



# ST. JAMES IN-THE-CITY EPISCOPAL / ANGLICAN CHURCH

*Respecting the dignity of every human being*



## Annual Meeting for 2024

Sunday, January 26, 2025





## Rector's Welcome

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Annual Meeting, a time for us to review the key moments of a highly eventful 2024, and to anticipate all the exciting developments that await us as 2025 unfolds. Thank you for the energy and dedication you bring to caring for others in this beloved community. You are such an important part of the life of St. James' in-the-City.

Let's join together in joyful anticipation of re-entering our beautiful church space later this year. Onward!

Peace and blessings,

*Kate* †



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>AGENDA</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MINUTES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>RECTOR'S REPORT</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>VESTRY NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>CONVENTION DELEGATES</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>HEAD OF ST. JAMES' SCHOOL REPORT</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>GREAT MUSIC</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS &amp; SOCIAL MEDIA</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>MINISTRY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>	<b>36</b>
• Year End Financial Report: General Ledger Statement for twelve months ending December 31, 2024	
• 2025 Budget	

## **Annual Meeting for 2024**

### **Agenda**

**Sunday, January 26, 2025  
After 10:30 Service**

- Welcome - The Rev. Dr. Kate Cress
- Minutes from Last Year's Meeting, Leslie Emge, Clerk of the Vestry
- Senior Warden's Report – Ken Robbins
- Vestry Election
- Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates
- Financial Presentation
  - Year End 2024 – Ken Robbins, Sr Warden
  - Budget for 2025 – Eduardo Serafin, Treasurer
- Other Business
  - “Statue Election”
- Adjournment/Dismissal



ST. JAMES' Episcopal Church  
Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
January 28, 2024

Opening

Rev. Kate opened the meeting at 12:15 p.m. by welcoming all those present following the 10:30 a.m. service, as well as those joining online, and shared the agenda while copies of the very thorough Annual Meeting Report booklet were distributed.

Senior Warden's Report

Senior Warden Arnold being under the weather, his report was delivered by Junior Warden Chris Woodyard, along with Chris' own report, both of which were detailed in the handout. Chris recapped highlights of 2023, including updates on the planned capital campaign, findings and feedback from the various committees dedicated to HVAC, security, building upgrades and maintenance, community outreach programs, honoring our Mission Share pledge in full, and overall financial health.

Voting

Prior to the voting on Vestry Members candidates and posts, Rev. Kate extended sincere thanks to the outgoing Vestry Members (Arnold, Chris L., Donna, and Vielka) for their dedication to St. James' and their work over the preceding term, 2024.

Fr. Jon opened the voting process to those present and those online, following which a vote to accept the proposed slate of Vestry Members (Nancy Bishop, Marisa Cuevas-Koch, Andrew Lee, Ada Okezie, and Ken Robbins) and Convention Delegates and Alternate (Ken Robbins, Marsha Vargas, George Marks, Jr., John Thies, and Ed Garren) was taken, and a motion made, seconded, and carried to approve all proposed representatives.

Treasurer's Report

Donna delivered the Treasurer's Report, noting banking and investment figures, current staffing and maintenance costs, endowment returns, grants received, and significantly increased pledging and unrestricted donations. The 2024 budget is balanced, and has been approved. Fr. Jon responded to questions regarding our support of prison and LGTQ+ ministries, explaining that they are funded by the Diocese through collective Mission Share funds. Donna invited anyone with additional questions to contact her directly at their convenience.

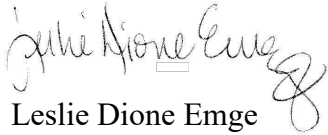
### Old Business Updates

Rev. Kate covered the goals of the capital campaign in more detail, and Fr. Jon that the scope of the campaign should be finalized by the end of March, with launch set for sometime in June. The current financial goal is slightly under \$4 million.

### Adjournment

All business of the Annual Meeting for 2024 being then concluded, and no other questions being raised, the Rev. Kate adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m., followed by the dismissal.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie Dione Emge". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Leslie Dione Emge  
Clerk of the Vestry

## Rector's Report

Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Kate Cress  
Rector

As I write this Rector's Report, my heart is heavy. Wildfires have burned throughout our beloved Los Angeles, and the losses feel unfathomable. As members of St. James, in moments like these, we understand more than ever the power of God through community to comfort, sustain and guide us amid suffering and loss. Last week in church, we heard these words from 1 Corinthians:

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

By claiming our gifts and serving God in our church and in the world beyond these walls, we serve the common good. This is how we will lovingly move forward in 2025.

Alongside this important process of moving forward, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the incredible past year here at St. James. Thinking about 2024, I feel deep gratitude. In 2024, we launched a major capital campaign and began renovations on our 100-year-old building, so richly deserving of restoration. To enable repairs to occur, we moved all church services into the parish hall and the small Chapel of the Resurrection, where we have made happy, temporary homes. These are extraordinary transitions for us.

Backing up a little though, 2024 began for me with a thrilling sabbatical to India during the month of February, where I studied Hinduism while staying in Ramakrishna Mission Movement ashrams in Kolkata, Vrindavan, Varanasi and New Delhi. In all these places, I loved meeting swamis, Hindu nuns, and the many Indian people on pilgrimages much like my own. With delight, I learned how deeply Hindu people respect and appreciate Christianity, just as I came to love and respect their traditions and beliefs. For me, exposure to different cultures and beliefs always deepens my own faith and relationship to God. Thank you for the privilege of this time away to study and learn; and, my deepest thanks to Fr Jon Feuss for allowing me to relax and enjoy this sabbatical, knowing that St James was in his most capable hands.



While in India, I learned the heartbreaking news of the passing of our beloved former senior warden Arnold Blanshard. Then, a few weeks later, my own mother passed away as well. Because she was living in Kenya, I was so fortunate to be able to travel directly from Delhi to Nairobi for her funeral, and to pack up her home and conclude her affairs. That week in Nairobi offered me precious time to process some deep losses. I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit offering me time for quiet reflection in Kenya.

Once back in Los Angeles, we all joined together in celebrating the life of Arnold Blanshard, and then traveled through that most important time of the church year, Holy Week and Easter. I feel as though life has been a blur ever since. Immediately following Easter, we offered an amazing musical event called

Path of Miracles. This choral performance, by our own Choir of St James, captured the history and mystical power of the Camino pilgrimage path in Spain, an ancient journey in honor of our own patron saint, James. The proceeds from this concert and dinner went directly to Fr John Kim's shelter, Adullam House.

A few weeks after Easter we launched the "quiet phase" of our Capital Campaign through a series of meetings and dinners with key donors. Thanks to this early phase of giving, in August we were able to begin the church renovation







itself. Also in 2024, we received a grant from the National Fund for Sacred Places, earmarked for roof repair. This is a matching grant, so our capital campaign “ask” to the full St. James congregation – to match the grant – will happen this month.

St James Day, on July 28<sup>th</sup>, marked our final service in the main sanctuary of the church until after the renovation. In August of 2024 we moved our worship services to the parish hall, turning that space into church. What a delightful surprise that our parish hall

makes such a lovely church! The combination of a great sound system, wallpaper, and olive trees makes the space feel like home. Best of all, the chairs create a cozy atmosphere which, along with nametags, allows parishioners to get to know each other better. And parishioners continually remark on the joy of increased closeness to the choir, who sound phenomenal in our temporary home. Thank you, Canon Jim Buonemani, for facilitating the move to the parish hall – musically – with such aplomb. And thank you Fr John Kim, for leading the Korean language congregation so smoothly into worship in the new space as well. What a great atmosphere for fellowship and worship.

One temporary downside to the move to the parish hall was that we lost our Sunday School space, which had been the parish hall. As a temporary solution we have stationed a cart in the courtyard, stocked with snacks and crafts, and encouraged parents and children to move back and forth between the parish hall and courtyard whenever they want. The service is broadcast over speakers in the courtyard, so they are worshipping either way, and even the turtles can hear our hymns and prayers. My favorite days are when we throw open the glass doors and truly feel like an indoor/outdoor church.



Earlier in this report, I mentioned looking back on 2024 with deep gratitude. Here are some of the opportunities and events for which I am most grateful. I’m grateful to be serving as sponsoring parish for Femi Gonsalves-Knight as she discerns a call to ordained ministry, and grateful to Femi’s committee who guided her discernment in 2024. Personally, I am thankful to get to teach religion to 5th graders at St. James School. Special highlights this year included visits to Wilshire Blvd Temple just down the street and Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple in Hacienda Heights. I enjoyed lots of delightful events held at the rectory: our vestry retreat, a retiree brunch, numerous young adult gatherings, capital campaign lunches and dinners, an intercessory prayer group retreat, and a party celebrating Femi



Gonsalves-Knight. And I’m surely forgetting some! Entertaining, teaching and learning at the rectory bring me joy.



Every year I look forward to St James Day, the Blessing of the Animals, African Sunday, and, of course, Episcopal Night at Dodger Stadium. I enjoyed teaching a class on Mary during Advent and am looking forward to teaching another class, this time on Julian of Norwich, in the spring. And what a joy to host Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori on an official visit in March, where she confirmed or received eleven St. James members.



