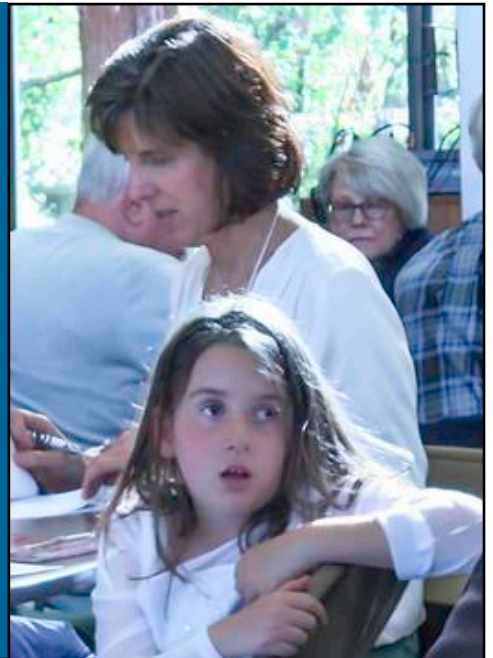


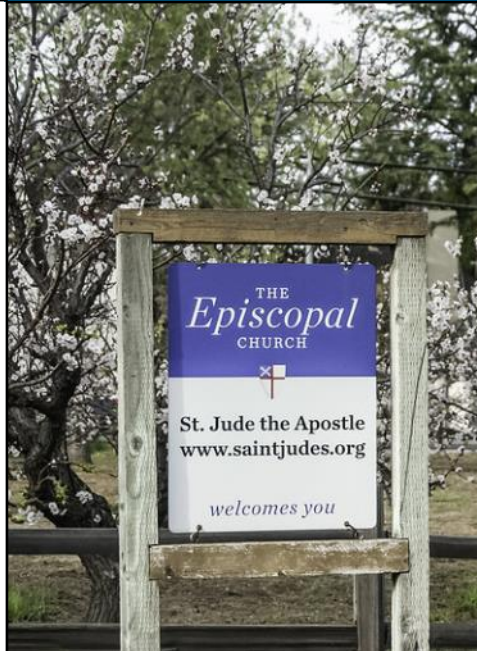


2020

# Annual Report



*Whoever you are,  
wherever you are  
on your journey  
of faith,  
you are welcome here.*



*Saint Jude's  
is a spiritual oasis  
where  
lives are  
transformed.*



Presented on  
January 31, 2021  
St. Jude the Apostle  
Episcopal Church  
[www.saintjudes.org](http://www.saintjudes.org)



**10:30 am** Service Ends - get yourself a snack and a cup of coffee. Begin joining Zoom.

**by 10:45** Everyone joins Zoom via the Zoom coffee hour link.

**10:45** Business items led by Beth Leonard, Senior Warden

Approval of Special Rule of Order

Approval of Bylaws amendment (vote via link in chat, needs 2/3 to pass)

Approval of last year's minutes

Explanation of voting for vestry & delegates/alternates

Call for nominations from the floor

Voting to elect vestry members (by acclamation or link)

Voting to elect delegates/alternates (by acclamation or link)

Report on voting results

**11:45** Rector's report

**12:00** Financial Report (Scott Rotondo, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair)

**12:15** Q&A

**12:20** Recognitions

**12:30** Prayer and Adjournment

**Voting Requirements:** *Fourteen years of age or older, a communicant for the previous six months and baptized. If eighteen years or older, is known to the Treasurer as a regular donor or has given to the church by putting a check into the offering plate over the previous six months.*

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## St. Jude's Episcopal Church, Annual Meeting Minutes, Sunday, January 26, 2020

A slideshow of photos from 2019 was presented as we gathered for brunch.

Kathy Yates, Senior Warden, opened the meeting at 11:10 am. The Rev. Bruce Bramlett delivered the invocation.

A motion to accept the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes was made and seconded and approved by acclamation.

Kathy Yates explained the voting process and eligibility requirements for Vestry and delegates to Convention.

The Vestry candidates were elected by acclamation. New Vestry members elected to 3-year terms were: Rita Bryson, Vance Nau, Sharon Mason, Anne Mahler. Mike Landis was elected to a one-year term.

Jeffrey Pugh and Scott Rotondo reported on 2019 financials and the results of the 2020 pledge drive. Scott Rotondo presented the 2020 budget.

The results of the ballots were announced. Margot Jacobsen was elected as the first alternate delegate.

Kathy Yates delivered a reflection. Karen LeBlanc gave an update on the rector search process.

Recognition and thanks were given to the Website committee, Search committee, the St. Jude's staff, clergy and outgoing vestry members.

Q & A

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm with a closing prayer by Rev. Stephanie Green.

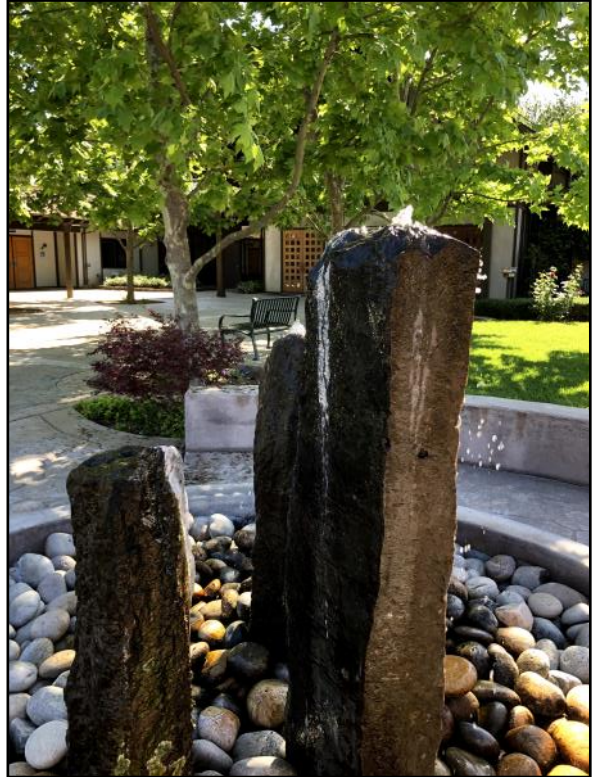


May the angels guide them into paradise, may the saints receive them at their arrival and lead them into the Holy City. BCP

2020

in **m**emorial

Lothar Bandermann  
 Dee Swayze  
 Tom Dyer  
 Susan Stanley  
 Anibal Tito Torres  
 William Leasure  
 Eugene Reilly  
 Evelyn McCabe  
 Will Lawrence



By the Numbers

2020

Pledge Trends

	2021	2020
Pledges	88	97

Average Sunday Attendance

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
8:00 am		41
10:30 am		88
9:30 am		106
Average Sunday	115	131

ASA=All Sunday services, Sunday & Saturday evenings, e.g. Easter Vigil, jazz vespers, and Women's Weekend. No weddings or funerals.

