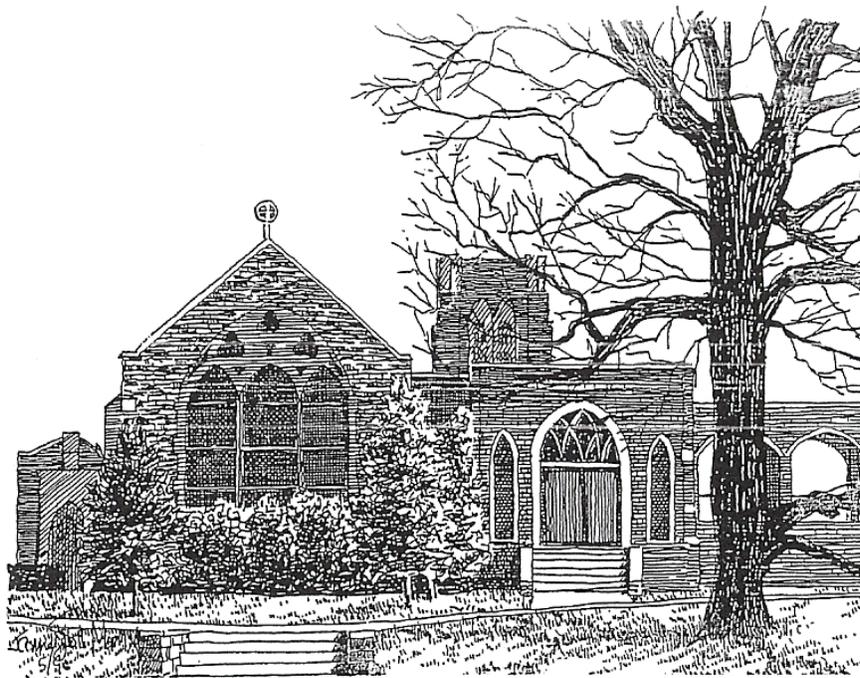


Annual Report
for 2019
St. James Episcopal Church
Hendersonville, North Carolina

Annual Meeting—January 19, 2020



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.

2019 STAFF AND OFFICERS OF ST. JAMES

CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Joel G. Hafer, Rector (January – June)

The Rev. Dr. Carol Jablonski, Interim Rector (August – December)

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 (January – April)

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

Kevin Todd, Senior Warden

Vicki Wright, Junior Warden

Susan Danos

Kirk Ferguson

Tom Doyle

Erika Garcia

Mike Elrod

Diane Jacober

Dorothy Fantle

Gil Rainey

Trini Fares

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INTERIM RECTOR
The Rev. Dr. Carol Jablonski

Since joining St. James as your Interim Rector (August 1, 2019), I have had an opportunity to see why St. James has a reputation for being one of the most loving congregations in this diocese, a diocese that is filled with loving congregations! I have seen your joy and your passion for living out the mission of St. James – to welcome all, to love all, and to serve all through Christ. I have felt the love, as so many in our church family do, of people who feel at home in this place – at home with one another and at home with a God who loves us eternally and unconditionally. It is a joy to serve here with you and among you, as we walk this path together at a time of great opportunity and challenge for the church.

I believe the work we are called to do during this interim time is not just to “pass the time until the new rector comes.” The interim time is to be one of “renewal and revitalization.” It’s a time for building and rebuilding bridges among our many ministries. It’s a time to align ourselves more intentionally with the Diocese and with the Episcopal Church. It’s a time for trying out new things with the liturgy (like using Eucharistic Prayers from *Enriching Our Worship*, a supplement to the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*, as we started to do in Advent). It’s a time to go deeper into our faith by studying the Bible and the BCP (as we are doing this year in our Christian Education Hour). What does it mean to be a member of this church? It’s also time to look at things that have changed in us and in our community, since the last rector transition some 14 years ago. What is God calling St. James to be and do in *this* decade, in *this* century?

The Book of Ecclesiastes says “for everything there is a season.” Transition is a time we face into what has ended, and what must end, for there to be a new beginning. One season ends, another begins; but sometimes it’s not clear when that transition has taken place. The first day the daffodils bloom can seem like a surprise, but in reality, they have been coming along for some time. Endings are like that too. They often start before we are ready to see them, before we are ready to say it is time, before we are ready to even begin imagining what the coming season might bring. And so, when we announce, as we did this past week, that the School for Little Folks is closing later this year, it is hard to see how, or when, or why this has become one of those “necessary endings” for St. James.

This was a Vestry decision and it wasn’t easy. It took careful study and prayer. Alternatives were considered. Every option was explored. After all was said and done, the time had come to close the school. It was a courageous decision, made with the knowledge that many of us have a strong attachment to the history of SFLF as a ministry. And yet, we would not be in the place we are in now if keeping SFLF open was what God is calling us to do.

Scriptures tell us over and over again that God gives us all we need to carry out the ministries to which we are called. If we do not have the resources, if the social and economic conditions of our society make it economically unfeasible to run a pre-school, then we have to ask, what *is* God calling us to do with the resources we *do* have? This is not the end of St. James’ ministry to children in our community, but the beginning of something *we can’t yet see or imagine*. God will show us the way forward, if we but listen and pray together in the weeks and months ahead!

We’ve been blessed in so many ways by the leadership of St. James and the School for Little Folks. We’ve been blessed by the teachers who have taught at SFLF through the years. We’ve been blessed by the children who have passed through our hallways and our lives. I ask your prayers as we continue our holy work during this holy time of transition.

SENIOR WARDEN
Kevin Todd

Well, needless to say, 2019 turned out to be an eventful year for your Vestry. We began our year reflecting at our annual retreat on the Vestry's 2018 goals and discerning which of those goals we should continue to devote our extra time and energy to in 2019. We set our hopes on seeing continued growth in the areas of welcoming newcomers, stewardship, and our children and youth programming. Not too long after our retreat, Father Joel announced to us that he would be retiring in June. I think we all realized at that point that it would wild ride throughout the remainder of the year, and it proved to be so.

