



ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6201 E. WILLOW STREET, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815

Welcome to St. Gregory's
Episcopal Church!

St. Gregory's is a warm and caring community of families and singles, young and old, committed to sharing the good news that Jesus is the Lord of all life. We are an Anglican Church, having members from all backgrounds and religious traditions, many of us had no church involvement before coming here. We want to offer to you the same welcome and friendship that were extended to us when we came to St. Gregory's.

ST. GREGORY'S MISSION STATEMENT

God has called us into Christian community and gifted us for ministry:

To worship and glorify God
To transform faith into action
To share the love of Jesus Christ

The Right Reverend J. Jon Bruno
Bishop of Los Angeles

The Reverend Stephen L. Williams, Rector
Rectory Telephone 714-903-0847

The Reverend Jane S. Jones, Deacon
310-514-0832

David J. Feit-Pretzer, Music Director
714-899-1902

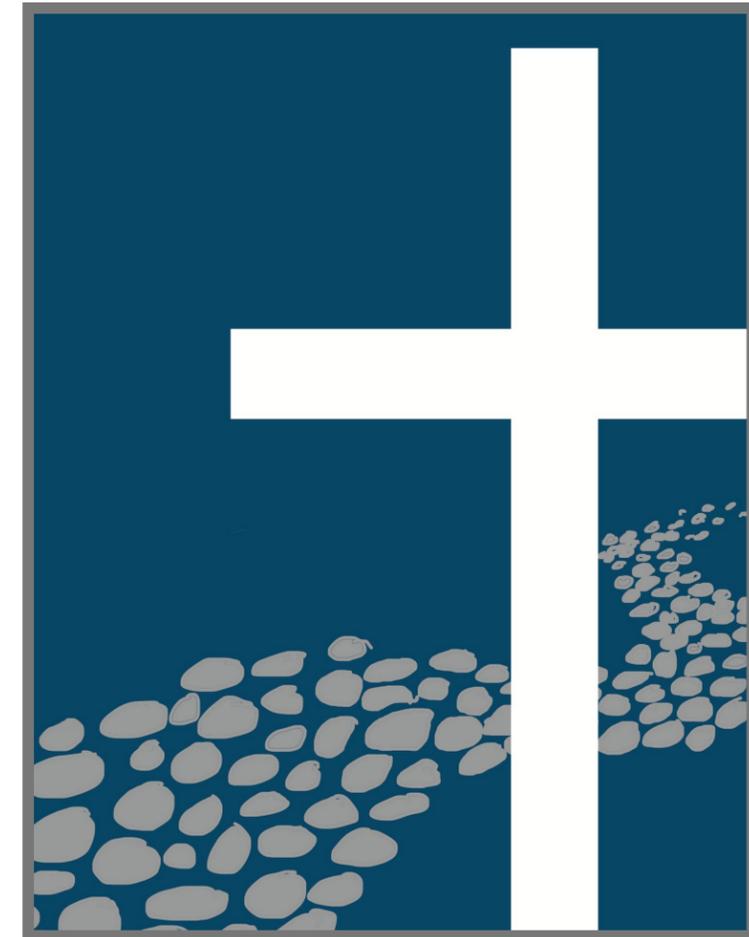
Diana J. Galán, Parish Administrator
562- 420-1311

info@stgregoryschurch.com

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

www.stgregoryschurch.com

ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Annual Report 2014



Annual Meeting—January 18, 2015

God has called us into Christian community and gifted us for ministry:

To worship and glorify God
To transform faith into action
To share the love of Jesus Christ

NOTES

ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING—January 18, 2015
2014 ANNUAL REPORTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda and Summary of the Canons (Membership) ----- 3-4
 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Data Report ----- 4-6
 Commissioning for Lay Ministry in the Church -----7

Rector's Report ----- 7-8
 Deacon's Report -----8
 Music Ministry-----8
 Senior Warden's Report----- 9-10
 Junior Warden's Report -----10-11
 Men's Fellowship -----11-12
 Youth-----12-13
 Feed My Lambs----- 13
 Christian Education-----14
 Food Bank-----15
 Episcopal Church Women -----15
 Treasurer's Annual Report -----16

Financial
 Proposed 2015 Budget-----16-18
 Mission Statement Budget for 2015-----18

The following reports were not received: Acolytes, Ushers, Greeters and Altar Guild

Stewardship Prayer

My church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is.
 It will be friendly, if I am.
 Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.
 It will do great work, if I work.
 It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.
 It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.
 It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REPORTS CONTINUED

2014 Financial Summary

Coming into the year we projected an operating shortfall of approximately \$8,190. As the year progressed the shortfall expanded as costs for the lawn care, utilities and the costs of our Worship Space Renewal Celebration. Income for the year was right at the projected amount. The result was a \$13,263 gap between expenses and income which was funded from St. Gregory's reverse account. Below are financial highlights for the year.

Operating Costs

- Salaries and Wages and Administration costs were right at budget for the year.
- Property insurance costs were less anticipated.
- Parish Life expense were \$3,200 over budget due primarily to cost of the Worship Space Celebration which were not included in our original budget.
- Christian Education costs were under budget for the year as the result of the many volunteers that contributed their time and talents to the care of our youth programs.
- Due in part to the hot summer weather utility costs were higher than projected. Lawn care expenses for the year included costs for services in 2013 that were not billed and paid until 2014.

