

ST. JAMES THE LESS 2019

ANNUAL REPORT



Paths to Spiritual Nourishment:
Finding Our Way in Northfield

A YEAR AT ST. JAMES THE LESS

2019 Annual Report



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Paths to Spiritual Nourishment

Rev. Lisa Senuta

I have been wildly blessed this year with visits to the Holy Land and Madagascar. From the Sea of Galilee to lemurs and baobab trees, from Bethlehem to the southern hemisphere—what a wide and wonderful world we live! Both of these visits were more than tourism—they were sacred pilgrimages. In both countries, I observed and met with Christians living, worshipping and ministering in these distinct places.



In the Holy Land, I witnessed Coptic monks who spend their days praying on the roof of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Their life of devotion happens there on Golgotha, the place we remember Jesus's sacrifice and resurrection. They don't seem to care if Christianity is relevant or not.

In southern Madagascar, most churches do not rely on a building to form their community—instead they meet under trees for worship. I visited one such tree that parishioners were eager to show me as the beginning place of their church. Now they meet in a small thatched roof space with a dirt floor. Spiritual community is what draws them together.

I cannot help but juxtapose those churches with our suburban parish and our lovely steeple and red brick church with manicured grounds, finely printed bulletins, pipe organ, and over \$500,000 in income. Observe how diverse the church is—monks on the roof of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to individuals praying under a tree in Madagascar to us! Our diversity of devotion to God reveals just how great God is!

I celebrate another year of our shared faith
and corporate response to God's love.

Creative yet Traditional Episcopal Worship

People of all ages participate in Sunday worship. Seasonal liturgies highlight sacred themes in prayer and song. This year we held a Celtic Outdoor Mass, a Beatles Mass, a Soul Mass, an Illustrated Stations of the Cross, and Josh and I authored a new Advent Lessons and Carol service called *Strangers in a Strange Land*.

Farewell to kClare McKellaston

Over her short four years of leadership, kClare supported positive, flexible and creative programming for children and youth. She got the whole parish involved with children and youth, creating a whole parish approach to children and youth ministry. Now that we are actively searching for a new Director of Children and Youth programming, we will search for someone to continue and add to the good things that kClare brought to our programs.

Buildings and Grounds Has a New Chair

Chip Herndon brings new energy and is making three year and five year plans for the care, keeping and development of our lovely buildings and grounds.

The Labyrinth is Completed

It sits south of the church building under a lovely oak tree for us and for our neighbors to take an outdoor walk with God. New signs and directions for the use of the labyrinth will be added in 2020.

Income is Good and We are a Stable Parish

Pledged income was 10% over our budget for the second year in a row, which is great news as we move forward with hiring more staff to support our ministries and development of the parish. Close to 100 people worship each week. We have 22 families with children, and approximately 45 individuals 80+ years young. Over 80 individuals volunteer for the Sunday Rota and/or outreach endeavors.

Outreach

Our ongoing programs continue to thrive under faithful leadership and are flexible when meeting changes and challenges. From Madagascar to Chicago to a nursing center in Northbrook, we do many things to reach out to people in physical need. Additionally, we have identified in our parish mission that outreach is not only providing for physical needs, but it is also providing much needed classes and support groups. From grief support, to marriage enrichment to organizational help using Living Compass as a model for planning, this may be one of the most important things we do as a parish. Through these programs we reveal that Christ's love is for all kinds of need and His hand reaches out to heal people in all kinds of trouble.

Other Professional Work and Development

I continue on the Board of Directors for Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. I accepted an invitation to serve as chaplain to the Bishop's Standing Committee. I continue to be a mentor priest for the Fresh Start diocesan program helping the newly ordained. I will be attending CEEP, Consortium of Episcopal Endow Parishes, in February it is the highest acclaimed Episcopal networking conference. The theme is Leading Beyond the Walls.

I look forward to 2020

New Staff

The Vestry has approved two new hires in 2020, a Director of Children and Youth Ministry and a Program Coordinator to oversee outreach endeavors and develop other programs that invite neighbors into our church. I am grateful and ready for these to be filled. I am feeling the pressure of being understaffed.

Leadership Development

The Vestry has identified two important but challenging goals moving forward. They are leadership development, and building a stronger process to invite, welcome and connect with visitors. These goals will be considered at the upcoming Vestry Retreat.

In Conclusion

St James the Less is a responsible and loving parish. We are busy at maintaining our ongoing programs while offering new forms of welcome. This is challenging. We must not burn out doing good. Remember what called you. The silent voice that has drawn people to this parish for over 60 years continues to sustain us and give us new energy. Remember, it is God who is the author of our good works and responsible stewardship. Lean on God to fill you and sustain you. Join my prayer for St James the Less to be a place

for spiritual nourishment, healing and growth for us and for the future.

It is God alone who draws people to worship the one true creator, redeemer and sustainer of all life.

Whether people are in Madagascar, or as monks on the roof of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher or here at St. James the Less, God alone is our spiritual nourishment and without God we can do nothing good.



REPORT OF THE SENIOR WARDEN

Matthew Berry

Over the last year, the vestry has gathered around the theme of Invite, Welcome, Connect to organize our thinking. It is such a perfect way to think about church in general and represents quite well the spirit here at St. James the Less where we are invited to worship and serve; where we welcome the community into our space and the Holy Spirit into our hearts; and where we connect with God and each other. Our programs in 2019 reflected the spirit of Invite, Welcome, Connect. We embraced invitations to serve in our community and across the world. We welcomed our neighbors for meals on The Common and a concert in the Parish Hall. And we connected with each other at small group dinners and pastoral visits.

Our ability to live out the spirit of Invite, Welcome, Connect is enabled by countless individuals who invest their time in this place. Thanks to those parish leaders, we have organized outreach activities, healthy income for operations and programming and a sustainable budget, and beautiful facilities and property that welcome the community. We have a thoughtful and attentive vestry that works hard to support our mission and vision. Vestry meetings are time well spent with enriching conversations around formation activities and questions about the future of OUR church and THE church. The time commitment is manageable and increasingly flexible. I encourage everyone to consider serving on the vestry, even if you think you aren't "the vestry type." Because there isn't a vestry type. We need all types of people in leadership roles in our community. Moreover, it is a loving and forgiving place to serve in leadership. You will learn about our church, how it operates, and as in all new challenges you will learn a bit about yourself.