First, let me say again thank you to the entire St. James community for the way you said "goodbye" to Joel and Anne so well, with the right balance of grieving the loss of one who gave himself to this parish for 15 years while also celebrating the good that happened in our faith community during Father Joel's time here. Simultaneously during that important process, the Vestry was working to plan for the transition, including interviewing and calling an Interim Rector, The Rev. Dr. Carol Jablonski. We are grateful that she accepted that call and have been moved by her quick love for this parish and her desire to faithfully and courageously lead during this season of transition. The transition also demanded that the Vestry do the heavy, important work of prayerfully discerning who should lead us in our search for a new rector. We are thrilled that Bill Medina agreed to chair the Discernment Committee and are thankful to each person who has agreed to serve on that committee this year. You'll hear a few words from Bill in a few moments. And with that, I would like to express our gratitude to our diocesan leadership, particularly Canon Augusta Anderson and Bishop José for the ways they have been so closely connected to us during this time of transition, offering their support and guidance along the way.

Just to circle back to some of the goals we identified before our time of transition began, I'd like to say how pleased we are with the intentional efforts being done by the Welcoming Committee, (chaired by Diane Jacober); we were pleased to see the completion of the Narrative Budget this year, which had been a goal for several years with the hope of giving us greater understanding in our stewardship processes (thank you to all who helped make that a reality); we were sad to say goodbye to Elly Withers last spring, and while we've been waiting longer than anticipated, we are beyond thrilled that Christoph Herpel will be joining us soon as our Director of Youth and Family Ministries. Thank you to the Search Committee that helped discern who would be the right person for that role. You all are going love him and I hope we can give a warm welcome to him and his husband Joshua when they arrive. I would like to say thank you to our clergy and staff for their leadership in 2019. You all do so much for our parish, and I know you are not thanked enough for all that you do. We're lucky to have you. I'd also like to say thanks to all the many, many folks who help keep our parish looking like it does, including Perry Jones, our buildings and grounds committee, and the Wednesday Work Crew, as well as all the other many folks who make this such beautiful place. And, lastly, I just want to say how much of a joy it has been to work with this Vestry. I have been blown away by the love with which they work and the unified desire to do what's best for our church; that love and that longing to do what's best for St. James lies beneath each and every decision. None of the Vestry knew what they were getting into when they said 'yes' at the beginning of last year. It has meant not only extra (and extra and extra) meetings, but I'm sure also some sleepless nights, many prayers, and, at times, some tears and heartache. Though we've had to make some tough decisions, your Vestry has always done that with the best interest of St. James and our surrounding community in mind, all towards the purpose of loving God, each other, and ourselves more fully. Thank you to Gil Rainey, Trini Fares, Sarah McSwain (who moved to Raleigh in August), Vicki Wright, Tom Doyle, Diane Jacober, Kirk Ferguson, Dorothy Fantle, Susan Danos, Erika Garcia, and Mike Elrod. You all are amazing; thank you for giving so much to our church in this past year. It's been a blessing to serve as your Senior Warden this past year, particularly during such a unique season in the life of our parish. Thank you for trusting us, your Vestry, to do the best we can through faith and love for this wonderful church community. Thank you.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

ACOLYTES

Keaton Jones and Trini Fares, Ministry Coordinators

As acolytes for the 7:30 a.m. service, we assist the ordained clergy at their direction and discretion during the Holy Eucharist. We do this by preparing the table, providing Eucharistic vessels and linens, assisting with various service ablutions, and ringing the Sanctus Bells. In 2019, we served in 51 services with reverence, peace, and gladness.

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 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, new praise music from the Cursillo movement and Taize selections. 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. We have needs for an alto and a tenor!

Current members include: Debbie Murdoch, Ellen Fields, Dick Nace, Stephen Studebaker, Steven Posey, Bill Burdett, Gene Dennison, Philip Correll, Herb Mensch, Matthew Rogers Phillip Wiehe, Linda McFadden, Liz Tate and 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

Rosemary Pace, 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)
Dorothy Fantle and Jim Loy, Tower Co-Captains
Robert Aldinger, Ringing Master

The St. James Guild of Change Ringers had an active year in 2019. Besides contributing to worship through service ringing on Sunday mornings, Christmas Eve, etc., our band rang in celebration for one wedding (Humleker - Garrison) and in sorrow for three funerals (Amy Pace, Ladd Fields, Nancy Kussrow). Additionally, we participated in the National Park Service "day of remembrance and healing" (August 25th), marking the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans to North America, and also joined nationwide ringing honoring Constitution Day (September 17th).

We hosted several visitors during the year, most of them coming from other bell towers in the United States, but a few coming from overseas. Most notably, the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, an outstanding English bell band, was with us on the weekend of October 27-29th. During their stay, the SRCY rang two full peals on the St. James bells, each peal involving nearly three hours of continuous ringing.

The St. James bell band currently consists of about a dozen active ringers and we are always anxious to add to our membership. Change ringing is a fun and mentally challenging art that does not take a lot of physical effort and can be mastered by young and old alike. To learn more, see the band's profile in the May 2019 issue of *Bold Life* (search for "The Secret in the Belfry" on boldlife.com). We practice on Monday nights and Saturday mornings, with some ringers attending only one session per week and others coming on both days. If anyone is interested in learning to ring, please do not hesitate to contact Bob Aldinger (robertaldinger@gmail.com) or Jim Loy (jamesdouglasloy@gmail.com).

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC / ORGANIST
Brad Gee

The music program at St. James continued to flourish in 2019. 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 eighteenth 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 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 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. They also sing for the early service on Christmas Eve.

The St. James Choir sings for the 9:00 service the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and the 11:15 service the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. This schedule has expanded the outreach of music to include the 9:00 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 our Interim Rector Carol Jablonski 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 / INTERCESSORS
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 25 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 both the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. services.

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.

With regret, we said goodbye to Lisa Wilt when she moved to Florida in October. We also welcomed Chris Chiles to the group, which kept the number of serving vergers at four.