Income

The combination of pledge income, weekly plate offerings, and income from third party usage of our facilities totaled \$288,442, just below the \$288,500 we had projected for the year.

MISSION STATEMENT BUDGET FOR 2015

2015 Mission Budget

The Income estimate for 2015 is \$290,000, and we are projecting a balanced budget for the year. The biggest difference in the 2015 budget from past years is the reduction in Rector salary and benefits. The following are highlights of the 2015 Mission Budget, approved by the Vestry at our January meeting.

- The transition to an Interim Rector will provide a reduction in both Salary & Wages and Health Insurance costs.
- The Deacon stipend will be increased to \$500 per month.
- Other than the Rector's Discretionary Fund all Outreach programs will continue to be funded outside of the Mission Budget.
- The Diocesan Pledge will be increased to 26,500 for the year.
- Decrease budget for Parish Life & Picnic by \$1,000 and eliminate the budget for Advertising. The budget will include \$8,000 to fund costs of our Rector Search.

It is the goal of the Vestry for 2015 is to operate with a balance budget for the year, including funding of a majority of the costs of our Rector Search.

Should you have any questions on anything presented in this report please contact Bob McRae.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.”

*From St. Andrew and St. Charles Episcopal Church
Grenada Hills, CA*

AGENDA

- A. Call to Order
- B. Opening Prayer and Hymn
- C. Approval of 2014 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
- D. The Election of the Vestry—Class of 2015-2018
 - Judge of Election: Cheryl Rodi
 - Tellers: Cheryl Rodi and Anne Ruffner
 - Qualification for Nominees
 - The Nominating Committee
 - Nominations from the Floor
 - Introduction of Nominees
 - Ballots are Cast
 - 2015-2018 Candidates**
 - Terry Baker
 - Rick Crowe
 - Dawn Lewis
 - David Luebben-Morrill
 - Patrick McDonough
 - Sharon Nemitz
- E. Reports
 - 1. Rector's Report ----- The Rev'd Stephen L. Williams
 - 2. Deacon's Report ----- The Rev'd Jane S. Jones, Deacon
 - 3. The Senior Warden ----- Dave DeMent
 - 4. The Junior Warden ----- Ron Dixon
 - 5. Finance ----- Bob McRae
 - 6. Stewardship ----- Bob McRae
 - 7. Other Reports/Comments
- E. Election Results
- F. Commissioning of New Vestry Members
- G. Closing Prayers and Hymn
- H. Adjournment

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

(A SUMMARY OF THE CANONS)

The National Canons address membership in the Church and the expectations the Church places on those members:

1. Members of the Church are those persons who have been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with water, and whose baptism has been duly recorded in this Church. Adult members are those persons sixteen years of age and older.
2. All adult members of the Church are expected to be confirmed in the Church, or if they have been confirmed in another Christian Church by a Bishop in Apostolic Succession, to have been received into this Church.
3. All members are considered to be communicants of this Church who have received Holy Communion at least three times during the previous year in this Church.
4. All persons in this Church are expected to celebrate and keep the Lord's Day and participate in the Church's public worship.

Communicants in good standing are those who have:

- a. Attended corporate worship on a regular basis in their Church unless they have been prevented from doing so for good cause;
- b. Have been faithful in the giving of their time, talents, and treasure for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

MINUTES—2014

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Stephen Williams at 10:32 AM with prayers from the Book of Common Prayer. Copies of the Annual Report 2014 and ballots for the election of Vestry Members and Convention Delegates were distributed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 2013 Annual Parish meeting were approved as amended by unanimous vote with no abstentions on a motion by Patrick McDonough, seconded by Tamera Benedict.

Election of Vestry Members

Fr. Williams explained the qualifications for service on the Vestry. Richard Lyddon was selected as Judge of the Election, and Cheryl Rodi and Anne Ruffner as Tellers. The nominating committee of Debra Keller, David Luebben-Morrill, Bob Huff and Kevin McEwan presented the slate of Dana Lindsay, Charles Malonson, Lisa Gibbons and Greg White and were thanked for their service. No nominations having been received from the floor, it was moved by Patrick McDonough, seconded and approved by voice vote without opposition or abstention to close nominations and elect the Vestry slate as presented by acclamation. Fr. Williams pointed out that delegates to the Diocesan Convention are to be elected at the Annual Meeting and presented the slate of delegates: Dave DeMent, Ron Dixon, Susan Mora and Bob Graham, with Alice O'Keefe and Rachel Williams as alternates. It was moved by Patrick McDonough, seconded and approved by voice vote without opposition or abstention or to close nominations and elect the delegates and alternates as presented by acclamation.

