

St. Francis' Annual Meeting 2016

C o n t e n t s

January 31, 2016

St. Francis' Episcopal

Parish Hall

St. Francis' Episcopal Church is blessed through God's gifts to be a welcoming community of Christians, expressing joy in God's creation through worship, humor, and the arts, sharing Christ's peace and love through acts of healing, reconciling, and responding to the needs of our neighbors.

- 2015 Annual Meeting Minute Draft
- Reports:
 - Senior Warden
 - Junior Warden
 - Treasurer
 - Open Church
 - Food Outreach
 - Extreme Weather Shelter
 - ECW
 - Communication
 - Pastor
 - Budget Documents

St Francis' Episcopal Church, Fortuna CA
Minutes of the Annual Meeting, February 1/8, 2015

After a lunch provided by Jenny and John Coleman, Pr. Jeri led us in prayer and opened St. Francis' Annual meeting at 1:04 pm, Feb. 1. Attending members include: Pr. Jeri Gray-Reneberg, Nancy Gregory, Diana LaVen, Dick LaVen, Steve Bennetzen, Bobbi Bennetzen, Candy Hackett, Sandy Hackett, Fran Thompson, Cori Borges, Keith Borges, Anne Wade, Diana Hutton, Janet Hogan, Henrietta Howard, Fannette Downie-Allman, Sean Allman, Nancy Marshall, John Marshall, Eleanor Pollard, Helen Winfrey, Perry Gray-Reneberg.

REPORTS

Sr. Warden: Nancy G. handed out a printed members and friends directory. Candy H. commented that this helps us all stay in timely contact for prayer and care. Nancy highlighted several points from her printed report and invited all to volunteer where you may be led. She also lifted up the ministries of Eucharistic Visitation and Open Church, on Wednesdays. Dick L. displayed the "Open Church" sidewalk sign. Nancy described the work of the Mission Committee and the role she is leaving, Senior Warden.

Jr. Warden: Diana L. lifted up the congregational work of landscaping, especially, and the lighting upgrade in progress for each room, as well as cleaning of the office. Diana personally thanked several members for their ministries of service to the SF campus.

Treasurer: Helen W. lifted out the "highs" and "lows" of SF financial activities over the past year. She noted we required \$7,500 from our reserves fund for ordinary expenses. Helen raised up the growth in outreach spending above 2013's amount and noted a cost-of-living increase in our priest's compensation. She pointed out we had a deficit of approximately \$10,000 in 2014. She mentioned that our annual pledges help us to faithfully draft a budget and, without them, budget-drafters "guess" congregational financial welfare based on the past. Repeating last year's activities will exhaust our reserves in approximately four years.

ECW: Candy H. deferred to her written report and will entertain questions as they arise.

Altar Guild: Fran T. asked flower donations be considered as the cost from local florists has escalated significantly. Henrietta H. offered, if we need, her life-like silk flowers.

Pastor: Jeri+ noted the passing of three members and the arrival of several others. She lifted out Godly Play as a faithful ministry of our young people. She proposed, during Lent this year, we gather one hour before worship to meet and discuss the book, *Slow Church*. Jeri+ noted there is a growing awareness of social-welfare needs within our community. Helen reminded us that ECW's outreach and service is in addition to that reported by the Treasurer. Dick L. added that our food donations – every third Sunday – is additional service, too. John C. offered commendations for our worship on Christmas Day and pointed out that St. Francis' Episcopal has so much to offer those not yet among us.

Nominations: There are four positions now open on Mission Committee and we serve as a team more than as individuals on the committee. Furthermore, Annual Convention calls for three delegates and three alternates (serving if needed). Nominations will close as the Feb. 8 continuation of Annual Meeting re-convenes. Ballots for all positions will be passed out during announcements in worship, Feb. 8.

Motion: Nancy G moved, and Cori B seconded, that nominations be opened (2:03pm) and that we adjourn today's part of SF' Annual Meeting (Dick L. seconded). Motions passed. With the singing of *All Are Welcome*, we adjourned the February 1 portion of our annual meeting.

