 million rectory sale amount, until we use some of that amount to buy a new rectory. Concerns on the expense side include the need to increase our mission fund share, which is our pledge to the Diocese (which has financial troubles of its own, and so needs its pledges) and our health plan costs. I am now reminded of a sentence that ends almost every elementary school book report I have ever seen: "If you want to know what happens, read this book!" But in our case, it is "If you want to hear fascinating budget information, come to the annual meeting!" Or simply come, anyway.

Of course, not all the news is bad. We have an exceptionally good rector (and send renewed thanks to the search committee who found her). The vestry has been pulling together and working smoothly. Our pews are fuller, with the number of young families being one desirable category that has increased in number. Our superb school is doing very well. We have several ministries that are working hard on helping with the homelessness crisis in the city. There is a lot to be proud of, and I hope you are!

Yours,  
Cathy Helm

I am very pleased to update the St. James' parish family on life at St. James' Episcopal School, this vital ministry of the church, founded in 1968 in a tiny Gramercy Place apartment with just four students.

It is an enormous honor for me to steward this school, which over the past five decades, has grown to sprawl across most of a block of St. Andrew's Place and educated countless parish and neighborhood families. All of us, our school board and vestry, our faculty and school families, and Reverend Kate and I, work to ensure that our students are imbued with a lifelong love of learning and a deep commitment to leaving our beautiful but complicated world a better place than we have found it.

2019 was a very successful and productive year at the school; we launched the Civil Society Institute, a program to encourage civil and thoughtful conversations about finding solutions to complicated problems; importantly with a multi-generational lens. Our inaugural speaker was Congressman Ted Lieu, who exhorted our students to be engaged with their greater world; I love that he also took time to speak directly with our graduating sixth graders about the functions of our government.

This school year's Civil Society Institute opening program was a terrific example of parish-school collaboration; a panel discussion at the church with homelessness public policy experts, educators and clients, followed the next day by Angela Sanchez, author of the children's book, *Scruffy & the Egg*, talking in age appropriate ways to our students about the socio-emotional impact of extreme poverty. In March, some of the pioneers for women's political activism in Los Angeles will speak to students and families about the struggle for gender equality and after spring break, leaders from the green movement will engage with students on sustainability and effective and civil youth activism.

Two other essential parts of the Civil Society Institute include an expanded emphasis on civics for our sixth graders, the school now sends the entire sixth grade to Washington, D.C. each spring to visit Congress, the White House, the Smithsonian and other essential institutions of our democracy. Thanks to the vision of our community service directors, Rob Krueger and Ashley Samuels, we have redesigned fifth and sixth grade religion classes so that each class spends regular time preparing meal kits and organizing inventory in the church food pantry. We are particularly grateful to the leaders and volunteers in the parish food ministries for so patiently welcoming our sixth graders to this meaningful service/learning experience, which has profoundly impacted their understanding of the complexity of poverty in Los Angeles.

One of the most exciting innovations at the school is our Beyond School program; this tuition-inclusive enrichment program has allowed 170 of our students to take Korean, Latin, journalism, robotics, coding, podcasting, ISSEE test prep, story-telling, graphic novel design, and supplemental Spanish. Beyond School is the only program of its kind in southern California. We are excited to announce that commencing in the fall, there will be opportunities for parish members to have their children also participate in Beyond School programming.

Our efforts to graduate engaged citizens ensures outstanding placement to the city's strongest middle schools. Last year's graduates went on to Marlborough, Harvard Westlake, Campbell Hall, Brentwood, Immaculate Heart, Windward, Buckley and many other excellent institutions. Repeatedly we hear from middle and high school administrators that our graduates stand out not only as academically prepared but as some of the most compassionate and civically-minded members of their middle and upper school communities.

The school has enjoyed a second robust year with the annual fund; we raised over one million dollars last year, and we are at almost \$900,000 this year; we hope to reach our one-million-dollar goal by the end of the fiscal year in June. We are also very pleased that we have seen an uptick of donations this year. The school has restructured our business office and engaged in a zero-based budgeting process which has allowed us to reallocate or sunset almost \$200,000 in annual costs; this practice has ensured more resources to support the church, including substantial allocation of funds to support the parish in pest control, janitorial services and maintaining the turtle pond. Father Koh and I continue to work to identify major donors in the school community who could support the parish financially, we hope to update the parish on these efforts later this year.

The school and the church are working closely on opportunities for further collaboration and a robust mutuality; on a personal level, while I divide my time between my home parish of the Episcopal Church of the Advent and St. James', I have enjoyed getting to spend time with the Men's Fellowship and traveled with them to Santa Barbara last June, and I have found it very meaningful to serve as a lector and intercessor during our school choir Sundays at St. James'.

In closing, please know how much gratitude the school feels towards St. James' parish for its continued support and pride in this important church ministry. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions about the school.

All my best,  
Peter Reinke  
*Head of School*

## **MINISTRY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Adult Formation and Spiritual Life**

**Submitted by the Rev. Jonathan Feuss**

This past year was an exciting year here at St. James' in so many different areas. In 2019, we formalized a liturgical planning team: a team which will meet before our major liturgical seasons and spend time in reflection on what each season means in the life of the Church as well as in our collective spiritual journeys here at St. James'. This committee helped us to shape the themes of liturgy, music, and preaching this past Advent. In 2020, we look forward to meeting prior to each major liturgical season (Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Advent) and thinking about how each season can be used to deepen our spiritual lives here at St. James'.

This past year we were also thankful to the Rt. Rev. Frank Brookhart who led the much enjoyed "Episcopal 101" course. Over a six-class period, we examined how Episcopalians view scripture, liturgy, and the sacraments, as well as how the Episcopal church is structured and governed. This year, we are excited to have Kristi Flake joining St. James'. She joins us from Fuller Theological Seminary during her ministry study year and will be organizing a program of year-round adult formation on a variety of topics and issues.