One of the exciting undertakings of 2024 was the search for a new head of school, and we are blessed now to have Diane Rich at the helm of St. James School. Beloved by teachers, students and parents alike, I am eager for all of you to get to know Diane as well. You will love her directness, warmth, and New England can-do spirit. Again, we are blessed.

Without a doubt, the biggest news story of 2024 is our renovation, so ably led by Fr Jon Feuss, and I salute him as well as the many committees who have helped shape the development of the renovations currently underway. I also thank our general contractor Mikael Alinger, who is here so often he even has his own desk! The work is proceeding speedily and professionally, and for this I give thanks.

Just as I give thanks for all of you. Thank you for the Spirit-given gifts you bring to the community of St James which make this such an extraordinary place. May we continue to move forward, filled with Christ's love, in worship, learning, and service.

Peace and blessings,

*Kate* †



## A Message From the Senior Warden

Submitted by Ken Robbins



2024 has been a wonderful year to serve on the Vestry of St. James! Mother Kate and Father Jon asked quite a bit from our small but mighty group and we delivered. Our big tasks this year were the Capital Campaign and the approval of expenditures related to our church renovation. We worked hard to carefully deploy the funds raised from our community (thank you for your generosity!) during our campaign.

During this past year we also initiated an important conversation with St. James School which we hope will clarify our relationship with this essential mission of St. James and allow us to implement some cost-sharing to benefit both institutions.

I have very much enjoyed my weekly conversations with Mother Kate and Father Jon as we work hard to elevate and honor the mission of St. James. My first year as Senior Warden was both challenging and stimulating. Please reach out to me if you have thoughts or suggestions.

## Junior Warden's Report

Submitted by Chris Woodyard



It has been an honor to have been your junior warden for the past two years. Two initiatives dominated 2024. One was a deep dive into our options when it came to air conditioning and heating for the church. The other was renovating the parish hall kitchen to more efficiently serve hundreds of needy people every week.

To understand how to make the church warm in winter and cool in summer, we searched the nation for options. We interviewed experts, brought in contractors and even prowled the rooftop of All Saints Pasadena to see its air-handling setup. Now, as part of our church renovation, an engineer is designing an HVAC system tailored to our needs.

When it came to the kitchen, replacing dilapidated cabinets and adding new work space involved a blizzard of emails and visits with our dedicated Soup Kitchen staff and cabinet makers. I love the result. Check out our new cabinets in the kitchen and hallway.





## **NOMINEES FOR ELECTION TO THE VESTRY**

### **Gloria Ogwu**



Gloria started her film career in Nigeria 16 years ago when she was still a manager at Serene Security Services Inc. She currently serves as a Director at Fountain Security Services Inc., while also attending graduate school pursuing a degree in Public Administration. Gloria was born into the Anglican church, baptized as an infant, confirmed at 16 years old, then joined the Girls Guild two years later. Having been raised in church and singing in the choir, services have become a deeply-rooted culture for Gloria, who feels it's very important not to worship anywhere else but her safe place—the Episcopal Church. In 2014, Gloria made her first visit to California, where she stayed on Wilshire Blvd. Looking for services to attend on Sunday, she Googled “Anglican church” nearby and found St. James. Since then, she has always come back, and St. James Anglican Episcopal Church is her church home, and she will serve in every way she can.

### **Jeff McManus**



25 years ago, my wife Joy and I began looking for an Episcopal church to raise our daughter. We wanted to bring her up with the spiritual values we had grown up with. After visiting several congregations, we came to a service at St James and knew instantly that this was the right place. The liturgy and values were familiar, but the diversity of ethnicities, languages and cultures were like nothing we had experienced. Our family has benefited in so many ways from being part of the St. James' community. My career includes 30 years as a film Art Director, as well as extensive work restoring 100-year-old spanish apartments. We are so lucky at St. James to worship in this beautiful neo-gothic masterpiece. I am excited to contribute to its restoration any way I can.

### **Lynn Baran McCarthy**



I have been a member of St. James' Church for 26 years, since moving to the Hancock Park area. As the granddaughter of Croatian immigrants, I grew up in Palos Verdes, attended USC, and graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with a degree in Interior Architecture. My career journey has spanned architecture, commercial real estate, and, for the last two decades, advancement work at Marlborough School—where many girls from Saint James matriculate and are wonderful additions to the Marlborough community.

At Marlborough, I focused on friend-raising and fundraising, leading initiatives to engage alumnae, encouraging them to give back through a legacy society to support annual operating funds, tuition assistance and financial aid endowments. In addition, I spearheaded several capital campaigns to complete the school's architectural footprint and design, expanding the library, science, arts, and sports facilities.

As a parishioner, I've served on the Saint James' School Board and a rector search committee. I am honored to be considered for a position on the Vestry of Saint James.

### **Martin Nwogu**



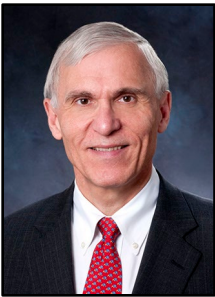
Martin Nwogu was born and raised in Nigeria, with part of his childhood spent in Europe. Since migrating to the United States, Martin has called Los Angeles home for over three decades, where he is an active member of the Nigerian community.

Martin is a graduate of Los Angeles Trade Technical College, where he earned an Associate of Science degree in Computer Information Technology. Over the last 25 years, he has worked as an Information Technology professional, acquiring numerous IT certifications. His experience spans both private and government sectors, allowing him to build a diverse skill set.

In addition to his career, Martin is a dedicated husband to Gertrude Nwogu, who is also an active member of both St. James Church and the African Christian Fellowship. For more than 30 years, St. James has been their place of worship. Currently, he serves as an active member of the African Christian Fellowship within the church.

Martin is hopeful that his background, experiences, and dedication will bring valuable contributions to the Vestry of St. James Church.

### **Mike Mullins**



Mike is a retired attorney. He grew up in Virginia and then attended Brown and the University of Virginia Law School. He practiced law in Virginia, Minnesota, and Los Angeles. Mike has been actively involved in Episcopal churches in Virginia, Rhode Island, Minnesota, and Los Angeles. He has been a vestry member and a warden at several other parishes. At the diocesan level he was a judge, and then the presiding judge, of the diocesan Ecclesiastical Court and for many years taught lecturing and discernment at the diocesan ministry fairs. At St. James', Mike has acted as a lector, intercessor, chalice bearer, and subdeacon and has been a member of the St. James' men's group. He also was the convenor of Femi Gonsalves-Knight's discernment committee. He is very excited about the St. James' renovation project. St. James' is an amazing place – outstanding music, excellent preaching, dedication to taking the Gospel and the Christian life seriously, social ministry to the local community, and a very diverse congregation filled with loving people who know how to have a good time!

### **Delegates to Convention (4, 1 Alternate)**



**Ken Robbins**  
Vestry Rep



**Vincent Agoe**



**Matt Wallace**  
Alternate



**Marsha Vargas**



**John Thies**



It has been a busy first five months as Head of this remarkable school community. I'm delighted to be here and to be a part of the larger St. James'-in-the-City community. Below is a snapshot of how our 24-25 school year has started in the areas of enrollment, admission, advancement, and program, and where we hope to go.

### Enrollment

Current enrollment is 385, and we had two families applying for immediate enrollment in January. Now, with the tragic LA fires, we have several more families applying. It is our goal to support as many families as we can in this

challenging time. Our 24-25 tuitions range from \$27,150 - \$36,020 (Preschool-Grade 6). The vestry and the school board voted unanimously to increase tuition for 2025-26 school year by 4.5%. Despite the increase in tuition over the past 10 years, SJS has continued to provide financial assistance to approximately the same number of families (there has been a slight increase) and to spread the assistance over a broader family income range. It is our goal to continue to provide generous financial assistance for families in order to keep the economic diversity that St. James' currently has. The 24-25 school year will be the last in which the School has any grades with three different classrooms. Beginning in 25-26, our planned enrollment will return to the pre-pandemic level of two classrooms per grade.

### Admission

The School continues to draw great interest from our surrounding communities. We have strong applications for our primary entrance years of Preschool 2 and Kindergarten, with additional interest in most other grades. We expect to be fully enrolled at the two classrooms per grade level for the 2025-26 school year. However, the LA market overall is softening some for preschool with a decrease in that population; in fact, some of our fellow preschools are underenrolled or have had to close a location. We are grateful we are not in that situation at this point, and will continue to monitor these trends. We continue to partner with Yale for assessments of our applicants. The School's incredibly generous tuition remission policy of a 90% discount on tuition for school employees has been reduced to 50% remission with the opportunity to apply for tuition assistance up to 90%. The CFO and I believe this is a more financially sustainable model. Currently enrolled students are "grandfathered in" at their current 90%. Our Admissions Team works incredibly hard and continues to refine their systems as they live into the reorganized office implemented by the previous Head of School. Families routinely comment on how wonderful the experience is through our admissions process.