Feb. 8, following our exchange of Peace, by acclamation these people were elected to the Mission Committee: Dick LaVen, Anne Wade, Diana Hutton., and Sandy Hackett. The annual meeting adjourned with the resumption of worship. Over 20 members were in attendance.

Reported by Perry Gray-Reneberg, Clerk

Senior Warden Report for 2015

This has been a year of transition and learning for our Mission Committee and me in particular. We began the year with three key positions having been vacated: the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and the Treasurer. With all this historical knowledge leaving at once a huge void was felt. Thank you to all of you who stepped in and helped us find our way.

Thank you, also, to all of you who have volunteered so willingly in various ministries, committees, work parties, and fundraisers this year. And those who have helped with coffee hour, prayed for each other, reached out to a new member, took food to each other, sent a card or made a call, or worked in the garden. You are the Church and for each of you I give thanks with joy.

As I recall the events of this past year, two special events come to the forefront. In April when the furnace in the Ferguson House expired, Rabbi Les Scharnberg from Arcata offered to do a fundraiser for us. We enjoyed an evening of folk music and stories with Rabbi Les and many from the Jewish community and were able to raise just under \$2,000 which was about half the cost of the new furnace.

Secondly, was the installation of our new All Saints window. We still have two more windows to be completed and are hoping to have those done this year.

This is a time of hope and excitement as we begin a new year and our “cottage gatherings” and I am looking forward to exploring new ways of serving God here at St. Francis.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Wade
Senior Warden

2015 Junior Warden Report

1. The lighting upgrade begun in 2014 was completed this year. The fluorescent lighting in Ferguson House and the parish hall, library and kitchen was replaced with LEDs. The rebate-aided cost of purchase and old-unit recycling was donated, as was the labor to install.
2. The furnace in Ferguson House quit, and the furnace was replaced with a higher efficiency model, the thermostat and ducting were upgraded. Most of the cost was donated.
3. The 1980s era digital organ was replaced with a donated organ from the mid-1990s. We also received two stand-alone speakers.
4. Two monochrome laser printers were donated. These both are capable of double-sided printing and are used to print the weekly service folders. This has brought the printing back “in-house”.
5. ECW removed and replaced the refrigerator in Ferguson House.
6. A defective coffee pot was replaced (donated).
7. The lake that formed in the back yard of Ferguson House was determined to be a leaky(broken) head from an in-ground sprinkler system, the existence of which had been lost from our corporate memory.

In addition, many people donated of their time, talents, and treasure to keep up the yard, change batteries, and do all the other things that pop up in the life of our buildings and grounds. I'll not list names, because somebody always gets left out. Instead, I would like to thank all of you, and ask you to thank yourselves and each other.

Sandy Hackett, Jr. Warden

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Income

Pledges, non-pledged giving and other offerings for 2015 were up by 5.51% despite the number of pledges being down this year. Although our rental vicarage income remained the same as the previous two years, our donations from the numerous groups that use our facilities decreased by 23% this past year.

Thanks to ECW, we did receive income to the general fund from pie sales of \$1,030. In addition, we were blessed by a fundraising concert that brought in \$2,680.60, to help replace the heater in the Ferguson House.

Lighting was replaced and due to generous donations of time and money, we ended up receiving grant rebate money in the amount of \$840.59. Our expenses were only \$85.44.

A new organ was given to us for the cost of moving it to St Francis in the amount of \$495.

A new stained glass window was installed in 2015. The cost of \$2,510, was paid from our Memorial Fund.

Expenses

This past year, our outreach expenses were down by 90% due to lack of requests.

Our greatest expense was replacing the heater in Ferguson House, which cost \$4,608. A portion of this expense was covered by fundraising and \$2,720, was transferred from the Samuelson Reserve Fund.

The priests' salary and benefits saw an increase of 3.6%. This was due to the 1.5% increase in COLA, additional benefits cost, and expense reimbursements per the 2015 Letter of Understanding with our Priest in Charge as well as the Supply Priests expense of \$310.

Our overall deficit spending for 2015 was \$9,845.86. Of this amount, \$5,230, was to cover capital expenditures.

