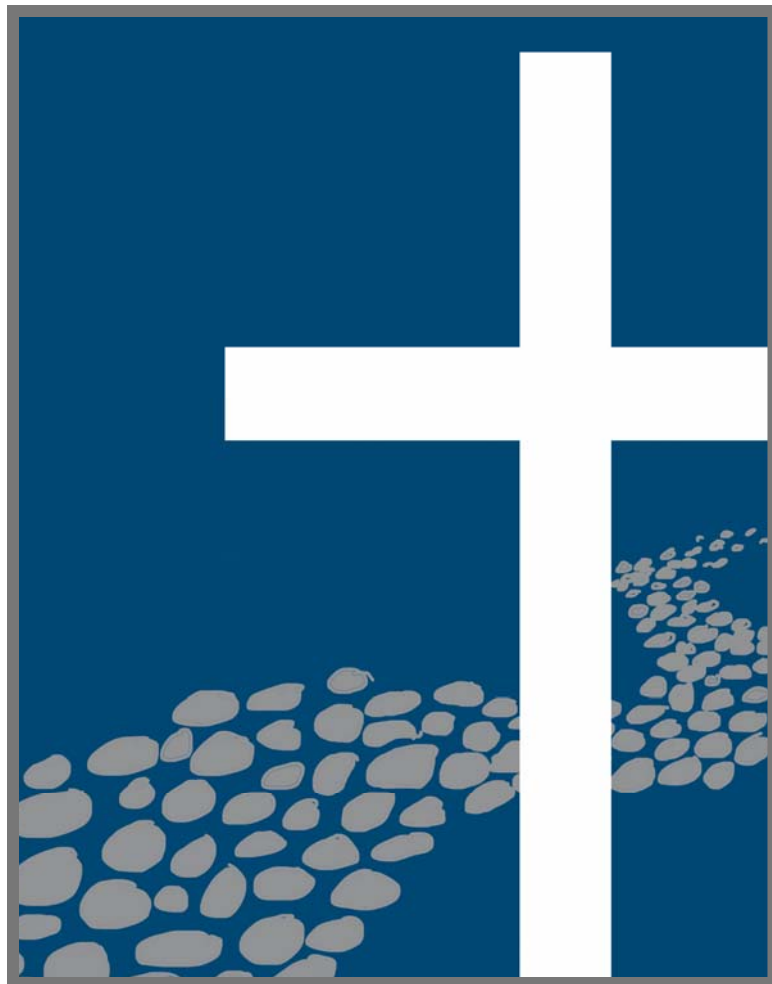


ST. GREGORY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Annual Report 2015



Annual Meeting—January 24, 2016

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

ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING—January 24, 2016

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Stewardship Prayer

My church. 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.

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
- C. Approval of 2015 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
- D. The Election of the Vestry—Class of 2016-2019

Judge of Election: Dawn Lewis

Qualification for Nominees
The Nominating Committee
Nominations from the Floor
Introduction of Nominees
Ballots are Cast

2016-2019 Candidates

Stan Carpenter
Dave DeMent
Holly Graham
Fran Luebben-Morgan
Cheryl Rodi
Elizabeth Spencer

The Election of Convention Delegates

2016 Candidates

Ron Dixon
Dawn Lewis
Karen McDonough
Patrick McDonough

- E. Reports
 - 1. Rector’s Report ----- The Rev’d Nick Griffith
 - 2. The Senior Warden ----- Bob McRae
 - 3. The Junior Warden----- Charlie Malonson
 - 4. Finance----- Bob Graham
 - 5. Stewardship----- Bob Graham
 - 6. Other Reports/Comments
- E. Election Results
- F. Commissioning of New Vestry Members
- G. Closing Prayer
- 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—2015

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church

January 18, 2015

The meeting was called to order by the Rev. Stephen L. Williams at 10:41 AM with prayers from the Book of Common Prayer and a hymn. Copies of the Annual Report for 2015 were distributed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 2014 Annual Parish meeting were approved 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. He named Bob McRae to be Senior Warden. The Nominating Committee of Bill Eldon, Susan Mora, Dave DeMent and Ron Dixon, represented by chairman Dave DeMent, presented the slate of candidates (Terry Baker, Rick Crowe, Dawn Lewis, David Luebben-Morrill, Patrick McDonough and Sharon Nemitz) and were thanked for their service. Cheryl Rodi was selected as Judge of the Election, and Mike Sheffield and Dorothy Edwards as Tellers. No nominations having been received from the floor, ballots were distributed and collected. Fr. Williams pointed out that delegates to the Diocesan Convention are to be elected at the Annual Meeting and a slate of candidates was solicited: Patrick McDonough, Karen McDonough, Ron Dixon, Alan Caddick, Fran Luebben-Morgan, Steve Cleantis and Dawn Lewis. The ballots having been tallied, it was announced that Terry Baker, Rick Crowe, Patrick McDonough and Sharon Nemitz were elected to the Vestry for a three-year term. Ron Dixon, Patrick McDonough, Karen McDonough and Steve Cleantis were selected as Delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