### Advancement

We finished the 23-24 school year quite strong in fundraising and are off to a good start in 24-25. The School's annual fund officially closed in December having exceeded its goal, bringing in \$1.2 million so far. We expect that number to continue to grow until the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2025. The overall fundraising efforts will include the annual spring gala, so we anticipate meeting, or exceeding, our goal once again. Our Advancement Team is extremely well coordinated, diligent, and creative as they continue to explore new ways to inspire support of our School's mission.



## **Program**

The School continues to live into the goal of being one school despite being on separate campuses. An example of these efforts is that the Preschool now closes at 3:15 on Wednesdays in order for those teachers to participate in professional development/faculty meetings like their elementary campus colleagues.

Working with a consultant from the University of Virginia, we are investing in professional development this year around unifying our approach to differentiation. Additionally, our preschool teachers are receiving training aimed at unifying and strengthening our preschool teaching.

We continue our efforts to make sure that St. James' School is an equitable place where everyone feels they belong. This year, we established the Equity and Belonging Committee, a committee of parents charged with helping to foster a community where all members feel they belong and are treated equitably, being a "boots on the ground" sounding board for ideas and concerns coming from the School and/or the family community, and supporting the School administration and the Parents Association, in an advisory capacity only, as they implement programming for students, families, and employees.

## **Opportunities for Church-School Synergy**

One of the reasons I was most excited to come to St. James' was the opportunity to work closely with the church. Opportunities for shared ministry are increasing this year with the return to more robust involvement in the Soup Kitchen as well as the further development of the School's Service Learning curriculum. This is still a work-in-progress as we work with faculty to deepen their understanding of service learning and adjust their curriculum accordingly. This year, our Religion classes will undergo a curriculum review in order to assure our commitment to our Episcopal identity is as strong as we want it to be.

## **Partnership with Seoul**

After multiple meetings and careful consideration, the Board of Trustees chose not to pursue this relationship at this time. The potential partners did not seem prepared to bring the project to fruition. As other opportunities for partnership arise, we will continue to explore.

I'm always excited to talk about our wonderful school, so if you ever want to meet or to tour the school, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,  
*Diane*



# GREAT MUSIC AT SAINT JAMES

Prepared by Canon James Buonemani  
Organist & Director of Music

January 2025

## THE DAVID JOHN FALCONER MEMORIAL ORGAN

The Ahmanson Foundation continues to generously provide funds for the International Laureates Organ Series 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 series features recent winners of the world's most prestigious international organ competitions alongside seasoned performers and laureates from years past.

Our recitals for 2024 included Hong Kong organist Ryan Chan (January), and American organists Nicole Keller (March), Adam Brakel (April) and Bruce Neswick (May).

The Organ Series was suspended at the beginning of the 2024-25 season as the church commenced renovations. During this time, many of the most delicate organ pipes were removed (as well as the console) to the Rosales Organ factory for cleaning and restoration. Final details on a major update to the electrical and computer system, which began in October of 2023, are being completed at the factory. (For a complete history of our David Falconer Memorial Organ, please visit <https://stjla.org/organ/>.)



*Pipes of the gallery trumpets removed for storage.*

## CLASSICAL SUNDAYS AT SIX



On September 29, 2019, we began a partnership with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's chamber music series, LACMA Sundays Live which has since evolved into Classical Sundays at Six, a chamber music series under the auspices of Great Music at Saint James. Sixteen in-person concerts are presented on Sunday afternoons, October through May. All of these musical events are streamed "live" and offered on-demand at [GreatMusicLA.org](http://GreatMusicLA.org).

We are grateful to Bill Vestal for contracting the world-class chamber musicians from the LA Philharmonic, LA Opera Orchestra, the Colburn School, the Crossroads School and others that perform in our beautiful Gothic setting with our incomparable acoustics. For the current season we have moved these and all of our musical events into the Parish Hall with great success. We are also grateful to the Colburn Foundation, the Stern Foundation and the generosity of private donors whose generous gifts enable all concerts to remain free of charge.



## CHOIR OF SAINT JAMES



The Choir of Saint 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. Under the direction of Organist and Choirmaster James Buonemani since 1995, it is the first American choir to have sung in performance with the Choir of Westminster Abbey. The Choir of Saint James has completed four tours of the United Kingdom with performances in England at Westminster Abbey (serving 3 times as choir-in-residence), Canterbury Cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral (Oxford), Wells Cathedral, St. George's Chapel (Windsor), and in Ireland at Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral (Cork), The Collegiate Church of Saint Nicholas (Galway), Christ Church Cathedral (Dublin) and the Church of The Assumption (Tullamore).

The Choir has recorded numerous in-house CD recordings and one commercially available recording on the GOTHIC label entitled "O Beauty Ever Ancient Ever New." The album's title track is a premiere recording of a substantial work for chorus and orchestra written by Buonemani for the 100th anniversary of the founding of St. James Parish. The CD has received critical praise by the American Record Guide, and the AAM Journal. To read these reviews, please visit <https://stjla.org/product/the-choir-of-st-james-o-beauty-ever-ancient-ever-new/>. Many of the Choir's performances are also available online at <https://www.youtube.com/@GreatMusicLA>.

In addition to weekly services and monthly evensongs, the Choir of Saint James has presented concerts featuring many of the great choral masterpieces with full orchestra. Significant works have included the Requiems of Maurice Duruflé, Gabriel Fauré, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Giuseppe Verdi, Mass in G Minor by Ralph Vaughan Williams, the Lord Nelson Mass by Haydn, the Funeral Icos and Song for Athene by John Tavener, the 40-part motet "Spem in Alium" by Thomas Tallis, the Chichester Psalms by Leonard Bernstein, Missa Miamiensis by Buonemani, Lux Aeterna of Los Angeles composer Morten Lauridsen and Benjamin Britten's Cantata Misericordium with acclaimed guest conductor James Conlon.

Our most recent new members include alto Alexandria Siegers, soprano Ann Chen, tenor Alexander Schroeder, and returning baritone Luc Kleiner. Please visit <https://stjla.org/meet-the-choir/> to learn more about our singers.





## ST. JAMES SCHOOL'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR

An important educational and cultural ministry is offered by our St. James School's Children's Choir. Led by former Saint James choirmember and current music teacher at the school, Luisa Cartagena, the Children's Choir performs at the 10:30 AM Sunday service on most 2nd Sundays of the month, November through May. In addition, the choir enriches various school liturgies throughout the year, perhaps most notably at the annual Christmas Pageant.



## ST. JAMES KOREAN CHOIR

We are also blessed by the talents of conductor Dongyul Lee who directs the choir of the Korean Congregation, along with organist Euny Kim. As is the case with all our musicians, they continue to offer a rich panoply of uplifting music for our culturally varied liturgies.



## EVENSONG & ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

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. This past year, our annual Advent Lessons and Carols drew a capacity crowd via free ticketing through Eventbrite in consideration of the reduced space in our Parish Hall.



## SUPPORT STAFF



Into his 10th year of service with us, we are honored to have **Dr. Tom Mueller** as our Associate Organist. Tom also serves as Professor of Music and Interim Assistant Dean for Music and Arts 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.

Having joined the choir as a baritone in 2008, **Jae Park** has graced our liturgies as a solo cantor and more recently as the Assistant Conductor of the Choir of Saint James. With a degree in Music Education from Cal State Long Beach, Jae's outstanding musicianship is matched by his winning personality. He is admired and loved by the whole choir. I am forever grateful to place the choir in the best of hands whenever Jae assumes the podium.



We are also grateful to tenor **Dermot Kiernan** who also serves as a regular cantor for our services. With degrees in chant and early music from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth and Paris' Sorbonne, Dermot's chanting enhances our liturgies with historically informed performances. We have been blessed with Dermot's expertise since his joining the choir in 2016.

"Getting the word out" has been greatly enhanced by the expertise of **Justin Baker** and his team at Fuzzy Image Media. As St. James' Director of Social Media, Justin's photography, videography, web-mastering and public relations services help publicize every aspect of our parish, not least of which is our music ministry. With the launch of Classical Sundays at Six, Justin additionally fills the role of Production Manager for this series, presenting all of our concerts as live-streamed and on-demand events. Together with **Bill Vestal**, Artistic Director, we can be proud of Los Angeles's premiere series of free chamber concerts.



*Richie Guerra, Adolfo Angulo, Christina Gonzales and Michael Macapagal*

Our support staff includes other talented people to whom I am very grateful: **Dennis Bade** (Broadcast Host for Classical Sundays at Six), **Adolfo Angulo** (Program Coordinator and Reception Host), **Michael Macapagal** (House Manager), **Richie Guerra** (Video Production), **Patty Reyes** (Camera Operator) and **Christina Gonzales** (Production Assistant). These colleagues are invaluable for providing a safe and professional environment for audiences and musicians alike.



## BUDGET

Friends of Great Music at St. James was established in 1995 to give individuals an opportunity to contribute directly 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. (Donations can be made at <https://stjla.org/musicfriends/>). We are also indebted to Lee Walcott and The Ahmanson Foundation for their continuing support of our International Laureates Organ Series since its inception in 1996. More recently we have enjoyed the financial support of the Colburn Foundation and the Stern Foundation for Classical Sundays at Six.