It has been a pleasure to serve as a warden for the last two years. Lisa is an inspirational leader with an optimistic vision for the future of our church. I have enjoyed working with her to build on that vision through projects that enhance our programs and property to invite others to connect with God through St. James the Less. Thank you to Dane and Hope for joining the vestry as Senior and Junior Warden. I am confident that we are in good hands under their wise leadership.

REPORT OF THE JUNIOR WARDEN

Patrick Small

It has been a blessing to serve as your Junior Warden in 2019. In accepting the position, I anticipated that it would be a personal growth opportunity as I had an opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of St. James the Less. It has been quite exciting to observe and participate in the many endeavors of the church as we are under constant contemplation and evaluation of how to meet the needs of our parish and community. The questions of what goals do we want to accomplish and what mission do we want to continue with should be a shared initiative by all members of St. James.

The Vestry encourages comments, questions and feedback to ensure we are making decisions that reflect the needs of our parishioners. Under the leadership of Lisa and the guidance of the Vestry, St. James has embraced a wide variety of methods to communicate, invite and sustain the needs of our parish, and I believe that it is in good hands to continue down that path.

Financially, we've been the beneficiary of generous financial support on various levels all of which has been put to good and thoughtful use to maintain not only the building, but our presence within the community and the many ministries with which we support. I entered into the position of Junior Warden in conjunction with completing my third year on the Vestry. As such I will be leaving the Vestry this coming year but will continue my presence in supporting the church along with my family as it gives us great joy to do so.



Worship Ministries



SERVING AT THE TABLE: ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Morr

St. James the Less is most fortunate to operate with a team of twelve very dedicated members. With their consistent commitment, every regular 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Sunday service has been capably set, as well as the extra services occurring during Lent and the Christmas Season. Additionally, Altar Guild members assisted with one marriage ceremony, two baptisms, and eight funerals.

The 2019 Altar Guild Members were Amy Alcorn, Marila Beatty, Peggy Greene, Beth Ingram, Judy Marquardt, Meredith Montross, Phil Montross, Nancy Morr, Diane Otis, Anita Ruesch, Jeannie Scully, Alixe Small.

Responsibilities of the Altar Guild include managing details relative to the altar, sacraments, and linens for all scheduled services. Thanks are due the Schipfers and Schultz & Ohdner for their cleaning of vestments and altar coverings, as needed.

It is a pleasure to work with every faithful member of this special group!

BELOVED OF GOD: ADULT FORMATION

Lisa Senuta

An old expression, ‘Christianity is caught not taught’ still applies. Formation in the ways of Christ are something we pick up over our lifetime through being with other Christians as much as it is something we learn through study. In this sense we grow as Christians when we enter practices that develop faith. There are many practices that form us at St James the Less: singing in the choir, lecturing, serving at the altar, providing a meal at A Just Harvest, visiting nursing home residents at the Grove, worship, volunteering, teaching Godly Play, being a confirmand mentor as well as the items listed below all form us in faith.

Christian Meditation—offered four times a month, two Mondays at 1:00 p.m. and two Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Lisa offers teaching and guides parishioners into a time of silent prayer.

Living Compass—provides daily devotions for both Lent and Advent, We also offered a grief group using the program during December.

Quiet Day and Retreats—Rising Strong Women’s Retreat September 27-28 Techny Towers; Forgive and Live Quiet Day April 6.

Thirty Worthy Minutes—Every Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. parishioners gather around a variety of topics for learning and discussion. A few highlights include: Traveling the Way of Love, Madagascar Reflections, How to use a Labyrinth, What is Celtic Christianity?

Vestry Retreat—This year the Vestry and other parish leaders gathered at the church Friday and Saturday in February and considered the guiding principles of a program called, Invite, Welcome, Connect.

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHILDREN

kClare McKellaston

Another year over at St. James the Less! It's difficult to believe it has flown by so quickly! At the end of this year, I announced I was leaving after four and a half years with St. James the Less. In my time here, I have always focused on creating ways for our children, youth, and families to interact with each other, the parish, and the wider community. I believe 2019 was a year full of that and will continue into 2020!

We had another turnover in our Nursery: Camon Hopkins left after a year in our church, but her legacy to us was a new perspective on the power of hospitality that that position provides our church. We set out to hire someone with that in mind. And we found Maddie Shearer—an elementary school teacher who has led the Nursery with the care and guidance that exemplifies the values we hold. Her presence is a bridge to new families, who trust her with their children. We are so grateful she has joined us at St James the Less.

Our foundational programs continued. Godly Play remains strong with our core group of leaders: Sally Neuert, Amy Berry, Anita Ruesch, Judy Lefferdink, Carla Shaver, Karie Smith, Melissa Watson. Godly Play has been enriched by adding a special section every month for children aged 8-12 led by Maureen Burke. The consistency of this program is what makes all other programs possible. This is where the children learn to know God and each other, which creates a lifelong love for our church and faith. I am beyond appreciative of the work these leaders do in this room.

Sunday Skip Day for Youth 12 and up was back, and in the Fall, we created a new focus for the (sort of!) monthly program by having parishioners come and share their skills with the youth. Hosts for the Fall included Bill Lauck, Allen Smith, Hope Martin, and Laura Ruesch, and the youth learned to change a car tire, about training for an endurance sport, and how to bake a hand pie. This expansion from the “skip church” philosophy the program started with has been a huge success, and it has strengthened the core value of bringing the parish together in creative ways.

We had a bunch of exciting new events in addition to our annual events. Here's a little highlight reel:

In February, we held a successful event about kids and their phones! We heard from expert Alexis Lauricella, a researcher with the Erikson Institute, about creative ways to balance phone usage with our kids.

Our Shrove Tuesday traditional pancake supper was given a whole new spin with authentic New Orleans food courtesy of Alixe Small. It was a wonderful update to our annual event!

Our Youth Sunday in June was a blast, complete with our Dairy Queen cart—a crowd favorite!