Fund Balances

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Checking Account	\$ 341.52	\$ 5,310.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,132.16	\$ 1,419.87
Memorial Fund	\$ 3,238.40	\$ 5,749.18
Samuelson Reserve	\$ 48,914.34	\$ 51,379.05
Ruth Farrar	\$ <u>11,138.18</u>	\$ <u>10,963.37</u>
Totals Funds	\$ <u>64,764.60</u>	\$ <u>74,821.99</u>

Respectfully submitted by Cori Borges, 1/31/2016.

The Story of Open Church Wednesdays
Nancy Gregory

It begins with a story. A story about how a diverse group of people saw things as possible and let something new happen. There was no certainty, just hope and commitment.

The telling of this story reminds me of a Godly Play story, one in which as we sit around and get ready to listen, different parts are introduced, building on each other almost like building blocks, we don't necessarily ever have a clear picture, but there is anticipation and hope and wonder. At the end there is an idea of possibility that has taken shape.

About 1 and 1/2 years ago one of the members of Christ Church said, would we ever open up our nave for folks to visit and just enjoy the beautiful stained glass windows. Then one of our members (Diana L) said we should consider getting together on a regular basis to pray for God's guidance, after all we have lots facing us in today's world. Next thing we knew Pastor Jeri spoke up and introduced us to a new prayer book, *Daily Prayer For All Season*, a neat little book with prayers with prayers arranged by the church seasons and by time of day. All these bits and pieces came together and a new idea took shape in our minds. We said, why not have the church be open, midweek, every week? Why not indeed?

We heard about a sandwich board that was being disposed of by the Redwood Art Association and asked them if we could have it. They donated it to us and Diana and Dick LaVen's grandson repainted it for us. Open Church Wednesdays was born on the first Wednesday of Advent 2014. Now every Wednesday, rain, wind, or shine, that artistic sandwich board gets placed outside, our front door is open wide, and we take turns being ready for whoever may show up, whoever God may send to us. Here are some of those folks' stories, our impressions, and the impact this ministry is having on us:

- ❖ DL writes, the following are the questions our neighbors from open church are wondering about and asking us. How would you answer?
 - ❖ Do you believe in Jesus?
 - ❖ Do you believe the three in one?
 - ❖ How come there are so many different churches?
 - ❖ I don't mean to be disrespectful, but aren't church leaders supposed to be men?
 - ❖ Do you do confession in this church

- ❖ We had 2 visitors today. D who has been here several times before and his older cousin T who lives in Scotia. We talked about God's love and forgiveness, Jesus, Satan, healing gifts, covered several stories in the Bible that seemed to have relevance for them, such as Job. We learned so much today with them and we thanked them for the gift of their being here today!

- ❖ Today we were visited by Mr and Mrs St. Nick and a few others. As the church interior was transformed into a winter wonderland a Postal Service Letter Carrier came by and used our handy restroom! That was especially cool. Serving the neighborhood and

community, right?! Who knows when he might return and come inside to look around or whom he might mention our Open Door to?