Editor: Donna Andresen Araiza

With thanks to proofreaders: Rita Bryson, Jennifer Stern, Jana Chow, photo credits: Christine Stark, Donna Araiza , Jennifer Shearin.

# All are welcome to St. Jude's. Especially babies and chickens.



# Welcome!

Donna Araiza

## Please join me on a short walk through 2020.

We have much to thank God for this year past. I hope you find this report to be uplifting. We did great things around here! I wouldn't say 2020 was fun, but it wasn't for lack of trying.

Looking back on 2020, a word that comes to mind is "flexible". We all learned to flex and accommodate the rapid changes that began in March and continue today. Zoom became the new paradigm for meetings, prayers, and Bible study. We received good news: things opened up for a bit, including limited outdoor services for nearly two months. We got our haircuts and pedicures, then things closed up again.

Most importantly for our community, we welcomed our new rector, Aaron, and his family (Sarah, Cloey, Timothy and Elizabeth) to St. Jude's. Aaron began to tread these paths with us in July.

Our outreach continued. The Urban Farm went bonkers growing food donations and also flowers for the Flower Guild which helped keep costs down.

It's been a year of learning new tech for many of us. Trouble shooting and then ordering more tech. The Sunday service looks pretty flawless to most of us, but the behind the scenes part is crazy busy to a dedicated few.

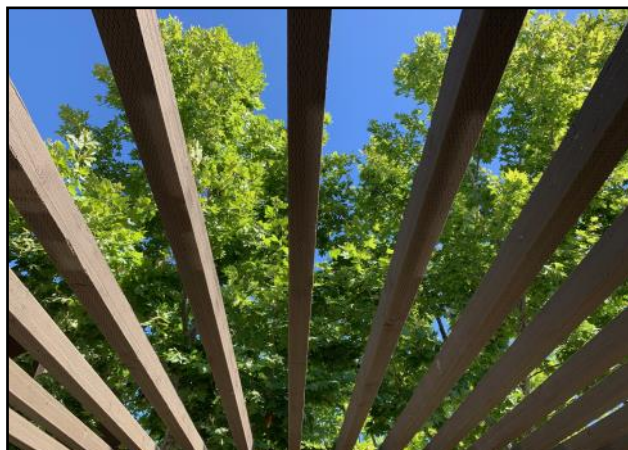
I worked from home March 10th to Sept. 25th. My big desktop came home with me so I could maintain my workflow. I felt one of my added responsibilities was to make sure all our parishioners felt connected to our St. Jude's community, especially during the four months without the benefit of a rector. This happened in various ways.

## Here are the things that kept me busy in 2020:

- ◆ Mailing out our Episcopal devotional, Forward Day by Day
- ◆ Printing the directory photos and taping them in the pews

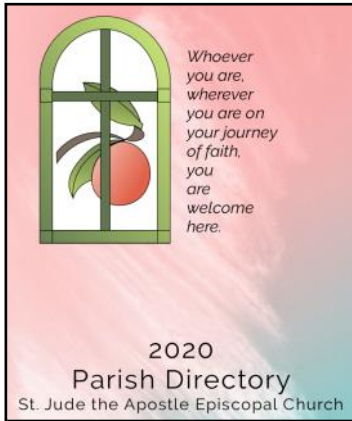


- ◆ Posting lots of photos and videos of the campus on our group page because I know we all miss this spiritual oasis



- ◆ The special View from the orchard honoring our pets and introducing them to our parish family as we celebrated the Feast Day of St. Francis





- ◆ Our 2020 color photo directory with casual, self-submitted photos
- ◆ September 20th, the Bishop installed Aaron Klinefelter as our new rector
- ◆ In October we celebrated the Feast Day of St. Jude in a **BIG** way. We organized a drive-through pledge in-gathering and Communion, and paired it with a donation drive for Santa Maria, and a gift bag for all who came by



- ◆ The video and photos of our altar for All Saints/All Souls Day honoring those who surround us daily. A Tree of Remembrance was also created by Rev. Penelope and her helpers



- ◆ In December we published another special View from the Orchard telling our traditions for Christmas and for New Year's

***The year of 2020 was a fun and creative challenge for me. I want to thank those of you who took the time to respond with feedback and encouragement. It means so much to me. Donna***

**St. Jude the Apostle Episcopal Church in Cupertino**  
20920 McClellan Rd., Cupertino, CA 95014 (408) 252-4166

*St. Jude's is a spiritual oasis where lives are transformed.*

December 2020 Volume 35, No. 6

V

the **View** from the orchard

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**Christmas around the World**

*Since this View is generated by your contributions, let's look at some celebrations around our world.*

Did you know that **Sweden** has a Yule Goat? Since 1966 a 43' tall goat has been built for Advent. This goat has led to another tradition of burning him down, though it doesn't happen every year.

At Christmas, **Austria's** streets are roamed by Krampus who is St. Nicholas' evil accomplice. Krampus walks around with bells and clattering chains and is said to capture the naughtiest children and whisk them away in his sack! Not a story to tell your kids!

**In Ukraine**, it's traditional to hang spider web-shaped decorations on the tree to honor the legend of the poor widow who had no money for decorations. In the morning her children awoke to find the tree glistening with silver and gold spiderwebs.

**New Year's around the World**  
*I think we all need some good luck this year!*

Read about the tradition of Hoppin' John on New Year's Day from **Jennifer Stern and Jeffrey Pugh**.

