

Annual Parish Report
For the Year 2017



SAINT JAMES'

Episcopal Church and Preschool

“Enter as strangers, leave as friends.”

Annual Parish Meeting
Order of Business January 28, 2018

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
 2. Rector's Report
 3. Sr. Warden's Report
 4. Jr. Warden's Report
 5. Treasurer's Report
 6. Acolytes, Lectors, LEMs, Intercessors, and Ushers Report
 7. St. James' Safeguarding Program
 8. Altar Guild Report
 9. A.M.E.N Report
 10. Columbarium Ministry Report
 11. Daughters of the King
 12. E.C.W. Report
 13. Endowment Committee Report
 14. Men's Club Report
 15. Music Director's Report
 16. Second Chance Emporium Report
 17. Supper Club Report
 18. Website Report
 19. St. James' Preschool Report
- Adjournment, Doxology, and Benediction

Rector's Report

Senior Warden's Report

2017 has been a very challenging year for our congregation, vestry, and Rector. Hurricane Harvey impacted our church and community, revealing a congregation who reached out to the community to help others cope with their misfortunes.

We too were impacted by Harvey. Some of our congregation had flooded homes and damaged property. Our church building sustained damage that also revealed serious structural damage which we are addressing. Fr. Eric's sabbatical has prepared him for the challenges we face this year.

Financially, our church is very sound. We have six month's operating expense in reserve. Our Endowment is very healthy. Our pledging participation is in excess of 80% of our congregation.

I welcome Ken Berg as our new Senior Warden. He will serve you wisely and well! He along with our vibrant and talented vestry members are very capable of guiding our congregation this ensuing year. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Hamel Sr. Warden

Junior Warden Report

To say the least, 2017 was a very challenging year. We seemed to be running smoothly and then came Hurricane Harvey. As a result we had storm damage to the bell tower and a major mold remediation project. As we studied the damage situation, we also addressed the front porch which was replaced. Thanks to Ray Landry, Glenn Calliotte, and Guy Mason for their work on this project. There were many who stepped forward on the damage project, we thank Fr. Eric, Ken Berg, Pete Hamel, and Joe Jameson for all their expertise and diligent follow through. The landscape project headed up by Carol Helms got underway and is continuing. Thanks for all you have done and continue to do on this project. We still have drainage issues and this is being attended to, and should be complete before too long.

As we go forward in 2018 we hope to get back on track in regards to the building and grounds expansion and renovations.

Thank you to everybody for your support on Jr. Warden issues.

God's peace, Greg Northrup

Treasurer's Report

2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

St. James had another successful year financially in 2017. Net income was \$6,800 over budget with pledges and plate offering \$4,316 over budget, and expenses \$47,000 under budget.

On the revenue side: 1) Plate offering was 9% of total revenues and 2) the 3% annual disposition from the endowment account was not required this year and was left in the account for future needs.

On the expense side: Of Significance was Hurricane Harvey and his damage. The sanctuary had to have extensive mold remediation performed. The work uncovered hidden structural damage to the bell tower and we will continue to make those repairs during the 2018 year. Fortunately, our church insurance and help from the diocese alleviated a majority of the costs for these repairs. We are continuing to work on drainage issues and have budgeted accordingly.

St. James ended 2017 in excellent financial condition with approximately \$272,897 in current liquid assets (approximately 9 months of typical expenses) and total endowment assets of \$1,237,000.

2018 BUDGET

The 2018 Budget is highlighted again by a very successful stewardship campaign resulting in pledged income of \$316,918. The automatic 3% annual disposition from the St. James Endowment account is not included in total planned revenues and was left in the endowment for budget purposes.

On the expense side, total 2018 budgeted expenses are projected to increase \$15,000 over 2017 actuals. This increase is driven by 1) salaries/wages and 2) master planning for church/school expansion.

As a result of these changes, the 2018 budgeted expenses totaled \$335,900, leaving a budgeted surplus of \$3,018.

Details on the budget including past years comparisons are attached to this report. Submitted Tanya Jameson, Treasurer

Acolytes, Lectors, LEMs, Intercessors, and Ushers

I wish to thank all who serve as LEMS, Acolytes, Lectors, Intercessors, and Ushers and on Altar Guild. I hope that you understand the importance of your ministry. Just imagine if a LEM decided not to show up to light the candles and serve the communion wine or if the Ushers were not there to take the gifts to the altar, collect the offerings and guide us to communion in an orderly manner. Every ministry is very important! If any church member is interested in serving in any capacity, please contact me or call Cathy at church. There is always a need! Again, thank you for your service to St. James.