- ❖ We had 3 special visitors today, each with great stories. They all kind of came on the scene at once, so part of their stories will have to be filled in by others. There was an elderly man who came with a young woman who he introduced as his adopted daughter and a blood relative of Lois T. He was seeking a chance to look at and photograph our window dedicated to Lois. At about the same time a young man walked in, seeking the counsel of clergy. D L escorted him to the church office where Pastor J was working. Afterwards we learned the two of them had had quite a conversation, she giving him lots of food for thought and a Bible. We reminded ourselves that it is now one full year that we have offered Open Church. The community at large is becoming aware of our regular open door and this welcome chance to seek spiritual comfort.
- ❖ We were visited today by a man who appeared to have been living "rough" for quite some time. He walked in and asked us if this was the time for silent reflection. We answered yes, so he came on in, sat down in the front, and prayed aloud for about 15 minutes. He got up and started to walk out so we asked him if he was aware that the Emergency Weather Shelter was opening up that night and that there would be a hot meal and a place indoors to sleep. He was so happy about this news, like a child receiving a Christmas present. He had not asked us for anything, but he was clearly in need.
- ❖ We were visited today by a young man named R who said he was a Methodist who has lived here 21 years. We welcomed him, offered to answer any questions he might have, told him our general plan was to offer silence at this time, and asked him if he had something in mind. He said yes, so we said to please make himself at home. He stayed and prayed for about 30 minutes. We gave him a Forward Day By Day pamphlet and thanked him for coming.
- ❖ God sent us another visitor today. A young man came by, asked if we were having a service and how long we would be open. He sat down for a bit then left. We asked him if he wanted to talk about our beliefs (no) and invited him to come back on Sunday at 11am for our regular worship. E says she remembers him from her days working in our public schools.
- ❖ Today we were visited by two young men, their mom and dog. They were in need of some extra cash and were willing to do some chores. We prayed together.
- ❖ Wednesday Sept 2, we had a visitor, a young man who walked in to see what was happening. We greeted him, told him he was most welcome, asked him if he had any questions. He stayed briefly and left. That open door pulls people in to see what is going on.
- ❖ D visited and asked us to pray for his friend and gave us his "tithe" to make up for the past times that he hadn't done so.

- ❖ H F and son visited to pray for help in finding work
- ❖ A woman stopped by to ask for a drink of water and a hug.
- ❖ R visited and blessed us with his many gifts. Pastor J says, " I'll never forget his first questions: "Does this church believe in Jesus?" And "Do you believe in the one in three?" How else does a person ascertain that a church is a Trinitarian Christian church? DL offered R a job of cutting our grass in exchange for some cash. He did a great job. We thanked him for all his gifts to us this day. We told him we respected his efforts to find work and hoped he could avoid the job of trimmer. He said that kind of work was not for him. He asked if we could pray right then, so we joined hands and prayed. We gave him an old flyer about River Life, so he ended up at that evening's dinner, serving everybody with a dinner roll and a great big smile on his face, telling everyone to enjoy their meal!

FOOD OUTREACH

On Third Sundays, offerings of food are collected at St. Francis. Erin Wall and Dick LaVen deliver the food to the Wood Street Chapel's Food Pantry. The Wood Street Chapel Food Pantry distributes food on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Distribution starts about 9 AM. Simple, basic staples make up most of the food packages. Rice, beans, pasta, canned veggies, cereals and some canned meat and fish are always needed. Coffee, tea, cooking oil, dish detergent, hand soap, shampoo and TP is distributed when available. The program serves between 40 and 50 families, and helps more than 100 people every month.

There are also small packets of food and other basics available for those who come to St. Francis asking for help.

The need for food in our community never ends. Many people are caught short and food stamps never go far enough. If you know someone who is having difficulty making ends meet, please tell them about the Wood Street Chapel Food Pantry. If you are cleaning out your own pantry, think about this outreach program. If you are grocery shopping and can afford something extra, we can always use your contribution. Submitted by Dick LaVen

EXTREME WEATHER SHELTER

In November 2015 the Fortuna Homeless Housing Coalition (FCCA) in conjunction with Fortuna Community Services began to implement plans to open an Extreme Weather Shelter (EWS) on nights of below-freezing temperatures or particularly severe weather conditions.

According to Donna Matthews of the FHHC: *"The shelter has been open from 4:00pm – 7:30am on November 24th, December 3rd, December 12th, December 14th, December 21st, December 23rd, January 1st, January 2nd, January 12th, and January 17th ... so far, 10 NIGHTS! During that time people are provided a safe, warm, and dry place to sleep along with a hot meal and shower. **THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS and community members who have stepped up in support with food, clothing, first aid supplies, dog kennels and other helpful supplies!"***

St Francis Episcopal Church has participated in this community effort by providing meals

(organized by Diana H.) and providing coats and warm hats (Sandy and Candy). Nancy G. has aided in communication with the homeless community. Rev. Geri C. is one of the overnight supervisors. And of course, all added their prayers for the homeless population in our community.