We hope that 2020 will be a year in which the liturgical and educational offerings deepen your faith and spirituality.

### **Vergers, Lay Clerks, Acolytes and Lay Eucharistic Ministers for 2019**

**Submitted by Canon John Thies**

Lay Ministries is an inter-generational group of people who service at the liturgies of the church both on Sunday, and other special liturgies, such as Holy Days, Ash Wednesday, Easter Vigil, Lessons and Carols, Solemn Evensongs, and Christmas. They act as acolytes, vergers, thurifers, chalice bearers, subdeacons, lectors, and intercessors.

This past year, we have lost many of our dedicated servants, due to relocation, college, and other reasons, and are looking to welcoming new people to our team. If you feel that you would like to participate, we invite you to contact the Mtr. Kate at [kcress@stjla.org](mailto:kcress@stjla.org), or myself at [canongrandpa@hotmail.com](mailto:canongrandpa@hotmail.com), and we would be glad to answer any questions you might have.

### **Education for Ministry – "EFM"**

**Submitted by Mary Manning**

Education for Ministry (EFM) is an educational program for lay people which was developed by the School of Theology of the University of the South, one of the Episcopal Church's seminaries.

Over the course of four years, EFM gives its participants an exploration and a solid grounding in (Year 1) Old Testament, (Year 2) New Testament, (Year 3) Church History, (Year 4) Theology. Each class gives opportunities for the participants to be introduced to ethics, liturgics, and spirituality. In addition to this, EFM develops the skills of theological reflection in a small group setting and helps participants define their paths to greater participation within the parish and their community, as well as in the larger church and world.

The EFM program of St. James' is sponsored by the diocese, but it receives its financial subsidy from the parish. The program at St. James' meets on Tuesday nights at has 7 students. The program this year has one first year student, one second year student, four third year students and one fourth year student. Our 4<sup>th</sup> year student will be graduating with other graduates of the EFM program in the Diocese of Los Angeles at Cathedral Center in late May or June. We recruit for new members in June and July.

EFM Meets on Tuesday nights from 6:45 to 9:00 pm from September through June. The members of the group take turns leading worship and contributing topics for reflection. EFM requires a commitment of time for reading and class participation and members of the group find 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'. If you have any further questions regarding EFM, and wish to know more about EFM, please contact the Church office or Mary Manning.

## **Children's Formation**

**Submitted by Brynna Galloway**

This is my first report so please bear with me. I work with the children of Sunday School and we meet every Sunday during the 10:30 service. Our goal is to build an understanding where the kids can make a connection with the teachings of the bible to their everyday lives. I also really want them to know as much as they can to build their faith in our congregation, religion and God themselves. Over the past two years we went from using the children's bible to more recently the one we use in the church. They are mostly older children and decided they wanted to try and interpret more adult scriptures. Our biggest achievement was the Christmas Pageant that we changed up for the first time in years. It has even encouraged them to want to conduct more plays from the scriptures. We are trying to hammer out details as to how we will proceed, and what story to tell next. They are a very vocal group so there is never a shortage of great suggestions. My main goal is to inspire your youth interested and engaged in church. Each week I hope they take something meaningful from the lesson we learn.

## **Korean Congregation**

**Submitted by the Rev. John Kim**

### **A Goal for the Year 2020**

#### Sunday Worship Services

- Sunday 12:15 p.m. Rite II Korean Language Service except joint services (No Korean Service Sundays) that include Annual Meeting Sunday, Pentecost, Feast of St. James', and other special occasions.

#### Outreach and Community Services

- Encourage the members to serve for Altar flowers, Food pantry, Soup Kitchen, Ushers, Acolytes, Church events and Activities.
- Food Pantry – 5 Korean volunteers – Tuesdays and Thursdays 8-9 a.m.

#### Christian Education

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

#### Pastoral Care for Korean Members

- Conduct home & business blessing, and make hospital visits to patients.
- 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.

#### S.J.O.M. – Adullam Korean Residence

Since October, 2009 Adullam Korean residence has been located at 2251 21<sup>st</sup> St., LA, CA 90018 in Koreatown. Over the years, 120 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.

The year 2019 marked the twenty-fourth anniversary of our series *Great Music at St. James'* as well as the twenty-fourth anniversary of the rebuilding of our magnificent Murray Harris organ (1911) in St. James' Church from the former St. Paul's Cathedral.