Respectfully submitted,
Ursula Stephens

St. James' Safeguarding Program

The program for keeping the Episcopal Church safe is called *Safeguarding*. There are two phases of the program: Safeguarding God's People and Safeguarding God's Children. Priests, employees, teachers, Vestry members, ministry leaders, school board members, and volunteers are all required to participate in training in one or both of these phases of Safeguarding. Most of the people required to take the training presently are already certified; however, there are a few who still need training. The certification expires after 5 years. A training session in Safeguarding God's People will be offered in a month or two. I serve as your trainer. Please be on the lookout for the training date if you are interested or if you are required to take this training. I will contact those requiring training.

Ursula Stephens

Safeguarding Trainer

Altar Guild

A new dosal curtain was purchased to replace the curtain that has hung behind the altar for over 20 years. The curtain was made by Wippell and Co. from a pattern suggested by their representative, Mark Hoyer. The new pattern reflects the colors and design of the church windows, giving a more unified appearance to the nave. A set Lenten paraments has been ordered. The beautiful embroideries from the old set will be used on new fabric. The current set had begun to fray badly. Suzanne purchased a new pewter cup for the large travelling communion set with donations given by Ann and Bill Rugely on the occasion of their marriage several years ago. Suzann has chosen to use the glass cylinder vases for the altar flowers for most services. This allows us to cease using floral foam and to transfer the loose flowers easily to other vases for distribution after the service.

Maintaining the membership of the Guild continues to be a challenge. Our members tend to remain for Life. This is a wonderful testament to the joys of our service and the devotion of our members. However, one drawback is that, as we grow older, we may have more health and family issues that draw us away for periods of time. I have struggled to keep at least four members per team to insure there will be at least two or more members to serve on any given weekend. The remarkable cooperation between members makes this possible. Kathi Austin joined Team C during the last year and has been a great blessing to us all. Kathi is a member of the choir and, therefore unable to serve on Sunday, yet she willing commits her time to the set-up of the altar prior to Sunday. Tomi Laigle has stepped in to serve for Suzanne Artz who is recovering from injuries suffered in December. There remains a great need for four additional members. I wish to use my report this year to appeal to my fellow parishioners to consider serving for several hours during one weekend of the month in a ministry without which we cannot enjoy the outward manifestation of our rites of service. Lastly, I wish to make a call for someone to fill a position which might be called Assistant Director of the Altar Guild. I have been confined to my home for over two months so many of the holiday preparations were difficult for me to oversee.

I skated through but the experience has made the need for a back-up obvious. I MUST have someone who can step in and take over completely if I am unable to perform my duties as Director. I consider this as a matter of parish welfare which should be the responsibility of everyone of us to fulfill. Let us not wear out the volunteers that make all the services of our parish possible. They need the support of the St. James community. Now.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Morriss-Batchelder, Altar Guild

A.M.E.N. (Area Ministry for Emergency Needs)

St. James and 11 other churches rotate the operation of AMEN on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons throughout the year. AMEN helps people find many kinds of local resources -- referring them to Tejas Health Clinic, the Texas Workforce Commission for employment Combined Community Action for rent assistance, and the Fayette County Prescription Assistance Program -- but we of St. James primarily help to distribute food -- lots of it!

AMEN gives away about 10,000 pounds of food to some 225 families every month. In September and through much of October, the food pantry shifted into disaster mode: open 9-5, five days a week. In September alone, 28,000 pounds of food were given away to 480 families.

AMEN operates in a small house on Mode Lane, off Eblin St. The organization had acquired a building on Reynolds Road and was (and is) fund-raising to renovate it into a much needed, larger facility. However, with the floods of late August, AMEN's leaders immediately turned that building over to be used as the town's Disaster Relief Center and then as the temporary Second Chance location. Renovation will resume there for AMEN once Second Chance finds a home.

Central Texas Food Bank provides most of the food to AMEN for very low prices. (In September approximately 50,000 pounds of food were also donated from local and many non-local sources in response to the flood.) AMEN supplements what's available from the food bank with full price purchases from HEB and WalMart; these supermarkets as well as Pizza Hut donate foods that will soon pass their expiration dates. Local churches, school groups and individuals also donate food.