Nancy and Rev. Geri continue to attend meetings of the FCCA as next steps are discerned for this ongoing outreach to the homeless in Fortuna and the Eel River Valley. Submitted by Rev. Geri Cunningham

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WORKERS (ECW)

Episcopal Church Workers.....all members of the church are members of ECW. We are an active grouping of those at St. Francis that want to consider the needs of the community and the congregation in a group setting. We are an open forum that seeks input to make a difference as we are prayerfully led. Our meeting time is the fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:30 at the Ferguson House; time and place are open to change as needed by those attending

Listed below are some of the events in which we have chosen to participate in the year 2015.

Jan 2015 - Feb 2015	Art Classes taught by Bobbi Bennetzen (fellowship and outreach)
Jan 2015 - Jan 2016	Blessing Bags for the homeless/houseless (community outreach)
Jan 2015 - Jan 2016	Extreme Weather support providing food (community outreach)
Jan 2015 - Jan 2016	Crafts/Creative Arts Group (fellowship and outreach)
Feb 2015	Lenten Soup Supper Hosts (fellowship and outreach)
April 2015	Annual Blessings Sale (fundraising)
July 2015	Auto Pie Expo (baking pies/ marketing them at the Expo) (fundraising)
Oct 2015	Purchase of a freezer utilized in food preparation (community outreach)
Nov 2015	Thanksgiving Luncheon (hosted by The Colemans) (fellowship)
Nov 2015	Holiday Pie Sales (fundraising)
Dec 2015	Community Craft Fair (fundraising)
Dec 2015	Quilts/Children - quilts for children effected by fires in Lake Port (outreach)
Dec 2015	Xmas Bags - serving hundreds of local school children (community outreach)

We ask for your prayers in guidance.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Hutton - ECW President

COMMUNICATION

Whenever we share information to facilitate the ministries of our church we are engaged in communication. These are some of the means we use and the ministries and purposes they serve. **Bold** items offer open communication while the others are between select members of our community.

Medium	Primary Purpose
Comprehensive service booklets	Provide equal access to worship regardless of experience and dexterity
Electronic mail communiques	Coordinate worship services, exchange details of ministry needs and lift up the body of Christ.
Telephone calls	Urgent need, pastoral chats, coordination
Internet: Web site, Facebook, YouTube	Invite “seekers” to be in community, to participate in worship, listen to sermons, pray, help others and follow Christ
Yard sign & Ferguson House placard	Directing visitors and facility users
Newspaper Saturday announcements	Invite visitors to worship, share news
Bulletin boards	Share ministry needs, activities and events, church news, Mission Committee reports, etc.
Book-share Table	Exchange religious and secular books
Wireless Internet connection	Secured Internet access throughout facility
Parish Hall TV/monitor	Facilitate meetings, training, and presentations
Electronic audio amplification in nave	Facilitate worship, pre/post service music
Library	Personal and group study resources
Assisted-listening technology	Help all worshipers hear all elements of Sunday worship

Planned for 2016	Ministry/Purpose
Additional video recording of special music and events	Share more of God’s gifts of music, preaching and worship with the body of Christ.

Submitted by Perry Gray-Reneberg

Pastor's Report for Annual Meeting, January 31, 2016

Dear friends in Christ,

I sometimes feel like my life at St. Francis' is like living in an art gallery, about a foot from each painting. I often see the details (although they sometimes escape me, I confess!) of our life together – a brush stroke here, a shading there, a small figure that needs more definition in the corner. One week to the next. Blessing to blessing. Effort to effort. Worship to worship, even with the variety of the changing church seasons.

And once a year, I have the opportunity to step back and really SEE what has happened over the past year. To see the most recent painting I've been absorbed in, and ALL the paintings, as part of a whole collection, a whole exhibition. That broader view is a gift, and one I take seriously, and receive in gratitude for the unique art God is creating among us. Because, as you know, God is the painter creating these works of art at St. Francis' church.

There is no final title for this exhibition, because the art continues to emerge. But what I can do as your pastor, five years into our ministry together, is to lift up what has happened and to add to the archives of the institutional memory of this place for the year 2015.