MINUTES—2015 *(continued)*

Rector's Report

Fr. Williams asked that his report be carefully read. He introduced Diana Scheidker, who presented a brief report on the status of the Rector Search. He thanked Deacon Jane Jones for her ministry and the time they have worked together; the Bishop has asked her to stay on during the interim period. John Jones as well has been supportive of Jane, the Rector and the congregation. Dave DeMent was thanked for his two years of service as Senior Warden and the kindness, concern, care, and support he provided to the Rector. Ron Dixon was thanked for his service as Junior Warden for three years and the numerous projects both large and small which he shepherded to conclusion. Susan Mora was thanked for her service on the Parish Life committee and the work she did as it was disbanded and made a community effort; she championed a number of outreach initiatives. Bill Eldon was thanked for his three years as Clerk of the Vestry as well as his work on several committees, the choir and the Sacred Spaces renovation and fundraising committees. Fr. Williams thanked Diana Galan for her hard work and gracious ministry. He announced Marilyn Steenbock's intention to retire from the Altar Guild after 65 years of service in several congregations and honored and thanked her for her years of ministry. Richard Lyddon was thanked for his service as judge of the elections over many years and the other ministries he has been involved in over the years. Finally, he thanked his wife Rachel for her years of support, friendship and understanding.

Deacon's Report

Jane asked that the congregation review her report and then invited the assembly to stand and thank Fr. Williams for his years of service.

Senior Warden's Report

Dave thanked the congregation for their support over the past year. We rededicated our worship space, completed numerous projects around the campus and also began the work needed to search for and select a new Rector.

Junior Warden's Report

Ron Dixon thanked Stan and Joan Carpenter for their service at the work parties. Our prior landscaper of 31 years retired and a new service was selected which is doing great work around the campus. He thanked the congregation for electing him to the Vestry and for the many blessings he has received as a member of the congregation and Vestry.

Finance and Stewardship Report

Bob McRae indicated that a summary financial statement was included in the Annual Report. Overall, St. Gregory's had a good year, nearly achieving the income goal we had set. He thanked Cheryl Rodi, Dawn Lewis and Tamera Benedict for their service managing incoming funds. He also thanked the Dixon family for the time and effort they put in and resulting savings to the congregation. He expressed his gratitude for the way the congregation stepped up when the Outreach budget line was removed and responsibility for fundraising for Outreach was handed over to the groups actually performing the work, and related a story of one of the families we had adopted as part of the 2013 holiday outreach and how our assistance had helped to turn their lives around. A balanced budget for 2015 has been presented to the Vestry and approved. The Sacred Spaces loan was taken out for a 10-year term, but over \$130K has already been paid down on the balance. Karen Burgess has resigned as Treasurer due to a move to Idaho and was thanked for her years as Treasurer. The stewardship campaign has nearly reached its goal and Bob pointed out that the campaign is still open and there were some pledges still to be received.

MINUTES—2015 *(continued)*

Commissioning of Vestry Members

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

The meeting was adjourned by Fr. Williams at 11:54 AM with a concluding prayer and a hymn led by Darlene Feit-Pretzer.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Eldon
Clerk

PARISH DATA FOR 2015

Number of Baptized Members -----	432
Number of Baptisms for 2015 -----	5
Number of Confirmations-----	0
Number of Marriages -----	2
Number of Deaths -----	6
Number of Transfers in-----	1
Number of Transfers out-----	6
Average Sunday Attendance 8:00 AM -----	44
Average Sunday Attendance 10:00 AM -----	89
Total Attendance for Easter -----	274
Total Attendance for Christmas -----	269
Number of Sunday School Students (Children under 16) -----	19

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.

REPORTS

RECTOR'S REPORT

The Lord is RISEN, **the Lord is risen indeed!** And I can feel this presence, here in this place!

My time with you as Interim Priest has been short, some 56 days, but much has gone on in this very short time. We as a Parish community have been in a state of preparation and we will continue to be in that state of preparation until our new Priest has been chosen.

