

Annual Report
for 2018
St. James Episcopal Church
Hendersonville, North Carolina

Annual Meeting—January 20, 2019



Vision Statement—Excellence in Servanthood

*Mission Statement—Every member is vital as we follow the
example of Jesus' servant ministry to welcome all, love all,
serve all, through Christ.*

2018 STAFF AND OFFICERS OF SAINT JAMES

CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Joel G. Hafer, Rector

The Rev. Christiana Olsen, Asst. Rector

The Rev. Tim Jones, Deacon

STAFF

Debbie Mentch, Director of Finance & Administration

Brad Gee, Director of Music Ministries

Elly Withers, Director of Programs

Karen Kuykendall, Parish Secretary

Teri Smith, Director of St. James School for Little Folks

LITURGICAL SUPPORT TEAM

Lisa Whitfield, Director, Allelu!

Bob Aldinger, Bell Tower Captain, St. James Guild of Change Ringers

VESTRY

Matt Henry, Senior Warden

Kevin Todd, Junior Warden

Hardy Chandler

Diane Jacober

Tom Doyle

Sarah McSwain

Trini Fares

Dick Nace

Kirk Ferguson

Gil Rainey

Eric Goodman

Vicki Wright

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RECTOR
The Rev. Dr. Joel G. Hafer

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.” Philippians 2:5-8.

Kenosis is the theological term for Jesus’ self-emptying of himself for us and our salvation. I am always heartened by how well St. James and her people live that self-emptying love of Christ. There are countless acts of service done by you on a daily basis, and we are all blessed by those faithful actions. When I was a baseball catcher years ago, I realized that position is the only one that views the entire field of play. So, too, in some respects, does the rector of a parish. I see you and what you do to spread Christ’s love and light, and it is pleasing in God’s sight.

One case in point was the Hunger Walk, which happened back in September, and at my count, there were at least 40 St. James people participating in the walk. Whenever I attend a community event hosted by one of our Hendersonville charities, I note with joy that St. James parishioners are nearly always represented as members of the board, in attendance at the event, or often serving as a presenter. Our faith and our servanthood carry us out of the Church doors into the world around us in hopes of making a difference for Jesus.

In 2018, over 20 people joined us through letters of transfer, confirmation/reception, baptism, or joining St. James while awaiting confirmation. We watched several young couples receive the sacrament of marriage, and to all of our delight, babies were born as well. We also said goodbye to members who moved away and/or transferred to other churches. Unfortunately, we presided at 17 funerals of people we loved, not all of which were members of St. James. It has been a relatively average year according to numbers.

We sponsored mission trips to Cuba and to Panama, and another mission trip will head to Our Little Roses School and Orphanage in Honduras on January 21st of 2019. One of the many things we do that makes me so proud is our giving of ourselves beyond the church.

Additionally, there are many of you who serve on committees and guilds, participate in study/prayer groups, help with the youth, sing in the choir or play in Allelu!, organize receptions, plan suppers, arrange for a communal Thanksgiving meal, etc. Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, said, “The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.” You exemplify that. Thank you.

Opportunities for growth exist, too. Early in 2019, we have plans for Fr. Bill Livingston to present on the Joy of Money. More information on that will be out soon about that. Christie and the Pastoral Care group are getting organized to help us all take good care of each other in a number of ways. As big as St. James is, many people are necessary to give loving care to our members in need, and given the wonderful gifts of Christian Care that so many of our members have, we aim to do a better job in caring for each other. Our buildings and grounds bless us, and they need our constant care. The Buildings and Grounds committee is putting in place a computer program that will assist and direct us in perpetual maintenance of our property, and our new sexton, Perry Jones, will be a big help in that regard. The new website has been launched, and it will require regular updating, too. I would love to see communication monitors in the narthex and in Stillwell Hall to keep us up-to-date on the happenings at St. James.

As always, thank you to a dedicated vestry and staff. They are faithful and hard working.

SENIOR WARDEN

Matt Henry

It has been a pleasure serving as your Senior Warden this year. The real pleasure has been working with so many fellow parishioners and the staff as we strive to respond to God's call to us. We have over 80 ministries supporting our church family and people in need in the Hendersonville community and around the world. I have been continually impressed with how well we, the people of St. James, live out our mission of **Welcome All, Love All, Serve All**.

You can read about many of St. James' activities and accomplishments in the ministry reports in this annual report. Please read them.

Your Vestry has been busy supporting and facilitating all these ministries, while addressing the physical needs of our facilities, the financial well-being of St. James, and working with, and supporting, our wonderful clergy and staff. A few items of note:

- As a result of our spring retreat, coupled with a mutual ministry review led by an outside consultant, the Vestry reaffirmed St. James' mission and vision statements and identified stewardship and welcoming newcomers as areas of emphasis for the year.
- Based on some in-depth work over three Vestry meetings, the Vestry developed, approved, and promulgated a stewardship statement and encouraged every parishioner to re-assess their own stewardship.
- Execution of the preservation portion of the Capital Campaign proceeded in accordance with the overall schedule approved by the Vestry.
- The Cox house was refurbished so that our ministries supporting those dealing with substance addictions could continue. Most of this work was accomplished by the Wednesday Work Group, and funded by a \$5,000 grant from the diocese.
- Significant (\$9,000), unplanned repairs to the rental house plumbing system were performed while we put the tenants up in a motel.
- Engineering assessments were performed on the bell tower to understand the scope and cost of addressing the water intrusion issues. This effort continues as our architect consultant helps us identify qualified vendors who can properly perform the work. The cost of this work will not be insignificant.