- 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 laureates from years past. This current season features American organists Joshua Stafford (Longwood Gardens International Competition), Isabelle Demers (Baylor University), Malcolm Matthews (Westfield International Competition), Alcee Chris III (Miami International, Albert Schweitzer International, Fort Wayne National and many others), French organist Jean-Baptiste Robin (Royal Chapel, Versailles), and Spanish organist Raul Prieto-Ramírez (San Diego Civic Organist).
- 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 Southern California. 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 Adolfo Angulo, who caters the lovely receptions following our Evensongs, as well as Dermot Kiernan (fund-raising wine bar) and many other members of the choir for their support in hospitality.
- On September 29, 2019, we began a partnership with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's chamber music series, *Sundays Live*. Begun in 1948 at Exposition Park, *Sundays Live* has been presented for the past 29 years at LACMA. Due to LACMA's current renovation project, the series director, Bill Vestal contacted James Buonemani to propose a joint venture with Great Music at St. James'. After a year of brainstorming and negotiations, the series began its free offerings of chamber, orchestral, choral and solo artists from Southern California and around the globe, filling the church with near-capacity audiences, streaming live and on KUSC's *Radio On Demand*. Together, with our Evensong and International Laureates Organ Series, *Sundays Live* makes every Sunday at St. James' (September through June) an inspirational concert destination!
- With *LACMA Sundays Live* as an incentive and with a major gift from the estate of Robert Reid, the church decided to replace its Yamaha upright piano with a concert instrument on par with our magnificent organ. With the assistance of local piano technician, Teri Meredith, Buonemani and former Associate Organist Andrew Brownell examined potential pianos in Los Angeles and New York City, finally deciding on a locally restored 1928 Steinway 9-foot concert grand piano. Brownell dedicated the piano on November 24, 2019, in a LACMA *Sundays Live* concert that evening, and it was blessed in memory of Robert Reid at the morning service. We are grateful for this opportunity to own a truly fine piano which serves not only our concert outreach but also graces the musical performances of our weekly Korean Services.
- The ever-popular *Advent Procession of Lessons and Carols* took place on December 8, 2019, and continues to draw a capacity congregation from distances as far as Las Vegas and San Diego.
- Many of our musical performances can be heard in "live" recordings available online at [www.StjLA.org](http://www.StjLA.org) by clicking "Listen" under the *Great Music* tab. 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 visit this webpage often.

- 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 Service of Holy Eucharist at 10:30 AM. 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 Korean Drum Ensemble has flourished for many years and continues to adorn our special feasts and occasions with their celebratory brand of music-making. Together with African master drummer Chazz Ross, these musicians represent another cooperative effort between church and school that trains our children in the rudiments of music while enriching their learning and appreciation of the variety of cultures in our midst.
- We are also blessed by the talents of conductor Dongyul Lee who directs the Choir of the Korean Congregation. This growing ensemble is often joined by superb musicians from USC and the community, and performs primarily at the Korean Eucharist service at 12:15 PM on Sundays. On special occasions we enjoy their music-making at special "joint" services as well.
- 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 38<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> years respectively of devoted service to the choir. We also congratulate Michael Bennett, Sarah Lynch, Susie McDermid and Kristina Valcarce for celebrating 10 years of service and Joel Nesvadba for 5 years of service. This current season we welcome the following new members to our choir family: Jennifer Paz and Kathryn Shuman, sopranos, and Michel Miersma, baritone. We also bid a fond farewell to members Paul Ockelmann, Stephen Salts and Jimmy Traum.
- On July 19, Mother Kate and 38 members of our choir arrived in Dublin, Ireland, for a 10-day singing pilgrimage. With its sacred sites pre-existing Egypt's pyramids, Ireland's religious history spans the centuries from before the Druids of the Celts through the foundations of Christianity laid by St. Patrick and evolving to the present day. The choir was warmly welcomed at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin; Church of the Assumption, Tullamore; St. Fin-Barre's Cathedral, Cork; and St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, Galway. Various parishioners joined the choir for the entire tour and at various points throughout. Buonemani composed a setting of the popular Irish hymn "Ag Criost an Siol" for the occasion and by happenstance, his setting of the *Preces of Responses* was sung at the neighboring St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin by the touring Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo, during our visit. We wish to thank our former Choir Council members who successfully organized and managed this tour: Adam Noel (Choir Dean), Susie McDermid, Anna Cave, and Jae Park. These and other choirmembers spent countless hours preparing an amazing tour and we are truly grateful for their service.
- We are grateful to the talented Justin Baker, choirmember and member of our Communications Committee. As Director of Social Media, Justin's photography, videography, web-mastering and blogging all serve to "spread the word" of every aspect of our parish, not least of which, is our music ministry. With the launch of LACMA Sundays Live, Justin additionally fills the role of Concert Manager for this ambitious series of concerts.
- Gratitude is also extended to our Assistant Conductor, Jae Park, who graciously leads the choir in rehearsals and services when the Director of Music is absent. We are richly blessed with his extraordinary talent and that of so many of our parish musicians.
- Completing 5 years of service 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 grateful for 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 Glicklich, violinist Chan Ho and his son, cellist Elliot Chan, and various talented students from St. James' School.
- Much of the success of our series *Great Music at St. James'* is due to the volunteer ushering and production support from members of our *Great Music Guild*. Many thanks to these dedicated people: Tom Abbott, Margaret Ecker, Geri Hurley, Steve McLean, Kevin and Kathleen Rice, Linda Whittemore, and Thomas Tunde. A special thanks to Margaret Ecker who serves as head of the Guild. (If you would like to offer your services, please email [GreatMusic@SaintJamesLA.org](mailto: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. We particular wish to acknowledge and honor the memory of Robert Reid, long-time *Friend of Great Music*, who generously designated *Great Music* a recipient of a portion of his estate this past season. (Donations to *Great Music* can be made 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 inspiring others beyond our walls to initiate the kind of music and special services that 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 Los Angeles and Southern California bursting with the sound of church music on a scale perhaps never before encountered.

From time to time I am the happy recipient of kind notes that affirm our various ministries at St. James'. Recently, a fellow church musician was kind enough to write me a most gracious note. Here is an excerpt:

*I dread the months of June thru September when the Choir is on break and without Evensong. Words cannot convey how much your ministry means to me and the greater Los Angeles community! While there are many who attempt to approximate what you have accomplished over the 20+ years here, no one come close. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!*

Soli Deo Gloria....

## **Communications Committee**

**Submitted by Canon Robert Williams**

Almost weekly we hear from newcomers that they are visiting St. James' Church for the first time as the result of seeing a post on Facebook or Instagram, listening to a podcast, or perusing the parish website. Often, these visitors are of the millennial generation, and some have joined the young adult group at the invitation of the Rector, who this past year began the practice of regularly posting engaging photos and comments on Twitter. Similarly, dozens of first-time visitors continue to come to St. James' as the result of regular social media posts regarding the LACMA *Sundays Live* concert series in residence since last fall.