F AITH FORMATION

ADULT FAITH FORMATION
Margaret Butler, Ministry Leader

Adult Formation is multifaceted with emphasis on theology, Bible and Prayer Book studies, introspection, and the ways our faith calls us into relationship with God, each other, all of God's creation, and to work for justice, mercy, and peace everywhere. In addition to periodic and ongoing small groups, we gather for classes each Sunday from 10:15 am- 11:00 a.m. in the Trinity Room. Topics in 2019 included: "How to Read the Bible," "Biblical Underpinnings of and Current Local, National, and International Reality of Immigration", "Our Little Roses Mission in Honduras," "Lake Logan", "Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem", "Catechesis of the Good Shepherd", "Art, History and Symbolism of St James stained glass windows", "Wisdom Series", and "Support for Caregivers and Care Receivers". Sr Madeleine Mary, Prioress of the Community of St Mary, Sewanee TN, led a Quiet Day in Lent. We invite scholars from our parish, and the larger regional and global communities to lead these classes. The Adult Formation Committee with clergy staff advice and counsel makes themes and class decisions. We meet at 11:15 on the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Margaret Butler, or another committee member, if you have ideas for Adult Formation classes or if you would like to join the committee.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS
Sallie Carr, Ministry Leader

For Sunday services, we print children's bulletins for the youngest worshippers at St. James, ages 3-6 and 7-12. These bulletins, along with crayons and pencils, are available for them at each service in the Narthex and on the bench outside the altar and flower guild sacristies. We hope these weekly bulletins aligned with the weekly readings engage St. James youngsters and provide an age appropriate way for them to learn during the service.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
Diane King, Ministry Leader

Children Chapel age 3-2nd Grade and 3rd Grade - 5th Grade processes before the Gospel to the Atrium and St. Francis Rm to Study Part I of Lessons from Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and returns during the sharing of the Peace. All are Welcome! This ministry reaches out to visitors and newcomers, it has been very fruitful to our Parish.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION: CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Diane King, Ministry Leader

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a common religious experience involving children and adults in which the religious values of childhood, primarily those values of contemplation and enjoyment of God, are predominant." The program is celebrating 21 years of Children's Ministries at St James this year. In addition to Diane, we are fortunate to have Danee Hoover and Carroll Toole as our 3 certified leaders of the Catechesis program, Level One for age 3 years - grade 2 and Level Two for grades 3-5. Each Sunday during the academic year we meet from 10:15 am- 11:00 a.m. in the atrium and St Francis room. The program is Montessori and New Testament based. Children have the freedom to select materials to which they are drawn with space for spiritual growth and discovery. The children actually teach the teachers in these classes! We are always looking for volunteers to join us in working with them! The main prerequisite is to love and enjoy children.

CHILDREN'S LENTEN PROGRAMS
Elly Withers, Director of Programs

The Children's Lenten Program begins after Ash Wednesday and continues each Wednesday evening during Lent. We join the adults for soup and sandwiches in the parish hall first, followed by an age appropriate movie series for spiritual formation.

DREAM GROUPS
Margaret Butler & Mary Anne Haden, Ministry Leaders for Thursday
Margaret LeMaster, Ministry Leader for Monday

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 Butler, Mary Anne Haden, or Margaret LeMaster.

EXTREME EYC
Elly Withers January-April; Diane King, May-December; Ministry Leaders

Extreme EYC, for grades 3-12, was initially created to encourage our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to join EYC as 6th graders. It has expanded to include age 3 years-12th grade. Youth and families enjoyed gathering for three events this year: a pool party at the Hendersonville Country Club, a Halloween party in the parish hall, and a hot dog supper in the Youth Room. Extreme EYC is well attended and a great community builder for St. James families with young children. Junior EYC (grades 1-5) also had a young families Valentine's Day Party and Coat Donation Drive in February.

EYC (EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY)

Elly Withers, January-May; Diane King, September-December; Ministry Leaders

EYC 6th grade-12th grade meets Sunday 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. Youth enjoy the fellowship and friendships and a family shares a meal each week. This fall we have been studying and watching video series from Bishop Curry "Walk of Love" with great discussion. We still have several more to view in January. Youth passed handouts downtown for the Gifts of Hope to shops as a service project and did a great job. The youth walked as families in the Henderson County Hunger Coalition 5K. We've had Extreme EYC gatherings, which include age 3-12th grade, for beginning of the school year at HCC pool party and a Halloween Party; enjoyed by both youth and families.

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 what it means to follow God, but are empowered by a relationship with God to make the world a better place. EYC meets every Sunday from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. during the academic year with youth in grades 6-12 in the St. James Youth Room. We begin EYC with a communal supper in Stillwell Hall provided by a different family each week. Following the meal the youth and leaders participate in a faith centered presentation and discussion. This fall we have been watching a video series by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, "Walking in the Way of Love", generating great conversation. In addition to weekly youth group, some of our youth participated in diocesan camps and conferences. Scholarship assistance is available to our young people to attend camps and EYC events. As service projects the youth distributed flyers to shops in downtown Hendersonville advertising Gifts of Hope and walked as families in the Henderson County Hunger Coalition 5K.

EYC JUSTICE LEAGUE

Elly Withers, Robert Danos, Steve Studebaker

How does what we hear in church each Sunday relate to how we live each day? 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 name for youth in grades 6-12. We meet from 10:15-11:00 a.m. in the EYC room during the academic year. A video clip or TED talk elicits animated discussion about the multiple ways our faith calls us to speak up, to take a stand, to work for justice, and against injustice, in our communities, nation, and the world.

LIBRARY

Margaret Butler, Ministry Leader

The St. James Library is a rich collection of volumes on theology, biblical and prayer book studies, spirituality and dream work. 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. If you have a passion for books, and a few hours a week, call Margaret to join the library team.

NURSERY

Brianna Rickle, Director

The nursery is often a child's first church experience. The most important thing they 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 with prior arrangement with nursery staff.

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 meets on Tuesdays in 2019. We have ten active members. Attendance averages six people. We meet from 6:45-8:15 pm. During that time we read and discuss aspects of Passage Meditation, watch a DVD and meditate together for 30 minutes. Each summer we select a mystic to study. This past year it was Mother Teresa. We read from her writings, as well as from biographical material.

Our group began in 2004. Periodically, an Introductory Series has been offered for those who would like to learn to meditate. Seventy seven people have attended the Series.

Our mission is to provide support and information for those interested in learning meditation skills and establishing a practice. In addition, we provide a place for practicing meditators to find support and information, as well as an opportunity to meditate together.