As the Senior Warden, I would like to thank those groups that I have had the pleasure of serving alongside of this year: Vestry, Resource Commission, Building & Grounds, Wednesday Work Group, Finance Committee, Endowment Board, and the School for Little Folks Board.

I would also like to thank our wonderful staff for all that they do – some of what they do you see, and much of what they do you don't see. Their spiritual, pastoral, leadership, and administrative abilities enable each of us to proceed on our spiritual journey and to respond to our call to serve others.

And lastly, I thank each of you for the opportunity to serve this past year as your senior warden.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

ACOLYTES

Elly Withers, Director of Programs

Our acolyte program is comprised of adults and youth who serve God by assisting our priests each Sunday during the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. services. The acolyte program also includes licensed chalice bearers who serve during the 7:30 am service on Sundays and the 5:00 p.m. service on Saturdays. In addition to Sunday services, our acolytes serve during weddings, funerals, and other special services at the church like Lessons and Carols, Celtic Services, and Evensong. Acolyte positions include crucifers, torchbearers, thurifers, sub-deacons, banners, and doves. In order to be an acolyte, you must be at least eight years old and pass an acolyte training course. Adults are always welcome. We would love to have you join our team.

ALLELU!

Lisa Whitfield, Director

Allelu! is a folk-style contemporary praise music group that leads the music for the 9:00 a.m. service on second and fourth Sundays. Allelu! also responds when called upon for funerals, special services, church events and even the Children's Christmas Pageant. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays 5:15 – 6:15 in the choir room.

Allelu! music is chosen from the 1982 hymnal, Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS), Wonder, Love and Praise (WLP) and Alleluia II – all in the pew book racks. Music ranges from old traditional tunes to classic and contemporary hymns and new praise music from the Cursillo movement. Director Lisa Whitfield chooses hymns and anthems based on the liturgical themes and weekly readings using the Episcopal Musician's Handbook as a guide.

Allelu! is a non-audition group that welcomes new members. If you have expertise in guitar, piano (just because we have a pianist, it doesn't mean we couldn't use an extra), or any melody/harmony instrument, or if you just like to sing, we welcome you to join us at rehearsals and see what it's like.

Current members include: Debbie Murdoch, Ellen Fields, Dick Nace, Matthew Rogers, Stephen Studebaker, Steven Posey, Bill Burdett, Gene Dennison, Philip Correll, Herb Mensch, Deborah Burke, Matthew Rogers Phillip Wiehe, Linda McFadden, Liz Tate and (new member) Doug Woofter.

ALTAR GUILD

Sallie Carr & Martha Massey, Ministry Leaders

The Altar Guild is a ministry of service. We are a team dedicated to maintaining the altar, working under the direction of the Clergy. We prepare for all seven services throughout the week, setting the credence table with the vessels, bread, wine, and purificators that will be needed for each service. We also prepare for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and any other special services requested by the Clergy. Guild members polish the brass, clean the silver, wash and iron the linens, and make sure there is an adequate supply of wine, bread, wafers and candle oil. We consider ourselves "God's housekeepers" and donate our, time, talent, and hands to the glory of God. If you feel a calling and commitment to this ministry, please join us. Contact Sallie Carr at gcarr@morrisbb.net.

CHALICE BEARERS GUILD

Anne Hafer, Ministry Leader

The ministry of chalice bearing consists mostly of assisting the clergy in the distribution of the wine at the Eucharist at our Saturday evening and Sunday morning services. It is a very rewarding ministry in which around 40 members of our parish actively participate. We are an aging parish, and from time to time one or two of our active chalice bearers need to retire because of health reasons. Additional members are always welcomed and needed. Training is provided, along with a written description of what is required at each service.

CHANGE RINGERS (ST. JAMES BELL TOWER)

Bob Aldinger, Ministry Leader

Change ringing is a fun and mentally challenging art. It does not take a lot of physical effort and can be learned by young and old alike. St. James has one of the nicest ring of eight bells in the country and is often visited by ringers from England and all over the United States.

We practice on Monday nights and Saturday mornings and regularly ring for weddings and funerals. If any one is interested in learning to ring, please do not hesitate to contact Bob Aldinger at robertaldinger@gmail.com.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC / ORGANIST

Brad Gee

St. James vibrant music program continued to flourish in 2018. It is my privilege to serve as Director of Music Ministries and Organist and to oversee music for the wide variety of services we offer, including Sunday morning Eucharist, Evensong, and Celtic services. I am grateful and honored to be in my seventeenth year of service at St. James.

As Director of Music Ministries, I attend weekly staff meetings and liturgical planning meetings; schedule the tuning of the pianos and organ; select, order, and rehearse music for the parish choir; and practice organ voluntaries and hymns for the services, among other responsibilities. I also work with Lisa Whitfield in coordinating schedules and planning music for the 9:00 a.m. service.

The two main groups which comprise the music program at St. James are the Allelus! and the Parish Choir. Each group maintains a regular rehearsal schedule and provides music for Sundays and holy days throughout the year. Allelu! sings and plays for the 9:00 a.m. service on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. They also sing for the early service on Christmas Eve.

In Fall of 2018, The St. James Choir began a new schedule of singing for the 11:15 a.m. service the 2nd and 4th Sundays, and the 9:00 a.m. service the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. This addition has expanded the outreach of music to include the 9:00 a.m. service congregants. Additional highlights of the year include services of Choral Evensong, Advent Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve, and Holy Week. We again offered two services of Advent Lessons & Carols which were very successful and relieved both parking and safety concerns for the standing-room only congregation.