Great Music at Saint James' expenditures include the following: choir salaries, associate and substitute organists' salaries, instrumentalists and guest recitalists' fees, music library, instrument maintenance (4 organs and 4 pianos), choir robe purchases and maintenance, continuing education and office expenses, PR expenses including online streaming and on-demand archiving, recording and editing, staffing and program-related expenses for Classical Sundays at Six. Below is a summary of revenue and expenses for 2024:

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Friends of Great Music (which includes \$36,000 from the Operating Budget of St. James Church)	152,867
Gift from the Estate of Ken Sanson	391,000
Ahmanson Foundation grant for Organ Series (which will be used for the 2025-26 season)	25,000
Colburn Foundation grant for Classical Sundays at Six	<u>55,000</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>623,867</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
General music expenses (salaries, organ maintenance, PR & receptions, music library, etc.)	245,651
Classical Sundays at Six (salaries, streaming, piano maintenance, PR & Receptions, security, etc.)	<u>60,787</u>
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>306,438</b>
<b>ACCOUNT BALANCES</b>	
Premiere Pacific Bank Gt Music Checking Account, Dec 31, 2024	230,285
Raymond James Investments Account for Gt Music, Dec 31, 2024	628,711
Helen Parker Restricted Music Fund, Dec 31, 2024	570,574
<b>TOTAL ACCOUNT BALANCES at end of 2024</b>	<b>1,429,570</b>

In addition to the Great Music checking and Raymond James investment accounts, the parish maintains a restricted account for music known as the Helen Parker Fund, a bequest from the 1990's to sustain and enhance the parish music program. No withdrawals were made from this Fund in 2024.

## CONCLUSION

The music program of St. James in-the-City is vibrant, diverse and welcoming to a wide community of music-lovers throughout Southern California. The David Falconer Memorial Organ remains one of the finest of its kind on the West coast. The Choir of Saint James is known far and wide for its inspirational performances and its high artistic standards. To ensure the continued success of this program, it has been my privilege to oversee substantial fund-raising from sources outside the operating budget of the church. I extend my deepest thanks to our Rector, Mother Kate Cress and Associate Rector, Fr. Jon Feuss for their support and inspired ministry, and to our Sr. Warden, Ken Robbins, and our entire Vestry for their encouraging leadership.

✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠

## **Communications**

Submitted by Justin Baker-Rojas

Communication is the thread that weaves the story of St. James in-the-City, **connecting our past, present, and future**. In 2024, as our historic church began its long-awaited renovation, we found ourselves reflecting not only on the physical transformation of our sacred space but also on the **deeper ways we connect**—with one another, with our neighbors, and with the world beyond our walls.

This year reminded us that communication is more than the exchange of information—**it is the act of storytelling**, the sharing of moments that bind us together as a community. The temporary move to the parish hall became a metaphor for **adaptability and renewal**, challenging us to see our familiar surroundings through a fresh lens. In this spirit, we embraced new ways of telling the story of St. James, using **video, imagery, and design** to bring the journey of renovation to life.

Our work focused on perspective—not just the view of scaffolding and progress but the broader vision of how St. James fits into the vibrant tapestry of Los Angeles. From social media videos capturing milestones to banners and signage inviting our local neighbors into our shared narrative, every communication effort sought to **reflect the living, breathing essence of our community**. Through our newsletter, we extended this connection even further, keeping our parish family informed and engaged in the ongoing life and mission of St. James.

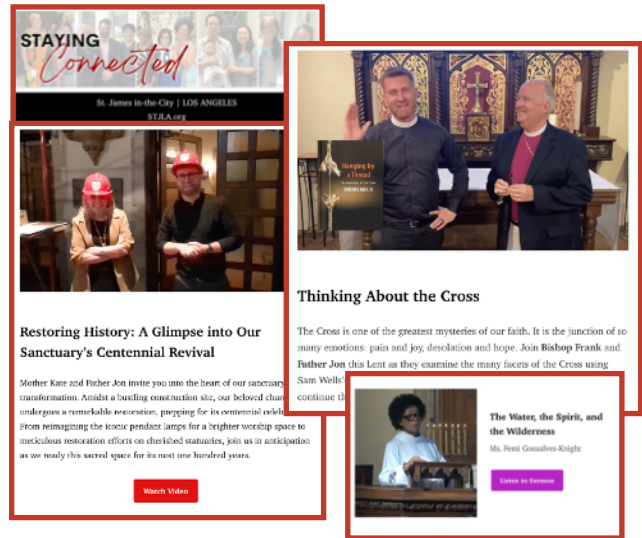
The move to the parish hall also reminded us that space is what we make of it. By enhancing this temporary setting with immersive audio and video experiences, we ensured that worship continued seamlessly, offering moments of reverence and beauty both in person and online. These enhancements weren't just technical—they were about **creating an environment where connection could flourish, no matter the medium**.

## Parish Newsletter

The central hub of news and what’s happening at St. James is our weekly newsletter, **Staying Connected**. This focuses on need-to-know information, important links, upcoming dates, and ways to connect more with the parish. There are **currently 551 subscribers**.

### Sample Content

- Building Campaign Highlights
- Important Dates / News for Parishioners
- Special Video Messages
- Classes and Gatherings
- Recordings of Sermons through Podcast & Video



### Live Streaming

Our communications team continues to operate bringing many live services and events to the world beyond Wilshire Blvd. Our hub for streaming content lives on the **St. James Youtube channel**.



### Youtube Insights

- Total **29,409** views in 2024
- **+118** New Subscribers (**682 total**)
- About **719 consistent viewers** (+300 from previous)
- **Largest Viewership: 745**
- Most find by **Youtube Browsing / Search** \*only 11% are direct parishioner views

Services are streamed each week for the **10:30 AM** service and **12:30 PM** Korean Language service.



## PARISH LIFE THROUGH PHOTO & VIDEO



## DESIGN AND PRINTED MATERIALS





## VIDEO PROJECTS



### *Before the Service*

This ongoing mini-segment airs exclusively for online viewers prior to the live service. It has been highly successful and stands out as a favorite element of humanizing St. James ministry and establishing trust in church leadership.



As a way to welcome new online visitors to St. James, as well as nurture returning online parishioners, a short and relaxed segment is hosted by Mtr. Kate & Fr. Jon. Topics vary on Episcopal tradition, people in the church, different ministries, and thoughts and ideas on liturgy and spiritual practices.

## PRODUCED SOCIAL STORIES

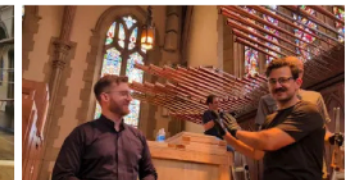


### **Kate in India**

Video series highlighting Mtr. Kate's unforgettable solo expedition filled with cultural immersion, hospitality, and heartfelt connections.

### **Capital Campaign**

Educational video series inside the process of the church renovation.





# SOCIAL MEDIA

In the digital age, social media stands as a pivotal frontier for fostering community and amplifying our message. At St. James in the City, we recognize the transformative power of these platforms to connect, engage, and inspire.

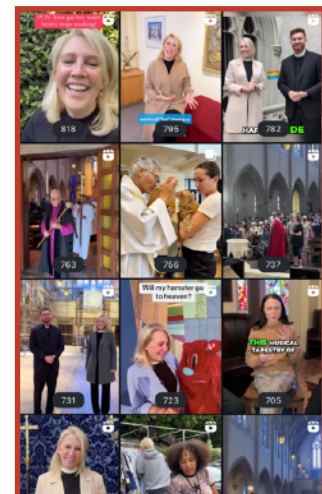
## Facebook Insights

- Posts reach about **578** people per month  
(up 26% from last report)

## Instagram insights

- Posts reach about **874** people per month  
(+253 more than last report)
- Almost half (**43.2%**) of viewers are non-followers
- Audience is **Men & Women 35-44**

## SAMPLE POSTS FROM 2024



## MINISTRY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Adult Formation and Spiritual Life

Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Kate Cress

This year our first adult education offering took place during Lent, when Bishop Frank Brookhart and Fr Jon Feuss led a book group based on Samuel Wells's *Hanging by a Thread: The Questions of the Cross*, with its contemporary view of Christ's crucifixion. During the summer, we gathered for a screening and discussion of *The Philadelphia Eleven*, a film by Margo Guernsey about the ordination of women in the Episcopal Church. In the fall, we were grateful to parishioner Steven Rim for holding a book sale and signing of his memoir, *12 Miracles That Led My Soul*. He generously donated all book sale proceeds to the St James Soup Kitchen and also led a lively small group discussion sharing memoir highlights. In November we joined together for an examination of the Statues of St James, in which we learned about the statues we currently have, both inside and outside the church and chapel, and also imagined what saints and other great Christian figures might make good statues for the front of the church. Finally, during Advent, I led a course on Mary, looking at her appearances in scripture, in scripture outside the canon, and in art and popular culture. Leading this course was a great joy to me.