St. James worked at AMEN in January and is scheduled to operate the food pantry Mondays and Thursdays six more times in 2018. Do you have four hours one of these weeks that you'd like to spend with friends from St. James, meeting more of your neighbors and helping them obtain food? If so, call Suzanne Artz: 979-224-5712.

Columbarium Ministry Report

The Columbarium of St. James Episcopal Church has two Niche locations situated in the Memorial/Meditation Garden. The first set of Niches purchased is located on the East wall of the Garden.

The second set of Niches was Columbarium was installed on the South wall during the development of the Meditation Garden. This area has become a beautiful place for prayer and remembrance and provides an appropriate burial place for the cremated remains of our faithful departed. The garden is a place for

memory, comfort and support as a telling witness to the faith and hope of resurrection to eternal life.



There is a total of 64 Niches in the two areas of which 21 have been sold. A niche in either Columbarium is available for \$1,500.00. Proceeds received from the sale of Niches are invested in the St. James' Endowment Fund.

Although several Parishioners expressed interest in Niches for themselves and family members during Calendar year 2017, there was no sales activity during 2017. During the year, the ashes of two Parishioners were laid for eternal rest in their Niches. They were:

- Carol Exum Crain
- Martha Anne "Muffin" Chuber

Respectfully Submitted: Terry L. Eastin, Chairperson

Daughters of the King – St. Teresa Chapter

The order of the Daughters of the King is for women who are Communicants of the Episcopal Church. Members undertake a Rule of Life incorporating daily Prayer and Service dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish. The order began on Easter Eve in 1885.

The DOK meet the second Thursday of the month. At this time we are reading and discussing the book "The gifts of Years" by Joan Chittister.

Our membership has grown by 4 new members. This year a new president will take over. Her name is Mary K. Dawson. She has past experience with the DOK, and will give us new energy. Also, Mary Kahanek will begin her time as Vice President of the daughters. Mary has been a steadfast member for many years.

Respectfully submitted by: Charlotte Hillbolt

Episcopal Church Women-E.C.W.

The mission of St. James' ECW is to bring all the women of the church together to share the gifts of fellowship, service and outreach while spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. All baptized women of the church are automatically members of the organization. We have quarterly meetings on the third Thursday of the year. We try to have a guest speaker at the meetings concerning topics that are interesting to our members.

We have some set outreach programs that are on our calendar each year as well as new items that have come to our attention. We usually start the year off with

taking Valentine cards with suckers to the residents of the nursing homes. This year we are planning to go to Monument Hill-La Grange, and Regency and Colonial-Schulenburg. At Easter time we fill Easter baskets with candy and stuffed toys for the nursing homes, we have the ingathering of UTO twice a year. We have a monthly bake sale that coincides with the Men's Club BBQ, in October we supply Halloween candy for the residents of the nursing homes to hand out to the trick-or-treaters, and at Thanksgiving we bake 160+ dozen cookies to go with the turkeys that the men have cooked for the Family Crisis Center in Bastrop. This past year, we assisted the men in sponsoring a basic course for CPR led by the Fayette County EMS. Our revenue from the bake sale helps fund the Kathryn Wallace Scholarship.

We also help with items to help our congregation if needed. If a reception is requested in the Parish Hall after a funeral we are there for the family. We put together the parish dinner after the Annual Parish Meeting. Whenever the Bishop comes to confirm new members we provide a reception for the families. As you can see we are very busy, but we still have room for more projects. The ECW is always welcome for more active members.

Respectfully submitted by: Virginia James, ECW President

Endowment Committee

All assets of the St James' Episcopal Church Endowment Fund are held in a brokerage Account at Fidelity Investments and have been at that firm since 2011. The objective for the fund is long term growth with a moderate risk tolerance. Investor choices and changes are guided by an asset allocation model adopted in 2011. The committee reviews its holdings and compares them with the targeted goals.

The account currently has approximately an 87% exposure to equities split about 71% in exchange traded funds and about 16% in open-ended mutual funds. At the end of 2017, approximately 13% of the fund value was in cash.

Cash flow activity for the year:

Deposits:	\$82,995
Withdrawals:	\$25,280

According to the Glasscock gift agreement, effective November 20, 2012, the gift is contingent on the endowments fund's commitment to annually expend 3% of the average value of the last three years. Articles and bylaws refer to the disbursement to be for religious, charitable and educational purposes. The amount available for distribution as a declared dividend from 2016 is \$27,923. The amount to be declared from 2017 will be determined by an endowment committee vote at our next meeting in late January, 2018.