Liturgically over the past year, through changes in service styles and experimentation, we have been focused upon finding creative ways to interact with each other and with God. We have played with what some may call both High and Low and the hinges supporting what has been normal have creaked and squeaked under the pressure, but we have found positive movement. And we are starting to get just a little bit closer towards worshiping in a way that embodies our diversity as a Christian, Episcopal, multi-cultural, multi-generational Church. As result we are looking to grow our service schedule from 3 services a week to 4, we have even changed some of our service times and are planning an abundance of worship and educational initiatives during the season of Lent and Easter. So too, we are collectively working to address the sincere and the significant need for educational opportunities in this Church. We realize that

education is the foundation that this Church sits upon and that it will be necessary for all endeavors we seek. To this regard we will be working to bolster our already strong educational programs by adding opportunities for adult education and spiritual formation.

Pastorally, we are working to meet the needs of those who are sick and infirmed as we continue our ministry of hospitality, delivering home Eucharist on a regular basis to congregants in our immediate community. We have re-vamped our Home Eucharistic Ministry Team and our Eucharistic Ministry team with the installation and training of several new members who assist the priest in this most holy work.

Administratively, the interim staff, The Very Rev. Fr. John Crean and myself, have been busy working to codify and streamline the way we deal with the administrative concerns of this Parish by not only looking at how we spend ourselves in love, but also how we spend ourselves in capital. Realizing that although we live in a finite world, we see infinite possibilities limited only by our creativity and our support of one another. This is held evident by the many ministries that we support as a community, including the Food Pantry, Feed My Lambs and the many initiatives of the Outreach Committee. Consequently, we are looking to not just reduce unnecessary spending, but we have also been focused upon growing our revenues through more proactive means of Church facility use and emphasis upon GROWING our congregation. And to this regard we have seen positive growth with the addition of over 5 families within the past 3 months. A sign of what is yet to come!

In short the Church is in transition, but shouldn't it always be?

Blessings,

Fr. Nickolas C. Griffith
Interim Priest-In-Charge

MUSIC MINISTRY

As in past years, the Chancel Choir and Bronze Vocality Handbells have been faithful in the 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 gifts of time and talent to our church.

The Chancel Choir also participates each year in the National Association of Church Musicians Adult Choir Festival; a fall Choir Workshop Day as well as major musical presentations on Palm Sunday, our annual Christmas concert and our Festive Easter Sunday celebration (the brass is funded by the choir).

The **Music at Four** concert series continues to receive great support from our congregation and the surrounding community as well. The 2014-2015 season featured *The Encore Saxophone Quartet*, *Dr. Frances Nobert, organist* and *An Old Fashioned Gospel Hymn Sing* featuring *The Californians*.

Thank you to the Vestry and the congregation for the continuing support of the Music Ministry. Let everything that has breath **Praise the Lord!**

Respectfully submitted,

David Feit-Pretzer
Director of Music & Organist

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

This has been a year of transition for St. Gregory's and it has been a great honor to serve as your Senior Warden this past year. The year began with us saying good bye to Father Williams and Rachel, marking only the third time in our history we entered into a period of discernment, which will lead us to the calling of a new Rector to our Church. For any parish the period between permanent Rectors is a time of reflection, of taking a look at who we are as a Christian community, and how we operate as a community of faith. This is also a time in the life of a parish where the lay ministry is tested and the true strength of a congregation will show through. I am happy to report that St. Gregory's is blessed with committed lay leadership that have provided the energy and time necessary to continue the mission and ministry of our Church. The strength of our congregation has been amazing, change is not always easy, and in this year of change for St. Gregory's we have had tremendous cooperation and support from our membership. This strength gives me great optimism for our future.

We have been fortunate this year to have the opportunity to work with two wonderful Interim Rectors, first with Father Crean and now with Father Nick, both of whom have brought fresh ideas on how we can improve and grow as a congregation. We look forward to our continued relationship with Father Nick in 2016.

2015 also saw the retirement of our much beloved Deacon Jane Jones, who along with her husband John touched us in ways that will impact St. Gregory's for years to come. Jane taught us a new way of looking at our role as Christians, and how it is our responsibly to reach out to those in need in our local community. We will be forever in their debt for the great work they have done for our Church.

The changes in Clergy were not the only changes for St. Gregory's in 2015. In September we had a transition of Parish Administrators, a position that is at the center of all that happens at our Church. We have been blessed over the years to have many wonderful people working in our Parish Office, and Diana Galan who left the position in September was no exception. We were fortunate to find a very talented person in Allen Ronk LaFoe to fill that role and to keep the Church operating efficiently. We also had a change in leadership in our Christian Education program. After many years of dedicated service to the children of St. Gregory's, Linda Dixon retired as the program director. To replace Linda we formed a Christian Education Leadership Council that will be responsible for management of our Christian Education programs going forward.