The Celtic services continue to touch the St. James congregation deeply, and these services feature music of a quiet, contemplative nature in the style of Taize chant, world music, and responsorial songs.

It is a pleasure to work with Fr. Joel and other staff members of St. James. I am deeply grateful for the spirit of collegiality and sense of mission and ministry with which we serve.

The Music Ministries Mission of St. James is "worshipping, praising, and serving God together through music." We continue to strive for this goal in the future.

FLOWER GUILD

Nan Payne and Vicki Wright, Ministry Leaders

The mission of the St. James Flower Guild is to provide floral arrangements and decorations for the church and to the glory of God in order to create an atmosphere of beauty and reverence that will enhance worship.

This mission is accomplished by 15 members, who are divided into 4 teams. Each week, the assigned team plans and arranges flowers for the Sanctuary, the Chapel and the Narthex. During Advent, Christmas and Easter, the Flower Guild teams work together to create the decorations appropriate for the season.

The Flower Guild receives no funding from the church budget and is funded by donations made by the people of St. James who sponsor flowers in memory or honor of loved ones.

LECTORS

Rosemary Pace, Ministry Leader

The ministry of the lector is to proclaim the Word of God by reading from both the Old and the New Testaments at all church services throughout the year. Lectors also lead the Prayers of the People.

St. James has over 40 dedicated lectors who read the Scriptures and the Prayers of the People at the Wednesday noon service, 5:00 p.m. Saturday service, and at 7:30, 9:00, and 11:15 a.m. Sunday services on a weekly basis. Lectors also serve at all special services throughout the year at St. James. Anyone with a love of Scripture and a good speaking voice can be a lector after a short training session. If you are a member of St. James and wish to participate in this important ministry, you may contact Rosemary Pace at 685-1030 or the church office.

USHERS

Donna Goodman, Ministry Leader

Over 30 people served as ushers at the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. services. Ushers fulfill the important ministry of making everyone feel welcome. They greet people, hand out bulletins, distribute seat cushions, help people with their

wheelchairs or walkers, provide directions to the restrooms, nursery, parish hall, etc. If a parishioner needs to speak to a member of the clergy or needs the Eucharist brought to them at their seats, ushers facilitate those requests as well. Ushers receive the offering, with the help of the children, at the 9:00 service. We are currently in need of more ushers for two teams at the 11:15 a.m. service.

VERGERS

Jackie Price, Ministry Leader

Our verger program at St. James began in 1978 when an English verger came to ring bells in the new Bell Tower. A verger leads the procession and escorts readers and intercessors to appointed locations. The verger's role is designed to be of service to the clergy and congregation, with the aim of making each service proceed properly without interruption or complication. Vergers regularly serve at the 11:15 a.m. service and at special services as requested by the clergy, such as Christmas Eve, the Easter Vigil, and Evensongs.

This has been a year of change for the vergers. With regret, we said goodbye to Tom Broad when he moved to Florida after 10 years of service. We also welcomed Lisa Wilt to the group, bringing the number of serving vergers back to four.

F AITH FORMATION

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Elly Withers, Director of Programs

Adult Formation focuses on theology, introspection, and how our faith calls us to fight for justice in the world. We meet each Sunday from 10:15- 11:00 a.m. in the Trinity Room. Topics this year included "Serving God Saving the Planet," "Uppity Women of the Bible," and "Civil Discourse." We invite scholars from all across North Carolina and the East Coast to lead presentations. Themes are decided by the Adult Formation Committee that meets on the third Sunday each month. Please contact Elly if you have ideas for Adult Formation classes or you would like to join the committee.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Diane King, Ministry Leader

Children's Chapel ministry is during the 9:00 a.m. service for all children age 4 to 2nd grade and for children who would like a review of level I or an introduction. We process to the atrium before the Gospel and we return before the Peace.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION: CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Diane King, Ministry Leader

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is celebrating 20 years of Children's Ministries at St James this year. We have a "mustard seed of growth" as we added level II for grades 3rd -5th which is an expansion of level I for age 4- 2nd grade. Each Sunday, we meet from 10:15- 11:00 a.m. in the atrium and St Francis room. This program is Montessori based and also based on the New Testament. Children have the freedom to select materials that they are drawn to and have the space for spiritual growth and discovery. The children actually teach the teachers in these classes! We are always looking for volunteers to help with Sunday school or any of our activities with children. The main formula is just to love children and working with them!

CHILDREN'S LENTEN PROGRAMS

Elly Withers, Director of Programs

The Children's Lenten Program begins after the Ash Wednesday and continues each Wednesday during Lent. We eat soup and sandwiches with the adults in the parish hall first, and then we enjoy a movie series for spiritual formation.

EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY (EYC)

Elly Withers, Director of Programs

The overall objective for St. James EYC is to engage our youth with theological thinking that inspires them to be better servants of God. Our goal is to develop youth who don't just talk about how what it means to follow God, but actually go out to make the world a better place. EYC meets every Sunday with youth in 6th-12th grade in the St. James Youth Room. We begin EYC with a communal dinner provided by a different family each week. After dinner we sing worship music before settling down into a faith centered presentation and discussion. In addition to weekly youth group, our

youth participate in mission trips, volunteering at the Rescue Mission once a month, and diocesan camps and conferences. This past year, our youth went on a 10-day international mission trip to Panama to work with a nonprofit in sustainable agriculture.

EXTREME EYC

Elly Withers, Director of Programs

Extreme EYC was created to excite our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders about joining EYC as 6th graders. We meet quarterly and combine “Junior EYC” (grades 3rd-5th) with EYC (grades 6th-12th). We had several successful events this year that included a summer game night, summer pool party, participation in the annual Hunger Walk, and a Halloween Carnival. Many of these events had an attendance of over 60 people! Extreme EYC is a great way to bring our St. James families together.