Once a year, I attend a week-long meditation retreat in Tomales, California, to update information, practice, and build skills.

THURSDAY MORNING STUDY GROUP
The Rev. Christie Olsen, Ministry Leader

The TMSG, currently with about twelve attendees, continued to meet after Joel's retirement in June. The group just finished reading Volume 1 of the contemporary literature series *Listening for God*, hopefully moving on to volume 2 in early 2020.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Diane King, Ministry Coordinator

VBS is a one-week annual event sponsored by four Hendersonville churches, including St James. The site is Trinity Presbyterian and is made possible by a creative staff of volunteers and money from all the churches. It is open to all school-age children with about 100 participants in 2019.

St. James had two adult volunteers for VBS this year –Danee Hoover and Diane King, one assistant volunteer, and six children who attended from St. James. This VBS featured a special theme, meet in the sanctuary, and had activities that included music, art, storytelling, a snack, and outdoor play. Bishop Jose' wife, Laurel McLoughlin, was also an instructor .

C

COMMUNITY SERVICE

ST. JAMES OUTREACH MINISTRIES

CUBA MISSION
Jack and Tari Watson, Coordinators

While there were no mission trips per se, six members from St. James attended the Synod (Diocesan Convention) of the Diocese of Cuba, at which time there were also four ordinations to the Diaconate. Our group had known some of these young men for quite a long time, and it was especially meaningful to attend their ordinations. Also at the convention, St. James was recognized as a visitor, and the group had the opportunity to express greetings from our parish. Since all the clergy were gathered, the St. James group (affectionately known as "The Cubits") had the opportunity to greet the three clergy and representatives from the nine congregations which we support prayerfully each Sunday in the Intercession of the Eucharist, as well as financially. Those congregations are San Lucas, Santa Maria, and San Pedro in Santiago de Cuba; San Juan Bautista, Palma Soriano; San Juaquin, Bayamo; San Marcos, Holguin; El Buen Pastor, Esmeralda, San Pedro, Joqui, and Transfiguration, Tabor. We also had a visit from The Rev. Gilberto Junco, a Cuban priest, at Thanksgiving. During his brief stay, he attended the Thanksgiving Eucharist as well as the parish Thanksgiving meal.

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

Four–six parishioners met 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.

OUTREACH COMMISSION

Alex Kealy, Ministry Leader

The Outreach Commission (OC) meets the second Monday of each month at 3:00 p.m. The Commission receives some funds directly from the Church and generates additional funds through Candlemas and 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.

2019 was an outstanding year for the Outreach Commission. Two major fund raisers netted: (1) over \$2,100 from Gifts of Hope/Ten Thousand Villages (to support international endeavors), and (2) over \$12,000 from Candlemas for local hunger relief. All Candlemas funds were divided between The Storehouse, IAM and the Hendersonville Rescue Mission.

Other major activities were:

- Provided \$400 to bi-lingual Cub Scout pack 607 based at St. James. Pack has grown to 16 Cubs.
- Continued to sponsor the writing of the article "The Quiet Ones" in the Epistle each month;
- Provided \$500 for St. James School For Little Folks scholarships.
- Held a day-long retreat for the members of the Outreach Commission. Retreat facilitated by Kevin Todd.
- Continued relationship and support of the eight churches in the Eastern end of the Diocese of Cuba. A "Black Beans and Rice Bowl" was held to raise awareness of St. James Companion relationship with the churches of Eastern Cuba. Raised \$5,000 through a classical piano concert with Andrew Rogelberg as the performer (Andrew did this without charge). Six people traveled to Cuba in March for the ordination of 4 young men — three whom the Watson's had known since they were teenagers. Hosted a Cuban priest over the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Provided \$1,000 for the Hunger Walk and solicited \$3,065 additional in support of the 25 walkers from St James;
- Provided an additional \$4,050 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 \$2,100. A Mission team trip to OLR has been planned and will be on site in Honduras in January, 2019.
- Raised about \$6,000 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 over 75 participants. Gave out 35 Christmas gifts for children attending the event.
- Provided \$1,000 to "Love Must Act", a school in South Africa (in support of our missionary, Jenny McConnachie) and \$1,000 for Bahamas hurricane relief.
- Provided \$250 for the Kairos Prison Ministry event at Craggy Mountain.
- Organized two special food collection initiatives: Thanksgiving Blessing of the Cans for IAM and Souper Bowl collection for God's Storehouse. Encourage, receives, and delivers donations of non-perishable food items to the Storehouse or IAM every week.

- Provided oversight for the Cox House administration/management.
- Hosted MLK Day of Service at St. James. Consisted of a short memorial service with Cub Scouts, Cadets from North Henderson High and some of the St James Youth commenting on what MLK Jr, said and what he means to youth today. Included over 150 participants and provided 7,152 rice and beans meals for a family of four and home made cookies for 5 first responder stations.
- Supported with funds ranging from \$25-\$300, and was involved in: True Ridge, Latina Festival, League of Women Voters, Dia de Los Muertos, and NAACP Social Justice issues, Immigration Issues Study Group.

As can be seen above, the Outreach Commission is a very active mission of St James at the local, national and international levels. We appreciate all of the **great** support provided by our clergy, vestry, staff and congregants through their time, talents and financial contributions. St James is truly a giving church as we have been commissioned by our Teacher, Healer, and Savior: Jesus Christ.

THURSDAY THRIFT SHOP
Dotty Jacobs, Store Manager

For the past 51 years, January has been the month the Thursday Thrift Shop has chosen agencies that that help those less fortunate. These are broken down into three categories: Our World around us, Our Community and Our St. James Parish. As always, the choice is difficult; however, we gifted 22 agencies with \$44,200.

In addition to the monetary support, we donate items of gently used clothing, furniture, and linens that are unsuitable for sale in the TTS to several Non Profit agencies i.e. Goodwill, I.A.M., both men's and women's job core training groups. Toiletries go to Safelight and The Hendersonville Rescue Mission. Eyeglasses go to the Lions Club.

Forty-eight volunteers work three hours every Monday and Tuesday and four and one-half hours on Thursday. They receive, sort, repair, wash, price, display, cashier, and sell. If you are interested in joining our family, please come see us. Thanks to all who have supported this outreach ministry by donating or consigning your gently-used household items, clothing, furniture, and jewelry.