Two overnight retreats – one for the St. James Men's Group, the other for the St. James Women's Group – were powerful formation experiences and discussed elsewhere in this report. We also hosted, at the Rectory, the Intercessory Prayer Group Retreat and the first meeting of our Retiree Group.

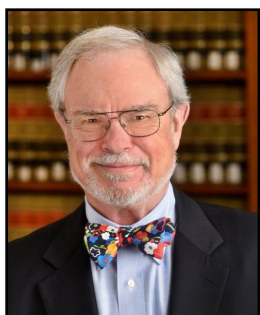
In March, we enjoyed a visitation by Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, who received or confirmed eleven parishioners.

I am proud that St. James was able to host the first year of the diocesan discernment process for our member Femi Gonsalves-Knight as she explored a call to ordained ministry. During the year, Femi preached a number of times and met monthly with her discernment committee led by Mike Mullins. We wish her many blessings as her discernment journey continues.



### Weekday Morning Prayers

Submitted by Stephen Yeazell



During the pandemic, when in-person services were shut down, several of us hoped to continue the worship and fellowship we so much value at St. James—and thus, with Mthr Kate's blessing, was born our on-line Morning Prayer ministry. We meet on Zoom on Wednesday mornings from 8:30 to 9 with the simple, lovely liturgy created by Archbishop Cranmer in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. (You can find it as the very first service in the Book of Common Prayer starting on page 37.). Modelled on the services of monasteries and convents, it draws on Old and New Testament scriptures and prayers. Because most of the monks and nuns who used the service were not ordained as priests, it is designed so it can be led by lay persons (although we are often blessed with the presence of Mthr Betsy Anderson, who delivers absolution and benediction).

Between a dozen and fifteen of us gather on Wednesday mornings with sections of the worship led by rotating members of our virtual congregation. The core group is from St. James, but we have participants who have never set foot in the parish but know us from our on-line presence. If you are interested in sampling this ministry, please give your email address to Lauren Azeltine (lazeltine@stjla.org) or me (yeazell@law.ucla.edu).



## Korean Congregation

Submitted by The Rev. John Kim

Korean speaking worship members are always grateful for the concern and help of Mother Kate and the St. James Community. All Korean members are happy and satisfied to be able to be together here at St. James Community. A Korean service is held at 12:30, and after the service, lunch is held on the first and third Sundays and fellowship time is held. Retired Bishop Rt. Rev. Yoon and Fr. Koh occasionally assist with worship. We always invite you to worship in Korean, so please come and join us at any time.



## S.J.O.M. - Saint James Outreach Mission

Submitted by The Rev. John Kim

About 20 Korean homeless families residing at Adullam Home (2251 W. 21<sup>st</sup> St LA) are living a grateful life despite all circumstances. Some found jobs and left on their own, some died and went into the arms of the Lord. There are people who attend our St. James Sunday service and pray to the Lord even in difficult times due to severe disabilities. Additionally, five members dedicate themselves as volunteers to our church's FOOD PANTRY of St. James every Wednesday and Thursday. The St. James Choir held a donation event by performing a concert with Bishop John Taylor. We thank you all for giving us a place to live.





## Pastoral Care

Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Kate Cress

In 2024, we made pastoral care visits to homes, nursing homes and hospitals, offering prayer and the Eucharist. If you or someone else from St James needs such a visit, please let us know. We also met many of you for coffee as well to hear about your lives and get to know you better. This is always a great joy for Fr Jon and myself so please do not hesitate to reach out to us. An important part of our role and vocation is the honor of accompanying you on your spiritual journey.

## Ministry Council

Submitted by the Rev. Betsy Anderson



2024 has been an exciting year as we began work on the church building, and it was wonderful for the Ministry Council to meet for lunch, conversation, and community building. Convened by the Reverend Betsy Anderson, the Ministry Council is a group of ministry leaders, whose reports are individually included in this annual report, and who meet 3 times a year to provide resources for each other for support, energy, vision, problem solving, and partnership. From the Soup Kitchen to the African Christian Fellowship to the liturgical ministries, to the Young Adult Ministry, to ministries of Pastoral Care, and many more, it has been a great treat to share these leaders' experiences, their passion for their work, and to feel their wonderful energy. It is also wonderful to get to

know each other personally as well as share personal experiences of doing ministry together—both “outreach” and “inreach.” Begun in 2019, it is clear from our meetings that we are in good hands through their leadership! Our thanks to Mthr. Kate for the grace of her support and vision.

## Vergers, Lay Clerks, Acolytes and Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Submitted by Canon John Thies



2024 was a good and adjusting year. We gained more readers and servers. August saw us moving into the Parish Hall for worship as the remodel of the Church began. This meant adjusting readers, servers, chalice bearers and vergers. We began with a scaled back crew and have moved to adding back positions in 2025. The remodel is estimated to take at least a year, and the group has adapted well to constant changes in ceremonial and liturgical actions.

We welcome anyone who would like to participate as a server, lector, chalice bearer, or verger. Please feel free to contact Canon Thies via the church office. We're so grateful for the hard work and dedication of the group and look forward to a renewed 2025.



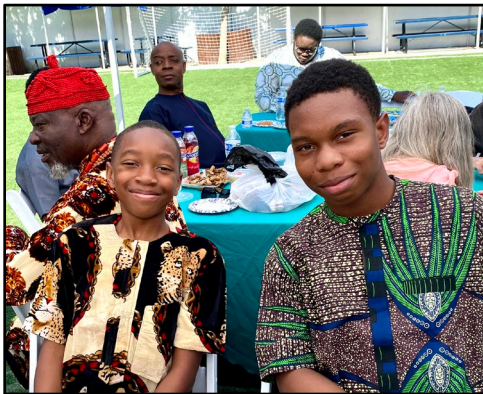


## African Christian Fellowship

Submitted by Alice Thomas

Our ACF family started 2024 with sadness as we lost two of our members. The group stood firm on our faith and was able to ride the storm with Christ our Solid Rock. Throughout the year members lost loved ones the last in December due to a sudden death. With these challenges, however, ACF was able to achieve certain goals with the help of the church led by Mthr. Kate Cress and Fr. Jon Feuss.

A new bank account was established under the "The Rector Wardens and Vestrymen" of St James Episcopal Church. A very much needed Zelle account was finally made available enhancing members' and donors' easy access. The Choir was present for the annual ACF Partnership Sunday.



Throughout the year, in some monthly meetings, there were speakers on topics that were beneficial to members' health (nutrition, mental health, handling hazardous cleaning material) and preparing college/university bound children.

The annual ACF Sunday on October 20, 2024, was a success. The Choir's presence and the use of African musical instruments during the offertory added an embellished ambience to the service. The fund-raising activities during the reception highlighted the day with the American Auction renamed "Arnold's American Auction" moving forward. Funds raised enabled the group to continue the usual pledge to the church and donated money to two other charitable organizations reflecting the mission of the organization.



The group is hopeful that its participation in the different church ministries, the Choir's presence in the annual Partnership Sunday Service, and its mission of "giving" will be continued.





## Intercessory Prayer Group

Submitted by Marsha Vargas



September 21, 2024 was our second annual Intercessory Prayer Retreat held at the rectory from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. The theme was “Brother Lawrence Meets Hindu Spirituality on the Practice of the Presence of God.” We had seventeen persons in attendance, we invited the congregation which made the retreat to be more inclusive, and this includes one person who joined via Zoom. We anticipate our attendance for the retreat will grow each year as the prayer group evolves.

The Intercessory Prayer Group added three new members during 2024 and we continue to include prayers not only for parishioners but for anyone who might need prayers for short or long-term periods. Prayer requests are sent either to the office or directly to me. The prayers are updated twice monthly and are kept confidential.

This ministry is important to the church and as we grow this ministry, please contact the office or myself if you would like to learn or join this ministry and you would be added to this group.



## Investment Committee

Submitted by Robert Ronus

The St. James Investment Committee supports the Vestry’s effort to steward our community’s finances. The committee currently has five members with the Rector and Senior Warden Ken Robbins also attending the meetings which are held quarterly. The members of the Committee are Robert Ronus (Chair) Stephen Bedikian, Omar Brownson, Kelechi Ogbunamiri, and Andy Tomat. The primary focus of the committee is to oversee the church’s various endowment and reserves investment accounts, which are managed by a number of outside investment management firms. During the year the Committee made some minor asset allocation changes.



## 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 thirty-five parishioners are on the mailing list. The Pandemic put the Men's Group into suspension, but in 2023 and 2024 we were able to renew our activities with occasional in-person gatherings. In July, 2024, we held an excellent weekend retreat at the Mary & Joseph Retreat Center down on the Palos Verdes Peninsula; it was brilliantly led by Fr. Jon. We are looking forward to an active year of Men's Group's activities in 2025; the Group is too valuable to give up. God willing,

we will also be able to gather again for a weekend retreat at the Retreat Center in early July. 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 will also explore 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 retreat can contact Alan Heppel (323-463-1100 or alanheppel@gmail.com).