We held another Community Concert on the day of our Backpack Blessing. It was originally slated to be on the Commons but moved inside because of weather. This year, our special guest was Nick Davio, who plays with our beloved Beatles' Band, and is an amazing children's musician in his own right. Again, it drew many people from the wider community. We added a special treat to the end—an ice cream truck! It was a delightful afternoon.

Our Mother Daughter Tea featured a focus on stress relief, relaxation, and creating healthy connections in relationships. Our host was Dr. Lisa D’Innocenzo, who led us through a conversation and activity, which paired with our delicious treats and warm tea.

One of the truly amazing things about SJTL is our commitment to service. The children and youth have committed as well, taking on many tasks throughout the year in our parish’s various outreach ministries. Families serve at A Just Harvest and Feed My Starving Children. Children have taken an active role in Sewing Club, which creates blankets for Quilts Beyond Borders and pantliners for Days for Girls.

Though I’ve left St James the Less, I know the care for Children and Youth will continue because of the values the parish place on the importance of these programs. Here’s to 2020!

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Joshua Langhoff

Worship and music are central to the spiritual life of St. James the Less. This is true in so many ways—from our Sunday morning services to afternoons at The Grove Nursing Facility, from concerts on the lawn to impassioned conversations about favorite hymns, from new worship experiences to traditional carols at Christmas time. God’s gift of song is always welcome here!

Our worship remains a blend of the traditional and the new. The Episcopal Church is blessed with abundant resources: *The Hymnal 1982*, *Wonder Love & Praise*, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, and several online databases. When planning services, my goal is to reflect on the week’s readings with a mix of familiar hymns and new hymns that can be easily learned.

In addition to having weekly music at the 10:00 a.m. service, twice a month we sing two hymns at the 8:00 a.m. service. Usually this happens on the first and third Sunday of the month.

The Beatles Mass continues to enliven our sanctuary every spring. In 2019 we even got a couple shout-outs from Terri Hemmert on WXRT’s Sunday morning “Breakfast With the Beatles” show. Carrying that energy into the fall, on Sunday, October 20, we celebrated our second annual Motown Mass. Led by the immensely talented local band Peter and the Versatiles, with preaching from Father Alonzo Pruitt, we celebrated God’s presence using classic soul and R&B songs, from “Stand By Me” to “Let’s Stay Together”.

The adult choir is a joy to sing with. They rehearse every Thursday night from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., and again at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The choir helps lead worship in a number of ways: by introducing new hymns; by enhancing familiar hymns with harmonies and descants; by leading the Psalms and other service music; and by offering anthems that reflect on the week’s readings. The members of the choir lead with confidence, hoping to inspire similar confidence in the congregation. New choir members are **always** welcome and **always** needed. Thanks to all the family members of our choir volunteers, for making it possible for them to serve this ministry.

This fall we welcomed four New Trier students—Amelia Tam, Hope Kim, Liam Ryan, and Xariah Chase—as Choral Scholars. This program pays local high school students to sing with the choir, deepening its sound and bolstering its confidence. These talented students are a blessing to our weekly music. Through our

Guest Musicians fund, we were also able to hire professional singers for several festive worship services, including Michaelmas, All Saints' Day, and Christmas Eve.

We saw more worship services led by Band the Less, a rotating roster of praise band singers and guitarists. This band helps bring energetic, contemporary music into our worship, and is an ideal opportunity for folks who want to help lead music but can't attend regular choir rehearsals. Let me know if that's you!

The children's choir practices after Sunday worship in two overlapping groups: the younger SongPlay Choir (pre-k through 4th grade) and the Youth Choir (2nd grade and up). With the help of supportive parents and Mr. Bunny, a mischievous garden thief I have pressed into service, the SongPlay Choir has a fine time learning simple songs and playing musical games. The Youth Choir is really good at singing in parts and making up illustrative hand gestures. Whenever these two choirs join forces in church, they light up the room.

On December 8, we pioneered a new format for our Advent Lessons and Carols service. Dispensing with most of the traditional readings, we instead focused on the Bible's stories of immigrants, including the two migrations of the Holy Family. The service invited us to identify with the plight of migrant people throughout history and into our own time. It was wonderful for me to see the choir, over a span of only a few weeks, devoting their time and talent to mastering this sometimes difficult music.

As we enter 2020, I'm excited for the musical friendships our church has made throughout the Northfield community and beyond. Our community worship services with Lutheran Church of the Ascension and Northfield Community Church, featuring a large combined choir, are always a pleasure. On Sunday, February 24, we joined the choir of St. David's in Glenview to present a concert of John Rutter and other English composers. Though we spent most of the year without a full Choral Scholar roster, the money we saved allowed us to bring in more outside musicians for Holy Week, All Saints' Day, and Christmas Eve. Our sanctuary was the site of several student recitals from local music studios.

Music is a great gift; it connects us to other people, and it connects our souls to God in ways that mere speech cannot. May music continue to bless your life this year.

FLOWER GUILD

Jane Otis

The flowers on the altar each Sunday are arranged by volunteer members of the Flower Guild and ordered from Edwards Florist when there are no volunteers. When ordered, the money for the flowers is supplied through memorial contributions and from parishioners who sign up week by week and make financial contributions for the flowers as remembrances and thanksgivings in their lives.

The following dedicated Flower Guild members are: Kathleen Dewey, Dorothy Generes, Judy Lefferdink, Dede McKnight, Jane Otis, Marcella Oyer, Diane Sawyer, Sarah Schneider, Linda White, and Marilyn Webster. Although the list may seem plentiful, many of our members are away for the winter months and for those who are here, circumstances occur that necessitate taking time off . . . so please, if you enjoy working with flowers or would like to learn, we would love to have you join us!