A few observations this year:

We welcomed Pr. Geri and Earl C. this year, and give thanks for their desire to worship with us and serve among us. Earl's musical gifts have been much appreciated, and Pr. Geri's experience in ministry and with homeless people is a real gift to us. We include Shakefork Farm in our prayers, and look for new ways to support its ministry in the community.

Open Church observed its first full year, and the report is amazing. God has brought us people who are both receiving our gifts and giving to us in many ways.

Godly Play is bearing fruit in our children, who are retaining the stories, bursting with creativity, and participating in the worship service eagerly. Thanks be to God!

ECW and the craft group are looking for new ministry opportunities as they continue with some old favorites. Many thanks to Diana H. and all who continue to participate with enthusiasm as they are able.

This was also a year of physical changes – some voluntarily sought, and some forced upon us. The furnace in Ferguson House failed and we had to purchase a new one. But we were then blessed to receive the generous and interfaith offering of gifts of the Rabbi Les Scharnberg, whose musical

fundraising event helped us tremendously.

As the old fluorescent lights in the parish hall began to fail, we chose to replace them with LEDs, with assistance from the ECW and an anonymous donation. Perry, Frank, and others installed them in the nave and parish hall, and the Redwood Coast Energy Authority approved their installation, bringing us a rebate of over \$800, and donated the lights for the nave as well. The fee for recycling the old fluorescents was waived, saving us significant money.

Our friend Doug Moorehead, former organist at Christ Church in Eureka, located an organ and beautiful speakers he thought we might appreciate, that we might obtain for free. We were grateful for the generosity of the descendants of the woman who had died, a member of Temple Beth-El in Eureka. We paid only for its transport, about \$500, and Perry and a local technician, Lee Dedini, worked together so that Perry might clean the contacts, and connect the speakers. The result was a wonderfully clear, strong, sound. And Perry and John C. were eventually able to break down and find a home for the old organ components.

We also welcomed another work of art to the nave – the All Saints stained glass window, completed by our window artist, Jeanette Frey-Carson of Ukiah. It was dedicated in memory of Fr. Ken Samuelson and other saints on Pentecost.

That gives you a general view of the gifts God gave to, and through, St. Francis' this year. To look more closely, here is a more detailed picture of our ministry together in 2015.

Worship

**Ash Wednesday service with extended time of Imposition of Ashes
Stations of the Cross (Sandy)**

Congregational reading of St. Mark's Passion on Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday Eucharist with Footwashing

Good Friday with Veneration of the Cross

Easter Sunday with special music, bells, and percussion

Baptism of Diana H.

Second annual "The church year in hymns and reflections" instructed church year service

Pr. Jeri helped to plan, and preached, presided at Camp Living Waters Pentecost – dedication of the All Saints window (and lighthearted gift of the "cape of the Spirit" to Pastor Jeri), and a visit from Hauke, a young man from Germany

Commissioning of all congregational ministries

Blessing of the Animals/St. Francis' Day – dogs, cats, chickens, snake, calf

(and photos of those animals at home and to be remembered)
Holden Evening Prayer in Advent with Dana, Helen, Earl, Mara, and Pr. Jeri
Open Church Wednesdays continued, sharing Daily Prayer for All Seasons
St. Nicholas visited kids during Advent (John C.)
Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist with special music X 2 – SATB choir
Christmas Day Lessons and Carols
Christmas Tree with special decorations on walls (thanks to Colemans)
First Sunday service of Healing
Third Sunday All-Ages service
Every Sunday sending of Eucharistic Visitors (thanks to Altar Guild!)
Tried gluten-free Communion bread for all
Special music: piano, organ as appropriate, with Doug, Pr. Jeri, and/or
Linden and Wren filling in when Dana was gone; vocal (solo, choir, small
ensembles); regular chanting by Earl, Linden, Mara, Perry, Pr. Jeri
Ongoing: regular sermons, weekly hymn choices, weekly e-mails, weekly
liturgy choices, editing of Sandy's Publisher work for service folder
Organ donated via Doug Moorehead – Perry made connections and did
maintenance
Eucharistic Minister training has begun with Diana H.
Mara preached 3 times as part of her preaching experience for the diaconate
Several new faces on Sundays
Two remaining stained glass windows commissioned of Jeanette Frey-
Carson: Eucharist/Feeding the people theme; and Craft/Handwork theme;
Jeanette will have the design for the Feeding window ready for approval
soon