AFFILIATED OUTREACH MINISTRIES

BLESSINGS IN BOXES
Sarah Carpenter, Ministry Leader

The Blessings in Boxes program partners with The Storehouse to provide Christmas gifts to approximately 2,000 children and youth in need in Henderson County every year. In 2019, St. James sponsored 100 children and raised over \$500.00. Thanks to each parishioner for making this another successful year.

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 individuals, 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. This year our teams provided over 350 hours of help on approximately 12 projects We helped HAC to serve 82 individuals and accomplish 75 repairs. Seventy-five percent of their clients were seniors, and forty percent were thirty percent below the area's median income (extremely low income limits). The funding for the Carpenter's Club has been primarily provided by a contribution from the St. James Outreach Commission and the HHH Grant from the Diocese of WNC. 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 or any of the current volunteers.

FEED THE KIDS
Kent M. Loy, Team 1 Leader

Feed the Kids Team 1 comprises over 75 enthusiastic volunteers from St. James, First Congregational, and Holy Family congregations, along with others 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 find their favorite jobs and co-workers and sign up only when their schedule permits.

During 2019, Team 1 fed 2,078 hot meals to children at the Boys and Girls Club of Hendersonville on our eight assigned Fridays. 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 goes without regular meals in Henderson County. St. James has a long history with ministries that feed the hungry. In 2019, 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 2019 Hunger Walk, and many parishioners raised money by walking in the Walk. This year, St. James served 2,078 meals to youth at the Boys & Girls Club. This was a 15% increase over 2018, serving over 300 young people every 5-6 weeks. St James parishioners, including the youth, also served meals at the Hendersonville Rescue Mission.

In 2019, 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, The Storehouse and Interfaith Assistance Ministry.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

FOYERS
Laurie Parkerson, Ministry Leader

2019 saw two Foyers groupings – spring and fall. Spring 2019 Foyers had 19 participants in 3 groups. Each group met for at least 3 dinners. There were several instances of hosts inviting additional guests to their dinners. Fall 2019 Foyers is currently underway with 22 participants in 4 groups. Groups are meeting and inviting guests. The groups were intentionally kept small so that inviting guests would be feasible, and that seems to be happening.

I am pleased to note that more and different people signed up for Fall Foyers, and that guests are being included in the dinners. My goal is to grow Foyers to include more people, specifically targeting newcomers and single people.

FUNERAL RECEPTION GROUP
Hardy Chandler, Ministry Leader

In 2019, the Funeral Reception Ministry provided a total of **nine** receptions for the families of our deceased parishioners. There are 64 participants on our four committees. Each committee has two co-chairs and fourteen to fifteen workers.

GREETERS
Sherry Fransioli, Ministry Leader

Currently, St. James has 29 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, & Katharine Burge, Ministry Leaders

The Hospitality Guild strives to model an attitude of warmth, inclusion, welcome and sociability at St. James. Throughout the year, Guild members and the Auxiliary Volunteers provided coordination, leadership and support for various social events. We kicked off the year by assisting with the Mardi Gras International Potluck, followed by coordination of the Lenten Suppers and Easter Coffee Hour. Later in the spring, a festive reception was held to honor

volunteers at St. James as well as those who volunteer in the wider community. For the second year, we moved the traditional Sunday social hour (held between the 9:00 and 11:15 services) outside for the summer months for "Lemonade on the Lawn." The Annual Church Picnic, held in September, provided a wonderful opportunity for about 130 parishioners from all services to come together for food and fellowship. In October, the Guild assisted the Stewardship Committee with a Sunday celebration of and thanks for the gifts of time, talent and treasure we commit to church. We ended the year, as always, by hosting the receptions for the Annual Lessons & Carols service held the first weekend in Advent.

Guild membership is open to all parish members who are enthusiastic about hospitality as a ministry and are willing and interested in leadership and coordination of parish social events. As Guild Auxiliary Volunteers, members contribute to specific events by decorating, preparing and/or serving food, and related tasks. Volunteers form a database and are invited through "Sign Up Genius" to participate as events occur. Recruitment for the Auxiliary takes place in January of each year. For more information about the Hospitality Guild and the Auxiliary, contact Sandra Winecoff (winecoff2000@yahoo.com), Katharine Burge (katharineburge@gmail.com) or Dorothy Fantle (dfantle@yahoo.com).

NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY **Shirley Walsh, Ministry Leader**

Below are reports for the various neighborhood groups that are currently in this ministry:

The Carriage Park group continues to operate as it has for years, socially and as a caring community; Sandra Winecoff is the leader.

The Oaks group has met socially several times in this year. It's a small group, and they take food to the ill and look out for one another.

The West Side and Downtown group has met several times this year, with two parties being held at the Plantation Walk Clubhouse. At the Christmas party, folks mentioned how nice it was to meet folks from other services. A spring get together will be held at the home of Miller & Bill Medina..

The Orleans, West of Haywood group met at Alex and Dan Kealy's home, who have offered to host a get together in early 2020.

The Laurel Park group has not yet met. Gil and Erin Rainey will attempt to get people together this year.

The Greater Rugby Area group held a holiday gathering for about 18 people, hosted by Ruth and Ken Mulvaney. Folks were enthusiastic about meeting fellow St. James members.

I will be retiring from developing new groups and ask for others volunteer so that we can keep this ministry growing and include all areas in the community. It's a social ministry which we hope to evolve into service to one another and a possible spiritual purpose.

PILGRIM QUESTS

Philip Wiehe & Linda McFadden, Ministry Leaders

PilgrimQuests is a ministry of Linda McFadden and Philip Wiehe, retired clergy and members of St. James. The purpose of PilgrimQuests is to foster spiritual exploration and transformation. Typically, 10-20% of our pilgrims are members of St. James; the rest come from throughout the United States and Canada.