Endowment Fund Values for the past six years are as follows:

12/31/2017	\$1,251,320	12/31/2014	\$878,890
12/31/2016	\$1,018,684	12/31/2013	\$754,400
12/31/2015	\$894,771	12/31/2012	\$515,000

The current members of the Endowment Committee are John Zeuner, Chairman, Mel Glasscock, Vice Chairman, Joe Bailey, Treasurer, Joe Jameson, Secretary, plus the Rector, Senior Warden and Parish Treasurer.

St. James Men's Club

During 2017, the men's club has been very active, having 10 BBQ chicken and sausage cooks, benefitting local charities, along with bake sales by our wonderful ECW. The men's club sponsored our turkey cook in November, cooking over 80 turkeys for the crisis center for distribution to needy families in Bastrop and Fayette counties, with our ECW providing 180 doz cookies for these families. The men's club had 11 regular monthly meetings at member's homes and local restaurants. With the ECW, we sponsored a CPR/ AED training class for over 30 of our parishioners. We made donations of \$1,000 each to amen building fund, Red Cross for Fayette Cty flood relief, amen, the deputy Santa program and the Schulenburg food pantry. In April of this year, we helped host riders for the ms 150 bike ride--and will do so again in April 2018. And we have had a lot of fun doing all of the above. Respectfully submitted: Joe Bailey, pres; George Frondorf, VP; Bill Patton, Treasurer

Music Director's Report

Christianity is a singing faith. Songs of joy, gratitude and praise have sprung from the hearts of grateful people for the great works of God: from the eternal music of the spheres, to the Song of Moses in Genesis, to the present day. Sorrow and suffering have brought songs of prayer, pleading for God's intervention. Many times these culminate in words of comfort, reaffirming faith in God. Songs are found throughout the Bible, and the collected songs (Psalms) of the Hebrew people are at the center of the Bible.

Excellence demands diligence and dedication. Our choir gives hours each week rehearsing to present beautiful music in the 10:30 service. Hymns and Psalms are rehearsed to support and encourage the congregation in singing. Anthems and special selections call for extra time and care, and both challenge and inspire. Our LLL (Laudable, Laboring Librarians) work hours each week preparing folders for each musician so the worship flows smoothly without flipping hymnal pages, juggling multiple books and folders.

This year the music program persevered through several difficult moments. Thanks to Jim and Julie Holmes for helping us through a time when our organist was recuperating. We are very thankful that Lester Dalton continues as our organist. A very generous gift of an entire library of music has been received from Georg Ulbrich in memory of Elva Ulbrich. God has blessed us with the addition of two choir members this year: Mary Dawson and Mary Kirby.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR INCLUDE:

Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols - The choir led the congregation in this service of music and scripture. Hymns, anthems and motets from many eras, style periods and cultures helped bring added meaning and depth to the service.

Christmas Eve - The Parish Choir along with our talented organist, Lester Dalton, led the congregation in a festive Christmas Eve Eucharist featuring hymns and carols from the ages and many nationalities.

Feast of the Epiphany Service - The service included Epiphany hymns by the congregation and solos by the "wise men".

Organ Concert - April 1, Through the friendship of our members Tom and Elaine Tracey with Patrick Parker, we were able to arrange a special concert. Patrick, a concert organist, gave an outstanding concert: "Love so Amazing, Grace so Divine." He opened with the Bach *Toccata and Fugue in d minor* and concluded with the Vidor *Toccata*. The church was packed, and it was one of those rare occasions when the air becomes electric with joy and celebration. Organ selections were interspersed with congregational singing and anthems by the choir. It was a glorious celebration of God's gracious gift of music.

Patriotic Sunday - July 4 - Hymns and anthems celebrated our freedom in Christ, and our freedom as a nation.

St. James Day - Hymns and Selections were presented to illuminate our patron saint.

EvenSong Concert - October 2 we had the honor of hosting the choir from Trinity, The Woodlands. Micki Balog directed their choir and sang several selections. Our combined choirs also sang. They also joined with our choir the following Sunday morning to present music for the Morning Worship service.

Community Reformation Service - Our choir was asked to participate in a community choir to celebrate Reformation Sunday in a special service in the Casino Hall. The service consisted of a dialog between the Catholic priest, Lutheran priests, and the Presbyterian minister discussing the differences and similarities between beliefs and practices of Roman Catholics and Protestants. Hymns and anthems marked the sections of the discussion.