Or making *sufganiyot* which is **Jennifer Shearin's** family tradition.

**In Brazil** everyone wears white on New Year's

From the  
**R**ector

The Rev. Aaron Klinefelter

Recently a friend asked how long I had been serving at St. Jude's. I told them that it had only been six months but it feels like I've been here much longer. For me, that's a good thing and indicative of a good and right fit between my call to ministry as a priest and follower of Jesus and this particular community called St. Jude's. But it's also indicative of what a strange year 2020 has been.

The Covid-19 pandemic has a way of making time feel squishy and stretched (at the same time). This year has gone quickly and seemed to take forever. It is no exaggeration to say that so much has changed in the parish life of St. Jude's. You began the year looking for a new rector, were immersed into the uncertain waters of the pandemic, successfully called a new rector, and launched into a new and fruitful relationship with that rector!

I remain honored and humbled that you called me to serve as your new rector. I have loved getting to know you all and the gifts and charisms of this amazing community. I am not even going to attempt to start thanking people for their work this year- the list is way too long! One of the things I love about St. Jude's is the strong lay leadership and committed parish community. At the same time, I want to give a much deserved "shout out" to our Vestry and our wardens, Beth Leonard and Dan Putler. They have worked above and beyond their call of service and they have done so with generous hearts, good cheer, and the fidelity of servant leaders.

Here's a small snapshot of our work together this past year, and there's more about all this in the pages ahead:



### **Worship & Prayer**

We've moved to online services during the pandemic. We've learned how to worship and pray together in this digital space

We've gathered for healing prayer on Zoom

We're experimenting with new ways to engage in intercessory prayer and lectio divina

We learned how to worship outdoors without group singing and socially-distanced

### **Formation & Education**

We learned about liminality and transitions from our former rector, the Rev. John Buenz

We read and discussed Ibram X. Kendi's book *How to Be an Antiracist* and Parker Palmer's book *Healing the Heart of Democracy*

We've explored scripture together with weekly Bible Studies discussing our lectionary texts

### **Social Justice & Outreach**

We've continued to financially support the amazing ministries of Live Oak, Safe Park, Santa Maria Urban Ministry, and more

We've gathered needed supplies and food for our partners in service

We've even protested together by participating in the car parade for racial justice



## Community Life & Pastoral Care

Our Stephen Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, and pastoral care team has re-envisioned how to care for each other during the pandemic

We've created a Connection Team to help facilitate and foster strong connections across our parish

We've gathered children and youth online for the Christmas Pageant, weekly game time, and more

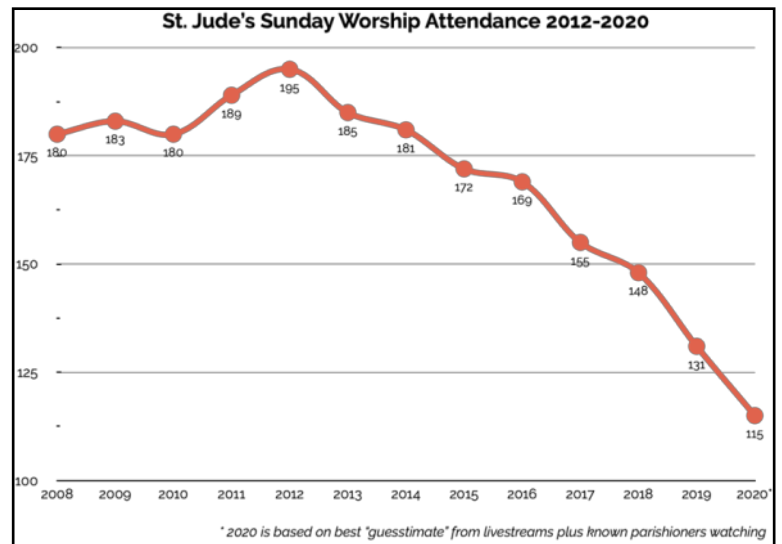
Annual reports are important moments to look back at the last year, to see where and how we sojourned through these previous twelve months together.

***We rightly celebrate our successes, name our griefs (there were many this year), and begin to make faithful steps together into the future.***

One of my hopes for our community is that we would heed the summons from the 1967 musical Hair. In this rock-musical, the singers proclaim, "Let the sunshine, let the sunshine in, the sunshine in!"

As our daylight inches forward day by day, my prayer for St. Jude's is that we would let the sunshine in and take a good hard look at who we are as a community and where God is calling us to go. My hope for us is that we would not live in fear that the sky is falling (it isn't), nor with a pollyanna naïveté that everything will be just fine (once we all get vaccinated). Let's make 2021 a year where we take an honest assessment of our life together. Let's dream new dreams together. Let's honor our past and grieve what we've lost. Let's make an honest accounting of the Spirit's work in our common life.

As one data point in that careful assessment, it's important to know that our average Sunday attendance, even before Covid, has been on a downward trajectory.



Covid, of course, changes that calculation, and how we've "attended" worship this past year is very different. That said, our giving has tracked with this downward trend. Naturally, this isn't the only, or even most important, part of how we assess our community life together, but it is a piece of it. I encourage us to do the necessary work of communal introspection, creative brainstorming, and spiritual discernment as we move into 2021 and beyond.

As we do that work, there are three places where I want us to shine that revealing sunlight: Mission, Music, and Young People. I am inviting us as a parish to reflect more deeply on the Mission of God, how we make music together, and our ministry with children and youth. How we do that reflective engagement is coming in the weeks and months ahead, but I want you to know that this is where we're moving and the task before us.

Standing in the Light of God,

Rev. Aaron Klinefelter,  
Rector



*The Rev. Penelope Duckworth*



My association with St. Jude's actually began in 2019 when I was asked to assist the Rev. Bruce Bramlett and preach for several Sunday services.

In 2020, I was called to return and serve two days a week with the Revs. Stephanie Green and Richard Leslie. Covid had begun to spread and suddenly we were facing a new world of virtual services and ministry. We were a team of clergy with overlapping roles but my specific designated area was pastoral care. Bruce Bramlett had given me a list of pastoral concerns which was very helpful as I sought to make telephone contact with the parish and care for those I was unable to meet in person.