Amongst all of the change in 2015 there were many things that did not. The wonderful music programs lead by David Feit-Pretzer, the loving care in the nursely provided by Laura Samaniego, and the food we enjoyed at the many events catered by Diane & Eric Kala, continued to bless our congregation. The hard work and countless hours put in by Ron Dixon and Lurlie Edgecomb, the dedication of the Altar Guild volunteers, the energy of our Outreach Committee and the individual efforts of the many members of our congregation that contribute to our Life and Ministry together, none of these things have changed!

2015 was an eventful year for St. Gregory's. I want to thank the members of the Vestry and the members of the Rector Search Committee for all of their efforts during the year. I also want to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2016.

God Bless!

Bob McRae
Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Well it's 2016 and I am excited and sad that one more year has gone by us. It's exciting that we are that much closer to having a new rector in place. As an officer of the church I have been closer to the workings of the church this year and have a new respect for what we accomplish no matter what the obstacle.

With my limited physical abilities I am grateful to many people to name a few Ron Dixon, Rudy Revel, Bruce Graham and Steven Cleantis just to name a few. But I lift up all of us. For all of us in our own way support St Gregory's Church.

As in years past, we have had a ongoing list of things to work through. Here are a few thing we worked on:

- Rose Garden (north wall)
- Irrigation System (north east wall)
- Tree Work (south east end property)
- Refreshing (all classrooms)
- Renewal (rectors office)
- LED lighting threw-out church
- Kitchen Sink Repairs
- Termite infestation
- Rodent infestation
- Rooms (organization)
- Bi-yearly (total floor cleaning)

I see many more things left to be done some started some not. It looked like a pretty normal year. The truth of the matter is we have an aging building. We need to be vigilant in the responsibility of maintaining our church. Our gift to the next generation of parishioners should be done with love and care. Thank you so much for the opportunity.

Charlie Malonson
Junior Warden

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

During 2015 we continued to see a steady attendance at our monthly meetings that ranged from 8-11 members. Throughout the year we focused on the meaning of the 10 Commandments which in this particular series were called "The Laws of the Heart" with each monthly meeting having a 15-20 minute video on a specific Law:

- 1) The Law of Reflection- You shall not have other Gods beside me
- 2) The Law of Respect- You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain
- 3) The Law of Remembrance- Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day
- 4) The Law of Caring- Honor your father and mother
- 5) The Law of Life- You shall not kill
- 6) The Law of Commitment- You shall not commit adultery
- 7) The Law of Sharing- You shall not steal
- 8) The Law of Speech- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor

- 9) The Law of Self Control- You shall not covet your neighbor's wife
- 10) The Law of Assurance- You shall not covet your neighbor's goods

In September we took a month off from this to view a very different video called "The Victor Marx Story" which was provided by Rudy Revell and this showed what impact God can have in your life once you let him in.

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. As we have done the past few years the group continues to focus on doing more with our Outreach programs, both inside and outside of our church.

During 2015 we did the BBQ for the annual rummage sale in June. In July we held our 7th 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. We gave all the sales from this BBQ to our Women's Board to help them towards a replacement sink in our Francis Hall kitchen.

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 outreach programs:

1. We continued to support the Ronald McDonald House in Long Beach as we decided to cook and serve a dinner on May 10th which just happened to be Mother's Day. We served about 35 family members who are staying there while their children are getting much needed medical care at Long Beach Memorial. Since Mother's Day is such a special time for a mother to spend time with their children they were very grateful that we would take the time away from our families to make this a special day for them. As the St. Gregory's sign out front on Willow Street says "People will always remember how you make them feel" is a great reminder on what we should do each day when we reach out to others.
2. This year we adopted family #4 for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The gift giving response in cash, food, store gift cards and donated presents helped fulfill their family wish list.

Both of these external outreach programs continue to help our group 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.

Finally we want to remind you once again 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

ALTAR GUILD

The men and women of St. Gregory's Altar Guild have worked quietly, but energetically, to maintain and beautify our sanctuary and the worship space in the parish hall this year. In January 2016, our membership roster contained 18 names, including two trainees. Two members are currently on leave. We miss those members who have become inactive, moved away or left us through death. Several members have become unable to perform some of the more demanding physical tasks. We are actively seeking new members for the Altar Guild. Two Anyone interested in joining the Altar Guild should speak to the Interim Rector, the Directresses or any member. The Altar Guild is the Rector's special guild.