Rector's Report

Fr. Williams asked that his report be carefully read, particularly the last paragraph. He thanked Deacon Jane Jones for her considerable efforts supporting him and the life of the congregation over the last four

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REPORTS CONTINUED

10 Off. Supp/Exp/Equip repl.repair	4,251	5,185	3,500	3,558	3,000
11 Telephone	2,617	2,265	2,600	2,186	2,600
12 Postage	733	745	700	771	900
13 Computer & Internet Fees	863	1,364	880	1,812	1,500
14 Leased Equip & Copier	9,164	14,109	12,000	11,888	12,000
15 ADP payroll, ASC, Audit	4,757	4,935	4,865	4,934	5,000
16 Advertising Communications	649	75	0	147	0
17 Outside Printing, Copying	641	0	200	419	420
18 Rector's Business Expense	453	414	1,000	1,258	1,000
19 Rector's Auto	1,026	1,639	1,500	668	1,500
Total Administration	25,154	30,731	27,245	27,642	27,920
20 Property, Liability Insurance	10,637	11,327	11,550	9,627	11,900
21 Rector Health, Disabil, Unemp	12,229	16,594	16,500	16,311	2,075
22 Secretary Disab & Unemplymnt	1,307	3,732	7,400	7,271	7,620
23 Worker's Comp	1,372	1,027	1,030	1,060	1,060
Total Insurance	25,545	32,680	36,480	34,268	22,655
25 Music	4,000	4,653	4,500	4,312	4,500
26 Worship	1,139	2,565	1,700	2,023	1,500
27 Parish Life & Picnic	0	4,610	3,000	6,236	3,000
28 Stewardship Programs	294	369	0	123	300
Rector Search	0	0	0	0	6,800
Total Worship and Parish Life	5,433	12,197	9,200	12,694	16,100
29 Youth Christian Education	2,669	1,506	2,000	898	1,500
30 Adult Christian Education	705	358	500	206	200
31 Rector's Professional Devel	241	103	500	266	1,500
Total Christian Education	3,615	1,967	3,000	1,370	3,200
32 Maintenance	10,078	7,522	7,700	8,502	8,800
33 Contract Serv. Lawn, Janitorial	10,193	12,279	11,820	15,213	13,600
34 LA County Assessments	1,875	2,532	1,850	2,670	2,670
35 Utilities	22,691	22,451	18,750	22,444	23,000
Total Maintenance and Utilities	44,837	44,784	40,120	48,829	48,070
36 Outreach	0	938	0	0	0
37 Food Bank	8,783	8,311	0	0	0
38 Seminary Pledge	1,000	0	0	0	0
39 Rector's Discretionary Fund	2,400	2,400	0	0	2,200
Deacon Discretionary Fund	0	0	0	0	1,200
Total Outreach	12,183	11,649	0	0	3,400
40 Total Diocesan Pledge	30,000	30,000	22,000	18,333	26,500
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	300,709	319,266	296,690	301,704	290,000
INCOME	303,424	301,503	288,500	288,442	290,000

WOMEN OF ST. GREGORY'S CONTINUED

TREASURER'S REPORT 2013

<u>ACCOUNTS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>
Hospitality	\$995.67	\$1874.78
Miscellaneous Supplies	0	\$100.08
Hostess	0	\$107.45
UTO	\$1022.00	\$1040.00
Correspondence	0	150.00
Christian Concern (Receptions)	400.00	\$214.19
Tract Rack	0	\$358.00
Boutique	\$1709.04	\$187.50
Holly Faire	\$3402.85	\$592.24
Outreach*	0	\$353.85
Fair Share	0	200.00
Undesignated Funds	0	\$780.00
State Board of Equalization	0	90.00
Totals	\$7529.56	\$5898.09
Starting Balance	\$6345.88	
Total Receipts	\$7529.56	
Total Funds	\$12903.09	
Total Disbursements	\$5898.09	
Ending Balance	\$7005.22	

Outreach

Long Beach Rescue Mission
 Doctors Without Borders
 Vacation Bible School

Undesignated Funds

Bride's Room Renovation
 New Landscaping
 Altar Guild Flowers

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
<u>OPERATING COSTS</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
1 Rector salary, housing annuity	88,875	89,075	88,740	86,864	78,895
2 Deacon Honorarium	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	6,000
3 Supp priest	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,100	1,200
4 Parish Administrator	19,544	20,544	21,925	21,880	21,925
5 Music Director	21,788	21,658	21,860	21,762	21,860
6 Nursery Care	1,528	1,612	1,500	1,698	1,500
7 Pensions	15,660	15,660	17,600	19,494	3,275
8 Social Security & Medicare	3,147	3,309	3,420	3,370	7,500
Total Salaries & Wages	153,942	155,258	158,645	158,569	142,155

MINUTES—2014 *continued*

years, and thanked Senior Warden Dave DeMent and Junior Warden Ron Dixon for being his inspiration and liaisons to the congregation. Fr. Williams reappointed Dave DeMent as Senior Warden for a second year and noted that the remaining parish officers will be elected at the first meeting of the new Vestry. Dave DeMent has asked to retire as receiving treasurer after some 8 years of service and Fr. Williams asked that anyone interested in serving in that position speak with Dave. Karen Burgess will continue as disbursing treasurer. Tamera Benedict, Sean Wood and Bari Stevens-Chapman were thanked for their extremely important ministry to the older youth of the congregation. The members of the Altar Guild were thanked for their work in adapting to worship in Francis Hall during the renovation of the sanctuary. He thanked Lurlie Edgecomb and Diane Kela for their hospitality work, and parish administrator Diana Galan for her dedication to her position and her work on our parish communications.