Stephanie, Richard and I navigated the new waters of Covid with the assistance of the wardens and the staff that had remained in place. With the technical skill of a number of dedicated parishioners, we learned to do services via Zoom on FaceBook and how to hold smaller services on Zoom. We held Compline services on Thursdays and in May began to resume the Healing Service online with Zoom. With the help of Mary Stiles and Joy Hayter, a new informal service came into being that is meeting the needs of shared prayer and community twice a month.

On May 25th George Floyd was killed and St. Jude's began to grapple with the racism of our nation in our coffee hour discussions that grew into a book study led by Kathy Yates and Peter Troop. Around the same time, I began to take a more active liturgical role as St. Jude's moved to call a new rector.

In July, when the Rev. Aaron Klinefelter arrived, I was pleased to be asked to stay on. Due to budgetary constraints, my time was reduced to one day a week.

As summer turned to fall, we moved to outdoor services and it was a joy to be on campus with others. We found creative ways to celebrate All Saints/All Souls, discussed the California State propositions on the ballot for the Nov. 3 election, then sped on to Thanksgiving and Advent. Soon the spike in Covid necessitated closing the outdoor services, and so we finished the year with a virtual Christmas that was celebrated in traditional beauty but also showcased the creativity of youth.

***2020 has been a turbulent and difficult year but my affiliation with St. Jude's has been an ongoing blessing as well as an opportunity to grow both in faith and, surprisingly, in technical education. I'm grateful that I will continue on with you in 2021.***



At the start of 2020, the vestry selected me to be Senior Warden during this time of transition. I was excited for where God would lead St. Jude's next. Little did I know what lay in store. I am so grateful for all the people of this community, and I am especially grateful to our clergy, new and old.

The vestry began with a vestry retreat that featured preparation for calling a new Rector. We asked Pamela Small to come speak with us on the topics of "Exploring the Impact of Social Identities on the Church Experience" and "Clarification of our Values through the Lens of Racial Reconciliation and Renewal" in preparation for the final candidate interviews.

We scheduled many meetings to finalize our interview questions and process, but as the pandemic began to rage, we ended up using those pre-scheduled meetings to address the St. Jude's pandemic response strategy, beginning with closing the kitchen, ending shared meals, making changes to hygiene practices during worship, and eventually moving to on-line worship 3 days before the county required it of us. It is my great shame that some of those early changes were not communicated as well as I would have liked, especially when we changed the Wednesday night dinner format, but we endeavored to do better with subsequent changes in parish life. We brought back the telephone tree and tried our best to reach everyone.

***St. Jude's parish showed great strength through the pandemic, with many individuals helping their friends navigate this new online world. We had some advantages entering the pandemic: a culture of helping one another and a culture of voluntarily choosing Christ and the Church in our lives.***

Work done by Jennifer Shearin and the Web Development team in 2019 to re-design our website meant that the site could be easily updated to deal with all that needed to be communicated each week. Jennifer dedicated many hours to keeping the site up to date all through the year.

Becky Smith took the lead on Safe Park again this year, and took on an enormous task when it was unwise to have a large number of volunteers interacting with our guests.

Nick Harrah continued to maintain the physical plant and Orchard with help from Steve Swayze, and although some people were able to help with the outdoor projects, he still cheerfully took on many tasks, from keeping the Orchard healthy to improving lighting in the sanctuary.

So many have done so much: keeping the candles burning, garden growing, folks connected to one another, and our tech up-to-date. I'm hopeful that next year we'll find even more ways to connect outside our existing community and continue to bring the love of God into the world.

# Music Choir

Laura Green

Billie Bandermann

**Life as we knew it was normal until early March 2020. Online services began March 15.**

We began by singing live on Zoom and evolved to recordings made in Laura's home studio. Since April, Laura accompanied and/or produced, along with Billie and St. Jude's musicians, close to 100 recordings that are stored in St. Jude's Music Archives. Using iPhones and Garageband, Laura brought choir members and musicians from here and around the world together once again to sing a few favorite anthems. A highlight in October and November was our Outdoor Worship Service, which directly followed our 9:30 am Live Stream Service. Thank you to Jennifer Stern for overseeing the music in these services and for assembling musicians for songs selected by Rev. Aaron.



Heartfelt thanks to our faithful musicians who kept us going through the isolation of Covid-19.

**Though we are far and wide, the people at St. Jude's will always find each other.**

The Lay Reader ministry has continued to serve without interruption despite many changes. Most readers have been very flexible with adapting to technology and to online formats. Those who are not as comfortable with technology read in outdoor service formats when those were held. All have been mindful of staying safe, but connected to one another and to our church community.

**In sharing the Word, we have all benefited.**

# Lay Readers

LeMel Firestone-Palerm

# Flower Ministry

*Susan Lanser*

The Flower Ministry has continued to enhance worship at St. Jude's throughout the pandemic by placing flowers at the altar for each video service. Thanks to the efforts of the Urban Farm team at St. Jude's, most of the flowers used have come from our own garden, keeping our costs to a minimum!

***Thank you to our Urban Farmers and their wonderful efforts to grow all the flowers we have all enjoyed.***

Going forward we hope to resume the tradition of receiving dedications and donations for the arrangements each Sunday. We will likely start these after Lent, so please keep an eye on the bulletin for the announcement and please do partake in this wonderful sharing of God's creation.



# Communion Bread

*Marcia Landis*

In August, our ministry was able to resume on a smaller scale by providing Rev. Aaron with a small loaf of baked bread for each Sunday to symbolize communion for us all. We welcomed Elizabeth Klinefelter and Amber Leonard to our team of bakers: Doug Bailey, Cheryl Corless, Bruce Horn, Ellen Kolstee,

Marcia Landis, Karen Leasure, Charlotte Pannell, Rebecca and Nicky Phillips, Dan Putler and Kathy Yates. Team members have been supportive and committed to this ministry.

***It is a blessing that this ministry bridges all age groups and genders.***

Our sincere thank you for the many years that Bruce Horn served as a bread baker and best wishes in retirement.