DOING WORSHIP TOGETHER

Liturgical Volunteers

8:00 a.m. Service	Charles Ash	Jack Kessie	Ashley Podjasek
Barbara Bredehoeft	The Babbs Family	Jeff Kivetz	Christoph Ritterson
Judy Lefferdink	Donna Babiarz	Zach Langhoff	Mary Saunders
Phil & Meredith	Charlotte Berry	Bill Lauck	Colleen Schipfer
Montross	Bill & Maureen Burke	The Lund Family	Denny Scully
Jim & Diane Otis	Kim Burnson	Nylah & Liam Madden	The Senuta Family
Elliott Otis	The Carini Family	Heather Mages	The Shaver Family
Dick Peterson	Dane Clevon	Danny & Sofie Malan	The Small Family
Denny Scully	Kathleen Dewey	The Martin Family	The Smith Family
Katie Synek	Bill Frazier	The Mason Family	Glen Tracy
	Tom Frey	Dede McKnight	John P. White
10:00 a.m. Service	The Getz Family	Mike Mills	Nancy Whiteman
The Alcorn Family	Chip & Janice Herndon	Sally Neuert	Ceci Wooster

BEING A LITURGIAL CHURCH

The Sacraments in Action

Baptisms

Finn William Schroeder

Teagan Griggs Lish

Marriage

Charles H. Herndon & Tara E. Gresens

Funerals

Norman Morris Hasch

Anna Maria Hasch

Frank Alongi

Barbara Bruning Silge

Marcia L. Frey

William L. Stickney, III

Roger Simpson Hurd

Leah Suzanna McInlvaine Dobyngs Harboe

Sunday Worship Attendance

2019 Attendance at St. James the Less
Rite 1 Sunday Services—8:00 a.m.

528

Average 2019 Attendance at the 8:00 a.m. Service—12

Average 2018 Attendance at the 8:00 a.m. Service—16

Average 2017 Attendance at the 8:00 a.m. Service—20

2018 Attendance at St. James the Less
Rite 2 Sunday Services—10:00 a.m.

4,086

Average 2019 Attendance at the 10:00am Service—80

Average 2018 Attendance at the 10:00am Service—82

Average 2017 Attendance at the 10:00am Service—82

Attendance for Ash Wednesday Services—99

Attendance for Easter Service—189

Attendance for the Beatles Mass—183

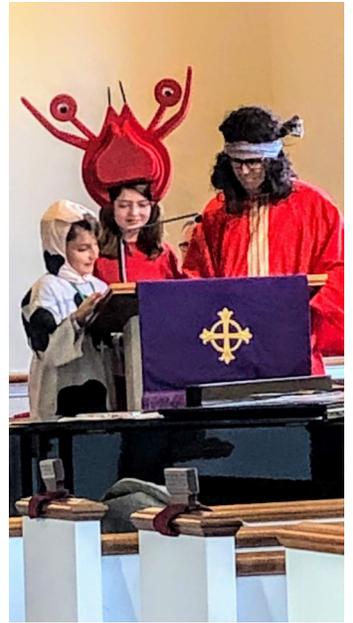
Attendance for the Motown Mass—121

Attendance for Christmas Eve/Day—257

Attendance for The Grove Nursing Facility—579



Life in Our Community



CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

2019 in Review

January

Parent Conversations

February

Annual Parish Meeting & Brunch

Vestry & Parish Leaders' Retreat

Living Compass: Always on the Phone

March

Mardi Gras Dinner

Ashes To Go

April

Forgive and Live Quiet Day

Palm Cross Making Workshop

Newcomer Coffee

Agape Meal & Maundy Thursday Worship

Journey to the Cross for Children

Meditation on Christ's Sacrifice & Communion

Taize Good Friday Service

Easter Celebrations

Beatles Mass & Silent Auction Brunch

May

Sacraments Class

June

Youth Sunday

July

Tour of Organic Gardener's Urban Farm

Golf Outing

August

Potluck on the Commons

Lisa's Trip to Madagascar

September

Backpack Blessing

Mr. Nick Concert on the Commons

Labyrinth Consecration

Lobster Sale

Women's Retreat

Michaelmas and All Angels

October

Blessing of Animals & Celtic Mass

Soul Mass

Newcomer Coffee

November

Small Group Dinners

Diocesan Convention

December

Mother-Daughter Tea

Living Well in the Midst of Grief and Loss

Lessons & Carols

Christmas Baskets for ReVive Center

Christmas Pageant & Cookie Exchange

Longest Night Service

Caroling at the Grove

Christmas Celebrations

Worship with Our Neighbors

THE COMMONS

Matthew Berry

We continued to make progress in developing The Commons. Thanks to the generosity of the parish in our last capital campaign and the continuing generosity of parishioners with ideas for highlighting the space, the Capital Campaign fund has a healthy balance of \$74,342. Over the course of 2019, we spent \$21,024.

The highlight for the year was installation of the labyrinth in the southwest corner of the property with parishioners contributing to the beauty of the space by painting bricks that line the path. The labyrinth was featured in an October issue of the *Winnetka Current*. We also installed brick pillars to highlight the entry points for The Commons.

The Commons Committee continues to meet to work toward completing the list of remaining projects which includes a garden house and a paved walkway. The garden house has proven to be a more difficult task than initially anticipated due to village zoning code. Members of the committee will meet with the village soon to discuss options.

COMMUNICATIONS

Caryl Medsker

I have continued to refine and improve the St. James the Less communications over the past year. Each week I prepare the Monday E-News, the Sunday announcement, and the Friday reflection, as well as the bi-weekly paper E-News for folks not receiving email. The rest of my work is project-based—this Annual Report, temporary signs for our sign at the corner of Willow and Sunset Ridge, the Stewardship brochure, and welcome cards—just to name a few. Over the past year, I have introduced three new communication tools as well:

- Developed a new, stand-alone version of the Sunday announcement sheet.
- Refreshed and deepened the information available on our web site.
- Improved the information on our bulletin boards with new posters and sign-up sheets.

GOOD SAMARITANS

Maureen Burke

The Good Samaritans are members of our parish community who provide assistance to fellow parishioners in a number of ways. These include meal preparation, transportation, and baking and hostessing at funeral receptions. If you or a loved one would benefit from one of these services, please contact Maureen. If you would like to volunteer to assist in one of these ways, please contact Maureen.

The parish recognizes and gives thanks to many of our parishioners who act as Good Samaritans to our fellow parishioners on many days and in many ways but are not cited here. Thank you!