The Altar Guild is organized into four teams. Each team has its own captain, and is on duty one-fourth of the time, for two weeks in succession, in accordance with our published schedule. The teams cover all regular and special services, including Sundays, Thursdays, weddings, funerals, baptisms, memorial services and holiday celebrations. Our workroom is the sacristy and, in addition to assisting the clergy, we clean the sanctuary and set up for all services. Most of this takes place the day before services, with final set up taking place immediately before services and clean up afterwards. Our duties include care of all vessels, linens, banners, vestments, supplies, flowers, and candles. The guild decorates the sanctuary and narthex for Thanksgiving (Harvest Sunday), Advent, Christmas, Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter and Trinity Sunday. All duties are detailed in our Manual, kept updated to the Rector's requests.

In addition to individual and team duties, the Guild team met for four business and training meetings this year following the 10 a.m. service, as well as making palm crosses the Wednesday before Palm Sunday. At this time, palm crosses are scheduled to be made the evening of March 18, 2016. Everyone is invited. Our secretary this year was Sharon Nemitz. Terry Baker became the new Treasurer in 2012. Beginning in November, 2012, the separate Altar Guild account at Farmers and Merchants Bank was merged with the larger St. Gregory's account to become a sub-account. This allows for better record keeping, quicker financial transactions, and permits donors to deduct donations to the Altar Guild as part of their St. Gregory's donations. Our thanks go to the St. Gregory's treasurer. The Altar Guild participated in the September 2015 Ministry Fair and provided a display of sacred items from the sacristy. Our thanks go to David Luebben-Morrill who manned our booth. For the third time, the palm crosses were publicly burned on Shrove Tuesday during the Pancake Supper. Children and adults assisted the Directress.

Most of the Altar Guild's income comes from two sources: flower donations and memorials. Most of the operating income comes from the Sunday, Christmas and Easter floral donations, provided by the congregation and friends of the parish. These monies pay for all flowers, minor repairs, acquisition of linens, and certain supplies. We thank Kathy Gupton, Terry Baker, and Scott Morgan for assisting with flower sign-ups at various parish events and Allen Ronk LaFoe for overseeing them in the office.

In April 2011, we began a relationship with Conroy's Florist in La Mirada. We paid \$90 plus tax per week, for an approximate total of \$4,000 this year for the wall flower offerings. They do not charge us for delivery. Many positive comments have been made regarding the quality and creativity of the arrangements. The number of Sunday flower donations has fallen sharply, and no longer pays for the weekly flowers. Each time the bulletin indicates that the Altar Guild has donated the flowers, this means no one donated for that week. We need two donations of \$45 each week to pay for the wall bouquets. Easter flower donations totaled \$1160. Christmas donations for flowers, Christmas tree, wreaths, etc. totaled approximately \$1370. This year, a complete new set of green silk vestments was purchased during Father Crean's tenure, at a cost of approximately \$4,000, which represented a large outlay for the Altar

Guild. A new set of bells was purchased. The cost of the bells was covered by a special donation. The Altar Guild is very thankful for the contributions, monetary and otherwise, made by many members of the congregation. We thank the members of the congregation, especially Ron Dixon and Charlie Malonson, who have graciously assisted with repairs, and others who have helped with occasional seasonal decorating and other heavy, laborious jobs. Family members of the guild also provided many hours of help as our "auxiliary."

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fran Luebben-Morgan, Co-Directress and Holly Graham, Co-Directress

FEED MY LAMBS

For 12 years now, St. Gregory's parishioners have been the sole support for Feed My Lambs efforts to assist St. Luke's Shower Program for the homeless. We provide clothing, toiletries, and breakfast and an early lunch. With two teams, the Friday work party prepares here and the Saturday feeding crew goes to St. Luke's for 7 a.m. the first Saturday of every month. Some of us are on both teams. You can help by donating goods or financial help—checks are made to St. Gregory's with a memo—FML.

The Friday workers put together 20 amenity kits to go with the 20 made by the Women of 40+. Donated cookies are zipped into a baggie-4 at a time, hoping for 80-100 servings. At the same time, the sandwich team is busy with 10 loaves of bread, creamy peanut butter and grape jam working an assembly line of over 100 sandwiches. We need 15 dozen hard-boiled eggs to take the next day as most clients ask for two. Coffee, cocoa, and bottled water are provided along with the eggs, french toast, the sandwich, sometimes muffins, and a choice of a banana or sliced peaches. If the line dies down, they may come back for seconds. Meanwhile, our industrious cooks, usually Diane Kela and Tamera Benedict have been working again in the tiny kitchen to get our famous cheddar-broccoli soup ready to be served with crackers and the cookies for dessert. We serve until we run out of food. Everyone who comes before 9a.m. gets served. We do not have leftover food. We get thanked for helping.