In September, 2019, we led a pilgrimage to Iona with thirty pilgrims and five staff plus an optional side trip to Orkney. There The staff included Lisa Whitfield (Allelu! Music Director), Linda McFadden, Jerry Wright, Martha Hoelzer, and myself. Linda and Jerry offered lectures and discussions on Celtic spirituality, Jungian Psychology, and Brigid—the Christian saint and Celtic goddess. Lisa led the music that opened each presentation and broke the intentional silence at breakfast. Several pilgrims formed a group that offered music during the closing ritual that moved through the ruins of the Iona Nunnery noting the thresholds from one space to another as a metaphor for life-changing events. Martha, a professional photographer, took photos throughout the pilgrimage and offered instruction in a spiritual approach to photography. The Orkney side trip was at capacity with seven people and focused on Neolithic sites.

In 2020 PilgrimQuests has planned pilgrimages to Pueblo sites in the American Southwest in May and to Ireland in September. In September of 2021, PilgrimQuests will return to Iona.

RESOURCE COMMISSION
Kristin Huntley, Ministry Leader

The mission of the Resource Commission is to facilitate open, clear, and continuous communication within and among all ministries in a structured and accountable manner. In addition the Commission coordinates the work of the many ministries (led by Ministry Leaders) at St. James to ensure that space, time, funds, and all other resources are available to support the various ministry programs as effectively as possible.

The eighty+ ministries here at St. James are grouped in nine Ministry Areas each led by a Resource Commission Liaison as listed in your Annual Report. All Resource Commission Liaisons please stand to be recognized. We can be identified by our name tags with a yellow RC Liaison label.

- Worship and Liturgy – Charlie Medd
- Faith Formation – Margaret Butler
- Community Service – Tom Cramer
- Parish Life – Anne Grove
- Pastoral Care – Christie, Vicki Wright, and Judi Frame
- St James School for Little Folks – Teri Smith
- Stewardship – Tom Marshall
- Communications – Kristin Huntley
- Administrative Support – Debbie Mentch

The most current ministry list, which lists all 80+ ministries and each Ministry Leader’s contact information, is placed in the Narthex and Parish Hall for your use. Kristin Huntley serves as the Resource Commission Coordinator, who meets with the nine RC Liaisons and I meet the second Thursday of every month. Most months a Ministry Leader is invited as a special guest to give an overview of their ministry and answer any questions the Liaisons may have. The 2019 Annual Report reflects the Resource Commission structure as does our Website.

Our goals for 2019 were to (1.) to have a website with current and accurate information and (2.) continue to improve our staff and volunteers’ ability to use the ACS, our church software program, more efficiently and effectively.

We have charged ourselves for 2020 to develop a structure within which more parishioners would be encouraged to participate in at least one of our many ministries.

ST. JAMES BRIDGE GROUP
Anne Grove, Ministry Leader

The St. James Bridge Group meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. We have three tables of players and welcome any new players. We play “party” bridge which is enjoyable and stressless. We play at 1:00 p.m. until about 4:00 p.m. Bridge is a nice way to meet new people. Call Anne Grove at 808-4066 if you need more information or would like a seat at the table! Thank you.

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY
Gene Carr, Ministry Leader

The St. James transportation and van service continue to make the 11:15 Sunday service available to those at Carolina Village and Lake Pointe Landing who desire to attend. Ridership is down due to several of our regular riders who have died or who have experienced declining health; we average 2-4 riders each week, and sometimes when we have less than 3 riders, we have opted to use our personal vehicles rather than putting wear and tear on the van. We have 11 active drivers. The van was used by several other church related groups, and by the youth for their ski trip and for travel to and from Diocesan events.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE
Diane Jacober, Ministry Leader

The Welcoming Committee continued its focus on identifying visitors and helping newcomers become part of our parish community. We welcomed 145 visitors, created 70 new nametags and 29 replacement nametags. Thank you to our greeters for welcoming all our guests and newcomers and thank you to Matt Henry keeping records on them for our committee.

Thanks to Pat Whiteside, each guest received a personal letter welcoming him or her to St. James. And thanks to Sheila deBattenourt, each newcomer requesting a nametag received a phone call to welcome them and provide information about how to join St. James and connect to our community.

This year we started a new program called “Newcomers Café” where we invited each newcomer to a small gathering. At the Newcomer’s Cafe, we welcomed our newcomers and listened to why they chose St. James and what we could do to help them get connected. This was the initiative we pursued using the INVITE - WELCOME - CONNECT construct endorsed by the Episcopal Church and championed by the Resource Commission.

Dorothy Fantle provided leadership for our electronic church directory, which went live this fall. We thank Dorothy for her leadership and Dick Armstrong for taking the parish photos.

We thank all our greeters, especially Sherry Fransioli, who coordinates the greeters for all services. And we thank Meredith and Trevor Calhoun, Trini Fares and Suzanne Hardwick for making the nametags and organizing them in the boxes in the narthex.

PASTORAL MINISTRIES

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING – MARY & MARTHA CHAPTER

Carol Wald – Acting President, Rhona Nunez – Vice President, Melissa Roberts – Secretary, Patricia James – Treasurer

The purpose of the Daughters of the King is to help strengthen the spiritual life 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 study program. We support the various funds of the National DOK and attend Diocesan, Provincial and National Assemblies. The Mary/Martha Chapter is currently planning their 2020 calendar which will include a study program, continued visits with homebound and hospitalized parishioners on a regular basis and supporting our Clergy as well as the various ministries at St. James. All women of St. James are invited to sit in our meetings and give prayerful consideration to joining this ministry.

FOOD ANGELS

Sara Rainey & Shirley Walsh, Ministry Leaders

The Food Angel ministry includes a team of eight members who enjoy cooking for others during illness and/or post-hospitalization, on a temporary basis. The ministry invites any interested members to join us. This is another way to show God’s love in our parish.

GRIEF GROUP

Rev. Christie Olsen, Ministry Leader

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 one to fully experience the loss and then move forward at one’s own pace. The most recent group just completed their eight-week session in November with eight participants. The pastoral care team is providing follow-up contact with them.

INTERCESSORY/HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY

Cindy Drake, 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

LEV's (Lay Eucharist Visitors) take the blessed bread and wine from the altar to homebound parishioners, taking the present of Christ to someone who has been missing this contact with the body of Christ. Each parishioner received the Eucharist in this way twice a month. LEV's perform this service at a time convenient to the homebound person. We currently have 7 trained LEV's and 11 people who receive communion at this time. We 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

Currently, six trained laypersons visit with homebound parishioners on a regularity convenient to each. Their purpose is to keep these church members connected with the church. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Rev. Christie.