The fruit of all these labors is thanks to the expertise and dedication of parishioner Justin Baker, who serves on a part-time contract basis as Communications Director for the parish and LACMA Sundays Live program in addition to

his work as principal of the Fuzzy Image Media firm. Again this year, Justin engaged parishioners in social media sharing at strategic times, including the annual Social Media Sunday. Thus, the communications capacity of St. James' continues to grow exponentially, building on a best-practices initiative introduced in 2015 through the diocesan communications office.

Meanwhile, the weekly parish Update email/bulletin insert has been enhanced with added content and photos, with editions faithfully produced and published by Lauren Azeltine, parish administrator. Concurrently, Fr. John Kim provides regular social media posts and other Korean-language content.

Members of the Communications Committee include:

- The Rev. Dr. Kate Cress (Rector & Convener)
- Canon Robert Williams (Chair & Vestry Member)
- The Rev. John Kim (Associate Rector)
- Canon James Buonemani (Director of Music)
- Lauren Azeltine (Parish Administrator)
- Justin Baker (Communications Director/Consultant)
- St. James' School Liaison, in transition

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.
- Assist the Rector in developing relationships with stakeholders in the Wilshire Center district and adjoining communities of Los Angeles.
- Collaborate with St. James' School in publicizing events and news of shared interest.
- Suggest best practices for potential emergency or crisis communication.
- Recommend excellent printed collateral material to advance mission and ministries.
- Recommend best practices for signage and other means of identifying the parish church.

## **Stewardship Committee**

**Submitted by Mother Kate**

In 2019, we began the process of treating stewardship as a full-year endeavor. In June we held a Stewardship Breakfast with nine committed leaders in attendance, and prayed for God to help strengthen the generosity within our church through an understanding of stewardship as a spiritual practice. We also reacquainted ourselves with the work of Eric Law, whose holistic model for stewardship, called *Holy Currencies*, is helping to frame our work. Also in June, a smaller group met with Richard Felton, former director of the Episcopal Stewardship Network (TENS). Then in September, five of us attended a full day diocesan stewardship conference and heard from Bishop Diane Bruce and other experts. All our learning this past year points to the core truth that stewardship is not fundraising; instead, it is putting our faith in action.

## **African Christian Fellowship**

**Submitted by Arnold Blanshard**

*ACF President 2018-2020*

The purpose of this African Christian Fellowship (ACF) 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month after the 10:30 a.m. service in St. James' School hall.

The highlight of the ACF is our annual Partnership Sunday which showcases our African culture in Music, Dance, food, and fashion. These are our fundraising events that allow us to make financial contributions to St. James' Church and School, Soup Kitchen, the Choir, charitable organizations and natural disaster relief

Other Highlights of Fellowship's Customary Activities are:

- 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.
- Hosting Coffee hour at twice a quarter.
- 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.

## **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 June 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 about faith moderated by our St. James' EFM teacher John Bassett. Wine was consumed. This coming July we will again go on retreat to the Mount Calvary Monastery, for the last time before the Monastery closes. 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 Holly Holyk**

The 2019 St. James' Women's Retreat was held March 8-10 at the Mount Calvary Monastery and Retreat House in Santa Barbara. The theme was *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, led by Rev. Kate Lewis. The retreat was at capacity, with twenty-three women attending, including Rev. Kate Cress. Rev. Kate Lewis led us through challenging ideas based on a chapter on Incarnation from Cynthia Bourgeault's book, *The Wisdom Jesus*. She bathed us in lovely poetry to begin each session, as we began to understand the Incarnation in our personal and communal lives. Lively breakout sessions followed the presentations, punctuated by free time and the daily Hours of the monks. Reflexology done by Sr. Cheryl Holyk was made available to our retreatants. Our nightly fellowship allowed the women of St. James to establish new relationships and deepen old ones.

The 2020 St. James' Women's Retreat will be held at the Mount Calvary Monastery and Retreat House in Santa Barbara, the last time before its closure. Sharon Crandall is returning to lead us this coming April 17–19. Cost of the retreat is \$300. Speak to Holly, Ingrid, or Sara Jane if you're interested, have questions, or if a scholarship would help you to be able to attend the weekend. Make a deposit of \$50 today to reserve your space either by check to St James (note Women's Retreat) or via the church's online donations page (select Women's Retreat). The remaining balance is due by April 5. Be sure to check the Update for current news.

## **Young Adult Prayer Group**

**Submitted by Jeff Cuevas-Koch**

The Young Adult Prayer Group and Eating Society (or, usually, just YAPGES) is the regular gathering of twenty- and thirty-somethings for food, fellowship, discussion, and prayer. We meet about monthly for a pot-luck dinner and are open to all to bring as they are able. We've been blessed with growth over the past year – we have about two dozen on our email list and have averaged 15 attendees over our last two meetings – so we usually break into small groups. We spend the evening eating a delicious and culturally varied meal, getting to know each other better, and gaining a deeper understanding of our faith and how it relates to young adult life in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. At the end of the evening, we all gather together to share in prayer before heading our separate ways. Look for updates on our next meeting in the bulletin or see our St. James' in-the-City 20s/30s Facebook page for more information.

## **2019 Intercessory Prayer Group**

**Submitted by Marsha Vargas**

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 and The Rev. Neil Tadken almost 10 years ago and has continued uninterrupted since that time.