*Ellen Kolstee*

We began the year with our children meeting in person for Godly Play. The staff included Stephanie Green, Mary Lyn Azar, Godly Play Coordinator, and Ellen Kolstee, Godly Play Administrator. Our Godly Play Storytellers were Mary Lyn Azar, Beth Leonard, Matt Matthews and Stephanie Green. Our Greeters were Valerie Nau, Amanda Williams, William Mason, and Peter Troop.

After shelter in place orders, the Godly Play staff was surveyed to see if they were willing to produce online lessons. It was not feasible, so at that point, the parents of the Godly Play students were provided with online links to classes produced by other parishes.

In the early part of summer, the Godly Play families needs were for the children to watch the church services online with their parents and to play games online afterward during the coffee hour.

My last activity as Godly Play Administrator was to sign up, along with some of the Godly Play Storytellers for a 1.5 hour online workshop by the Godly Play Foundation which offered a virtual Godly Play session and then guidelines and practical tips for how to do Godly Play in this new virtual context. With Rev. Aaron's blessing, I ended my Ministry as Godly Play administrator at the end of July, completing one year in that role.



*Judy Bailey, Barbara Simmons*

Like all ministries, Stephen Ministry had to adapt in 2020. We went from in-person meetings with care receivers to Zoom or phone. We changed from monthly in-person supervision meetings to virtual via Zoom.

We served three people this year. We continue to have a skilled and dedicated group of Stephen Ministers: Charlotte Pannell, Gordon Mullin, Laura Todd, Bet Messmer, leaders Barbara Simmons and Judy Bailey. In September we were thrilled to add two new Stephen Ministers to our group: Ellen Kolstee and Yin Mei Lawrence. They were commissioned virtually in September along with Hannah Schmuck who, unfortunately for us, moved with her husband to England soon after the commissioning. Barbara and Judy led one training session before the pandemic and Barbara continued to teach via Zoom.

In the Spring Barbara and Rev. Penelope Duckworth organized a phone tree for the Stephen Ministers. We called parishioners to check in and see if they needed help with groceries, or pastoral support. Response was very positive and appreciative. In general, everyone was doing well.

St. Jude's belongs to a consortium of local Stephen Ministry leaders, meeting every six weeks. Best practices, ideas, challenges and successes are shared. Hopefully 2021 will be a more normal year and eventually we can have in person meetings with care receivers and as a supervision group.

***Please keep Stephen Ministry in mind when talking with others. We are here and ready to serve.***



*Carolyn Bowker*



*Emily Holton*

This has been quite a year of change for the Eucharistic Ministers (or Chalice Bearers). We began the year serving in two services a month, vesting.

Then Covid-19 hit and we were no longer permitted in the church. For a few months Rev. Stephanie Green took over and chose people to serve in various ways online. When Aaron arrived he began to streamline the roles and Carolyn Bowker resumed scheduling. Now we were serving in one service, mostly not vested and from our homes; kitchens, living rooms, and offices.

Instead of a chalice being offered, we offered spiritual communion as in person communion continued to be off limits. We learned zoom skills. In late November, Aaron selected LeMel Firestone-Palerm to lead the Eucharistic Ministers and Carolyn Bowker stepped down from the leader role after somewhere near 20 years.

This is a quiet ministry and those serving are faithful and faith-filled parishioners. I am grateful and honored to have been in their presence.



Until March 8, 2020, Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) enjoyed continuing our Sundays after the service by visiting those unable to worship with us. We shared with them a brief two-page service including the creed, confession, sermon summary, and communion, and brought them greetings from the congregation. A LEV visited no more than two people/week and usually served four times a quarter. We'd love to have you join us in this amazingly rewarding ministry. Your presence (anyone who has been confirmed) allows us to expand our ministry. Please talk with clergy and current LEVs if you are interested in learning more.

***We support parishioners through all stages of their lives, and we will take communion to any parishioner who is unable to attend church.***

We welcome, encourage, and support potential Lay Eucharistic Visitors. We started the year with four LEVs and two accompaniers and by March 8, had added two more accompaniers. During this period, we communed 45 members in 21 visits. Then the quarantine began, and we could no longer visit in person. We began weekly calls to our shut-ins. Since March 15, we've made close to 215 phone calls. Zoom was a blessing to those shut-ins who were able to view the service, prayer groups, and other activities.

If you would like a phone call during the Covid-19 period, please contact the church office or clergy and request a LEV call. If you'd like to join us in this amazing ministry or learn more about it, contact Emily Holton at [emholton@att.net](mailto:emholton@att.net) or (408) 246-7440.



*Connie Erickson, Louise Marriott*

2020 started out as just another year and we were continuing our ministry of setting the table for communion and providing additional support to clergy as needed. Then our world came to an abrupt stop. Altar Guild was put on hold during the time that the Sunday services were done from clergy homes.

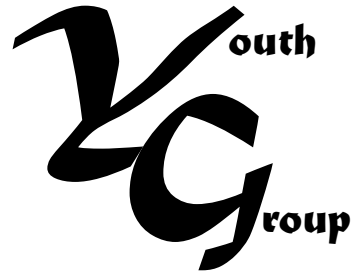
The one continuing duty that kept going was the changing of the sanctuary candle. Connie Erickson took charge of making sure the Sanctuary Candle was always burning bright. Once Rev. Aaron came onboard, and started having real time services from the Sanctuary, Connie and I introduced him to the workings of Altar Guild. We were able to pivot from how we had normally completed our ministry to helping provide needed assistance in getting things ready for our Zoom services.

One of the special events that Altar Guild participated in was the Taizé Prayer & Labyrinth walk on Election Day. Candles were placed around the labyrinth and provided a peaceful respite that day.

During Advent, Linda Limura helped with the Advent Wreath candles, and provided her vast knowledge of all things Altar Guild to Aaron.

Perhaps one of the most beautiful items all year was the new Advent vestments for Aaron. Barbara Pollek collaborated to make his ideas come to life. The first Sunday in Advent, Aaron showed off his new chasuble and stole in a brilliant Advent blue, lined in gold and with a large gold star in the front. It seemed the perfect way to welcome the new liturgical year with our new rector.

Your Altar Guild is looking forward to getting back to our routine in 2021. We all miss participating in this rich, vital ministry.