NEW BABY MINISTRY
Erin Rainey, Ministry Leader

This ministry visits new parents and babies by delivering a meal and a hand – made blanket or quilt welcoming the new little one into the parish.

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. We are currently looking for a coordinator for this ministry.

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
Elizabeth Henry, 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

Purpose: 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.

Winter Series: Our program this year began with a two-part series "Money: Master or Servant?" presented by the Rev. Bill Livingston. It included discussions about our earliest memories of money, how our family of origin viewed money, and how we learned our own values.

Annual Giving Program: The program in the fall included 20 parishioners who spoke during services about the importance of St. James in their lives and why they give to the parish and concluded with a powerful sermon by guest preacher the Rev. Dr. Luis León, retired Rector of St. John's, Lafayette Park, D.C. We continued to use weekly meditations from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship

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 continued to make our database more accurate.

Commitment Sunday was a joyful event with the ingathering of commitment cards followed by a festive brunch. Thirty parishioners set up, brought food and flowers, served, and cleaned up to make the brunch possible.

Stewardship Committee members prayed for a portion of the congregation during the annual pledge program, and we sent 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.

Members of the Committee: Robert Braswell, Jamie Blount, Janet Doyle, Elizabeth Henry, Tom Marshall, and Vicki Wright.

ST. JAMES ENDOWMENT FUND
Carey O'Cain, Interim 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 \$956,000 to \$1,095,768 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, email karen@stjamesepiscopal.com with your information.

BUILDING & GROUNDS
Eric Goodman, Ministry Leader

In 2019, Buildings and Grounds identified, addressed, and completed numerous issues along with Capital Campaign projects. The notable projects were:

- a metal carport-type structure was constructed for the church van
- new windows were installed on east side of the administrative offices
- the metal fire escape serving Music Room was sandblasted and painted
- the Narthex doors were painted and sealed
- electrical safety issues were addressed
- water seepage issues were addressed
- vital data and preventative maintenance information was compiled and archived through the Map Con program

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Tom Doyle, Chair

The Finance Committee of St. James Episcopal Church (SJEC) is currently comprised of six parishioners, serving three year terms, the Rector, and the Senior or Junior Warden. The financial administrator serves as an ex-officio member. Our mission is to review the monthly finances of SJEC and the School for Little Folks, in order to ensure compliance with approved budgetary guidelines. In addition we prepare and submit to the Vestry, during the fourth quarter of each year, an annual operating budget for the forthcoming year.

We also review the annual outside audit, and meet with our external auditors, to review their findings and recommendations. The accountant prepared Financial Statements for SJEC, for the year ended December 31, 2018 can be made available for review, upon request to the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE
Pat Whiteside, Ministry Leader

I think I can safely say that the Memorial Garden Committee has the fewest meetings of any of our Church's ministries. This can be a good or a bad thing. We have very loyal and capable members who are willing to do some weeding and trimming in the Garden when they have some spare time. This, along with a few general work days, is what keeps our Special Place looking beautiful. We had a little glitch this year when it was thought that our sprinkler system was causing water to flow into the basement. However, the problem turned out to be a missing cap on one of the downspouts, which was jammed with leaves. Our garden guru, Richard Ward, climbed up, cleaned out and capped the offending downspout. Richard is the man we go to when a job is too much for us to handle, and he's been a Godsend over the years. Also this year, Perry Jones, our Sexton, did the mammoth job of cleaning the leaves out of the Garden. A time-consuming task for which we were very grateful.

The Wednesday Work Crew came to our rescue when the fencing covering the gas pipes rotted out. They built a great fence, higher than the original which didn't completely cover the eyesore, and added a gate. These folks do so many things, along with the Grounds Committee, and they do them without a lot of thanks or recognition. We are so fortunate to have them!

As I remind everyone every year, our Garden is not part of the Church budget and we rely on donations and a percentage of the interment funds to provide our funding. We welcome monetary donations, along with donations of time and energy. If you would like to become part of our Lay Weeders group, please call me at 828-891-4429. We are one of only 260 Quiet Gardens in the world and we want to keep it as lovely and welcoming as possible.

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 Renee Fraser, Tom Garrison, Jack Frost, Liz Pearson, Barbara Greene, Debi Coffee, Pat Pace, Sheila deBettencourt, Connie Cooper, Katharine Burge, Dick Laux, and Bob Darling; our substitute receptionists were Dick Armstrong, Virginia Gambill, and Bev Jackman. These volunteers answered phones, greeted visitors, and helped assemble bulletins and mailings. We are currently looking for volunteers who can be trained to assist with bulletin printing and collation as well.

A luncheon was held for our office volunteers in September as a small token of our deep appreciation for all that they do.

WEDNESDAY WORK CREW
Larry Burge, Ministry Leader

The Wednesday Work Crew (WWC) is comprised of approximately 10 church volunteers who typically meet Wednesday mornings from 9:00am to noon to perform minor maintenance and repairs around the church and the SFLF. This year, the crew members collectively volunteered over 2,000 hours. A conservative cost avoidance estimate for the church due to their efforts is over \$40,000. Anyone interested in volunteering, regardless of skill level, should contact Larry Burge at lburge65@gmail.com. The following projects were accomplished:

- Below are typical of some of the projects completed this year:
- Repaired, primed, and painted ceiling in Cox House.
- Repaired back door screen to Cox House, especially bottom panel; scrape, sand, and paint.
- Stained wall panels in Cox House.
- Cleaned floor, especially paint flakes in Cox House.
- Cleaned front porch of Cox House.
- Removed superfluous items such as furniture from Cox House and recycled.
- Repaired several doors in SFLF.
- Verified viability of smoke alarms.
- Installed carbon monoxide detectors.
- Painted drywall in SFLF.
- Installed casing and baseboard in the SFLF.
- Installed 1X2 ceiling trim along top of north wall in new bathroom of SFLF.
- Painted new bathroom in the SFLF.
- Built shelving in store room.
- Painted several rooms in SFLF.
- Relocated door buzzer in Director's office.
- Repaired threshold at Thrift Shop workroom.
- Washed windows.
- Repaired sprayer adjacent to dishwasher in kitchen.
- Cleaned/organized workshop, especially relocating lumber to shed adjacent to dumpster.
- Remodeled parishioner's mobile home.
- Functioned as sexton until one was hired.
- Attached security hasp to door to the crawl space at the Cox house.
- Cleaned gutters around Thrift Shop.
- Erected pinewood derby track for Cub Scout troop.