Gently used clothing, new underwear, tennis and work shoes in decent condition are needed. Blankets, backpacks, sleeping bags are so appreciated. Please help support our efforts to give hope and help to the less fortunate. This past year donations were down, but still you added \$2,575 to our account with a lot of \$25 donations; expenses were \$2,825.78, leaving us \$1,239.74 to start Year 13. Thank you for your help.

Lurlie Edgecomb, Leader Feed My Lambs
562-598-1458 or lurlie@zero3nine.com

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2015 was a year of change and excitement. Our classroom teachers are using the "Living the Good News" curriculum which is a complete program for all grades and has many wonderful ideas to be used in the classroom. Teachers include Laura Samaniego (nursery) Michelle Crowe and we welcomed back Joy Fisher as a teacher (K-2) Holly Graham and Rosa Maria Kolts (3-6) and the team of John and Susan Mora (7-8). Our High School/Young adult program is lead by Tamera Benedict and Sean Wood. The High School/Young adult program continues to grow and support the next generation of leaders with all their service and commitment to church and community.

Vacation Bible School enrollment was low for the second year in a row. Therefore, it was decided to transition from a one-time weekly event into separate one day events. The first event was our "Creation Formulation" in September. The children along with adult volunteers created a beautiful mural under the guidance of Jonathan Pavloff.

Fall continued with the annual Halloween celebration which included the ever popular Haunted House. It was a fun evening for families and friends. We ended the year with our annual Christmas Pageant and as always, it was attended with children and friends participating with excitement and joy.

Although our enrollment declined due to the move of a few families to new areas, we continue to encourage our families to attend and grow with the church. We welcomed several new families recently and look forward to continued growth. Sunday school is important for our spiritual education and we accept all whether they are visiting or looking for a new place to worship.

We wish to acknowledge and thank Linda Dixon for her many wonderful years of service to our youth and Sunday school program. She brought enthusiasm, knowledge, dedication and most of all love for our children. She continues to be a source of information and assistance for our current leaders and teachers.

Thank you for your support, both physically and spiritually,
The Early Christian Education Team

YOUTH

The Youth Group and Sunday School is open to anyone 9th grade and older. This includes college age young adults, as well. We have 16 enrolled with an average of nine attendees per week in Sunday School. We have added six new members to the Youth Group & Sunday School. Sunday School is from 9:00am to 10am every Sunday, except for the 3rd Sunday of the month which is reserved for Youth Group Planning Meeting. ALL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS ARE WELCOME to Sunday School and the Youth Group.

Our activities since September have included movie nights, dinners at church, Feed My Lambs, Christmas Pageant reading, working at work parties, and the annual Halloween Party & haunted house. Our fundraising has included selling POPCORN at the Holly Faire, and Christmas light installation. We are unable to do our car wash fundraisers because of the drought water restrictions. The Youth Group is planning a mission trip to Nicaragua this summer (2016) and have 7 youth signed up to go, the most ever!

Other fun activities planned for this year are Dine in Nights at Super Mex, Sees Candy fundraiser, neighborhood garage sale and we would like to plan a go-cart races and a paintball day.

Please support our efforts to keep the youth involved in St. Gregory's by sending your youth to Sunday School, making sure your Youth are on our email list and Facebook page and by your financial sponsorship.

Thank you for all you do for St. Gregory's Youth!

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Wood & Tamera Benedict

FOOD BANK

The Food Bank continued in 2015 as one of the larger ongoing Outreach ministries at St. Gregory's, supported by donations of food and funds from the congregation and by a core group of dedicated volunteers who take time each month to inventory, order, deliver, stock and distribute bags of groceries to those in need. We hold a distribution on the first Wednesday of each month.

In 2015, we distributed a total of 697 bags, for an average of 58 bags per month. Our monthly numbers ran from a high of 67 in January, tapering off during the middle of the year and increasing again to a similar level starting in August.

We continue to look for additional volunteers to pick up the food order on the Saturday before each distribution, to sort items into the bags, and to staff the Food Bank at each monthly distribution. Please feel free to contact Bill Eldon or any other member of the Food Bank if you would like to participate.