Community Thanksgiving Service - Our choir had the opportunity to participate in a combined choir for the Thanksgiving service held at the Remnant Church. It was a vibrant music celebration with a rousing sermon by Madeline Henners, assoc. pastor of the First United Methodist Church.

Memorial Services - Our choir graciously provided music for the memorial services of several dear members. It is exceptional in this age when few choirs give this offering.

Don Kirby, Music Director

Master of Music (Conducting) Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth.

Second Chance Emporium Lil Landry and Marilyn Gibson

2017 was quite a unique year for Second Chance. The first 8 months had record sales and donations, and we were able to give back almost \$180,000.00 to the community. Then Hurricane Harvey arrived with intense rain and flooding, and we lost our buildings and total inventory.

Thanks to Amen, who let us use a building they had purchased, we were able to open a Disaster Relief Center within several days after the storm hit. We received tons of donations and scores of volunteers helped sort and distribute items to the flood victims. We operated in the disaster relief mode during September and October and served over 2700 individuals representing 895 family units.

At the end of October, we were able to re-open the store at our new temporary location. It was a wonderful experience – so many people expressed their gratitude and appreciation, and we truly realized what an integral part Second Chance plays in our community.

Sales and donations have improved weekly and in December, we were able to give grants to the six organizations that we serve on a monthly basis – Tejas Clinic, Combined Community Action, Bluebonnet Trails, Fayette County Prescription Drug Program, Schulenburg Food Pantry, and Celebration House Food Pantry.

Since our inception, Second Chance grants have totaled \$1,879,269.

We are in the process of purchasing 5+ acres adjacent to our current location and are working with an architect to design a new, larger building. Our intent is to remain where we are now until the new building is completed. We are extremely grateful for the donations we have received to our building fund and will be holding a capital campaign for further funds. Thanks to all of you who have given time and money to this worthwhile organization.

Supper Club – Our Social Ministry

The St. James' Supper Club provides an opportunity for members to share friendships, interesting conversations and good food with fellow parishioners and friends. Supper Club may be either an adult party or a family centered evening. This has become a popular event for casual socializing in members' homes or selected "destination" locations. The host selects a theme which can vary from ethnic to American, exotic food to comfort food, outdoor barbecues to pizza or picnics or simply "pot luck". All members and guests then contribute their beverage of choice and a food item to support the evening's theme. Supper Club is a popular gathering and the number of members attending has been increasing over the years. Usually fifty to seventy attend. Supper Club serves as our social outreach to our church and community. The support for this social ministry is outstanding. St. James' parishioners look forward to hosting, co-hosting and attending these socials. To quote one of our hosts, "My guests were amazed at this truly loving spirit present and warmth shown toward all!

This is a wonderful ministry of our church, drawing us closer to each other and exposing other people to the incredible people who make up St. James. Behold how they love one another!

To welcome the New Year in 2017, the Kahaneks hosted their annual soup supper in January to celebrate the "Feast of the Epiphany". Helping were the Hillbolts, Gibsons, and Loves.

In February, we celebrated Mardi Gras at Julie Ardery's & Bill Bishop's restored mansion. Assisting them in costumes were the Kuningers, Tracys, Sandra Duncan, Hamels, Dwight Nittsche, and their exchange student, Johanna from the Czech Republic. Jambalaya was the main dish.

No Supper Club was offered in March to observe Lent.

Welcoming our members and guests to his ranch home in April was Carl Reistle, assisted by Nora Butler, the Campbells, Amy Sidaras, Brad Christian, Landrys, Baileys, Bergs, and Pattons. Our theme was "Italian Night" and lasagna was the delicious entrée. Texas wildflowers decorated the red and white tablecloths for a springtime outdoor setting.

In May we celebrated with a Cinco de Mayo theme at the Cauble's new country home. Helping to prepare a Mexican meal were Mike & Jackie Parrish, the Holmes, and Cathy

Sterman. It was a beautiful evening to sit on the Cauble's bluff and view the coming of spring below in the valley.

June's party was at the Northrup's country home. The weather was so pleasant for a "Southern Garden Party" with fried chicken and entertainment by Mike Stroup's Western Band. Other hosts were the Jamesons, Eastins, and also the Stroups.

July, August, and September there were no supper clubs due to the extreme heat. No groups offered to host our annual "Cook's Night Out" at a local restaurant during this heat wave.