Deacon's Report

Deacon Jones pointed out that the bead sales would be starting shortly in support of the youth trip, and explained that we are looking for a chairman for a "Green" committee to aid our efforts in making our campus and operation more ecologically friendly. The congregation has been asked to provide a delegate to an Episcopal Relief and Development committee to aid in efforts to link congregations together for disaster preparedness and relief within the Diocese. She thanked everyone for their generous outreach efforts over the past year, especially the Food Bank, which has become self-sufficient, and the Vestry and Wardens.

Senior Warden's Report

Dave DeMent gave a brief update on the progress of the renovations in the sanctuary. The tile work is nearing completion and lighting dimmers are being installed. We are expecting to be back in the space by the end of next month. He noted that the "interesting times" we have gone through in the past two years have brought us closer together as we met, discussed the proposed renovation project, and made the commitment to proceed. We have all had to re-examine our own relationship to St. Gregory's and each other. He explained the work on the four task forces that were established last year and indicated that substantial progress was made in all four areas. We saw increased participation in outreach due to an increase in opportunities; the outpouring of support for these ministries has been wonderful, in particular in supporting the youth group's trip to Nicaragua. Worshipping in the parish hall has been beneficial in that we have all met people we did not know before.

Junior Warden's Report

Ron Dixon mentioned some things not specifically mentioned in his report. We are each one year older than we were last year, as does our physical plant. He thanked those who participated in the parish work parties over the past year. He thanked Loren, our landscape contractor, who is entering his 31st year maintaining our grounds, and pointed out that one of the families we had adopted during Advent had participated in the work parties at the end of the year, and asked for all of us to consider how we could participate in the upkeep of the campus.

Finance and Stewardship Report

Bob McRae presented a historical picture of the financial position of the parish, that our expenses have increased and our income decreased over the past three years. We anticipated an shortfall a year ago, which widened over the year due to insurance and copier expenses to about \$18,000. The Vestry made adjustments in dealing with Outreach, asking those programs to become self-supporting, and will decrease our Diocesan pledge this year. These changes will reduce the anticipated budget deficit, which

will be met by drawing on reserves. A long-term planning/church growth committee will be assembled to establish longer-range plans for dealing with our financial status and determining how to increase income and the size of the congregation. This year's Stewardship campaign resulted in an increase in overall pledging despite the loss of about 5 pledges, and the Sacred Spaces capital campaign reached its goal. He thanked everyone for their energy and support.

Music Ministry

David Feit-Pretzer thanked the congregation for their support of the music ministry of the parish.

Based on a question by Rose Nelson, there was some discussion as to whether the parish or vestry had or required a Parliamentarian.

Parish Life

Susan Mora indicated that several members worked tirelessly on Parish Life events over the year and specifically thanked Lurlie Edgecomb, Debra Keller and Diane Kela.

Fr. Williams thanked Bob Graham and Patrick McDonough, who co-chaired the Sacred Spaces capital campaign, for their leadership, experience, and hard work on this project.

Outgoing Vestry Members

Fr. Williams thanked outgoing Vestry members Kevin McEwan, Bob Huff, David Luebben-Morrill, and Debra Keller for their service.

Commissioning of Vestry Members

The newly-elected members were presented by Dave DeMent and commissioned by Fr. Williams.

The meeting was adjourned by Fr. Williams at 11:53 AM with a concluding prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Eldon

Clerk

PARISH DATA FOR 2014

Number of Baptized Members-----	427
Number of Baptisms for 2014-----	3
Number of Confirmations-----	8
Number of Marriages -----	0
Number of Deaths -----	5
Number of Transfers in -----	0
Number of Transfers out -----	1
Average Sunday Attendance 8:00 AM-----	52
Average Sunday Attendance 10:00 AM-----	104
Total Attendance for Easter -----	319
Number of Sunday School Students (Children under 16)-----	30

FOOD BANK

Our congregation and many of the outside groups who meet at St. Gregory's continue to donate money and food items monthly. It is your and their generosity that has made it possible for us to continue to meet our goal of being a "self sufficient" ministry. On January 8, 2014, we gave out 48 bags of food.

Beginning in January 2014, the Food Bank rules for our clients are:

- A maximum of 60 bags of groceries will be given out each month
- One bag of groceries will be given to each client for three months in a row then they will need to skip the 4th month, with the cycle beginning again. Our hope is that they will come to not depend upon us too much for their food.
- Our clients addresses are being taken down so we may determine that only one member of a household may receive a bag of food from our Food Bank.
- No proxy pick-up is allowed (you must be here to receive food)

Please let us know if you would like to join our Food Bank committee members to assist in purchasing, unpacking and stocking the shelves, bagging and distributing the bags. You are always welcome.

Debra Keller, Food Bank Team Member

WOMEN OF ST. GREGORY'S

The Women of St. Gregory's (or Episcopal Church Women) have for the 60th year hosted Sunday refreshments as well as provided memorial receptions as needed. In addition, we operate the Christian Cove (Boutique), stock the kitchens, coordinate UTO twice a year, and supply the Tract Rack found at the entrance to the Parish Hall. At the end of 2014, we made donations to Doctor's Without Borders and the Long Beach Rescue Mission as part of our outreach. Our Fair Share Pledge to the diocesan ECW has been donated.

We successfully resumed our Holly Faire in November after having Country Store sales on our red carts during Sunday Breakfasts earlier in the year. With a lot of planning under Carole Headiary's leadership, we held our new version of the Holly Faire on November 15th. This was the first time we have used outside vendors and, with some adjustments, we will again on November 14th.