*Karen LeBlanc*

The Youth Group is slowly coming back to action. Last year in 2020 we lost momentum with Covid-19 Shelter-in-Place orders. The Zoom option to meet hasn't been an ideal medium for Mentors and Youth. We have met a few times via Zoom to catch up and play a few games. St. Jude's has a Youth breakout room hosted by the Coffee hour where they play Zoom games which has been a great place for the youth to hang out.

On Jan 6, 2021 the Youth met on Zoom for Epiphany to have a candle lighting ceremony. We met and played a get to know you game. We had some new faces and some familiar faces. We spoke of our Hope for 2021 and lit our candles that were made and delivered by the Youth Mentors.

We are hoping that in 2021 we will meet a more often. We are always looking for more volunteers as we are now down to three mentors. Once we are back to in-person meetings, we will need additional mentors to follow the Diocese Safe Church policy. If you are interested, reach out to Rev. Aaron.







Marcia Landis

Sign-ups groups were held in September with the understanding that Zoom would be the format. Dinner groups of 8 to 12 people are formed with the intention of combining different people each year to build new and deeper friendships. Participation offers a different way to staying connected socially.

There is always an opportunity to add people to current groups or form additional groups if anyone is interested. This year's Small Dinner Groups include 26 participants of all ages, from newcomers to long-standing parishioners. Dinner groups planned and held their first Zoom gatherings in October and November.

Most groups are meeting virtually about every four to five weeks. Our group with youth participants have celebrated performances and enjoyed creative activities as part of their Zoom gathering. Call Marcia Landis if you have any questions (408) 448-6118.



Dan Putler, Doug Bailey

2020 was a very successful year for St. Jude's Urban farm. In the winter and early spring we donated over 300 pounds of produce to West Valley Community Services. With the help of the St. Jude's Youth, via Steven Rotondo's Eagle Scout project, we added a new growing bed.

***The addition of the new bed, coupled with all beds being used for the Urban Farm, and moving to full use of an automated irrigation system allowed for a large increase in our output (to over 1100 pounds of fresh produce) for the summer season.***

The lion's share of our production was distributed through West Valley Community Services, with Santa Maria Urban Ministry distributing the rest. In addition, along the back border of the growing beds, we grew sunflowers and zinnias, which were used by Susan Lanser and the Flower Ministry for altar flower arrangements for many of the services in the summer and early fall.

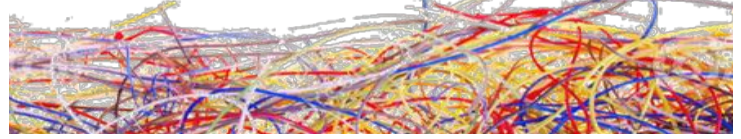
Because of Covid-19 we saw a decrease in regular participation in the Urban Farm from our parishioners, but in addition to the pre-Covid work done by St. Jude's Youth on the new growing bed, Peter and Beth Leonard and Nancy Gossett helped Doug and Dan out with harvesting work this summer. Judy Bailey helped Doug with deliveries, and Liza Blaney continued to do our delivery bookkeeping.

Finally, we got help from Nick Harrah and Steve Swayze with irrigation issues.

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We are in the process of finishing the planting of our winter and early spring crop. We are also closely monitoring the weather. Given the lack of precipitation this rainy season, we anticipate that there will be drastic water usage restrictions this coming summer and fall. Consequently, we have not yet committed to planting a summer crop this spring. This is an issue we will continue to discuss with the Operations Committee.

All our  
**AJ**  
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## Live-Streaming from the Sanctuary

*Dan Putler*

Since Rev. Aaron's arrival in July we have been live-streaming services from the Sanctuary. To develop plans on how to do this on an ongoing basis, a committee of Ken Foot, Nick Harrah, Jennifer Shearin, Bruce Horn, and Aaron, with Dan Putler as chair, was assembled. After research, and critical input from Bob Cleveland, a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park, and Gabe Echeverria, Laura Green's professional videographer son, we think we have come up with a framework that covers both our needs now, and in the future.

The backbone of the system is a technology known as NDI (or Network Device Interface) which allows cameras that are connected to our local area network / WiFi to be used for live-streaming. Cameras can range from iPhones to camcorders to specialized cameras that are mounted from the ceiling, but can be swiveled remotely to take different shots).

The video output from these cameras goes into a computer running software that allows the output to be sent either to Zoom (what we currently do) or directly to a live-streaming service (such as YouTube or Facebook Live). Sound is brought into the live-stream through our existing sound board. Currently, we are using a donated Canon camcorder as our main camera. There was definitely a learning process as we worked out the issues (most of them related to our use of Zoom), but these issues have largely been resolved.

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For most of the time since July, Dan Putler has been running the system in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. At this point, the team involved in this new ministry is expanding through the addition of Mike Landis and Graham Phillips. If you are interested, we would appreciate you joining us.

## Website

*Jennifer Shearin*

Especially this year, we hope the St. Jude's website has continued to be a consistent source of helpful information and an easy portal to everything happening at St. Jude's. New for this year have been the links to all our services and Zoom meetings; a "Worship at Home" page with all the latest video recordings and information on current opportunities for prayer and worship; and video archives of Sunday services, special services (such as Jazz Vespers), events (our Easter Celebration and 4th of July), and all Taizé and Compline services. Pictures—many taken by Donna Araiza (thank you!)—continue to be updated, as well as all website content, such as Outdoor Worship information, seasonal services, special events, general news, and much more. If you get your St. Jude's news via the Announcements emails that are sent out, but can't find the email when you need it, look on the website for the information. It's likely right there on the home page.

Jeffrey Pugh has joined me this year, by keeping the website hosting/registration/pnp up to date, as well as general maintenance. Without his help, the website could not keep running as consistently and bug-free as it does. Many thanks go to him for his investigations and resolutions of tricky problems and continued monthly maintenance.

Input on what you'd like to see or have available on the website are always welcome. We could also use help with downloading the Sunday Services from Zoom and uploading to the website each

week. Send an email to [meeting@saintjudes.org](mailto:meeting@saintjudes.org) if you can help or with your ideas!