In January, 2020 prayers included "Thank God for good ongoing care," "for a smooth transition to his group home," "continued God's grace strength and wisdom," "full recovery of cancer and well being." These prayers are offered by members privately at home, or wherever they may be, with an updated list each month as a guide. Prayer Group members receive an updated list each month, by email or by the USPS; this list is kept confidential. Currently, there are over 50 ministers in this prayer group.

Request comes from Prayer Request Cards found in the pews, from church members and friends who informs the prayer ministers or the clergy know their desires, or from calls or emails to the church office. An updated list is sent to the prayer ministers' mid-month by email.

In 2020 we will be revising the process of this ministry; all prayer ministers and parishioners will be informed in advance as we put the new procedure in place.

## OUTREACH

### Food Pantry

Submitted by Cathy Helm

The Food Pantry gives food once a week to needy families and individuals. We distribute two different kinds of bags: "regular bags," which are for people who have cooking facilities, and "quick bags," for people who do not. We give out approximately 150 bags in total each week. About 80% of the people who come are regular bag clients, people who have apartments and perhaps even jobs but who still need help with getting enough food. The 20% who choose the quick bag line are mostly homeless people.

We receive much of our food from the Los Angeles Food Bank. There we can obtain free government food and other items at very low cost. The food available at the Food Bank is better suited to our regular than to our quick bags: canned fruit, vegetables, and sometimes canned meat or fish; rice, pasta, and dried beans; cereal, cookies, and crackers; frozen meat or prepared foods; and maybe fresh produce. Because the Food Bank offers few of the single-serving, ready-to-eat foods we need for quick bags, we buy most of the quick-bag supplies from a wholesaler, or Smart & Final, or Costco. That food includes granola bars; pop-top cans of pasta or, sometimes, tuna; canned fruit and applesauce; cereal; crackers; and cookies. Donated food from parishioners and from St. James' School supplements our stock of both regular and quick bag items.

Just in the last month or two we have also gained access to a new source of free produce, and we are very excited about it. The Diocese has a program called Seeds of Hope that gathers fresh fruits and vegetables from various sources and makes them available at no charge to food pantries and soup kitchens. Every Tuesday now, Seeds of Hope delivers produce like mangoes, persimmons, apples, broccoli, peppers, tomatillos, lettuce, squash, cauliflower, and onions. The food pantry clients seem delighted with these new offerings.

A few years ago we asked regular-bag clients to begin bringing their own bags, so that we could cut down on the use of the plastic bags we had been packing with food. It worked out very well. Almost everyone who gets a regular bag now brings his or her own bag. Last year we began asking quick-bag clients, too, to bring their own bags, and the positive response was gratifying and a little surprising (to me, at least). Now we use plastic bags only for new people or for those who occasionally forget to bring their own bags.

St. James' Church gives \$6000 in financial support each year to HopeNet, an entity that has organized Wilshire corridor churches, synagogues, and mosques into a group that helps the needy. In addition to support from its religious organization members, HopeNet gets grant money from the federal government. Using all of those funds, HopeNet pays for the items each pantry orders from the Food Bank.

The food pantry is staffed entirely by volunteers. The volunteers work on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 to 9:30 and on Thursday mornings from 7:30 to 9:30. On Wednesday, we put away the deliveries from the Food Bank and Seeds of Hope, get out and organize all the items for the regular bags, and do some preparation for the quick bags. On Thursday, from 7:30 to 8:00 we put the final quick bags together. At 8:00 we open the doors on Wilshire Boulevard and begin welcoming people in. Because many clients come every week, there are always a lot of familiar, friendly faces.

A few of our volunteers attend St. James' Church, but many do not. Father John Kim has helped the food pantry tremendously by introducing us to a number of Korean volunteers who not only participate in the normal work of the food pantry but also translate as needed between Korean and English. This is incredibly helpful because the majority of our clients speak Korean as their first language.

All our volunteers are dedicated, enthusiastic, and fun to work with. New volunteers are always welcome!

## **Soup Kitchen**

**Submitted by Margaret Ecker and Soup Kitchen Volunteers**

Volunteers gather in the kitchen each Friday afternoon to prepare a generous and nutritious meal for those in need. People come from the immediate neighborhood and even from quite a distance. Most are unhoused, and good number are housed but low income. As one regular put it who comes on the bus from Santa Monica, "You guys put on the best Soup Kitchen in Los Angeles!"

We open the courtyard gates at around 4:00pm so that people can gather for socializing before dinner. Dinner service begins at 5 p.m. and lasts about an hour. Cleaning up takes another 45 minutes. We average about 90 people at each event, sometimes as many as 120.

The menu includes a main dish with meat and pasta, fresh salads, vegetable side dishes, soup and a variety of sandwiches. Dessert consists primarily of fresh fruits and donated baked goods. We also prepare "to go" bags with pasta, soup, sandwiches and a new pair of socks, handed to any latecomers who may arrive after we have begun cleanup.

Sources for our supplies include donations from nearby restaurants and bakeries, donations from a grocery store in downtown LA, and Seeds of Hope, a Diocese project that delivers donated fresh vegetables and fruits in large quantities. Whatever we need to complete meal preparation (seasonings, utensils, other basic supplies) we purchase at Smart and Final.

This year, we stepped back from our usual practices to try to better understand actual costs. St. James' is the primary funder for costs associated with conducting Soup Kitchen, although it should be noted that some volunteers pay for special supplies on their own. We reviewed St. James' expenditures for 2018 to establish a baseline. Then we set about trying to contain those costs. We compared vendor charges for the supplies we use most often. We discussed menu options and ways to conserve resources without compromising quality. We changed our systems to reduce use of single-use plastics. We eliminated need for delivery of goods by large truck, reducing the environmental impact as well as cost. The addition of Seeds of Hope produce has allowed us to greatly increase the nutritional value of the food we serve, without adding cost and helping to reduce foods in our landfills. We can now demonstrate significant cost reduction, having cut costs literally in half in 2019 from what we spent in 2018, with the added benefit of reduced impact on the environment.