LIBRARY

Margaret Butler, Ministry Leader

The St. James Library is a rich collection of volumes on theology, biblical studies, and spirituality. The collection can be searched by title, author, or subject using the catalogue lists or by using the online search system at the church website. Parishioners may borrow up to three books at a time and are free to browse the collection and read there during regular hours when the church is open.

NURSERY

Brianna Rickle, Director

The nursery is often a child’s first church experience. The most important thing they will learn here is that they are safe and loved in this community of God’s people. There are at least two experienced staff members present at all times. Age-appropriate toys and crafts, as well as Bible stories and music, are used in the nursery. The nursery is open on Sunday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for children up to age four, and at other times for St. James events by prior arrangement with the nursery director. This is a ministry serving young families and a major evangelism tool that provides a warm, welcoming place for their children and invites the parents to make St. James their church home.

PASSAGE MEDITATION

Janice Mewborne, Ministry Leader

The Passage Meditation group focuses on learning to meditate and building skills and support to maintain a meditation practice. We read, discuss, watch a DVD, talk, and meditate together. We choose a mystic to study each summer. We work together as a group to find informational resources for sharing. We used several interesting texts and also saw a well researched film about his life.

We have about fourteen active members. Our attendance averages six-nine members on Tuesday evenings. An Eight Week Introductory Series is offered when interest is sufficient.

THURSDAY DREAM GROUP

Margaret Butler & Mary Anne Haden, Ministry Leaders

Dream Group is an on-going gathering of a small group of participants that fosters soul-care and growth through dream sharing. Living a soulful life is a path that participants have chosen to walk. To that end, working within the context of a dream group allows them to dive deeply into the flow of their own soul life. The group also helps support the soul life of other like-minded individuals.

Experiencing our soul speak to us through dreams is an aspect of spiritual direction. Dreams support the dreamer in finding the core messages that the soul is singing. Using biblical, mystical, psychological, and mythological motifs as touchstones for our own messages, each individual taps into the universal at a personal level. Dream Group enhances our relationship to the Divine. If you are interested in knowing more about this, please contact Margaret or Mary Anne.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION: EYC JUSTICE LEAGUE (Grades 6-12)

Elly Withers, Director of Programs

How does what we hear in church each Sunday relate to fighting injustice in the world? What would Jesus be doing today if he were alive? Would he be fighting injustice in the world and standing up for the oppressed? You bet! Justice League is our Sunday School class for youth in 6th-12th grade from 10:15-11:00 a.m. in the EYC room. We watch a short

video clip about some type of injustice in the world before diving into discussion about how our faith calls us to stand up against those injustices. Topics include women's rights, the US prison system, racism, immigration, factory farming, environmental concerns, and international inequalities.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

ST. JAMES OUTREACH MINISTRIES

KNITTERS' GUILD ("Small but Mighty") Nancy Morton, Ministry Leader

Four—six parishioners meet together each week to knit or crochet hats for children in Head Start and blankets distributed through the Linus Project to sick or abused children in WNC. In addition, several people knit or crochet at home and bring their work to add to the comforting, made-with-love designs. Several people knit prayer shawls for adults who are ill. If you are interested in what they do, come join them some Monday afternoon, or call Nancy Morton for more information at 693-4584.

OUTREACH COMMISSION Alex Kealy, Ministry Leader

The Outreach Commission (OC) meets the second Monday of each month at 3:30 p.m. The Commission receives some funds directly from the Church and generates additional funds through Candlemas, Gifts of Hope/10,000 Villages Fair, and other fund-raising projects. This year, the Commission supported local needs (esp. hunger, the homeless, La Capilla de Santa Maria, Dream Scholarships); and international needs: Our Little Roses in Honduras (a school for homeless girls); Love Must Act, a school in South Africa, and the Diocese of Cuba with church support and repairs, particularly the Eastern Deanery.

2018 was an outstanding year for the Outreach Commission. Two major fund raisers netted: (1) over \$5,000 from Gifts of Hope/Ten Thousand Villages (to support international endeavors), and (2) over \$11,600 from Candlemas for local hunger relief. All Candlemas funds were divided between The Storehouse, IAM, and Hendersonville Rescue Mission.

Other major activities:

- Provided \$1,000 for the Hunger Walk and solicited \$6,000 additional in support of the 30 walkers from St. James;
- Provided an additional \$5,400 for Our Little Roses to continue the ESL program at OLR for younger students who are not in the dual language program (\$1,375 for the teacher each quarter); Our Little Roses Fund Raising Event netted an additional \$2,313. A Mission team trip to OLR has been planned and will be on site in Honduras in January, 2019.
- Raised about \$5,000 for international program support through Gifts of Hope/10,000 Villages and an additional \$3,000 – \$4,000 for other charities which participated with us in the Gifts of Hope event.
- Provided \$1,250 to the Dream Scholarship Committee as ½ a Dream Scholarship and helped plan and coordinate the Mexican Breakfast at St. James to raise additional funds (\$3,200) for Dream Scholarships in cooperation with 4 other churches;
- Supported four Bi-lingual Eucharists (with La Capilla, St Paul Tabernacle AME Zion, Holy Family and First Congregational Church) and shared meals attended by an average of 55 attendees;
- Sponsored a Posada (Joseph and Mary searching for an inn) attended by 35 from St. James and 20 from La Capilla);
- Continued to sponsor the writing of the article "The Quiet Ones" in the Epistle each month;
- Provided funds and personnel to support our summer program in math (with computers) for 16 students (grades 1-9) at La Capilla in coordination with Holy Family and First Congregational (which provided the reading component of the program);
- Provided \$1,000 to "Love Must Act." a school in South Africa (in support of our missionary, Jenny McConnachie);