Our board members all agreed to remain in their positions for another year. We worked at inspiring more ladies to become an active part of ECW and appreciated their help during Holly Faire and on Sundays. Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month September to June at 10:30am in the Fire-side Room. Please consider joining us or volunteering to help on Sundays either in the Christian Cove or behind the hospitality counter.

Lurlie Edgecomb, President of The Women of St. Gregory's

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2014 was another year of change for the Christian Education program at St. Gregory's. The Canzoneri's were joined in the K-2 classroom by Michelle Crowe, and Rosa Maria Kolts is teaching the 3rd-5th graders with Holly Graham. We are once again using the "Living the Good News" curriculum, and find that it is a very easy program to teach, and offers many options for each class. This program is being taught in all grade levels, including the nursery age children. Tamera Benedict & Sean Wood are still guiding and mentoring the High School/Youth Group, and they continue to grow, which is such an exciting thing to watch happen!!

In September, Laura Samaniego took over the nursery for Amanda Dixon while she went on maternity leave. She has been such a blessing, and has taken great care of those sweet taters!!

Vacation Bible School last year was Weird Animals!! We had about 12 children attend each day, and it was a huge success. The children learned that even though we may feel weird, Jesus loves us all the time, which is an excellent lesson for us all. I want to express my gratitude to Holly Graham, Lurlie Edgecomb, Mary Jacobson, Jennifer Olsen, Julie Hopkins, Dana Lindsay, Shirley DeMent, Trisha Pappas, Diane Kela, Jeanne Bader, and Elizabeth Pavloff for teaching the lessons, doing the crafts, and especially feeding the children. I also want to recognize the awesome work and the help given by some of our youth, Brittany Wood, Caitlin Wood, Stephen Hopkins, Abel Avalos, Gregory Gonzalez, Anthony Gonzalez, Christopher Pavloff, and Evan Graham. They did the decorations, and led the games, while the adults recovered!! I especially want to thank Amanda Dixon because without her, we would not have been able to open the program up to preschool age children again this year. She led a rambunctious group and they had a blast!! It is never too early to start our children's spiritual learning, and I'm so glad we could do so.

We will start planning for VBS in February, and I invite everyone to support this valuable program. If we wish to have more children attend, we will need more adults to assist. The theme for 2015 has yet to be determined and I welcome your input.

The Christmas pageant was a fun, chaotic, production, directed once again by Tamera Benedict. The lighting and sound in our beautiful "new" church, just added to the beauty of the production. It was quite overwhelming. 2014 was also Tamera's last directing gig. She is retiring, so if you feel called to oversee our annual production, let me know!!

2015 will bring new challenges and opportunities and I ask that you all pray for the children and youth of our parish. We must keep in mind that they are the lifeblood of our church, and that without young families we will die as a congregation. I look forward to our continued growth in all areas of the education program.

Remember, we all either had, or were, children, so we must lift them up in any way we can. That means accepting the noise and confusion, as well as the hugs and smiles they bring to us. I got the following from the Episcopal Church website, and I think it is an excellent model for us all:

Children and Advocacy

The church is called to love, shelter, protect and defend children within its own community and the world, especially those who are abused, neglected or in danger.

Children and Learning

The church is called to proclaim the Gospel to children, in ways that empower them to receive and respond to God's love.

Children and Spirituality

The church is called to include children as members and full participants in the Eucharistic community and in the church's common life of prayer, witness and service.

Thank you for your love and support of the children;

Linda Dixon

Coordinator, Christian Education

THE COMMISSIONING FOR LAY MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH, WARDENS, AND MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Sponsor: I present to you these persons to be admitted to the ministry of Warden and Members of the Vestry in this congregation.

Antiphon

The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.

Celebrant: I am your servant; grant me understanding:

Congregation: That I may know your decrees.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the Wardens and Vestry of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant: In the Name of God and of this congregation. I commission you as a Member of the Vestry in this Parish and give you this Vestry Guide as a token of your ministry.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Retirement! It's come in the blink of an eye. Rachel and I met with Bishop Bruno on February 25, 2013, to tell him about my retirement and it seemed so far away, eleven months. I have one more Sunday as your Rector, priest and pastor, and look forward to celebrating with thanksgiving for our time together in ministry. Looking back over fifteen years of ministry here, I see such a change in the socio-economic make-up of our congregation. There are many new individuals and families from such different backgrounds, some coming with a strong background of church attendance and others un-churched but willing to join us on a spiritual journey. Have you ever noticed on the front of the parish life tri-fold the phrase "We pray for the growth of this baptismal community"? It's a really good idea to keep that prayer going as I leave and your new Rectors join you. I am particularly thankful for the growth of our outreach ministry and Deacon Jane's efforts to help us focus on the needs of our local community and how to join with other groups to reach out to those in need. Our senior high youth group continues to grow by being inclusive in their welcoming of new members and their joyful ministry with our congregation and their mission trips in the summer. Tamera Benedict and Sean Wood have drawn these youth into meaningful, contemporary Bible study, prayer and ministry – thank you to each mentor for their splendid and generous gift of time and talent. I continue to marvel each time I enter our worship space whether on Sunday or during the week. It is such a beautiful and holy, prayer filled space. You made it possible. The