Our volunteers include:

Meal Preparation: Sue Babbs, Amy Berry, Maureen Burke, Kathleen Cleven, Janice Herndon, Cindy Lund, Heather Mages, Mary Nelson, Anita Ruesch, Colleen Schipfer, Sarah Schneider, Betsy Tracy, Linda White, Susie White

Funeral Receptions: Maureen Burke, Kathleen Cleven, Dorothy Generes, Peggy Greene, Nancy Morr, Sally Neuert, Shari Noble, Jane Otis, Marcella Oyer, Anita Ruesch, Mary Saunders, Sarah Schneider, Jeannie Scully, Betsy Tracy, Linda White, Susie White

Transportation: Simon Babbs, Brian Guintier, Beth Ingram, Bill Lauck, Nancy Morr, Anita Ruesch, Colleen Schipfer

Special Needs: Maureen Burke, Bill Lauck, Mary Nelson, Jane Otis

PRAYER NETWORK

Sue Babbs

The prayer network continues to be a great strength for the Parish, as we pray for parishioners and their families, friends and wider concerns. This gives us greater insight into the stresses and challenges faced by members of our congregation and helps us to express our sympathies and provide practical support too. The list of people for whom we are praying is published in the weekly e-bulletin.

All who are willing to pray at least once and then as called by the Spirit, are welcome to be a member of the Prayer Network. Contact Sue Babbs if you wish to participate in praying or to request prayers.

Intercessions for Sunday Services continue to be written by a team of members of the parish, led by Simon Babbs. Please contact him if you wish to join this team.



Outreach Ministries



CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Susie White & Betsy Tracy

St. James the Less has been involved with the Christmas Basket Program for close to 60 years.

For 2019 the St. James the Less Christmas Elves provided a Christmas meal and gifts for 50 people—six seniors and nineteen families—from ReVive Center for Housing and Healing. In addition, we sent a \$670 check of parishioner donated money to ReVive to support their Christmas Basket Program.

COMMUNITY FOOD GARDEN

Sandy Ritterson

Despite a long spring and wet summer, the Community Garden had a productive growing season and provided fresh produce for the Food Pantry from June through October. With input from the Pantry, we were able to tailor what we grew to meet the needs of the recipients. For the first time, we beat the wildlife in harvesting the pears.

Once again the garden had a plot designated for volunteers and an herb garden available to all. We increased the number of beds open to individual/family use allowing us to expand beyond the St. James community.

Our biggest challenge continues to be water, specifically how to keep the plants happy and our feet dry. Plans for the 2020 season will begin shortly. Thank you to the many hands that make our garden grow. All are welcome to join in the endeavor.

THE GROVE NURSING CENTER MINISTRY

Sue Babbs

In 2019 we were able to continue holding worship services twice a month and on other Holy Days, with a re-vitalized team. Christmas morning service was led by Sue & Simon Babbs and was well attended by a large proportion of the residents. Bringing the Light of Christ to others on Christmas Day is the best gift you can give yourself! It would help the team if we had two or three other members who were willing to provide support when some of us are on vacation or otherwise unable to be present.

We continued to give each resident a \$20 birthday presents and card, \$10 at Christmas, plus a specially designed Christmas card and a small bag of gifts and candy.

Once again parishioners and friends gathered on the Saturday before Christmas to sing Christmas songs with the residents and hand out the gift bags.

The residents are so grateful for all that we do, including the gifts of new or gently-used clothing, books, magazines, toiletries, calendars, and greetings cards. Donations can be left in the basket under the coat racks in the Parish Hall.

For the first time, we have been able to supply the residents with arts and crafts supplies to enrich their daytime activities.

Various ideas, including monthly art therapy sessions on Sunday afternoons, dog therapy and music therapy have been discussed with the staff at The Grove and are developing slowly.

Our continuing presence is much appreciated by both residents and staff. Many thanks go to the many members of the Parish involved in this outreach project by giving either time or donations. We welcome more members to join this team on a regular or intermittent basis. We also welcome new ideas or suggestions.

A JUST HARVEST

Karie Smith

It is hard to believe we have finished another year of outreach at the Just Harvest Community Kitchen in Rogers Park. During the past 12 months, this simple yet impactful ministry has fed close to 900 of our neighbors in need through 12 meals prepared and served by this Congregation on the first Tuesday of each month.

While St. James's ministry of feeding the hungry has been around for nearly 30 years, it is always changing with renewed energy behind it, thanks to all of you who support it in so many ways.

We had amazing Captain leadership in 2019. I would like to thank those who served as Captains, including Lisa & Chad Senuta, Dane Cleven, Katherine Carini, Sally Neuert, Nancy Morr, Alixe Small, Matthew Berry, Sandra Dold, Allen Smith, Sarah Schneider, and Carla & Jim Shaver.

As constant as this ministry feels to all of us, it is also evolving. Our ministry garnered support from outside our congregation in 2019. Chad Senuta and his campus ministry students at Northwestern University helped serve our monthly dinner in April. The North Shore Meditation Community stepped up to Captain our December meal, including both serving and donating a significant amount of the food.

During November, we launched our campaign to recruit Captains for 2020. We are grateful to the eleven captains who have stepped forward to lead this ministry in the upcoming year. This leadership team includes five first-time Captains—how exciting to have these new leaders bring fresh perspectives and enthusiasm to this ministry!

What truly makes this ministry work is the 10 to 15 people who volunteer behind the scenes each month to shop for food, make casseroles, and serve our neighbors in Rogers Park. I thank so many of you for your generous support of A Just Harvest in 2019 and look forward to our community of faith coming together again next year to give our neighbors in need a warm meal and glimmer of hope.

LIVING COMPASS MINISTRIES

Jim Shaver

Living Compass, a spiritual awareness outreach program, wrapped up its third year of programming in 2019. Living Compass is another offering from St. James the Less to parishioners and the greater community in an effort to expand spiritual awareness and connections.

The programs offered for 2019 included a talk with Northwestern University Professor Alexis Lauricella on the topic of Technology/ Social Media and its effects on children, as well as the annual Mother/ Daughter Tea that focused on managing stress.

As we look forward into 2020, Living Compass has already had a strong showing of support for a Marriage Enrichment program. Finally, the Living Compass Committee is currently evaluating additional programming for 2020 that may include politics, especially the division that it creates, and School Anxiety.

MADAGASCAR MINISTRY

Simon & Sue Babbs

Since 2014, we have sent seven short term mission trips from St James the Less to the Diocese of Toliara. This is more than any other Parish in the world! This year saw Rev. Lisa Senuta travel to the Diocese to preach at the ordination of the first woman priest ordained in Madagascar. Lisa now has a greater understanding of the “ministry of presence” which makes such a difference to the people of Madagascar.