Continued relationship and support of the eight churches in the Eastern end of the Diocese of Cuba. Through an anonymous gift (from outside the parish) of \$5,000 the Outreach Commission funded the purchase a house in Jiqui. That house was refurbished and is now being used as a church and social outreach center for the village. The

AFFILIATED OUTREACH MINISTRIES

BLESSINGS IN BOXES

Sarah Carpenter, Ministry Leader

The Angel Tree program partners with The Storehouse to provide Christmas gifts to approximately 2,000 children and youth in need in Henderson County. In 2018, St. James members provided gifts for over 100 children, gave many hours of organizational time, and spent countless hours of shopping time to provide presents for the children. The abundance of bikes and toys on collection day made St. James an exciting, joyful place.

CARPENTER'S CLUB

Bill Burdett & Frank Byrd, Ministry Leaders

The St. James Carpenter's Club provides hands-on housing rehabilitation and construction assistance in support of the Henderson County Housing Assistance Corp. home repair program. The group is made up of approximately 30 men and women and divided into three teams, with each team working one Saturday morning every three months. There is also a team that works every third Tuesday morning. Teams work under the supervision of an employee of the Housing Assistance Corp. and provide services for disadvantaged folks in Henderson County. The tasks that are performed include floor repairs, painting, building or repairing decks, steps, and/or wheelchair ramps. The funding for the Carpenter's Club has been primarily provided by a grant from the Human Hurt and Hope Fund through the WNC Episcopal Diocese. All interested parishioners are invited to join. While carpentry skills are a plus, a desire to help people needing assistance and to enjoy good fellowship with other parishioners are the only requirements. If interested, contact Bill Burdett, 693-6036.

FEED THE KIDS

Kent M. Loy, Team 1 Leader

Feed the Kids Team 1 comprises over 70 enthusiastic volunteers from St. James, First Congregational, Holy Family congregations and others who are unaffiliated with a faith-based group. Volunteers shop for ingredients, cook the meals at St. James, transport the food to the Boys and Girls Club, serve the meal and then wash the pots and pans. People try out and discover their favorite jobs and sign up only when their schedule permits.

During 2018, Team 1 fed 1,800 hot meals to children at the Boys and Girls Club of Hendersonville on our eight assigned Fridays (the December serving was cancelled because of continued school closures). Feed the Kids Coalition welcomes all who are interested in helping alleviate the food insecurity of the children of Henderson county.

HUNGER MINISTRIES

Judi Frame, Ministry Leader

Each day one in four children under the age of 18 go without regular food in Henderson County. St. James has a long history with ministries that feed the hungry. In 2018, food collected every Sunday was donated to The Storehouse for ten months. In November and June, all food donations collected were donated to IAM (Interfaith Assistance Ministry). Two larger food collections were held in February and November. These were the SOUPerBowl Sunday collection benefiting The Storehouse and the Thanksgiving food ingathering, which benefits IAM.

In addition to actual food collections, the Candlemas Concert benefited three Hendersonville charities which serve the hungry: Hendersonville Rescue Mission, IAM and The Storehouse. In the fall, St. James' Outreach Commission sponsored the 2018 Hunger Walk and many parishioners raised money by walking in the Walk. This year, St. James served 1,800 meals to youth at the Boys & Girls Club. This entails shopping for fresh food, cooking a healthy dinner and serving over 300 young people every 5-6 weeks. St James parishioners, including the Youth Group also served meals at the Hendersonville Rescue Mission.

In 2018, St. James' members volunteered at both IAM and The Storehouse on a weekly basis, as well as serving as Board members at both the Henderson County Hunger Coalition and Interfaith Assistance Ministry.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

FOYERS

Laurie Parkerson, Ministry Leader

The Foyers Ministry consists of two dinner groups which are active. The groups are formed twice a year; one in October and another in the Spring.

FUNERAL RECEPTION GROUP

Hardy Chandler, Ministry Leader

There are four Funeral Reception Committees, which rotated hosting a number of funeral receptions in 2018.

GREETERS

Sherry Fransioli, Ministry Leader

Currently, St. James has about 34 greeters. Greeters are stationed at the corner of the two walkways to steer newcomers to the parish hall for coffee and hospitality after the 9:00 a.m. service.

HOSPITALITY GUILD & SOCIAL HOUR

Sandra Winecoff, Dorothy Fantle, & Martha Massey, Ministry Leaders

The Hospitality Guild hosted Lemonade on the Lawn this summer as a replacement for coffee hour in the parish hall. In the fall, Social Hour in the parish hall was resumed, with cookies provided by St. James. The "Sign Up Genie" was enabled for volunteers of the Hospitality Guild to sign up for hosting Social Hour. The annual parish picnic was held in September. The Guild also hosted Commitment Sunday brunch and a reception for Advent Lessons and Carols.

ST. JAMES BRIDGE GROUP

Anne Grove, Ministry Leader

The St. James Bridge Group meets the second Thursday of the month in the parish hall at 1:00 p.m. The group has a range of skill levels; so whether you are re-entering bridge or are a long-time player, you would be welcomed. The players contribute once a month toward purchasing snacks and drinks and decks of cards. It is a friendly game, and the players enjoy each other's company. Currently, we have 12 regular members, and new players are always welcome. The group meets the second Thursday of the month at 1:00 in the parish hall.