Around fifteen volunteers are involved in preparation, serving and cleaning. We maintain a schedule of captains who rotate throughout the year. Captains take weekly inventory of supplies, shop for replacement supplies, and provide leadership in the moment including the welcoming of new volunteers. Volunteers include both church members and non-members, bringing the larger community into the good works at St. James' and enlarging our capacity to serve the neighborhood around St. James'.

The core of volunteers who served in 2019 include the following: Kathleen and Kevin Rice, Brenda Bass-Roper, Tim Wood and Sharon Magliano, Tunde Thomas, Sara Jane Thies, Kozue Takei, Ryo Takei, Hana Takei, Markus Takei, Bunny Svatos, Tony Kim, Todd Geyer, Jim Stewart, Judith James, Margaret Ecker, Bejan Damavandi, Pat McKay, Dexter Choi, Tom Kwak, Damon Peruzzi, Joy McManus, John David Bassett, and Elizabeth Harris. Captains included Kathleen Rice, Brenda Bass-Roper, Tim Wood, Kozue Takei, Elizabeth Harris, and Margaret Ecker.

One segment of our volunteer group is made up of young students from area schools including St. James' School. Rob Krueger and Ashley Samuels from St. James' School have continued to provide leadership for the bridge between Soup Kitchen and the School. The students and the teachers are devoted and enthusiastic.

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, talented musicians from St. James' School and the associated alumni, parent, and staff group, join in to create a festive background for the meal.

A portion of our Soup Kitchen each week is devoted to prayers in the St. James' Chapel. The opportunity to attend this chapel service is made available to any who would like to participate. The attendance at these chapel sessions has been steady. (See report below.)

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.

Whenever one of our regular guests is able to find permanent shelter, we gather our resources to support their move-in with donated linens, kitchen utensils, appliances and even TVs and radios.

We welcome new volunteers whenever they show up. All who come to help are put to good work.

## **SHOWERS OF HOPE**

Since October, we have partnered with Shower of Hope to provide hot showers, clean clothes, and a warm breakfast to our unhoused neighbors. The shower van arrives to the parking lot behind the church at 8:30am and gets picked up at around 2pm. We serve about 20 people each Saturday, many of whom are regulars from Soup Kitchen. As news of this project spreads, donations of clean clothes have increased, including an amazing Sock Drive by the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, and the students at St. James'. Over 2000 pairs of socks have been collected in support of Soup Kitchen and the Shower project.

A core of volunteers from St. James' support this project every Saturday, all from Soup Kitchen: Kozue Takei, Ryo Takei, Tony Kim, Bejan Damavandi, and Margaret Ecker. New volunteers have started showing up from the neighborhood after they've read about the showers in the Larchmont News. KTown for All, an advocacy group serving the needs of homeless people in the community, has promoted the Shower project in their social media including their website. USC students have occasionally shown up, recruited by the Shower of Hope foundation.

We created a flyer to distribute at Soup Kitchen to help spread the word about the Showers. On Saturday mornings, one volunteer walks the blocks around the church to invite those we encounter who seem to be living on the street.

The shower project has given us a closer relationship to our unhoused neighbors and further revealed the depth of their challenges and struggles. It has also shined a clear light on the value to them of a safe place to gather for socializing. At least four or five regulars have begun to join us, not for the shower, but just for the company. This discovery inspires us to consider finding a way to open up a space, perhaps where Food Pantry meets, to increase our ability to provide the gift of safe space and eventually engagement with services to help them find proper housing. We will submit a grant proposal to California Mental Health Services Authority to support this dream of expanded availability.

## **IN SUMMARY**

The success of the Soup Kitchen and the Shower Project depends on the generosity of volunteers. We have a wonderful core of volunteers from diverse backgrounds with a multitude of motivations for their service. We welcome newcomers, and promise to provide a thorough orientation and a long welcome mat to all who knock on the door.

## **Soup Kitchen Chapel**

**Submitted by Sara Jane Thies**

Chapel attendance has grown this last year to include up to 12 folks who gather in the Chapel to pray the service of compline and discuss a scripture passage after their Friday meal. Often this time together is described by them as sharing "spiritual food". The "menu" the first half of this 2019 year included the readings of the Sunday lectionary. Beginning in August, after the summer Ireland Choir trip, we started looking at the Old Testament readings that inspired the stained glass windows in Galway Cathedral. In February, we will begin looking at the New Testament excerpts and remaining 26 window depictions.

August also brought St James' a celebration of the life and works of Mina Post, the creator of these Friday compline services. Before laying her ashes to rest in the columbarium of her beloved chapel friends, both family, neighbors near and far gathered in the church to give thanks for our shared journeys. A highlight of the service was Mr. Sheppard Petit's, a Friday 'regular', scripture reading. Later in the parish hall the witness of several of Friday's compline faithful Mary, Larry, and Sheppard enriched our fellowship as we joined in snacks and in viewing Mina's art work. There are

many more kitchen attendees, going back as far as 10 years ago, who remember Mina from her days preparing meals as well as leading compline prayers who still speak fondly of her. Mina is one of the many kitchen saints whom our chapel group joins in giving thanks weekly for their talents, inspiration, and faithful leadership.

Now in my sixth year of carrying on the tradition of Kitchen Chapel, I have been thrilled to partner in shared leadership with Elizabeth Harris and Fr. Jon Feuss. We are grateful to bear witness to the grounding faith and hope shared weekly. Some friends have commented that their burdens feel lightened during the hours they spend together on Friday afternoons. Others have joined us for evensong, organ recitals, and *Sundays Live* concerts, and when asked express feeling uplifted.