Days for Girls International (DfG) provides washable feminine hygiene products, which enable girls to go to school every week of the year, and women to continue working. Sue has continued to supervise the DfG Team in Northbrook and Enterprise in Toliara all year round. This has led her to be in communications with people on all continents except Antarctica!

Once again a donation was made by the Outreach Committee to support the work of Todd and Patsy McGregor and the Diocese of Toliara, Southern Madagascar, and also for the first time a donation specifically to the DfG Enterprise in the Cathedral Complex.

We are very grateful to two friends of Simon & Sue who are not church members but have made large donations once again this year, providing funds for much of the DfG work and for some Economic Development projects in the Diocese

Simon continues to help with the Diocesan bookkeeping and acts as treasurer for People Reaching People (the not-for-profit supporting the work of the McGregors and the Diocese of Toliara). As PRP board members, Simon and Sue attended the Annual Board Meeting, which was in Dallas, Texas this year.

For such a small Parish, we are having a big impact on the work in the Diocese of Toliara. Thanks be to God for making this possible—and to all of you for your support, both in prayer and financially!

QUILTS BEYOND BORDERS & SEWING CLUB

Sue Babbs

We are a small but enthusiastic group of parishioners, friends & relatives, who have met several times this year to make kits of quilt tops, backing, and borders which then go to others to be quilted. Some members of the group sew the quilt tops at home.

This year we have created a Sewing Club and have been joined several times by children over 8 and their adult chaperones. Outreach committee agreed to use funds to buy a sewing machine. We meet in the basement, where we now store donated fabric, ironing boards, and the sewing machine.

All our quilts go to orphans, kids in foster care, and refugee camps around the world, via the non-profit organization *Quilts Beyond Borders* <https://quiltsbeyondborders.wordpress.com>

We have also sewn *Days for Girls* kits which went to Toliara, Madagascar, with Rev. Lisa and other visitors in August and November. *Days for Girls International* provides washable feminine hygiene products, which enable girls to go to school every week of the year, and women to continue working. More information can be read at: <https://donate.daysforgirls.org/team/163012>.

OUTREACH FUNDS DISBURSEMENT

Lisa Senuta

We host two primary fundraisers that feed our Outreach Ministries. We support many ministries outside of our parish with this money. This year we met on January 20, 2019. We have not yet met for 2020 fiscal year to disperse funds and will do so soon. Our funds for 2019 went to these ministries:

The Grove Nursing Home (Levis Table)—\$7,500

A Just Harvest—\$3,500

SJTL Community Food Garden—\$2,000

Canterbury House Northwestern—\$5,000

Northfield Food Pantry—\$500

Days for Girls—\$1,000

Episcopal Charities—\$1,000

St Leonard's Ministries—\$500

Northfield Fire Department—\$250

Madagascar Diocese of Toliara—\$4,000

Quilts Beyond Borders—\$600

Samaritan Counseling—\$500



The Lobster Sale is the Fall fundraiser. Run by Jim Carini for his final year (he has moved to Connecticut) sold 300 lobsters and after expenditures brought in \$8,609.50.

The Beatles Mass with Silent Auction is the Spring Fundraiser. The auction is run by Dave and Laura Sordo and the brunch managed by many parishioners. This brought in \$17,412.00.

Other gifts are given from time to time to Outreach and so, by the end of 2019, the remaining balance is \$64,673.45

Outreach volunteers and the volunteers for the fundraisers are invited to join in the conversation to determine the recipients of our money. However, all parishioners are welcome to join in the deliberations over our outreach funds dispersal. The date will be published in the ENews soon.



Making It All Possible



BUILDING & GROUNDS

Chip Herndon

It was a busy year around St. James the Less. Thanks to the continued giving of the parish family, we are able to maintain and enhance our properties.

Buildings and Grounds had several abnormal expenses that impacted the 2019 budget in a negative way. First was the “polar vortex” of late January and February that raised our heating bills to three times higher than the normal five year average. Second was the failure of an AC compressor that had to be replaced. Finally, the Rectory basement windows had to be replaced when the basement started leaking due to rusted out windows, and window wells.

Below you will find a recap of what was accomplished this past year, followed by 2020 projects, and finally major projects/expenses that will need to be addressed in the near future.

Work Completed in 2019

New Parking lot lighting

New Front/Steeple lighting

New Utility pole to the Rectory

Tree trimming & removal, both at the Church and the Rectory

Grading and seeding of the “front” yard of the Rectory

Sodding around the west doorways of the church

New basement windows at the Rectory & window well liners as needed.

Replaced plantings in front of the Church as needed.

Mulched the playground area, around the church, and the entrance to the Memorial Garden.

Replaced an air conditioning compressor.

Replaced sump pumps, and battery back-ups.

Regular maintenance items include: lawn service, weekly cleaning, sexton services, seasonal snow removal, gutter cleaning, window cleaning, carpet cleaning, routine furnace and A/C maintenance etc. Also included in the B & G budget are all utilities both for the Church and the Rectory.

With the coordinated efforts of the Church Yard trustees & Buildings and Grounds, a new walkway into the Memorial Gardens was installed, and the old flagstones will be re-purposed onto the 500 property.

Projects Scheduled for 2020

Church

Paint—altar flower stands, baseboards behind the altar, trim in the Parish Hall. Repair cracks and paint Men’s room, paint Kitchen

Kitchen—replace dishwasher with stainless commercial grade dishwasher, replace the garbage disposal that is on its way out.

Outdoors—replace playground fence, garden shed near community garden, continue to maintain plantings, annual mulching of gardens and playground area.

Rectory

Replace the fence on north side of the property (currently, the old fence is falling down)

Trim trees along fence line

Replace garden shed (before the current one falls down)

As Bill noted in last year's report, the Rectory is not a young home. As such, regular maintenance and updates need to be made to keep the house in good shape, and current with today's living standards and styles. With that thought in mind, the B&G committee will be working with the finance committee to continue to make improvements on a regular basis to the Rectory.