## Women's Retreat

Submitted by Sara Jane Thies  
with Holly Holyk and Ingrid Finley-Scott

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, Fr. Jon guided 15 women in a day retreat at Holy Spirit Retreat Center in Encino to reflect on the topic of "Hope in Uncertain Times". We grappled with the concepts of faith and hope, that left us deeply grateful for the group's willingness to share their personal faith journeys with one another. What a blessing it is to have this community accompanying us as we live into God's call and prioritize its significance for our lives.

All women of St. James are invited to join us in LA's scenic Echo Park on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> for a day retreat led by Mthr. Kate titled "Spiritual Growth through Challenges".

## Young Adult Group

Submitted by Matt Wallace



Parishioners in their 20s, 30s, and 40s (sometimes with their children!) – the St. James Young Adults Group – gathered for dinner at the Rectory about once a quarter in 2024. Kate+ or Jon+ prepare a main dish and parishioners bring appetizers, side dishes, and dessert. We chat and enjoy each other's company over dinner, and then we end each gathering with prayer requests and a Compline service in which everyone participates. This year we even

added a Friendsgiving Dinner. For new members, the Young Adult Group is a great way to meet the St. James community.





## GREAT FOOD MINISTRIES

### 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 three or four cans of fruits, vegetables, soup, peanut butter, or canned meat or fish; two or three non-canned items such as rice, dried beans, cereal, frozen meat, or pasta; and—if possible—several servings of fresh fruits and vegetables. 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 granola bars, envelopes of ready-made tuna, dried fruit, beef jerky, crackers, canned fruit, and cookies) and an assortment of frozen, chilled, and fresh foods, such as juice, flavored sparkling water, yogurt, bread, coffee cake, frozen fruit cups, tangerines, or bananas.

Our volunteers work at the pantry on Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Thursday mornings from 7:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. On Wednesdays, a group of us puts the delivered food away and prepares the regular bags. On Thursdays, we put the quick bags together, and then we open the doors on Wilshire Boulevard and distribute both regular and quick bags to guests from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Guests may pick up a bag every week. Before the pandemic, we asked all our clients to bring an empty bag with them so that they could come into the pantry rooms and choose from among foods we put out on tables. Our guests enjoyed the choice that that method gave them, and we were glad to be able to cut down substantially on the number of plastic bags we had been using. When the pandemic started, however, we began prepacking the food in plastic bags and then handing out those bags, because that minimized the interaction between volunteers and clients and therefore was safer for everyone. We found in 2024 that many of our volunteers continue to be uncomfortable with the risk of increasing contact with clients. Accordingly, we are still passing out pre-bagged food, and still waiting for a time in the future that we can revert to our pre-pandemic custom and have everyone feel OK about it.

In 2024, we distributed, on average, about 570 bags per month, though in some months our numbers were as high as 640 or more. Because each bag goes to a family that might include several members, the total average number of people we served in 2024 was about 1200 per month, but was sometimes as high as 1400 or more. These numbers were about the same as the numbers we served in 2023, though they are about 1½ times the number we served in 2022.

Most of the pantry’s food, especially for the regular bags, comes from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. The Food Bank supplies us and many other pantries and soup kitchens with free and low-cost government food, as well as grocery-surplus items. Food Bank items include canned vegetables and fruit, rice and instant mashed potatoes, canned and dried beans, canned salmon, fresh produce, and sometime special things such as lovely muffins and sweet rolls from Starbucks, or bags of frozen chicken or fish or strawberries. The Food Bank occasionally also



carries the kinds of single-serve items we need for our quick bags. In 2024, for example, there were several weeks in a row that a variety of individual drinks appeared on the Food Bank's order list, and there were spurts of availability of crackers, yogurt, applesauce cups, and small cups of frozen peaches. However, we need to buy much of our quick bag food from Smart & Final or a food wholesaler. We have had help also from a generous St. James' School family who donated food for quick bags. A produce delivery program that the LA Diocese runs drops off free fruits and vegetables to us every two to three weeks. That has vastly increased the amount of fresh produce we are able to give away. We also get a wide variety of foods donated by Bristol Farms, Trader Joe's, and other grocery stores through St. James' Manor, a low-income elderly housing project near the Church. Parishioners and the students and parents of St. James' School donate some food to us as well. And, as you can see from a photo accompanying this report, a very enthusiastic group of members of the Koreatown Lions Club donated and helped distribute many boxes of traditional Korean foods. Because a majority of our guests are Korean émigrés, this was a wonderful occasion.

St. James' Church gives financial support each year to HopeNet, an entity that oversees and helps the food pantries that mid-Wilshire churches, synagogues, and mosques run. HopeNet in turn uses grant money to pay the Food Bank for the food it provides to area pantries. St. James' parishioners and others have contributed money to the food ministries, too. Donations during the pandemic increased so much that a few years ago we were able to buy two new refrigerators and a new freezer for the food pantry. In 2024 we benefited from a large grant from the United Way. One project that the grant financed was the replacement of the chipped linoleum floor of the pantry with a gray polished concrete floor—a great improvement!

In 2023 and continuing in 2024, we helped a housing program for disabled people run by St. Joseph Center, a large organization that provides food, housing, education, and other help to low-income and unhoused people across Los Angeles. St. Joseph Center volunteers come by at the end of our distribution each week to pick up, for example, some of the food that local grocery stores have donated to us. They share information with us from the cooking lessons they give to their residents, which focus on certain foods—such as dried beans and diced tomatoes—that both of us frequently distribute.



Our 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-American volunteers, mostly residents of Adullam House. They 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 so many of our guests 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!





Volunteers continue to provide safe space for socializing for our unhoused and low income neighbors three times weekly, and once a week they show up just to prepare food for those events. Besides home-cooked meals, volunteers distribute donated clothes, hygiene products, and manage a charging station for electronic devices. We offer music, an art table, lending library. New this year, purchased with funds from a generous grant from United Way, is the addition of access to a free phone that gives our guests the ability to communicate with family, friends, and service providers. The phone service includes the capacity to receive messages for our guests.

Those we serve tend to be chronically unhoused, struggling with mental health and substance use disorders. We continue to host professional services that offer support for unhoused people: volunteer doctors from **In The People's Corner**, staff from the **Department of Mental Health, 986 Pharmacy** offering free vaccines, case managers from **The People Concern**. A licensed hairdresser also provides free haircuts monthly.

Collaborations with other organizations in the community continue to grow. Volunteers at **All Saints Beverly Hills** provide 100 to-go bags every other Saturday, and they've added regular delivery of chopped vegetables to facilitate our preparation of soup and pasta. St. James Soup Kitchen is a member of a neighborhood network organized by the **Karsh Center** at the Wilshire Boulevard Temple. The network consists of non-profit agencies in the Koreatown neighborhood around St. James who provide a wide array of services, not just to unhoused people. A direct outcome of that network is our new relationship with **Koreatown Youth and Community Center**, a respected service provider that has been our neighbor for over 40

years. The **Zen Center** in Koreatown has continued to show up with generous, organized donations of warm clothes. The social worker at **St. James' Manor** continues to provide produce remaining from their in-house distribution event, useful and timely for our weekly Thursday CookFest.



**Volunteers** make it all happen. They work behind the scenes to ensure supplies are delivered timely and cost-effectively. A growing cadre of St. James School parents help to organize over 30 SJS volunteer families to help with event preparation and food and clothing distribution. A four-person volunteer team monitors emails and voice messages 7 days a week, helping to field questions from new volunteers or donors. Volunteers continue to participate in bi-weekly case conference zoom meetings with staff from other non-profit agencies in the community around St. James. At those meetings, volunteers discuss difficult cases or shared cases to help problem solve and support individuals who are known at multiple locations.

Besides generating community for those we serve, volunteers become a community of friends themselves. Volunteers attended a Dodgers baseball game, hosted by St. James, for the third year in a row. The Dodgers lost and still it was fun. Volunteers have implemented an informal fundraising effort among friends and family, on their own time. They have also established a Slack communication tool in order to stay connected between events, especially when specific questions come up about where to find services or problem solve issues that guests bring up during conversations. For holiday gifts this year, two amazing young artists at St. James School, Brynn and Ever, designed tote bags which we handed out over the holidays.







At the beginning of the calendar year 2024, we received a generous United Way grant for \$150,000, with the goal to upgrade our facilities. We used the funds to support improvements to the Parish Hall, which is now being used as a temporary sanctuary. We worked with kitchen designers to come up with improvements to the Kitchen, replacing aging cabinets and countertops, and a new electric stove with an enhanced exhaust concrete finish. The United Way funds also helped us to build a custom storage shed, an improvement that has allowed us to better organize and increase clothing distribution. A full financial report about Soup Kitchen can be provided by request.

Volunteers from all walks of life, from close by and from a great distance, make all this magic possible: good food, safe space, great conversation, delivered with kindness and respect to all who come our way. All of this happens with great support from the full St. James' community, for which gratitude is endless. We look forward to a new year of continued growth and development.