William C. Eldon

USHERS

The ushers continue to support St. Gregory's as greeters and helpers to the congregation. We open the church and classrooms, start the heating/AC, start the coffee, bring out the welcome desk, turn on the fountains, bring out the Feed My Lambs and food bank containers. We assist parishioners in any way they need. After the services we clean up the pews, shut down all systems and lock up the campus. The ushers are made up of men and women who serve one Sunday a month either at the 8 or 10 o'clock service. We have openings at both services. If you would like to join us please talk to any usher or contact me personally. Bruce: 562- 972-7306. We are unfunded and have no budget.

Respectively,

Bruce Graham, Head Usher

WOMEN OF ST. GREGORY'S

The ECW (here called Women of St. Gregory's) hosts Sunday refreshment times, provides memorial receptions, stocks the kitchens, coordinates the United Thank Offering (UTO) twice a year, operates the Christian Cove Boutique, and supplies the Tract Rack found at the entrance to the Parish Hall. This past year we saw to carpet cleaning in the Hall, Sacristy, and Fireside Room, and the cloth-upholstered folding chairs. For over 60 years, we have sent cards to many on the Prayer List and to the bereaved. We again donated 10% of our income to Doctor's Without Borders and the Long Beach Rescue Mission. Our Fair Share Pledge was sent to the Diocesan ECW to help with their expenses and grants. During summer, we offer help to our Vacation Bible School.

Our main fundraiser, the Holly Faire, went well this year thanks to Carole Heidary's good planning. Again we worked alongside outside vendors to bring more choices to our shoppers. The Men's Fellowship did their famous 1/3 pound hamburger lunches, Holly Cafe provided desserts and treats, and Esmeralda sold tamales. You could buy garden goodies, Christmas decorations, an orchid or two, jams and jellies, or bid on Silent Auction items. The choir entertained us with Christmas carols. Check us out in 2016 on November 12th, 9-3 p.m.

Our other source of income is the Christian Cove, open most Sundays. It is kept supplied by Fran Luebben-Morgan and is staffed by volunteers like yourself. We have need of two more women to "work" 20 minutes after services. The "coffee hour" has a few slots open. For either position, your help once a month will be so appreciated. The ECW includes all women at St. Gregory's. We are going to try a new date and time for our monthly meetings, now set as the last Wednesday of the month at 10 am, to avoid the jam of meetings and services during the first week of the month.

Lurlie Edgecomb, President

WOMEN OF ST. GREGORY'S *(continued)*

TREASURER'S REPORT 2015

<u>ACCOUNTS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>
Hospitality	\$667.53	\$2,153.65
Miscellaneous Supplies	0	\$744.07
Hostess	\$100.00	\$386.34
UTO	\$1,532.15	\$1,532.15
Boutique	\$968.00	\$178.75
Holly Faire	\$2,584.60	0
Outreach*	0	\$500.00
Fair Share	0	\$200.00
Undesignated Funds	\$415.00	\$90.00
State Board of Equalization	0	\$146.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	\$6,267.28	\$5840.96
Starting Balance	\$7,005.22	
Total Receipts	\$6,267.28	
Total Funds	\$13,272.50	
Total Disbursements	\$5,840.96	
Ending Balance	\$7,431.54	

Outreach
 Doctors Without Borders
 Long Beach Rescue Mission
 Vacation Bible School

Undesignated Funds
 Altar Guild Flowers

FINANCIAL

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

<u>OPERATING COSTS</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2015</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>2015</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2016</u>
Rector salary, housing annuity	89,075	86,864	78,895	81,683	75,405
Deacon Honorarium	2,400	2,400	6,000	5,500	0
Supp priest	1,000	1,100	1,200	1,841	1,800
Parish Administrator	20,544	21,880	21,925	24,843	26,250
Music Director	21,658	21,762	21,860	21,558	21,860
Nursery Care	1,612	1,698	1,500	1,788	1,650
Pensions	15,660	19,494	3,275	1,893	8,065
Social Security & Medicare	3,309	3,370	7,500	5,890	8,795
Total Salaries & Wages	155,258	158,569	142,155	144,996	143,825