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

Gene Carr, Ministry Leader

The St. James transportation and van service continue to make the 11:15 a.m. Sunday service available to those at Carolina Village and Lake Pointe Landing who desire to attend. We also have one other regular attendee who we pick up from the East Wind Apartments behind the Mustang Café. Ridership is down due to several of our regular riders who have experienced declining health; we average 4 - 6 riders each week. We have 10 active drivers. The Van was used by several other church related groups, including the young people for their summer mission trip and for travel to and from diocesan events; the van was also used by Camp Henry this summer during its camp counselor training (LAMP) program. We are always in need of drivers, and if anyone knows of persons who desire to join as either a rider or a driver, please let me know.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Matt Henry, Ministry Leader

The Welcoming Committee had another very active year, focusing on identifying visitors and facilitating their becoming part of our parish community. With almost 150 visitors and about 50 new name tag requests (and 26

replacement name tag requests), our greeters and name tag makers were busy. If visitors provides a mailing address, they are sent a letter by Pat Whiteside welcoming them to St. James. We are also calling new parishioners that have asked for a name tag to welcome them and provide assistance in joining our community.

We have recently begun to focus more on newcomers and helping them find their way within the St. James community. This joint effort with the Vestry is being pursued using the INVITE - WELCOME - CONNECT construct endorsed by the Episcopal Church.

We thank all our greeters and especially Sherry Fransioli, who coordinates the greeters for all services. And we thank Meredith and Trevor Calhoun for making the name tags and organizing them in the boxes in the narthex. We also thank Sheila deBettencourt, who is coordinating the calling of newcomers after they have requested a name tag. And lastly, many thanks go to Pat Whiteside who continues her multi-year ministry of writing letters to visitors. The Welcoming Ministry continues to send letters and a follow-up phone call to visitors who ask for a name tag. Everyone should be on the look-out for unfamiliar faces and greet them warmly.

PASTORAL MINISTRIES

CARE 4 CAREGIVERS

The Rev. Christie Olsen, Ministry Leader

This is a support group for parishioners who are caregivers for a spouse or relative. There are currently five parishioners who are caregivers.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING – MARY & MARTHA CHAPTER

Vicki Wright & Elaine Chen, Ministry Leaders

The purpose of the Daughters of the King is to help strengthen the spiritual life of our parish. Our members have undertaken a rule of life that incorporates prayer, service, and evangelism. We meet on the second Saturday of each month for a business meeting and book discussion. We support the various funds of the National DOK and attend diocesan, provincial, and national assemblies.

The Mary and Martha chapter is currently planning for a February event for interested women to learn more about the DOK. Several members have recently completed training to serve as Lay Pastoral Visitors, who will visit with homebound and hospitalized parishioners on a regular basis. They are also reading and discussing Bishop Michael Curry's book, *Crazy Christians*, to better equip themselves for evangelism.

FOOD ANGELS

Sara Rainey & Shirley Walsh, Ministry Leaders

The Food Angel ministry includes a team of 16 members who enjoy cooking for others who are alone at home after being either hospitalized or otherwise unable to fend for themselves on a temporary basis. In 2018, they provided meals for nine parishioners following surgeries, illnesses, and family member deaths.

GRIEF GROUP

Rev. Christie Olsen & Robert Seiler, Ministry Leaders

The St. James Grief Group companions with those who are experiencing grief from loss of any kind (the death of a spouse, child or parent, the loss of a job or health, a marriage or relationship). It is our experience that loss and grief can be isolating and that being in a supportive group of people moving through similar stages and emotions lessens the isolation and helps us to fully experience the loss and then move forward at our own pace. The group is facilitated by our clergy and by parishioner Robert Seiler, who is a trained Stephen Minister. The most recent group just completed their eight-week session, with eight participants. The pastoral care team is providing follow-up contact with them.

INTERCESSORY/HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY

Rev. Christie Olsen, Ministry Leader

The Intercessory Prayer List is compiled, updated, and emailed by Cindy Drake. There are 30 people who actively pray the prayer list on a daily basis.

The prayer team members who provided intercessory prayer during the 9:00 a.m. service disbanded in late 2018, due to the loss of several members. Recruiting for additional people is taking place with the hope that prayer teams will be available at the Sunday services on a regular basis. There is no team leader at this time.

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS
Jennifer Armstrong, Ministry Leader

What is one of the ways for us as members of St. James to keep in touch with homebound members? Parishioners can become Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV's). What do LEV's do? They call homebound members to arrange a time that is convenient for them. They carry the "kit" with the Eucharist and vessels, two copies of the service, and the wish to bring the presence of Christ to someone who has been missing this contact. LEV's often spend some time having conversation with these shut-ins as well.

We have nine visitors and twelve people to see at this time. We try to spread the visits so that they are spaced out comfortably, scheduling the LEV's for 4-5 visits to each person within two months. I urge you to consider this direct ministry to your fellow parishioners. Anyone who is isolated in this way can ask for a visit from a Lay Eucharist Visitor by contacting Jennifer Armstrong at 693-4180.

LAY PASTORAL VISITORS
Rev. Christie Olsen, Ministry Leader

Reverend Christie Olsen led a workshop in November to train several volunteers as lay pastoral visitors to homebound parishioners. We are in the process of matching LPV's with homebound parishioners who would like to be visited on a regular basis.

MENTAL HEALTH AND MEDIATION
Stephanie Richardson, Ministry Leader

This group supports and companions on a confidential basis those who are dealing with mental health issues either personally or with family members. They meet on a monthly basis with a professional facilitator.