## Scouting

### Boy Scouts

Written by Lion Paulson and Submitted by Matt Rauchberg

#### *For Over 110 Years, Troop 10 Combines High Adventure with Community Service*



Troop 10 has been an active part of the Los Angeles community for over 110 years. In this time, they have provided young men with leadership opportunities and adventure both here in the city and out in the wild.

Last summer, the Troop attended two summer camps, one in the forested mountains near Lake Arrowhead and the other by the beach in San Diego Mission Bay, where they learned Kayaking, Small Boat Sailing, Motorboating, Welding, and other skills. The troop also embarked on a multi-day backpacking trip across the Ansel Adams Wilderness and Yosemite National Park. Surrounded by towering peaks and majestic waterfalls, the scouts navigated challenging terrain while fostering teamwork and leadership skills and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

In October, the scouts camped out on Santa Cruz Island in Channel Islands National Park, where they kayaked through sea caves and kelp forests and saw rare birds, scampering island foxes, and huge pods of dolphins. Over the past year, the Troop has also gone rock climbing in Joshua Tree, camping by the beach at Pt. Mugu, and hiking on Strawberry Peak, Echo Mountain, and Mt. Hollywood in Griffith Park.

Troop 10 continues to serve its community through Eagle projects and service projects in tandem with local charities. One noteworthy collaboration has been with the Friends of Griffith Park, where the Troop has engaged in many hands-on projects aimed at restoring and preserving the natural beauty of Griffith Park. From trail maintenance to tree planting, scouts exemplify the values of environmental stewardship. At the holidays, the Scouts volunteered their time with One Voice, providing holiday meals, toys and other necessities to families in need with small children.

Given that only 4% of Scouts ever achieve the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout, Troop 10 is especially proud of its three most recent Eagle Scouts, who as part of their years-long journey to this prestigious honor each planned and executed a major service project for the community, including:

- Lion Paulson painted a large garden mural and redesigned a covered play area at the Para Los Ninos Early Childhood Education Center in Hollywood. Para Los Niños raises children out of poverty and into brighter futures through positive educational opportunities and wrap-around support.





- Michael Hanna reupholstered and built movement devices for the historic pews and added safety and control features to the medical services area as part of the homeless outreach program at Silverlake Community Church.
- Oliver Payne removed old grass and bushes and installed low-water landscaping at St. James' Episcopal Church on Wilshire Blvd., saving water, money and maintenance time for Church staff.

Sponsored by St. James' Church since 1914, Troop 10 is the oldest continuously chartered Scout Troop in the Western United States. In that time over 370 Troop 10 Scouts have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Today, Troop 10 brings together boys ages 11 to 17 from all backgrounds and more than a dozen area schools. In addition, St. James is officially launching a new BSA Scout Troop for Girls, for girls ages 11 to 17. For those wishing to build lasting memories and relationships, boys and girls ages 11 to 17 (and their parents) are invited to visit Troop 10 at their weekly Tuesday night meetings at 6:30pm at St. James.

Lastly, the Troop's Annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser is coming soon on Sunday, February 9. Keep an eye out for the Scouts selling tickets and first aid kits on Larchmont over the coming weekends.

*Lion Paulson is a senior at Loyola High School, an Eagle Scout and past Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 10.*

### Cub Scouts

Submitted by Diane Gilmore

Pack 10 is a family adventure, a game with a purpose. Whether it is a day of service with "The Tree People" or a holiday carnival our scouts are learning character, citizenship and fitness. It may look like a lot of fun to the kids, but every moment is a teaching opportunity.

Pack 10 has grown to over 60 families. We are grateful to have our amazing sponsor, Saint James' church, for over 85 years. As a family Pack we rely on trained leaders. We are fortunate to have more than 15 trained leaders supporting our large Pack. Glen Lim, our Cubmaster, believes every Scout deserves a trained leader.

This year Pack 10 has gone deep sea fishing, walked the tide pools, cleaned up beaches, planted trees and served the unhoused at Soup Kitchen.



Many of our big events are held outside in the school yard, at the ocean or on a mountainside. Camping and hiking events are full family adventures. Our Cubs are now stars when it comes to silly skits and wonderful songs useful on campouts.

And a big shout out to the parish for supporting our Annual Popcorn fundraising.



# TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by Donna Mills, Treasurer

## **Financial Report for 2024**

Following are key financial highlights for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024:

We had \$7.5 million in cash and investments at year-end.

Cash of \$1.8 million included \$404.8 thousand for church operations; \$1.0 million for the Capital Campaign; \$230.3 thousand for Great Music operations; \$110.7 thousand for Food Ministries; and \$44.9 thousand for miscellaneous expenditures. The church' operating cash balance at year end covered approximately 3.0 months of overhead in the 2025 Budget.

Total investments of \$5.7 million included \$1.2 million donated for Great Music; \$160.7 thousand for capital repairs; and the \$1.4 million clergy endowment. The remaining \$2.9 million are funds that we are committed to investing over the long term for growth.

Total liabilities and net assets were \$10.4 million as of fiscal year-end.

Actual total contributions, including pledges, plate, non-pledge donations, special offerings and bequests, of \$1.051 million exceeded the budget by \$5.0 thousand.

Consistent with the 2024 Budget, we withdrew \$90.4 thousand investment income from our endowment to support operations. Total investment income was \$90 thousand below budget because the California Endowment redirected their final contribution to the Saint James' capital campaign.

Total expenses were \$15.2 thousand over budget for the fiscal year. Higher than budgeted spending on overtime, property and general liability insurance, rectory property taxes, church property repairs and maintenance, exceeded savings on estimated pension payments and benefits, and lower spending on parish utilities. Given the additional expenses and the allocation of the California Endowment funds to the Capital Campaign, our operating budget ended the year with a small deficit. We elected to balance the budget using a portion of a generous bequest that we received in 2024.

We ended the year with net income of \$49.00.

Please see the financial reports on the following pages.

**St. James in the City  
Balance Sheet  
4th Quarter 2024**

				Without Donor Restrictions	Vestry Designated	With Donor Restrictions	December 31, 2024
<b>ASSETS</b>							
<b>Current Assets</b>							
<b>Checking/Savings</b>							
	1000	General Operating		211,744	-	-	211,744
	1008	PPB Money Market Account - Operations		193,094	-	-	193,094
		<b>Total Operating Fund:</b>		<b>404,838</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>404,838</b>
	1000	General Operating		-	-	14,070	14,070
	1008	PPB Money Market Account - Capital Campaign		1,026,103	-	-	1,026,103
	1001	Intercultural Donation		-	5,211	-	5,211
	1003	Great Music Operating		-	-	230,285	230,285
	1004	Petty Cash		211	-	-	211
	1007	Food Ministries		-	-	110,714	110,714
	1101	Phillips Memorial Vestry Reserve		-	149,301	-	149,301
	1102	Parker Music Endowment		-	-	570,574	570,574
	1103	Wadleigh Endowment		-	-	212,597	212,597
	1104	Episcopal Credit Union		1,872	-	-	1,872
	1106	Raymond James Endowment Fund		-	515,225	-	515,225
	1107	Vanguard Brokerage Acct.		-	2,005,564	-	2,005,564
	1108	Raymond James Great Music Fund		-	-	628,711	628,711
	1109	Raymond James Capital Repairs Fund		-	-	160,708	160,708
	1110	Raymond James Clergy Compensation Fund		-	-	1,457,905	1,457,905
	1140	Bill.com Money Out Clearing		425	-	-	425
	1077	African Christian Fellowship		8,660	-	-	8,660
	1088	BSA Troop 10 of St James		14,445	-	-	14,445
		<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>		<b>1,456,554</b>	<b>2,675,301</b>	<b>3,385,565</b>	<b>7,517,420</b>
		<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>1,456,554</b>	<b>2,675,301</b>	<b>3,385,565</b>	<b>7,517,420</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>							
	1500	<b>Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</b>					
	1510	Church Building		3,022,442	-	-	3,022,442
	1520	Parish Hall Building		2,307,413	-	-	2,307,413
	1525	Rectory - Building		368,500	-	-	368,500
	1527	Rectory - Land		1,474,000	-	-	1,474,000
	1530	Furniture & Fixtures		85,319	-	-	85,319
	1540	Land		294,305	-	-	294,305
	1550	Organ Enhancements		262,284	-	-	262,284
	1555	Piano		55,000	-	-	55,000
	1560	Rectory Renovations		11,010	-	-	11,010
	1570	Stained Glass Windows		170,445	-	-	170,445
	1580	Parish Renovations		4,789	-	-	4,789
	1590	Accumulated Depreciation		(5,165,697)	-	-	(5,165,697)
		<b>Total 1500 - Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</b>		<b>2,889,811</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,889,811</b>
		<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		<b>2,889,811</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,889,811</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>							
	1701	Other Receivables		118	-	-	118
	1702	SJOM - Loan Receivable		14,480	-	-	14,480
		<b>Total Other Assets</b>		<b>14,597</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,597</b>
		<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>4,360,962</b>	<b>2,675,301</b>	<b>3,385,565</b>	<b>10,421,828</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>							
<b>Liabilities</b>							
<b>Fiduciary Liabilities</b>							
		Deferred pledges (2025)		112,059	-	-	112,059
<b>PASS THROUGH</b>							
	2060	Food Ministries Pass-Through		-	-	46,207	46,207
		United Way \$150K Grant Expenses Tracking		-	-	20,005	20,005
	2810	St. James School Expense Reimbursement		-	-	-	-
		<b>Total PASS THROUGH</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,212</b>	<b>66,212</b>