## Tech Host Ministry

*Jennifer Shearin*

It was a very sudden change for St. Jude's to go to solely online services in March. We had never livestreamed a service before, and there was so much to learn. For a while, we streamed directly from one of our Assisting Priest's homes while they presided over the service and played recorded music. Later we changed to having the presiding priest, readers and live music in a Zoom service. With Rev. Aaron joining us, we have now settled into a service format broadcast over Zoom from our sanctuary, with musicians joining us live or recorded, and LEMs and readers speaking live. All services are streamed to our Facebook group page, and currently we average a bit more than 50 families each Sunday who are watching the livestream. (This is a really short summary of a very long and complicated process with many bumps in the road.) Sometimes Zoom still likes to throw a wrench in the works, but we are still working to improve and learn as new challenges are put before us.

Many thanks go to our Zoom Tech Hosts that work with me: Kathy Yates, Liza Blaney, Ken Foot, and Matt Matthews (who we were happy to have join us in December 2020). The Tech Hosts run the services over Zoom, including preparing visual content, playing recorded music during the service, spotlighting the service participants, and sending the livestream to Facebook. Though Tech Hosts aren't seen in the service, they make sure that everyone at home can enjoy it. We'd love to have you join us in this very important ministry and would happily train you. If you can, please contact Jennifer Shearin at [meeting@saintjudes.org](mailto:meeting@saintjudes.org).



*Peter Troop*

### **Building a Beloved Community**

For 37 years St. Jude's has walked a path with Santa Maria Urban Ministry to provide food, clothing and community support to help many in downtown San Jose who are working to achieve self-sufficiency.

In 2020, St. Jude's gifted Santa Maria \$12,000 from its Social Justice Outreach budget which was then matched by the Valley Foundation to provide \$24,000 to the agency. We had two food donation drive-throughs at St. Jude's. The first one as we welcomed Rev. Aaron to the parish in July, and the next one in October celebrating our patron saint. Santa Maria received more than 3,000 pounds of food, numerous items of clothing, and checks.

This year support from St. Jude's has had more impact as Santa Maria faced the daunting circumstance of a doubling in demand for groceries and aid to keep lives together as Covid-19 greatly increased the number of those challenged by food insecurity in downtown San Jose.

St. Jude's parishioner the Rev. Mitzi Ackerman, ordained in 1981 as the first woman priest in the Diocese of El Camino Real, led the founding of SMUM in 1983. Since then St. Jude's has maintained a strong presence in the life of Santa Maria. Scores of parishioners have volunteered in Santa Maria's programs. Many carried on Mitzi's leadership including Jim and Nancy Mangin and Paul Panell who made weekly trips to Santa Maria to deliver donations and Howard Hill who served on the board for more than a decade.



Last year, safety protocols due to Covid-19 meant Santa Maria had to narrow programs and limit volunteers. With hope of beginning to move beyond Covid-19 later in 2021, volunteer opportunities for St. Jude's could open up again.

St. Jude's and Santa Maria are emblematic of faith's role in building a beloved community.

### **Rotating Safe Car Park Program (RSCP) Covid-19, Chaos and Community**

*Becky Smith, Andy DeBaets*

The RSCP offers overnight parking and bathroom access to people who live in their cars. Registered guests move from site to site year-round. St. Jude's hosted 26 individuals during March/April and October of 2020, some for a few days, some for the duration.

It was a challenge to host safe park in the first months of Covid-19. Our Covid task force and RSCP leadership monitored the constantly changing public health guidelines and our program adapted week to week. We did a lot of disinfecting! We moved hospitality from a small room to a larger room (social distancing), then to the courtyard with volunteers in Room 6 serving meals out the door. We scrounged PPE for our guests and scrambled to find showers when the YMCA and gyms shut down. We pondered what it meant to host safe parking during a shelter-in-place order. Coffee shops, libraries, senior centers,

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gyms and even park restrooms were closed. We decided to allow guests to stay at St. Jude's 24/7 and we increased the number of meals we provided.

Many programs for unhoused folks cut back or shut down their offerings. St. Jude's doubled down on hospitality, setting the tone for the entire RSCP who have continued hosting throughout 2020. I am so proud of St. Jude's and grateful to all who provided meals, supplies and support. It meant a lot to our guests to ride out those early weeks of Covid-19 in a stable, welcoming community. Our guests felt the love. We will host safe park again in March/April 2021. Hoping for a little less chaos!

### The generosity of St. Jude's

*Liz Mulford*

In 2020 St. Jude's provided donations for:

**Safe Park** for two months, despite Covid-19

**Books in Spanish and art supplies** for children trapped across the border

**Grocery bags and financial help** for West Valley Community services where the number of clients increased by 600 people

**Santa Maria Urban Ministry:** food drive and significant financial help

**Valley Churches United:** for fire victims in Santa Cruz county

**Correctional Institutions Chaplaincy:** to purchase spiritual reading materials for residents since Covid-19 barred staff from accessing their supply, and to vet Carolyn Bowker and one other volunteer

**Recovery Café:** to help homeless folks recovering from addiction

**Live Oak:** to pay for a year's subscription to Zoom for 2 clients of their day center for frail elderly

**Canterbury Foundation:** food for homeless students at SJSU

**Grace Solutions:** support for showers and shelter for homeless residents of San Jose

**Four Homes of Mercy, Palestine:** to provide housing and enhanced lives to people with severe physical and mental challenges

Social Justice Outreach survived the transition from personal connection and snacks to a Zoom connection. For some members, the Zoom meetings didn't work well, so while our numbers decreased this year, creative responses to needs has not diminished. As always, we welcome your presence and participation. Please come join us.

### CIC (Correctional Institutional Chaplaincy) Jail Ministry

*Carolyn Bowker*

Normally my visits to the Santa Clara County Main Jail were every Thursday. As a team of three we stopped by the cell of anyone who wished to see a Chaplain. Our assigned cell block of mentally ill inmates who had a higher security risk was on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. We would see 10-18 inmates a week. Some just wanted a magazine to read. We carried a supply since this was a frequent request. Some wanted a Bible or an Our Daily Bread (similar to Forward Day by Day). Some wanted to talk, some to pray. All were offered prayer.

Then came Covid-19 and everything abruptly stopped. Everything. The facility chaplain, who is paid partly by CIC and partly by the county could only see an inmate if it were an emergency.