main courtyard area with the reshaped Bible Garden and new Columbarium is set to be finished by January 18, and will be blessed immediately following our one service that day, and then on the Francis Hall for the Annual Parish Meeting. What a transformation of the space, again thanks to the very keen talent of Deacon Jane, the contractors we have employed, and most especially parishioner volunteers. There is revitalized energy and renewed commitment on the ECW Women's Board. Watch out, they are a force to be reckoned with. As I finish writing, my mind and heart are flooded with such good memories of times of worship and fellowship we have shared. The annual parish picnic, Mardi Gras, pancake breakfasts, men's fellowship barbeques, rummage sales, Christmas pageants, vacation bible schools, Thursday services in the Chapel, Bible and book studies, Holly Faires and Mothers/Daughters banquets. So many things to be thankful for. Leaving is both sad and yet full of promise for Rachel and me. Keep us in your prayer for future blessings and we will keep you in ours.

DEACON'S REPORT

There's rarely a dull moment around St. Gregory's!

Regular activities for the Deacon included monthly Staff, Wardens' and Vestry meetings and Friday office hours.

I preached 23 sermons, participated in 6 funerals and 2 weddings, organized (or tried to) 2 Bishops Luncheons, a rummage sale, the Deacon's Corner weekly column, the Lenten Soup Supper Programs, Mardi Gras/Bead sales for VBS, Outreach projects, Newcomers Brunches, & Vestry Candidates Class. Participated in Senior Supper Club, Boy Scout activities, Choir "Talent" Show, VBS, and Diocesan Convention.

Much of the year involved planning for the new exterior Columbarium site which evolved into a makeover of the main courtyard and Bible Garden....plus the 3 pocket gardens near the main doors and the 2 street gardens on the west side...none of it possible without the team of Ron Dixon, Charlie Malonson, Bruce Graham, Stan Carpenter and the loyal work party crews. Many thanks to Diane Kela, Lurlie Edgecombe, Dana Lindsay, Diane Galan and the best Clergy Spouse ever, John.

It was a very good year for the Parish especially when we moved back into a beautiful new Sacred Space which promises to enhance our community worship for years to come. With that return to "normalcy" seemed to come renewed energy, participation and purpose plus the usual generosity of spirit. The year was also tinged with the knowledge that Father Stephen and Rachel would be leaving us in a matter of months. I thank both of them for being the special people they are and Father in particular for his reverent and patient presence and professional integrity. I shall always be grateful for the gift of ministry with him...Thanks be to God!

MUSIC MINISTRY

During 2013, the Chancel Choir and the Voices in Bronze have been faithful in their preparation and presentation of music to enhance the worship experience of the congregation at St. Gregory's. Whenever you see one of these dedicated and talented people, please let them know how much you appreciate their gift of time and talent to our church community.

The Chancel Choir also participated in the National Association of Church Musicians Adult Choir Festival, and a Choir Workshop Day as well as major musical presentations on Palm Sunday, December 8th and Christmas Eve. These events along with their weekly commitment keep them busy throughout the year.

Let everything that has breath ***Praise the Lord!***

Respectfully submitted, David Feit-Pretzer, Director of Music/Organist

Sean Wood and Tamera Benedict.

The Youth of St. Gregory's also participates in monthly activities such as fundraisers, visiting other denominations, movie nights, paint ball, and other fellowship activities which forge bonds between the Youth. Our Youth also participates in church wide activities such as work parties to improve and beautify the church, Feed My Lambs which is a homeless meal program, Adopt-a-Family at the holidays, and other projects as identified by the church.

For the past two years the congregation has supported the Youth in their mission trip to Nicaragua. They travel to a converted refugee camp outside of Managua and perform service projects for the impoverished people of the area. They have painted buildings, made cinder blocks, bent rebar, cleared fields, and cleaned out warehouses for job creation. They also take classes on Nicaraguan culture and history and visit important political and ethnic sites. The Youth brought shoes and baseball equipment on their most recent trip. Baseball is actually the national sport of Nicaragua.

The Youth of St. Gregory's are proud to be a part of the vital, active community at St. Gregory's! "

Respectfully submitted by *Tamera Benedict*

FEED MY LAMBS

Our sister church, St. Luke's, at 7th and Atlantic, Long Beach, is always glad to see our Feed My Lambs team arrive on the first Saturday of the month. Their Shower Program is offered to those in need 4 Saturdays a month with other churches filling the need for food. We carry the clothing, shoes, towels, and small toiletries that you have donated after sorting and bagging done by Terry Baker. She stepped in to fill the shoes of Anne Ruffner who "retired" after 9 1/2 years. I thank them both. All gets packed into our cars and vans on the Friday before the first Saturday. We start at 1 pm and finish by 3 pm.

Our Friday team fills baggies with cookies, makes 100+ peanut butter and jam sandwiches, assembles 40 ditty or amenity bags, and adds those totes with our pots, electric skillet, paper products, cases of water, powdered soup, and coffee pot into the vehicles that will be going on Saturday.

Our Saturday team shows up downtown at 7 am, delivers the clothing to the men and women's closets and then we get busy making an assembly line of tables to serve coffee, hot chocolate, muffins, hard-boiled eggs (we need 200+), p.b. sandwiches, French toast sticks and a choice of fruit. When these foods are running low, the cooks, usually Tamera Benedict and Diane Kela, start bringing out the hot cheddar-broccoli soup to be served with crackers, the cookies for dessert, and any remaining fruit. We offer seconds at each serving until the food is gone and it all goes. We do two rounds of feedings, clean up, take our trash out and recycle what we can, and usually get out of there around 10 am.