NEW BABY MINISTRY
Erin Rainey, Ministry Leader

We welcomed twins into St. James this past year: Katherine Webb Carpenter and Bennett Anne Carpenter. The knitters group made blankets for the new arrivals.

TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN

This ministry is used for crisis or emergency situations that need immediate prayer attention. Members pray for three days after which the person's name may be placed on the monthly Prayer List if desired. Our ministry leader, Gail Broad, moved this year, so we are in search of a new leader for 2019.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

LEGACY GIVING COMMITTEE
Steven Studebaker, Chair

The Saint James Church Legacy Giving Committee has dual responsibilities of education and pastoral solicitation. The committee needs members with gifts for education, writing, and hospitality, knowledgeable about legacy giving, respected, credible, and willing to call on prospective donors.

The Legacy Giving Committee's responsibilities include:

- a. raising members' awareness of the legacy giving program and of the ministry it can enable;
- b. providing information to the congregation about how to make legacy gifts;
- c. presenting workshops about medical, legal, and spiritual issues related to aging and the end of life;

- d. calling on parishioners to provide them with information and to invite them to consider making a legacy gift to the St. James Endowment Fund;
- e. sponsoring Legacy Society programs and recognition.

LEGACY SOCIETY
Steven Studebaker, Chair

The Saint James Church Legacy Society provides an acknowledgment of legacy gifts and raises awareness of legacy giving. Occasional gatherings allow St. James to thank members who have made a legacy gift and to maintain a dialogue about the Saint James Endowment Fund and about the ministries it enables. The Society offers its members the opportunity to witness about their faith and their permanent gift to St. James.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
Elizabeth Keese Henry, Leader/Coordinator

The Stewardship Committee encourages formation in the spiritual disciplines of gratitude, generosity, and faithful stewardship of all that God has provided for us. We focus on stewardship as part of spiritual formation and work to dispel the idea that stewardship is about raising money for the parish budget.

The annual giving program in the fall, Transforming Generously, included weekly meditations from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship. One goal for the program was to highlight the connection between giving and making St. James' ministry of transforming lives possible. Twenty-six parishioners spoke at church services about their ministries and spoke about the difference the ministries make in their lives and the lives of others.

We tailored stewardship letters about annual giving for various groups within the parish: previous pledgers, givers who don't pledge, parents of young children, electronic givers, and those who are not givers of record, and we attempted to make our database more accurate.

Commitment Sunday was a joyful event with Allelu! and the 11:15 a.m. Choir providing music to make the ingathering of commitment cards a moving act of worship. With the help of 36 parishioners who set up, brought food and flowers, served, and cleaned up, we celebrated God's bounty with a festive brunch after the ingathering of pledges.

The Stewardship Committee modeled gratitude by sending personalized notes to each household that offered a pledge. We are grateful to God for all the people who give their time, energy, and talent so generously to St. James.

We led three Vestry discussions to facilitate their drafting a Stewardship Statement to be shared with the congregation. The statement shows the congregation what the Vestry members believe about God's generosity and how they practice stewardship in their personal life and as a Vestry.

We are planning a facilitated discussion program about stewardship to be held during Epiphany. Members of the Committee were Jamie Blount, Joel Hafer, Elizabeth Henry, Tom Marshall, and Vicki Wright.

ST. JAMES ENDOWMENT FUND
Walker McSwain, Chair

The Endowment Fund enables St. James Church to develop its ministries beyond what is possible through annual operating funds. Led by a board that functions under the under the auspices of the St. James Vestry, the St. James Endowment Fund grew during 2018 from a balance of \$767,000 to \$956,000 at year end.

The Endowment Fund will distribute funds within three general purposes: (1) outreach ministries, (2) seed money for new ministries and special one-time projects, and (3) capital improvements and major maintenance projects. During 2018, \$11,600.00 was distributed to the Vestry for Outreach and one-time projects. It will also administer larger gifts restricted by donors for other purposes after these are recommended by the Endowment Board and approved by the Vestry for inclusion in the Fund.

The Endowment Fund is not intended to reduce members' regular annual giving or to diminish responsible stewardship by present or future members; therefore, distributions from the Endowment Fund may not be made to fund the administrative and operational expenses of the parish.

Pursuant to the above purposes in creating an enduring legacy from the parishioners of St. James Church and others, gifts and bequests are to be encouraged and guided to the Endowment Fund by the Saint James Legacy Society and its members.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT MINISTRIES

ARCHIVE COMMITTEE **Charlie Medd, Ministry Leader**

The Archives are located in a safe in the priests' sacristy and in a locked closet. They are a treasured history of St. James Church. These materials are available for examination upon request; they must remain on the property at all times.

If anyone has pertinent historical materials and would like to submit them for secure storage for use in research about the church, contact Debbie Mentch at debbie@stjamesepiscopal.com.

BUILDING & GROUNDS **Eric Goodman, Ministry Leader**

2018 B & G Projects completed through the General Operating Fund:

- Purchased new preventative maintenance software and are implementing it
- Updated and replaced worn electrical outlets and switches across campus
- Purchased dishwasher (enabled us to remove the monthly lease cost and save funds)
- Purchased new plastic round tables for the parish hall
- Installed fire stations in the Thrift Shop (including pull stations and horn strobe lights)
- Repaired rental house plumbing and septic system
- Treated the rental house for termite protection

2018 B & G Projects completed through the Capital Campaign Fund:

- Installed new roofs for School, hallway and Nave
- Replaced several HVAC units
- Brought in architects and engineers for Bell Tower and moisture issues; awaiting final report
- Connection of Chapel scupper downspouts to underground drainage lines in Memorial Garden
- Installed new gutters and fascia boards for enclosed courtyard

FINANCE COMMITTEE **Tom Doyle, Chair**

The Finance Committee of St. James Episcopal Church is currently composed of five parishioners, serving three year terms, the Rector, the Director of Finance and Administration, and the Senior or Junior Warden. Our mission is to review the monthly finances of the church and school, prepare a yearly operating budget, review and set as needed all financial policies, oversee the audit/review annually; all of which is reported to the Vestry.