**St. James in the City  
Balance Sheet  
4th Quarter 2024**

	Without Donor Restrictions	Vestry Designated	With Donor Restrictions	December 31, 2024
<b>DISCRETIONARY ACCOUNTS</b>				
2100 · Rector	2,996	-	-	2,996
2102 · Senior Associate Rector - Fr. Kim	1,145	-	-	1,145
2103 · Associate Rector - Rev. Feuss	678	-	-	678
<b>Total DISCRETIONARY ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>4,819</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,819</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>139,983</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,212</b>	<b>206,195</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>				
Without Donor Restrictions	1,331,168	-	-	1,331,168
Without Donor Restrictions - Fixed Assets	2,889,811	-	-	2,889,811
Without Donor Restrictions - Vestry Designated	-	2,675,301	-	2,675,301
With Donor Restrictions	-	-	3,319,353	3,319,353
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>4,220,978</b>	<b>2,675,301</b>	<b>3,319,353</b>	<b>10,215,633</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>4,360,962</b>	<b>2,675,301</b>	<b>3,385,565</b>	<b>10,421,828</b>

## 2025 Budget



**ST. JAMES' IN-THE-CITY**  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
*Respecting the dignity of every human being*

	2024 Unaudited Actuals	2025 Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		
4025 · 2025 Pledges (pledge cards received)	-	828,625
4025 · 2025 Pledges (prepaid in 2024)	-	16,376
4025 · 2025 Pledges (still to raise)	-	95,000
4024 · 2024 Pledges	740,026	-
4023 · 2023 Pledges	4,245	-
4100 · Plate	19,230	18,000
4102 · Non-Pledge Donations	162,267	65,000
4200 · Special Offerings & Holy Days	11,072	10,000
4203 · Memorial Gifts & Bequests	114,364	-
<b>Total CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>1,051,204</b>	<b>1,033,001</b>
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>		
4300 · Bank & Money Market Interest		
4302 · Investments Income	90,400	136,738
<b>Total 4300 · Bank &amp; Money Market Interest</b>	<b>90,400</b>	<b>136,738</b>
4400 · Endowment Income	-	-
<b>Total INVESTMENT INCOME</b>	<b>90,400</b>	<b>136,738</b>
4600 · Reimb for School Costs		
4601 · St. James School Rent	-	-
4603 · Reimb for School's Shared Exp	100,750	100,000
4604 · Mission Fund Share Assistance	26,000	30,000
4605 · Chaplain Services	-	18,000
<b>Total 4600 · Reimb for School Costs</b>	<b>126,750</b>	<b>148,000</b>
<b>Total ST. JAMES SCHOOL INCOME</b>	<b>126,750</b>	<b>148,000</b>
<b>RENTAL INCOME</b>		
4650 · Facilities Rental Income	8,367	6,000
4651 · Facilities Film Income	-	-
<b>Total RENTAL INCOME</b>	<b>8,367</b>	<b>6,000</b>
<b>PROGRAM INCOME, NET OF EXPENSES</b>		
4800 · Columbarium Income	-	-
4801.1 · Easter Flowers	-	-
4801.2 · Christmas Flowers	-	-
4801 · Flowers	(1,269)	(1,000)
4802 · Funerals Income	325	-
4803 · Retreats & Workshops	(148)	-
4804 · Weddings Income	250	-
<b>Total PROGRAM INCOME, NET OF EXPENSES</b>	<b>(842)</b>	<b>(1,000)</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>		
4990 · Other Income	33,836	127,296
4992 · Parking Lot Payments/Operations	149,511	129,165
<b>Total MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>	<b>183,346</b>	<b>256,460</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,459,225</b>	<b>1,579,199</b>



## 2025 Budget



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

*Respecting the dignity of every human being*

	<b>2024 Unaudited Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
<b>Total SALARIES</b>	689,895	735,289
<b>PAYROLL TAXES &amp; BENEFITS</b>		
5100 · Payroll Taxes	24,832	24,579
5200 · Retirement - Clergy	73,780	95,045
5201 · Retirement - Lay	18,633	18,356
5300 · Health-Dental-Life-Disab Ins	113,950	130,356
5301 · Workers Compensation Ins	3,717	4,380
5400 · Rector's Discretionary Funds	-	-
5401 · Associate Rector Expense Acct.	1,571	1,500
<b>Total PAYROLL TAXES &amp; BENEFITS</b>	236,483	274,216
<b>RECTOR</b>		
5501 · Cellphone	594	1,360
5504 · Mileage Reimb	123	500
5505 · Rector Expense Acct. (\$1500 annual)	956	1,500
5506 · Professional Dev (\$1500 annual)	-	1,500
5509 · Miscellaneous Rector	1,537	2,000
<b>Total RECTOR</b>	3,210	6,860
<b>OPERATIONS</b>		
6000 · Merchant Service Charges (Credit Cards)	6,819	7,210
6000.5 · Bill.com & Other Misc. Fees	1,866	2,575
6001 · Prop & General Liability Ins	73,534	68,342
6002 · Property Taxes - Parish	4,348	4,532
6003 · Property Taxes - Rectory	12,256	13,329
<b>Total OPERATIONS</b>	98,823	95,988
<b>MAINTENANCE &amp; REPAIRS</b>		
6005 · Landscaping - Parish	5,043	8,425
6006 · Landscaping - Rectory	2,450	3,607
6007 · Prop Repairs & Maint - Parish	29,054	18,035
6008 · Prop Repairs & Maint - Rectory	3,014	4,244
6009 · Waste Disposal	9,163	9,488
6011 · Janitorial Services	8,125	13,905
6012 · Janitorial Supplies	4,468	4,244
<b>Total MAINTENANCE &amp; REPAIRS</b>	61,317	61,948
<b>OFFICE</b>		
6100 · Utilities - Parish	42,372	46,350
6101 · Utilities - Rectory	6,460	6,695
6102 · Telephone & Internet	4,694	4,590
6103 · Telephone Equip & Main	-	-
6104 · Postage - Stamps	793	2,000
6105 · Printing & Paper	3,912	4,197
6106 · Copier	10,180	9,840
6107 · Copier - Overuse & Supplies	1,118	1,200
6108 · Office Supplies	2,129	2,704

## 2025 Budget



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

*Respecting the dignity of every human being*

	<b>2024 Unaudited Actuals</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>
<b>6109 · Equipment</b>	2,858	3,000
<b>6110 · Computer Software</b>	2,089	2,120
<b>Total OFFICE</b>	<b>76,605</b>	<b>82,696</b>
<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>		
<b>6200 · Accounting Services</b>	60,120	57,154
<b>6201 · Payroll Processing</b>	5,285	4,635
<b>6202 · Communication &amp; Social Media</b>	11,148	11,670
<b>6204 · Security</b>	25,075	25,462
<b>6208 · Broadcaster</b>	11,145	11,660
<b>6209 · Audit Services</b>	21,500	23,175
<b>Total PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>134,273</b>	<b>133,755</b>
<b>PROGRAM EXPENSE</b>		
<b>6300 · Adult Formation</b>	1,084	500
<b>6301 · Children's Formation</b>	692	1,000
<b>6302 · Youth Formation</b>	-	-
<b>6303 · Coffee Hours / Other Reception</b>	4,450	6,000
<b>6305 · Conferences &amp; Conventions</b>	4,770	9,000
<b>6307 · Honorariums</b>	300	500
<b>6308 · Hospitality</b>	384	1,000
<b>6309 · Liturgical Supplies</b>	6,185	5,000
<b>6312 · Nursery Supplies</b>	-	-
<b>6313 · Sunday Parking</b>	97	1,000
<b>6314 · Pastoral Care</b>	263	200
<b>6316 · Gifts</b>	1,072	1,050
<b>6317 · Advertising</b>	85	500
<b>6318 · Continuing Ed/Clergy</b>	-	5,000
<b>6320 · Vestry Expenses</b>	1,716	1,500
<b>Total PROGRAM EXPENSE</b>	<b>21,098</b>	<b>32,250</b>
<b>OUTREACH EXPENSE</b>		
<b>6404 · Hope Net</b>	6,000	6,000
<b>Total OUTREACH EXPENSE</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		-
<b>6500 · Miscellaneous Expense</b>	3,062	1,500
<b>Total MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>3,062</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>MISSION FUND SHARE</b>		
<b>6810 · Mission Fund Share Expense</b>	128,412	148,698
<b>Total MISSION FUND SHARE</b>	<b>128,412</b>	<b>148,698</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,459,177</b>	<b>1,579,199</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>(0)</b>