We are seeing more women clients in the last years. Like the men they may be living on the street, sharing a van or a couch in someone's apartment or garage. Sleeping bags, blankets, shoes, work boots, new socks and underwear--all items are badly needed.

At Christmas time (first Saturday in December), we do more by providing warm and dry new items as well as a larger ditty bag with more items in it. You have been generous again this year and we thank you. Whether you donate monetarily or with food or goods, it all counts.

Many gifts of \$25.00 and some larger ones, gave us a donated income of \$3,805.00. We had expenses of \$3,604.00 beyond your donations of goods. We do hear many expressions of thanks and "God Bless you".

Lurlie Edgecomb, Leader of FML

-
- The Case for Faith
 - Evil and Suffering
 - The Case for a Creator

Each month a different member opens and closes the meeting with a prayer and guides that meeting through the various topics which includes a round-robin discussion on what is going on with our lives. The group continues to focus on doing more Outreach, both inside and outside of our church.

During 2014 we did the BBQ for the annual rummage sale in May. Also in May several of us went to a weekend Men's Retreat that was held in Julian, Calif. In July we held our 6th annual BBQ dinner which consisted of steak and chicken and all the fixings for the men and young men to promote fellowship and friendship. We continue to cook a 3rd Sunday breakfast for the congregation in September and we finished off the year with another BBQ in November to support the Holly Faire.

As we have been doing for several years we continue to support our Food Bank program with each of our active members agreeing to provide at least \$20 per month worth of food and / or money.

Two other areas we participated with involved our Out Reach programs:

For the first time we cooked a breakfast at the Ronald McDonald House in Long Beach in July and served about 30 family members who are staying there while their children are getting much needed medical care. Since this was our 3rd time of doing a meal for them we were able to reduce the cost of the meal (because it was a breakfast) and at the same time offer a lot more interaction with the families which seemed to really touch both us and them.

Adopted 2 families for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The gift giving response in cash, department and food cards along with the donated presents helped fulfill both family wish lists and to all of you who helped make Rudy Revell and Family #8 very grateful for St. Gregory's generosity they asked that we pass on a heartfelt God bless to each of you.

Both of these Outreach programs continue to help our group be able to reflect on the blessings that we already have.

The Men's Fellowship Mission Statement is "To Worship God and Promote Fellowship among Men" and we sincerely hope that by bringing men together in fellowship it will help make for a stronger parish. We welcome all the men in our congregation to take 2 hours out of your schedule and come by on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Fireside room and check us out. You will be welcomed with open arms and good fellowship and hopefully YOU will want to continue to be part of this ministry.

As we said last year, we want to remind all of you that our group is NOT funded by the church so any financial assistance to help support us with our Outreach programs will always be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Dixon

YOUTH

"The Youth Group at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church is comprised of students in the 9th to 12th grade and also encompasses older youth who have gone on to college. We meet every Sunday at 9am for formal Christian Education which includes lessons from the Bible as well as parts of the Episcopal catechism, including a working knowledge of the Book of Common Prayer, the Psalms and lectionary. It is lead by

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

And I thought last year was an interesting year! This year became something totally different than what I had expected when Fr. Williams announced in February that he was retiring at the end of January 2015. This set into motion a chain of events mandated by the diocese that we had to complete in order to begin our search for a new rector beginning in February 2015. All of this had to take place while we continued with our essential mission of ministering to our members and those in our local community who need help in various ways. We are truly blessed to have a cadre of willing and capable individuals to handle all that was asked of them this year.

The Junior Warden (Ron Dixon) and I contacted the diocese in March to see what we had to do to initiate our search for a new rector. They have a very structured methodology to prepare a congregation to be ready for a transition to a new rector. This methodology requires that a congregation does not start their formal search until the current rector has left the parish. During the search process the diocese appoints an interim rector to minister to us, and to prepare us for the transition to a new rector. However, during the time before Fr. Stephen retires there are many steps that the parish itself has to accomplish in order for the congregation to understand who they are and what they would like to see in a new rector.

In June we held a History Day to recall who we are and who we have been. Open discussions about our history and past rectors started people really thinking about where we want to go in the future, and what characteristics we would like to see in our next rector. All during the month of August we conducted a Parish Survey to examine in depth the preferences of our congregation relating to all different aspects of our church, our faith and our hopes for the future. In early September the vestry chose a Rector Search Committee of eight parishioners from fifteen candidates. During September and October this committee's members held meetings with small groups of parishioners after Sunday services to hear directly from them as individuals what they desired for our future. The Search Committee's primary goal this year was to synthesize all the information they received from the survey and the small group meetings into a coherent picture that reflects the needs and desires of our parish to help guide them in their search for our new rector. Simultaneously another committee headed by Alice O'Keefe has been preparing a Parish Profile which is the primary document that all candidates for our rector position will read to understand our community and our church. The Search Committee has written a portion of this document outlining what they have learned from listening to us. This document will be available on line for all to see in February. In 2015 (and 2016 if necessary) the Search Committee's job will be to winnow through and evaluate all applicants for our job that have been cleared by the diocese. Their ultimate task is to narrow down the list of applicants to a final three. They will present their findings on each of these three candidates to the vestry who will make the final decision on who is offered the position.