Future large anticipated capital expenses

Like any good property owner/manager, we must keep an eye on large up-coming capital expenses, including, but not limited to:

Patching/repairing and painting the sanctuary ceiling. This will need to be done in the summer due to the fact the pews will need to be removed and the sanctuary will not be useable for several weeks.

Replacing all the aging doors at the major entrance's (front, south, west)

Remodeling & updating the Narthex.

In closing, I would like to thank all those who serve on the B&G committee, Litt Clark, Bill Lauck, Tom Lund, Glen Tracy, Cory Schipfer, Chad Senuta. Also Rich & Katie Synek for all the work they do.

CARING FOR OUR CHURCH YARD

Katie Synek

This year in the Church Yard we had a spring clean up and spread mulch. The entrance is much more visible, and hopefully is drawing more people to walk back and see what it is all about. Some of the dead bushes were removed and trees were trimmed. Two new composite benches are inviting people to sit and relax. New brick walkway to the Church Yard provides a much smoother walk as you navigate into the space. Our hope for next year is to arrange a couple days/evenings to gather parishioners to weed together.

We also hope to continually improve the yard with new plants to enhance our enchanted space.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

John Stevens

One year ago, our stewardship goal was to fully fund our 2019 operating budget with pledge income of \$365,000 and additional donations in the form of Thank Offerings and Special Gifts. It is a pleasure to report that not only did pledges and donations to our Annual Fund exceed our goal, but also the other forms of giving increased beyond our expectations. As a result, we not only fully funded our operating expenses but also created a surplus to strengthen our parish and mission going forward.

Parishioner financial support to the Annual Fund continues to be the most important source of income for our church. 2019 Pledge Income to the Annual Fund, including donations from the prior year, was \$370,000 or 71 % of our total income. We received pledges and donations from 107 parishioners for an average donation of \$3440. Our Committee is very grateful to every parishioner who was able to support our 2019 Pledge Campaign.

As of mid January, we have mailed out the 2020 Pledge Brochure and Card to the parish. Our theme for the year is “Let Your Light Shine Before Others”, and we are hoping for an enthusiastic response to support our 2020 Operating Plan. Our pledge income goal is \$375,000, a modest increase from last year. Ingathering Sunday will be February 9. We encourage pledges at that time to give us greater confidence in the future. We also welcome supplemental pledges and donations throughout the year.

We are very fortunate that our church is on firm financial footings. Through continuous and spontaneous stewardship we can ensure that our parish remains forward looking and creative to carry God’s light in our lives and to the community which surrounds us.

Thank you all for your financial support of St James the Less.

PARISH LEADERSHIP

Clergy, Wardens, Vestry & Staff

2019 Vestry Officers

The Rev. Lisa Senuta, Rector
Matthew Berry, Senior Warden
Patrick Small, Junior Warden
Mary Saunders & Kathy Smith, Treasurer
Tom Frey, Assistant Treasurer
Maureen Burke, Clerk

2019 Vestry Members

Amy Alcorn
Janice Herndon
Judy Lefferdink
Marilee McGowan
Mike Mills
Christoph Ritterson
Anita Ruesch
Susie White

2019 Diocesan Convention Delegates

Matthew Berry
Maureen Burke (Alternate)
Chip Herndon
Cindy Lund

2019 Parish Staff

The Rev. Lisa Senuta, Rector
Josh Langhoff, Director of Music Ministries
kClare McKellaston, Director of Children
and Youth Ministries
Camon Hopkins & Maddie Shearer, Nursery
Coordinators
Virginia Hunt, Administrative Assistant
Caryl Medsker, Communications
Coordinator
Bob Rizzo, Bookkeeper

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2019

Mathew Berry

Thanked Caryl Medsker for the Annual Report Design. Thanked Tom Lund for meeting minutes.

Corrections — 2nd page Nancy Morr's name to be corrected. 2nd page 6th paragraph. John Stevens name to be corrected.

Bill Burke moved to accept Annual Report. — Nancy Whitman provided a 2nd

Stories related to St. James Experiences:

Mathew Berry – Relayed story of the Just Harvest experience with his daughter Nora and other parishioners (Lunds, Senutas). Great benefit to everyone.

Marilyn McGowan— Relayed the story of the Grove. Always a bit chaotic, hectic. We are all God's children. They need us, we need them. Experience can help us become better Christians.

Patrick Small — Revive Ministry – a very good experience, especially for the family. Things people need are basic essentials. Keeps the focus of Christmas alive.

Amy Alcorn — Discussed Betsy's confirmation experience. Stuffed beds with the Lund girls at the home of someone with a physical challenge. Very unexpected, positive experience.

Christoph Ritterson— Discussed 1st year of serving on the Vestry. Creating the culture in our church to allow the opportunities to connect and unite communities.

Sally not present due to family illness. Her presence was missed.

Mathew Berry discussed how families came/come to St. James the Less.

Different Ministries are a key:

Programs are inviting- — children, Godly Play, Skip Day, Care Packages

Music programs — Josh is doing a fantastic job on the daily basis

Living Compass — different programs are enriching our community

The Commons — creating opportunity to invite community in. Visually and through structures being built — Garden; Garden Shed; Labyrinth; landscape.

Excellent Leadership — Lisa, Worship Leaders, inviting Parishioners.

Thanked Sally for her excellent leadership and praised her for her excellent efforts.

Dane Clevon

Discussed The Commons and the Capital Campaign.

Thanked the community for it's support

A 3 year campaign that has been very successful.

Lisa Senuta

Thanked staff at St. James for adding so much value to the St. James experience.

Phil Montross (Facetimed from recovery room) receives the "I'll be glad to help with that!" Award

Runs the Rota, and so much else.

Clerk of the Vestry, Outings, etc.

A Great Steward of our Church

Prayer for Phil...

Phil's response from bed

Dorothy Generis – Star Award – The Perfect Flower Award

Dorothy's amazing talents in flower arrangement, and the spiritual value they (and she) add to our church, were commended.

Mathew Berry

Appreciation for the outgoing Vestry Members

Today's Vestry is handling pretty large issues

Jim Shaver – Living Compass

Dave Sordo – Fundraising – Auction

Cindy Lund – her Clerkship

Lisa Senuta Congratulates Sally Neuert

Five years on Vestry before serving as Senior Warden. Rare

Emphasized encouraging the power of our hospitality.