We generally don't know last names, or their charges, so other means of contact were

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initially cut off as well. Since I knew some inmate's last names, our facility chaplain got me their contact information and I began to write a note to two inmates every couple of weeks. One volunteer chaplain had a Zoom account and he started praying initially with the facility chaplain, but later added any other volunteer who wanted to join in.

We have been meeting weekly since the end of April. Gradually the jail administration permitted window visits. First, the facility chaplain, who then was allowed two additional chaplains including myself. Now I was going in weekly again. Initially, I saw one inmate a week alternating the two I was writing to. Later as inmates I knew reached out, I alternated up to five inmates. I continued writing notes also alternating amongst the five.

I also delivered the massive amount of magazines in my garage and some books to our facility chaplain's home. In December, when we were told to lockdown again, I stopped going in to the jail. I continue to write and as of last week all visits are blocked again including the facility chaplain. Our twice a year two-hour security training and monthly specialty trainings also halted, but have resumed as online trainings.



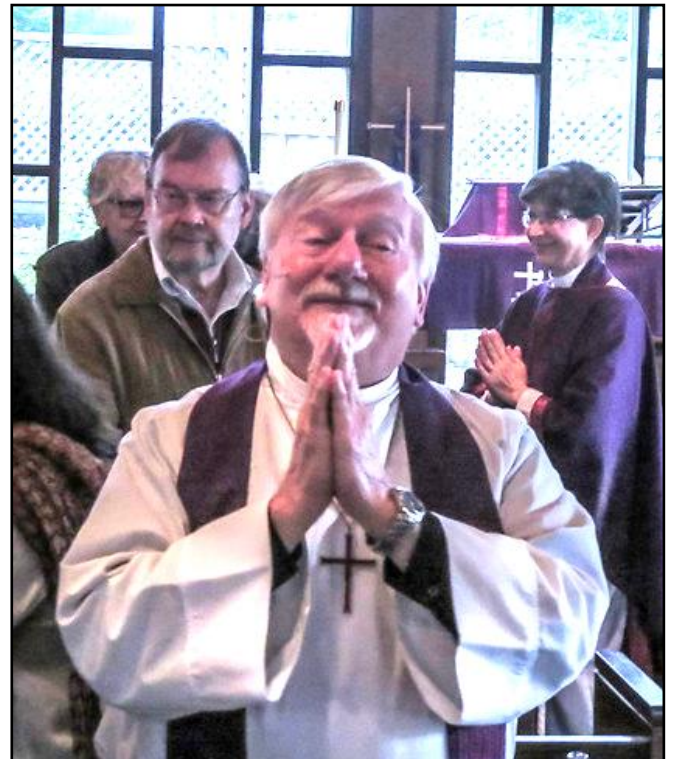
Nick Harrah

## The Orchard

I am pleased to report that this past year we had a reasonable crop in the orchard and that our neighbors waited, allowing parishioners a chance at getting ripe fruit. In addition, fruit was included in the food stuffs donated to the food bank.

As many of you may be aware, St. Jude's has had the benefit of having a professional orchardist to lend advice when needed for more than two decades. This year Peter Taden informed us that he intended to move in with his son. When this occurred, he would no longer be close at hand to assist in the care of our orchard. Peter will be sorely missed. The past few years we have been culling out trees which have been infected with a fruit mite type of parasite. This year five trees were replaced. In addition, the oak tree in the orchard has been spreading fungus and we have had four trees with the oak root fungus. These trees will be removed before spring and are scheduled for replacement next year. We spray the orchard two to three times annually with a natural sesame oil-based product for the control of the mite. There is no remedy for the oak fungus other than removal. As the oak is an adult tree and thereby protected in Santa Clara County as an indigenous tree, removal of the oak to eliminate the fungus is currently not an option.





# Giving. Working. Playing. Praying.



The parishioners of St. Jude's collected **over \$3,000 in donations** to a Catholic church in Puerto Rico devastated by an earthquake, after being moved by a photo of the statue of St. Jude being carried out of the ruins.



The rector has swag!





# What was new in 2020?

## A rector, an outdoor altar and new Advent Vestments



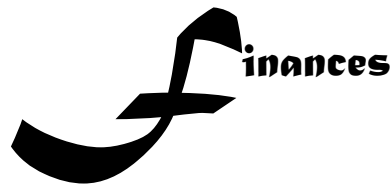
In July the **Welcome Committee** provided gifts for the whole Klinefelter family, including special gifts for the youth and Journey (beloved dog), a wonderful scrapbook, and a festive July 4th including a car parade and Talent Show! Members of the committee were Jennifer Stern, Ellen Kolstee, Barbara Simmons, Louise Marriott, Ken Foot, Kathy Yates, SJ Phillips, Elizabeth Belles, Ming-Hui Huang, Christine Stark, Matt Matthews, and Sharon Mason.



*Outdoor altar designed by Nick Harrah, made wood from our beloved fallen Coulter Pine.*

Before Covid-19

After Covid-19



*Scott Rotondo*

When 2020 began, we knew it would be an unusual year. We made plans to call a full-time rector and start rebuilding after several years of declining membership. That would have posed enough of a financial challenge, but then Covid-19 came along and upended our plans. We were forced to close the campus in March and lost most of our anticipated rental income. At the same time, our church services moved online, and we had to find new ways to conduct the daily business operations of the church.

Fortunately, St. Jude's was up to the challenge. Parishioners fulfilled their financial pledges and then donated more. We received a loan from the Paycheck Protection Program, which we expect to convert to a grant in 2021. As expected, we finished the year with an operating deficit, but it was significantly smaller than originally anticipated. That deficit will be covered by our Transition Reserve, which was funded with surpluses from 2018 and 2019.

Speaking of transitions, I took over the role of treasurer from Jeffrey Pugh one year ago at the annual meeting. Jeffrey's willingness to work with me over the past year has been invaluable in helping me to learn the complexities of this job. Similarly, Margot Jacobsen stepped down after many years of faithful service as our contribution secretary, and Elizabeth Belles agreed to take over the role. To Margot and Jeffrey, and to all those who continue to volunteer as counters and members of the finance committee, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude.



The best thing about 2020?