Our growing outreaching ministries of St James'.Food Pantry, Happy Hour, Kitchen, Chapel, Showers of Hope, Fr. Kim's Korean Adullam House extend much more than gathering, food, prayers, bible discussion, clean clothes, hot showers, and shelter. Our many volunteers are aiding in restoring dignity and respect by building trusted relationships with our neighbors who are most grateful to be seen, welcomed, and encouraged to seek acceptable services as well as be engaged in conversation.

Should you find yourself reading the daily *LA Times* articles on our city's crisis or reading the *Bible* in the mornings, please know that each of us can make a difference. Each new day gives me food for thought and a call to action. Today's example: (Hebrews 1:7) Ground that drinks up the rain falling on it repeatedly, and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.

Join us in ways that you are able AND in enthusiastically affirming "Praises go up and Blessings come down."

## **Scouting**

### **Boy Scouts**

**Submitted by Matt Rauchberg**

Boy Scout Troop Ten is the oldest continuously-chartered 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 engages in a number of community service projects each year, including cleanup at the Taste of Larchmont benefiting HopeNet, volunteering at the St. James' Soup Kitchen and the One Voice Christmas Charity (providing presents and food to 300+ underprivileged families in East Los Angeles), placing Memorial Day flags at the National Cemetery in West LA and volunteering at the downtown Midnight Mission. In addition, in 2018 and 2019 the troop partnered with the Parks Department and the Friends of Griffith Park to "adopt" a section of Fern Dell to water and care for critical shade trees afflicted by the recent droughts, putting in hundreds of hours of volunteer time and earning the Troop a Conservation Good Turn Award from the Greater Los Angeles Council.

Currently, over 50 boys (ages 11-17) along with twelve adult leaders, belong to Troop Ten. The Scouts have overnight campouts nine or ten times a year, and in summer attend Camp Cherry Valley on Catalina Island (2020 will be the 37th consecutive year) and at least one high adventure camp or backpacking trip. In August 2019, a group of 14 Troop Ten scouts had the adventure of a lifetime backpacking and sea kayaking in Alaska. The Scouts come together from more than a dozen nearby public and private schools and represent virtually every ethnic group and income level in the area.

In its history more than 350 Troop 10 scouts have attained Scouting's highest honor, the rank of Eagle Scout, including five scouts in the last year. The Troop is also proud to have earned Gold level in its BSA "Journey to Excellence" for 2019.

### **Cub Scouts**

**Submitted by Diane Gilmore**

Cub Scout Pack 10 currently serves over 50 boys and girls (we have three), ages 6 to 10. While most of the Cubs come directly from St. James' School, there are about a dozen coming from the neighborhood. Cubmaster Derek Cotton welcomes new members in the beginning of each school year. St. James' has continuously chartered Pack

10 for over seventy-five years. Again Pack 10 has achieved the Gold level in Scouts BSA's "Journey to Excellence" for 2019.

The Cub Scout program is separated into grade-specific Dens and includes a broad range of activities like hiking in the local mountains and excursions such as a water treatment plant, the William Hart Ranch and local Council camps. Each Cub grade hosts a traditional event like Cub Olympics, Christmas Carnival, Crazy Skit Night and Pinewood Derby. This year the Cubs offered community service collecting soap, socks and towels for Showers of Hope. Cub Scout advancement and adventures are aimed at having fun, developing self-reliance and teamwork, and living by the Cub Scout motto to "Do Your Best."

## **Girl Scouts**

**Submitted by Cecilia Lopez**

Girl Scouts at St James' started ten years ago with a small group of about six girls. Over the years, we have built our membership to almost fifty young girl scouts and more keep joining every year. We have currently three active troops 625, 1125 and 2115. Our goal is eventually to have one solid troop that represents all of St James'.

As Girl Scouts, our members discover the fun, friendship, and power of sisterhood. Girls grow courageous and strong through a wide variety of enriching experiences, such as field trips, skill-building sports clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardships.

Even though we are known by selling Thin Mints and Samoas—and many do enjoy our delicious cookies—our organization is more than selling cookies. Girl Scouts help and support the community at large. The Girl Scout Motto is "Be Prepared". That is our goal with the troops at St James'. We aim to prepare these awesome girls to be confident, to develop their full individual potential, to relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect. Our girls develop values to guide their action, providing the foundation for sound decision making. Girl Scouts contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others.

Girl Scouts have engaged in different projects at our St James' Community like singing, caroling and bringing cans of food and personal care items to the residents of St James' Manor. They also make Thanksgiving cards and placecards for the soup kitchen.

Last year, the greatest accomplishment of Troop 2115 was to earn the Bronze Award. This award was possible with the support of the Parish, School and Showers of Hope. The Bronze Award is the highest level a Girl Scout Junior can achieve. The Scouts completed and created a Take Action Project, called "Showers of Hope". During the project, they developed more confidence, met new people, and had the kind of fun that happens when you work with other Girl Scouts to make a difference. The ction Plan started with an idea of making toiletries kits to support the Parish as it launched the new program "Showers of Hope". The girls made the first batch of 50 kits with essential personal care items. After Margaret Ecker's visit, the perspective changed. Socks were the most needed item and they started a Sock drive that lasted 3 days and the results were amazing, 2009 pairs of socks were collected.

We are thankful that this year Reverend Kate allows to use Hampton Hall for our meetings, helping us to have a little more permanent place to meet.

We look forward to continuing to work together, looking for new projects to help the community and to supporting our Parish. As we said to the girls during our meetings, each action and/or a good deed, even the smallest, makes a difference and helps to make the World a better place.