Thank you for saying YES. We have benefitted from her Leadership

John Stevens

Stewardship Update

Accolades to the Committee.

Met and exceeded our Goals for 2018 for the Pledge Campaign, and Capital Campaign

Let your Generosity Be a Spark – new 2019 Campaign

Feb 10th – In-gathering to review. Updates through-out the Year.

Mary Saunders

Report of the Finance Committee

Discussed the Financial Summary

Endowments 600K

3rd Quarter saw a drop due to Stock Market investments (Diocesan Level)

Statement of Financial Position – assets and liabilities

No real liabilities. Slight change

2018 Vestry Financial Summary

Budgets were all exceeded in 2018. 109% of goals.

Mathew Berry

2019 Budget

Typo noted. Not 34K, but 134K for Clergy.

Surplus due to Ron's departure

Tommy's new position

New technology

Plant replacement

Benevolent fund – sending money to Seminaries

Motion to Approve Don Whitman; 2nd by David Mason

Bill Burke mentioned how well the Buildings & Grounds is being handled.

New Vestry Members

Patrick Small, Judy Lefferndink, Janice Herndon

Looking for (2) 1 year positions that are open: 1 year Vestry and Clerk

Motion to approve, John Stevens, 2nd by Christoph

Prayers for new and old Members

Lisa Senuta Closing Statements

Invitations are critical to support a thriving parish. The new sign is just 1 symbol.

As the Church moves away from the Center of society, St. James will focus on ways to invite new opportunities into our community.

Lisa has served for 7 years in joy.

PARISH ENDOWMENTS

Kathy Smith & Mary Saunders

	<u>2019 Total</u>	<u>2018 Total</u>
Churchyard Endowment	\$91,517	\$92,444
General Endowment	\$577,691	\$472,680
Outreach Endowment	\$69,551	\$60,096
Music Endowment	\$19,895	\$17,076

Since March 2010, all of the above endowments have been invested in the Diocesan Foundation. For the first three quarters of 2019, the simple total return of the Diocesan Foundation was a gain of 13.04%, consisting of a dividend of 2.71% and a 10.33% increase in unit value. Through 2019 year end there was a 15.74% increase in unit value.

During calendar year 2019, we received dividends in the amount of \$15,896.97 from the Endowment investments. (\$13,256.44 from the General Endowment, \$2,173.12 from the Outreach Endowment, and \$407.41 from the Music Endowment.) In the first quarter of 2019 we received a \$25,000 directed donation to the General Endowment from a former parishioner to be used toward the [maintenance of the church building named for H. Earl Hoover](#). In the fourth quarter we redeemed \$19,000 of the Churchyard Endowment to fund the new walkway to the Memorial Garden.

The Outreach Endowment contributes all its dividends to the Church's outreach initiatives; as such its share balance remains unchanged. The Churchyard Endowment reinvests all dividends. The Music and General Endowments contribute the income portion of dividends from the Diocesan Foundation to the Operating Fund, and reinvest the capital gains portion.

VESTRY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2019 Budget & Actual—2020 Budget

	<i>2019 Budget</i>	<i>2019 Actual</i>	<i>2020 Proposed Budget</i>
INCOME			
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,125	\$ 5,000
Pledge Income	365,000	368,436	375,000
Thank Offerings	10,000	42,600	25,000
Special Grants	8,000	1,000	8,000
Outreach Grant	—	—	5,000
Church School Grant	4,000	3,906	4,000
Open Plate	8,000	9,778	8,000
Easter & Christmas Fund	5,000	3,620	5,000
Investment Income	12,500	17,266	13,000
Rent and Misc. Income	5,500	15,579	6,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 424,000	\$ 465,310	\$ 454,000
EXPENSES			
Clergy	\$ 134,700	\$ 136,041	\$ 140,100
Church Office	77,600	77,299	81,800
Buildings & Grounds	81,900	101,917	90,900
Music & Worship	60,675	59,453	62,500
Benevolence	41,000	41,000	42,500
Children & Youth Ministry	27,075	24,021	26,300
Parish Life	6,335	5,541	26,800
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 429,285	\$ 445,272	\$ 470,900
INCOME LESS EXPENSE	\$ (5,285)	\$ 20,038	\$ (16,900)
Reserves brought forward	\$ 47,897	\$ 47,897	\$ 67,935
Transfer from (to) Endowment			
RESERVES CARRIED FORWARD	\$ 42,612	\$ 67,935	\$ 51,035

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

2019 VS 2018

	End-2019 (Final)			End-2018 (Final)		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
ASSETS						
Cash and Cash Equivalents						
Operating	43,779		43,779	48,657		48,657
Plant Replacement		3,016	3,016		4,196	4,196
Churchyard		13,962	13,962		10,347	10,347
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 43,779	16,978	60,758	48,657	14,543	63,200
Investments						
Operating	218,937		218,937	168,966		168,966
General Investment*		29,166	29,166		20,712	20,712
Plant Replacement		37,642	37,642		35,052	35,052
Outreach Endowment		69,551	69,551		60,096	60,096
Music Endowment		19,895	19,895		17,076	17,076
General Endowment		577,691	577,691		472,680	472,680
Churchyard Endowment		91,517	91,517		92,444	92,444
Total Investments	218,937	825,463	1,044,399	168,966	698,060	867,026
2016 Capital Campaign		74,342	74,342		70,758	70,758
Other Dedicated Accounts		128,706	128,706		100,236	100,236
Land, Buildings, Equipment	3,229,591		3,229,591	3,229,591		3,229,591
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,492,307	\$1,045,489	\$4,537,796	\$3,447,214	883,597	\$4,330,812
LIABILITIES						
Prepaid Pledge Balance	26,486		26,486	54,377		54,377
Due to Dedicated Accounts		203,048	203,048		170,994	170,994
TOTAL LIABILITIES	26,486	203,048	229,534	54,377	170,994	225,371
NET ASSETS	3,465,821	842,441	4,308,261	3,392,838	712,603	4,105,441
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,492,307	\$1,045,489	\$4,537,796	\$3,447,214	\$883,597	\$4,330,812

* Funds accrued for Rector Sabbatical