Pastoral Care

Hospital and home visits (significant with a few); Eucharistic visits;
appointments at church, off site (lunch, coffee); texting, Facebook chats, email,
phone calls; planning for (future) funeral service
Pr. Jeri and Perry delivered care package for Carol S. in Willits while
traveling for Thanksgiving

Outreach/Discretionary Fund

The discretionary fund provided food, gasoline, and utility assistance for
five people for a total of \$322.71. Food was shared if requested on Sunday
morning or Wednesday afternoon. Three blessing bags were shared (made
by ECW). Work was gratefully received and a donation given to two
people.

Eucharistic Visitors

Five Eucharistic Visitors – Nancy G., Mara, Candy, Fran, and Ellie – were sent regularly to visit a total of 5 people this year. These were frequent, often weekly, visits, with sharing of the service, sermon, and congregational announcements. Continuing thanks to this committed, caring, group of visitors!

Faith Development/Education

Godly Play continued, with evidence it is making a difference in the lives and faith of our children

Adult education time on Sundays in Lent: *Slow Church: Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus*, by Smith and Pattison

Adult education time in the summer with *Humble Leadership: Being Radically Open to God's Guidance and Grace* by N. Graham Standish (assigned by the Rev. Joe Duggan as part of deanery continuing ed process)

A few currently reading and discussing *Community: the Structure of Belonging*, by Peter Block (recommended by Kay Rohde), in developing cottage gatherings

Pr. Jeri, Nancy G. and Mara participated in “The Deacon in the Details” workshop re: deacons in liturgy

Third Sunday All-Ages sermon

Camp Living Waters campers: Sean, Jacqueline, Jameson, Steven; Wren, Linden, (and Wren’s boyfriend, Jeff) – continuing young adult/counseling staff; Wren and Mary B. from St. Alban’s transported equipment for storage in garage

Mission Committee monthly worship/teaching

Plans to meet next week with Anne Clarke, Lifelong Learning Coordinator for the diocese, to discuss a regular Bible study and/or book group

Mission/Ministry Development

Meetings with Mission Committee, ECW, Altar Guild, Open Church ministers, Pastor Geri C., and those in diaconal process/discernment

Thank you dinner provided by Anne for outgoing Mission Committee members who had steered us through the accessibility construction

Pr. Jeri participated in continuing education project with other deanery clergy and the Rev. Joe Duggan, which led to the idea of cottage gatherings

Pr. Jeri participated in Clergy Conference with Bishop N.T. Wright on Paul, and Lutheran Professional Leaders Conference with the focus on preaching as a ministry of the whole congregation

Congregational Leadership Conference May 11 (Pr. Jeri in Berkeley for Mara and George's wedding)

Fall Convocation October 24 at Christ Church

Social Media Sunday October 25

Congregational support for Rachel C. and Chloe R. as they attended and reported on their Freedom Ride 2015 experience
Met with Kay Rohde and Nancy G. re: Total Ministry; Kay preached
Projected energy savings by purchasing an energy-saving furnace for Ferguson House upon the failure of the old one, and by installing LED lights throughout the whole property – nave, parish hall, Ferguson House
“St. Francis' in Motion” mobile technology support group started – met five times, and is continuing to meet
“Stewardship” group met five times – focusing now on cottage gatherings, with gifts and listening the focus, rather than evaluation and planning

Congregational Events

Easter brunch and egg hunt
Fundraiser for new furnace with Rabbi Les Scharnberg
Pr. Jeri, Perry, Wren, and the Coleman family attended Mara and George's wedding in Berkeley
Wedding reception for Mara and George provided by Jenny and John
“Gratitude Sunday,” food provided by Jenny and John
Quarterly “Game Nights” with potluck snacks
Bell Ringing and Prayer after the Charleston shooting

Groups/Gatherings:

Diocese/Deanery/Synod/Conference/Community

Working Group Deanery meetings
Regular Clericus gatherings (all deanery Episcopal clergy)
Lutheran clergy meetings
Clergy for Choice meetings – met with Spare Change youth twice for listening/training
Women clergy lunch
Ecumenical Lenten gatherings
Synod Assembly, Sacramento (May 29-31)
Diocesan Convention, Redding (Nov. 13-15)
Congregational Leadership Conference, with St. Francis' providing food
Fall Convocation
Pr. Jeri and Perry attended the installation of the Rev. Randy Knutson in Ft. Bragg (he serves Holy Trinity Lutheran, and St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal, churches)

Communication/Outreach/Ecumenical

Outreach

Open Church: This was our first full year of being open to all whom God would bring to us on Wednesday afternoons. The story is amazing – nearly every week, someone comes for silent prayer, conversation, or with other needs. People seem to be attracted to both our open door and to a small group gathering. If you haven't yet come, please give it a try – it truly enhances our faith and exercises our “receptivity” muscle.

12-step and other groups and PFLAG continue to meet in parish hall and Ferguson House

Monthly: food gathering at third Sunday All-Ages service; goes to Wood Street Chapel for hungry people in Fortuna

Pr. Jeri met with Pr. Linda Ford re: outreach and ecumenical gatherings in Fortuna

ECW activities throughout the year: 180 Christmas bags to needy children in Fortuna and Rio Dell, donation for the LED lights, pie sales, rummage and craft sales, 11 quilts for children displaced in the fires (a deanery-wide effort)

Communication/ Ecumenical

Weekly: Weekly e-mail to a list that continues to grow; Hymn and service choices, editing, [printing, assembling service folder – until the end of the year, when Sandy resumed doing this], Times-Standard and Facebook notifications; recording and uploading YouTube video of sermons and special music

Regular phone calls, e-mails, and texts, including with people not currently in church

Texted with 12 members: Candy, Sandy, Fran, John C., Karen, Ellie, Cori, Fannette, Diana L., Laura, Dana, Sean

“St. Francis' in Motion” mobile technology support group met five times, with 11 attending frequently

Facebook updates and interactions: Several members, friends, and friends from St. Alban's and Christ Church. Currently up to 169 “likes” (from 121 “likes” last year) for Facebook page; regularly pay \$5 to boost postings about sermons, special music, Flat Jesus photos. Several regular viewers who don't come to church who express appreciation

“Flat Jesus” continued – and 50 times we reminded each other that Jesus goes with us wherever we go!

A few Times-Standard articles, including yesterday's feature on Pastor Jeri and St. Francis'

Local coverage (T.V. and newspaper) of the Bell ringing and prayers for Charleston victims (Diana H. notified them)

Local ecumenical Lent and Advent events continue

Perry serves on Diocesan Communications Committee
Pastor Jeri has been asked to serve on the planning team of a joint Episcopal-Lutheran event that will happen in Sacramento September 23-24, called: "Many Voices, One Song: A Conference on Music in the Liturgy," sponsored by the Commission on Liturgy and Music of the Diocese of Northern California, and the Worship for Baptismal Living Discipling Team of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA. Keynote speaker is Dr. David Cherwien, church musician and teacher; and currently proposed workshops include: Anglican hymnody and chant, the Lutheran choral tradition, Contemporary ("praise") music, Taize, Gospel music, "Blended worship," Worship for ethnically and culturally diverse congregations, and "What to do in a congregation without instrumentalists or a choir." All are invited to save the date, and to carpool with Pr. Jeri and Perry!

Personal Events/Vacation, Sick, Time

April 11 – 20, vacation to Kansas and Southern California, including Mara and George's wedding in Berkeley on April 11; September 4 – 9, to Southern California for parents' 60th wedding celebration and to marry nephew Jared; November 29, sick with laryngitis

Synod/Diocese required Clergy attendance

**Clergy Conference, Healdsburg
Professional Leaders Conference, Monterey
Synod Assembly, Sacramento
Diocesan Convention, Redding**

So there's the big picture! Maybe you'll discern some themes. Let us give thanks to God for another year of abundant gifts and ministry opportunities!

Love in Christ,

Jeri+