## **VESTRY NOMINEES**

### **Vestry slate (four members approved by vestry for nomination together)**

#### **GERALDINE “GERI” HURLEY**

I am honored to be asked to join the Vestry of St. James' at this dynamic time in St. James' clerical history. This is due in part to our culturally diverse congregation who desires full participation in the church decisions and activities in spirit as well in deed. I feel very Blessed to be a part of this congregation.

I became a participant of St. James' with the enrollment of my youngest son, Michael Hurley, in 1986 at St. James' School. During my second term on the Vestry, I served as the liaison from the Vestry to the St. James' School Board. In 1990's, I served as Co-Chair of the Parent Association of St. James' School. This will be my third term to serve St. James' as a Vestry member.

I am a native of Los Angeles. Born and raised in East Los Angeles in Maravilla Projects, attended First Street School and played daily in the cherished Belvedere Park. My brother, sister and I with friends roamed the foothills above the Maravilla Projects which was a cattle ranch. Today, those hills are Monterey Park with East Los Angeles College sitting on the southern edge of that city. As a young person, East Los Angeles was THE most ethnically and culturally diverse part of the City of Los Angeles.

My past experiences have brought me to St. James'. To participate now on the Vestry is the culmination of the dream for me and for many in the past and the present to realize a truly diverse, dynamic institution which is St. James' in-the-City.

#### **JEFF CUEVAS-KOCH**

My name is Jeff Cuevas-Koch and I work as a software developer for a small company that develops technology for mass transit. I grew up in Orange County, where I was baptized an Episcopalian and later confirmed Lutheran while attending a Lutheran K-8 school. St. James' was the first stop for my then-fiancée Marisa and me while we were church shopping after we moved to Koreatown in 2016. We instantly felt welcome and knew we had found our spiritual home. Marisa and I got married at St. James' and recently celebrated our one-year anniversary by adopting a miniature schnauzer mix.

I first got involved with the St. James' community outside of Sunday services through the Young Adult Prayer Group and Eating Society. I'm now in my third year of the Education for Ministry class that meet weekly at St James'. When I can catch a break from EFM reading, I like to ride bicycles and play board games.

#### **JANET MCKINNON**

Church has always played a major part in my family's life. Since coming to St. James' Episcopal Church, I have been inspired by the selflessness of others who devote countless hours to furthering the kingdom of God.

I am from Brooklyn, New York and have 2 grandchildren. My grandson works for Homeland Security in Virginia, and my granddaughter is an Environmental Engineer in Atlanta, GA. I am a retiree from Los Angeles Unified School District where I worked as an Analyst for 11 years in the Telecommunications Department, serving over 1,500 schools & offices.

I have been a member of Saint James' Episcopal Church for the past 40 years. As part of this community I have served and still am faithfully serving on the Altar Guild for 33 years, and have been an usher for over 30 years under the guidance of the late Fannie Smith. I was invited to be and am still happily serving as the Wedding Coordinator for St. James' for the past 7 years.

In addition to my commitment to the St. James' community, I also commit my time to volunteering for the State of California, Los Angeles County, as a Deputy Commissioner of Civil Marriages. I also volunteer at the Music Center and several other community organizations.

I am honored by the invitation to journey with my fellow pilgrims as a member of the Vestry. My hope for St. James' and the Vestry is that we continue to grow in faith while increasing our membership.

### **JACKSON "JACK" PITTS**

When I arrived at St. James' in-the-City in the summer of 2014, I was still in the early years of my graduate degree at UC Riverside. Not long before, I had come to Southern California to pursue my doctorate in theoretical physics, but I grew up in the small city of Tyler in East Texas. There, my family emphasized the importance of the arts and sciences and especially the way they informed our Christian faith. In Tyler, I also began to pay close attention to the diversity of Christian thought and experience, in part because I was intrigued by the differences and commonalities between my earliest Christian environment, the Baptist church where my family worshipped, and the Catholic school I attended for nine years.

St. James' was home as soon as I entered. I had found a church which celebrates and affirms the great wild world we are given by our Creator. It is a community that assembles for fellowship, dialogue, laughter, and awe in a context which—through the Anglican tradition—remembers that God, as we witness through Jesus Christ, is always the center. I was welcomed by wonderful people, and soon began to participate in two groups which gathered to share meals outside of the building's walls—the men's group, and the group which had recently formed for young adults, now known affectionately as YAPGES. During my years at St. James', I have gathered with these groups for many meals and for three retreats. Within the church building, I participate as a layreader and a greeter.

I am grateful for the gifts of God through the people of this church home. St. James' Church has given me joy and hope through the challenges and achievements of the long journey through my degree, which I completed just a few weeks ago. Now I hope to have the opportunity to continue to serve this church as a new member of the vestry.

### **CANDIDATE PROPERLY NOMINATED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP**

#### **EDWARD "ED" GARREN**

I am a Family Therapist (MFT) in South Los Angeles. I am a "cradle" Episcopalian, have served on two vestries, and was Junior Warden at two parishes as well. I have been a member of St. James' for approximately five years, and enjoy the diversity of the parish, as well as our commitment to sustaining a diverse parish where our fellowship with each other deeply contributes to our spiritual journey with Christ.

I have been a delegate to Diocesan convention for the past four years, and have served on the Stewardship Committee for four years as well. I also serve on the board of directors of Korean Community Services in Orange County, Voices Neighborhood Council, and am Los Angeles coordinator for Great Autos of Yesteryear.

### **DELEGATES TO CONVENTION**

Kathalina Hwang (Vestry Rep)

Arnold Blanchard

Edward Garren

George Marks Jr.

Joanne O'Donnell

Marsha Vargas

Alternate(s): George Marks, Jr., Chris Woodyard