"Oktoberfest" was the theme for our October party at Betsy Anderson's beautiful McClare Ranch. Many co-hosts assisted in making this a wonderful party: Sally Van Duyn, Debbie Irwin, Glasscocks, Landrys, Campbells, Helms, Baileys, Caubles, Virginia James, Pattons, Bergs, Bundicks, and Karrs. Our attendance set a record number with 108 guests attending and enjoyed German entrees and live music. It was a great occasion to meet and greet old and new friends!

In November we gathered at the Bradley's home for a "Tuscan Evening." Guests were seated outdoors under majestic live oak trees, beautifully lighted for the occasion. Helping were the Tracys, Krupalas, Jean Zavoda, and the Austins who also opened their nearby home for desserts.

The last social event was hosted by the Men's Club at the Country Club. For this annual Christmas Party the guests were served a delicious buffet and entertained by a local choral group, The Elysian Singers.

We will all look forward to another successful social season in 2018. Your new social chairmen will be Carol Helms and Judy Stribling.

We have enjoyed serving as your co-chairman of the Social Ministry of St. James' Church. For about ten years we have taken great pride and joy in the continuous growth and popularity of our Supper Club. Many thanks go to all of the hosts and co-hosts who worked so hard to make our events so successful. Also thanks to God for blessing most of our parties with good weather.

Ann & Gerald Campbell

Website Report

Report has not been submitted



St. James' Episcopal Preschool

General Information:

Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 3 pm. We have two teachers and one teacher's aide on staff, Laura Elliott (Preschool ages 4-5), Becky Leer (Toddler ages 2-3), and Elizabeth Amoss (teacher's aide). Becky is in her fifth year with St. James, and Laura and Beth are in their second year with our preschool. Beth is a St. James' church member. Our School Board continues to be an active supporter of all activities for St. James' Preschool. School Board members are Susanne Glascock, Seth Gunn, Fr. Eric Hungerford, Laurie Krupala, Pinky Wilson, and Jamie Zbranek.

Enrollment:

Enrollment at the conclusion of the 2016/17 school year was 17 students. Of these, five graduated our program and seven families returned for the 2016/17 school year.

Enrollment from the start of the 2016 school year in August began with 16 students, and grew to 17 by November. As of January, we have 17 students on the roster, but only 15 can attend any given day per our capacity restrictions. Two students attend MWF, and two attend T/Th. The rest attend M-Th or M-F. Of the 17 students, ten students stay for a full day of school, while seven students stay for a half day. We currently have sixteen students on our waiting list for this school year, and twelve for next school year (a few are on both).

Budget

The actual vs. budget is showing a negative year-to-date (Aug.-Dec..) net income of approximately -\$3,487 (as of the December report). We budgeted for a net income to date of -\$2,962, and the additional \$525 loss was due in part to a family waiting a month before withdrawing their enrolled student who never started school with us (because of Harvey). This situation caused us to lose a month of tuition income.

We continue to maintain a healthy balance in our operating fund and retained earnings. Additionally, Emily's Angel Scholarship Fund is at \$6,117, but we will need to immediately replenish this fund by or before the end of this school year. We have applied for a Texas Women's League Grant, and if we receive funds in May, they will go directly to helping re-stock this account for next school year. We currently have five students on full or partial scholarships. This program has been wonderful in bringing diversity and keeping our current students attending St. James' Preschool. We truly want to thank everyone who has contributed to the scholarship program for the blessing they have given us and these children. The financial status of the preschool is attributed to the outreach support from the church, donations from the ECW, the Men's Club, support through our fundraising efforts, Texas Women's League grant money, and many generous donations from parishioners that are either one-time sums or ongoing monthly support. These contributions go straight to our bottom line to help with operations, fund field trips and special programs, and purchase new supplies and equipment. The hugely successful Preschool Picassos event last year raised almost \$7,000. We are scheduled for our fourth annual Picassos on Feb. 24.

Highlights and Goals:

- Continue to maintain a successful scholarship fund that creates diversity and answers a need.
- We have now enrolled more full day students than half day, which helps us get closer to our self-sustainability goals.
- Remodeled the school area to create a teacher workspace and create a classroom feel, which has been more conducive to learning and makes parents and teachers much happier.
- Cut expenses by over \$1000 year to date by making small changes, such as installing automatic soap dispensers and paper-efficient towel dispensers throughout the school.
- By smarter menu choices and employing a staff member who cooks from scratch, we are not only offering more nutritious foods, but we are also saving money.

- Offer quality Christian education in the Episcopal tradition to as many children as we can.

Respectfully Submitted, Laurie Krupala

Adjournment, Doxology, and The Benediction