- Zip-sealed leaky stain glass windows in acolyte room.
- Cleaned crawl space under Cox house.
- Repaired toilet in men's bathroom adjacent to Parish Hall.
- Re-stripped lines in parking lot.
- Repaired leaking faucets.
- Added second coat to handrail from parking lot to kitchen.
- Painted hallway adjacent to Trinity Room down to Parish Hall.
- Repaired wooden sign in front of church.
- Power-washed and sand posts along Thrift Shop frontage.
- Repaired broken tiles in Nave.
- Refinished benches in courtyard.
- Reconstituted the dwelling for St. Fiacre.
- Cleaned water drains in staff parking lot.
- Painted posts and front door to the Thrift Shop.
- Replaced several ballasts.
- Repaired fencing in playground.
- Removed cardboard bin fencing.
- Removed fencing around EYC room.
- Attached door sweeps to Narthex doors.
- Painted walls and trim in SFLF.
- Built adult-size picnic table for indoor courtyard.
- Cleaned out old storage areas in playground.
- Built cardboard bin with two top doors that can be locked.
- Attached shoe mould to hallway of SFLF.
- Built child-size picnic table for indoor courtyard.
- Disposed of large branches in the back and staff parking lots.
- Touched up paint on ceiling in new SFLF bathroom.
- Cleaned floor glue in new SFLF bathroom.
- Hanged cabinets in new bathroom in the SFLF.
- Built canopy supports for playground sandlot.
- Rearranged banners in parish hall.
- Repaired the locking mechanisms on the door locks at Thrift Shop.
- Cleaned the air return grates in the Parish Hall.
- Power-washed the underside of the roof and rafters outside the Thrift Shop.
- Repaired the drain line to the HVAC condensation unit in the Thrift Shop workroom.
- Mulched the round bed at the church entrance.
- Painted the walls and trim in the hallways of the SFLF.
- Re-graded curb in front of Thrift Shop.
- Filled in hole in sidewalk in front of Thrift Shop.
- Built a chase for inoperable radiator unit in hallway of SFLF.
- Applied rust treatment and gray primer to rusty doors outside the EYC and Thrift Shop.
- Removed weeds in the bed outside of the trinity room.
- Painted all doors to Thrift Shop.
- Painted the Thrift Shop front door red.
- Repaired sidewalk in courtyard.

- Installed push bars exterior doors in Narthex and courtyard/cloister.
- Replaced water-stained ceiling tiles in office area hallway.
- Repaired two-wheel cart.
- Built Mud Pie Kitchen in SFLF playground.
- Repaired boiler room door.
- Repaired several toilets.
- Applied gator dust to edges of flagstone.
- Removed several tree stumps.
- Performed minor landscaping at Cox house.
- Repaired window trim in reception hallway.
- Cleared out a space along south parking lot for the dumpster.
- Laid sod in small courtyard.
- Cushioned HVAC grates in the Nave.
- Leveled area to accept dumpster.
- Relocated concrete benches and large picnic table from small courtyard to Cox House.
- Repaired interior window trim in reception hallway.
- Painted No Parking striping behind the Church van.
- Painted No Parking striping adjacent to the Staff parking lot.
- Repaired backdoor screen at Cox house.
- Washed windows along hallway in reception area and bell tower hallway.
- Repaired squeak in the floor of the pulpit.
- Repaired the threshold for the Pre-K classroom.
- Installed rack in Parish Hall for church bulletins.
- Repaired Thrift Shop roof joints.
- Painted the trim of the two casement windows of the boiler room and EYC bathroom.
- Painted the 1X6 trim at the Thrift Shop.
- Applied mulch to flowerbeds in Meditation Garden.
- Repaired the jamb on the door to the dungeon.
- Repaired threshold, install towel dispenser, electrical extension, and toy repairs in SFLF.
- Removed trip hazard roots in playground at the SFLF.
- Painted exterior to back door to kitchen.
- Repaired door latches in SFLF.
- Repaired Fire Exit signs in SFLF.
- Dismantled folding table next to dumpster.
- Dismantled and dispose of the scissor lift scaffolding in the storage shed.
- Install locking mechanism on door into the dungeon.
- Attached Bud Zalesky's plaque next to where his ashes are interred.
- Repaired fire doors in the SFLF.
- Rebuilt the double doors into courtyard from meeting rooms hallway.
- Repaired hinges on refrigerator.
- Repaired of step stool in the SFLF.
- Painted shelf parts for Gifts of Hope Holiday Fair.
- Applied second coat of paint on transoms in the SFLF.
- Assisted in clearing Parish Hall after the GOHHF.
- Replaced picket fence in Memorial Garden.

ST. JAMES SCHOOL FOR LITTLE FOLKS
Teri Smith, Director; Sallie Carr, Board Chair

During the 2019 school year the School for Little Folks enrollment averaged 53 children per month. This continues a trend of being under enrollment for the past few years.

Our scholarship program for families in need has seen a steady increase in the need for scholarship. This past year we awarded 8,250.00 in scholarships to several families. There are some St. James parishioners who have been faithful contributors to our scholarship throughout this year as well as some who have made generous contributions periodically this past year.

This year the director and one of the Pre-K teachers have been asked to work on a joint committee with Smart Start and public school to help transition our children to kindergarten. We work very hard to prepare those children for the next phase of their educational journey. We held a "Lunch and learn" with two kindergarten teachers as invited guests so parents could hear from the teachers what exactly their child needed to be ready and what parents can expect as they send their children off to kindergarten.

Our Christmas dinner with Santa is always a well-attended event and 2019 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 with a Teddy Bear picnic in the parish hall, with parents and teddy bears as invited guests. We also hosted the Hendersonville fire department along with a truck and firefighters to talk with the children about fire safety and a climb up on the truck as well as a fire helmet for everyone.