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REPORTS *(continued)*

	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>OPERATING COSTS</u>					
Off. Supp/Exp/Equip repl.repair	5,185	3,558	3,000	2,305	2,400
Telephone	2,265	2,186	2,600	1,718	2,000
Postage	745	771	900	585	600
Computer & Internet Fees	1,364	1,812	1,500	2,181	2,200
Leased Equip & Copier	14,109	11,888	12,000	16,557	15,000
ADP payroll, ASC, Audit	4,935	4,934	5,000	978	6,000
Advertising Communications	75	147	0		0
Outside Printing, Copying	0	419	420	0	250
Rector's Business Expense	414	1,258	1,000	2,560	1,500
Rector's Auto	1,639	668	1,500	1,649	1,200
Total Administration	30,731	27,642	27,920	28,533	31,150
Property, Liability Insurance	11,327	9,627	11,900	12,784	13,500
Rector Health, Disabil, Unemp	16,594	16,311	2,075	118	7,700
Secretary Disab & Unemplmnt	3,732	7,271	7,620	9,262	8,400
Worker's Comp	1,027	1,060	1,060	1,308	1,500
Total Insurance	32,680	34,268	22,655	23,473	31,100
Music	4,653	4,312	4,500	4,518	4,500
Worship	2,565	2,023	1,500	1,658	5,000
Parish Life & Picnic	4,610	6,236	3,000	2,868	3,200
Stewardship Programs	369	123	300	315	325
Rector Search	0	0	6,800	122	6,000
Total Worship and Parish Life	12,197	12,694	16,100	9,481	19,025
Youth Christian Education	1,506	898	1,500	1,339	1,500
Adult Christian Education	358	206	200	0	200
Rector's Professional Devel	103	266	1,500	1,551	1,500
Total Christian Education	1,967	1,370	3,200	2,890	3,200
Maintenance	7,522	8,502	8,800	14,814	10,000
Contract Serv. Lawn, Janitorial	12,279	15,213	13,600	15,762	14,300
LA County Assessments	2,532	2,670	2,670	2,492	2,700
Utilities	22,451	22,444	23,000	23,401	22,000
Total Maintenance and Utilities	44,784	48,829	48,070	56,468	49,000
Outreach	938	0	0	0	0
Food Bank	8,311	0	0	0	0
Deacon's Discretionary Fund	0	0	1200	2,000	0
Rector's Discretionary Fund	2,400	0	2,200	1,100	1,200
Total Outreach	11,649	0	3,400	3,100	1,200
Total Diocesan Pledge	30,000	18,333	26,500	25,749	26,500
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	319,266	301,704	290,000	294,689	305,000
INCOME	301,503	288,442	290,000	305,464	305,000

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REPORTS *(Continued)*

2015 Financial Summary

Coming into the year we projected to operate with a balanced budget of \$290,000. Total annual expenses came in \$4,689 over budget, but do to higher than expected income we ended the year with a \$10,775 operating surplus. Below are some of the financial highlights for the year.

Operating Costs

- Parish Administrator costs were over budget as we had an overlap during the transition and increased both hours and pay rate for the position during the year.
- The prior year audit was delayed due to a change in accounting firms and the cost will be paid in 2016.
- 2015 budget allotted \$6,800 for Rector Search costs of which only \$122 was spent.
- Maintenance expenses were over budget as a result of several necessary repairs to the facilities that were funded from the operating budget verses paying them from the reserve funds.
- Contract Services where over budget due to increases in janitorial cost and expansion of the pest control services.

Income

- The combination of pledge income, weekly plate offerings, and income from third party usage of our facilities totaled \$305,464, \$15,464 higher than projected for the year.

MISSION STATEMENT BUDGET FOR 2016

2016 Mission Budget

The Income estimate for 2015 is \$305,000, and we are projecting a balanced budget for the year. The challenge in this year's budget is the unknown timing and cost of our new Rector. For budgeting purpose we assumed a new Rector would start mid-2016. This is just a guess and the actual timing and cost of the Rector may require a revision of the budget. The following are highlights of the 2016 Mission Budget, approved by the Vestry at our December meeting.

- Rector Search budget of \$6,000.
- Outreach programs will continue to be funded outside of the Mission Budget.
- The Diocesan Pledge will be maintained at the 2015 level of \$26,500

Cash Balances

Cash balances at year end 2015 totaled \$214,325, with \$166,315 invested in the Diocesan Investment Trust and the balance in the Operating and Savings Accounts at F&M Bank.

Worship Space Renewal Loan

The original \$300,000 loan had a balance of approximately \$192,000 coming into 2015. Along with the monthly payments additional principal payments of \$55,800 were made during the year resulting in an outstanding principal balance of approximately \$136,200 at year end.

FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

and

in loving memory of Troadio, Troy and Richard Concepcion and Ernesto Gonzalez

by The Gonzalez Family

and

in thanksgiving for Nathaniel's 3rd birthday

by The Crowe Family

NOTES



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 Episcopal 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 Nick Griffith, Interim Rector
Telephone 213-663-0294

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

Allen Ronk LaFoe, Parish Administrator
562- 420-1311

info@stgregoryschurch.com

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-3 :00 p.m. Monday - Friday

www.stgregoryschurch.com