This year is the first year that all of our outreach ministries have been fully self-supporting. This is the result of the work performed by the Outreach Committee last year. This committee redefined our outreach process to emphasize hands-on ministries which are supported wholly by the contributions of love, labor, materials and money from our parishioners. This has proved to be a very effective strategy as several of our programs have grown in scope in the past year.

For the second year our older Youth Group returned to Nicaragua on a mission trip to perform service work at a converted refugee camp to help the impoverished people of the area. They again worked

extremely hard to help raise the money for this return trip. While in Nicaragua they performed heavy labor, and studied the local culture and visited historical sites. They returned home full of pride with their accomplishments, and humbled by the poverty they saw in Nicaragua.

This year another of our parishioners, Holly Graham, after long contemplation felt that she had received a call from God to become an ordained priest. A lay discernment committee was formed and met with Holly from June through December to ascertain if this was a true call. At the conclusion of this period the committee unanimously recommended that St. Gregory's nominate Ms. Graham for postulancy in Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church.

In February of this year our newly renovated worship space was completed and dedicated by Bishop Bruce. I think we can all agree that the results of this renewal was indeed successful in giving us a light and beautiful worship space. Since February all of our major gardens have been redesigned and planted with drought tolerant plants, and today our totally re-imagined courtyard with a new sixty-four niche columbarium is being dedicated. We all owe Deacon Jane a debt of gratitude for her beautiful designs, and her oversight of the implementation of the designs for the beautiful grounds we now enjoy at St. Gregory's.

It has been my great pleasure to again serve as your senior warden. I thank you for your trust and support during another year of significant changes. We can look forward to 2015 being another exciting year as we welcome our interim rector, The Very Reverend John Crean, Jr. Father Crean will guide us through the coming year(s) and help us to prepare for the coming of our new rector. He is well suited to perform these duties as he is a very experienced parish priest, and has also served as an interim priest in our diocese.

Respectfully submitted,
David De Ment

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

It is hard to believe that in only 13 days (but who's counting) that my time as a Vestry member will come to an end so I would like to begin by thanking and recognizing the Vestry Buildings and Grounds Committee of which I currently chair. They are Bill Eldon, Greg White, and Charlie Malonson. Two of these members, myself and Bill Eldon, will be retiring from the Vestry so they will be looking for a couple of replacement members as soon as the new Vestry group meets at the beginning of next month. This group usually meets the 1st Wednesday evening of each new month to go over issues and concerns that we would like to address at the monthly Work Party which is usually scheduled on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9am to noon. As the church buildings and the surrounding landscape continues to age there will always be an ongoing need for maintenance, repairs and projects.

During 2014 we continued to use the suggestion box and since we emphasize that YOU are the eyes and ears of this church you have managed to keep us quite busy throughout the year. In 2012 we completed 101 items, in 2013 we completed 92 items, and in 2014 we completed another 99 items: Here are a few of the highlighted ones during 2014:

- Finish planters outside of entrance to church
- Repair numerous sprinkler leaks throughout campus
- Fix roof leak in Francis Hall kitchen

- Replace water heater for bathrooms and school rooms
- Clean out all storage closets to meet fire standards
- Name plate all storage rooms and closets to meet fire standards
- Reorganize Narthex storage closet
- Make and hang new Memorial Board
- Completely redo Planters #1 & #2 outside of church office
- Begin preparation for Columbarium Memorial Garden

As I said at last year's meeting.... maintaining our "Buildings and Grounds" is a great way to get involved and share the work load, while having fun and fellowship. We have volunteers who range in age from 87 all the way down to teenagers, both men and women, and they all seem to have at least one thing in common... they feel good about helping out. Think about what little time is being asked of you to attend a monthly work party:

- There is an average of 30 days in a month
- There are 24 hours in a day
- This makes a total of 720 hours a month for you to manage your time
- We usually have one 3 hour work party per month

[This represents less than 1/2 of a percent of the total hours in a month!](#)

I use a thought process when I have to make a decision that conflicts with plans... "If you want to do something bad enough you will find a way, if not you will find an excuse". We are always looking for additional volunteers, so please consider becoming part of this very important ministry.

Finally, as the Junior Warden during my entire 3 years on Vestry I want to thank both of the Senior Wardens that I worked with, Kathy Gupton and Dave DeMent. Both of them helped me on many of the decisions as well as guided all of us on the Vestry teams through 2 major projects consisting of the Worship Space Renewal and the Columbarium Memorial Garden. I learned a lot about what it means to be an active Vestry member, how our church operates, and through the help and guidance of so many of you, I have grown spiritually and consider each of you a friend.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Dixon, Junior Warden

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

As we began the year in 2014 we continued to see a steady attendance at our monthly meetings that range from 9-12 members. We had a lot of variety on the video topics we watched and then discussed at each meeting. Topics such as the following really kept the spiritual focus:

- Tony Dungy- Winning with Quiet Strength
- Tony Dungy- What is Success?
- What Does Easter Sunday mean to you?
- Noah and the last days
- Why Christianity?
- The Case for Christ
- The Resurrection