A Review of the 2017 year end books was completed and is available for review upon request.

MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE
Pat Whiteside, Ministry Leader

In 2018, we have had ten members on our committee, dedicating their time and energies to keep our Memorial Garden welcoming and a place for hospitality and prayer. We decided to make a change in venue for our Garden Party, holding it in the parish hall rather than outside. This was an effort to save our bodies from extra wear and tear and will probably be our future plan.

There was a lot of activity in the Garden this year with all the repairs to worn-out and leaking drainage systems. We would like to thank the vendors and, most especially, our Wednesday Work Crew. They couldn't have been more diligent in their efforts to respect the dignity of the souls buried there and managed to direct all of the necessary replacement equipment without disturbing any burial sites - which was not always an easy task.

Our Garden is self-supporting with donations and a percentage of the interment funds providing our budget. We welcome monetary donations and would love donations of time as well. If you would like to become a part of the Lay Weeders group, please call me at 828-891-4429. Help us maintain our Garden as one of the 260 Quiet Gardens in the world.

OFFERING COUNTERS

We have a dedicated group of parishioners that come in every week and count the weekly offering. Some of them have been counting for St James for well over 15 years. We thank you for your dedication! If you would like to help in this ministry please contact Debbie Mentch.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS
Karen Kuykendall, Parish Secretary

We are blessed at St. James to have an abundant number of parishioners who volunteer regularly to help with the many tasks that need to be done. The volunteer receptionists who spent four hours every week or every other week assisting the office this past year were Miriam Kussrow, Tom Garrison, Barbara Greene, Debi Coffee, Liz Pearson, John and Nancy Garrison, Pat Pace, Sheila deBettencourt, Stephanie Richardson, Katharine Burge, Dick Laux, Becky Tortorigi, and Bob Darling; our substitute receptionists were Dick Armstrong and Bev Jackman. Linda Hill and Bob Darling also assisted with materials for special services. These volunteers answered phones, greeted visitors, and helped assemble bulletins and mailings. Without them, it would be impossible for the office to run as smoothly as it does. Many thanks to all of you who helped with these jobs.

WEDNESDAY WORK CREW
Larry Burge, Ministry Leader

The Wednesday Morning Work Crew is comprised of approximately ten church volunteers who meet weekly from 8:30-11:30 a.m. to perform minor maintenance and repairs around the church. Anyone interested in volunteering, regardless of skill level, may contact Larry Burge at lburge65@gmail.com. This year, the crew members collectively volunteered over 1,000 hours. Below are some of the project completed this year:

- Replaced vanities in SFLF
- Painted bathrooms in SFLF
- Replaced stained and/or broken ceiling tiles
- Repaired pew racks in Chapel
- Repaired/replaced fencing for SFLF playground
- Reconditioned several bookcases for SFLF
- Replaced tile under fire door
- Spread 20 cubic yards of mulch

- Remodeled old nursery and erected shelf units
- Cleaned out old and unknown colors of paint in workroom
- Assisted Sexton cleaning out basement and erecting shelving
- Remodeled Cox House, which included:
 - installing new windows
 - repairing/replacing trim
 - repairing ceiling
 - repairing vinyl floor
 - removing broken/unsightly furniture
 - repairing bathroom
 - installing security lights
- Added a bathroom to the SFLF
- Removed a wall between classrooms in the SFLF
- Installed base cabinet and countertop in classroom in SFLF
- Relocated wall cabinets in SFLF
- Repaired trim in the bell tower
- Washed windows
- Performed sexton duties while sexton position remains vacant.

ST. JAMES SCHOOL FOR LITTLE FOLKS

Teri Smith, Director; Martha Massey, Board Chair

During the 2018 school year the School for Little Folks educated an average of 60 children per month. We realized that the need was much greater for two three and four year olds so we changed the age range of the children we have enrolled. Beginning in August of 2018 we added a bathroom in one classroom which gave us the capacity to change the composition of the room. This project would not have been possible without the wonderful and faithful assistance of Larry Burge and the Wednesday Work Crew. During the past year there have been many projects these men have done. They have painted classrooms, painted shelving, repaired shelves, installed cabinets, and generally whatever we needed.

Our three and four year olds attend chapel every week. We celebrate the Eucharist as well as have a bible story and lesson. They have learned the Children's Creed and we always sing some favorite songs making it developmentally appropriate for little ones.

We also instituted a scholarship program for families in need. There is a committee of both board members and church members who meet and review all applications for assistance. During the 2018 year, 10 families received a scholarship allowing them to access our school.

We try and develop compassion in the children by asking for their help in any mission or outreach projects being done here at St. James. We collected small toys to be sent to Cuba as well as having a food drive that was donated to Interfaith Assistance Ministry.

Our Christmas dinner with Santa is always a well-attended event and 2018 was no exception. Our other fun events during the year include holiday parties such as an Easter Party and Egg hunt, Trick or Treating around the church, and a Week of the Young Child celebration which culminated in a family picnic on the playground Friday night.