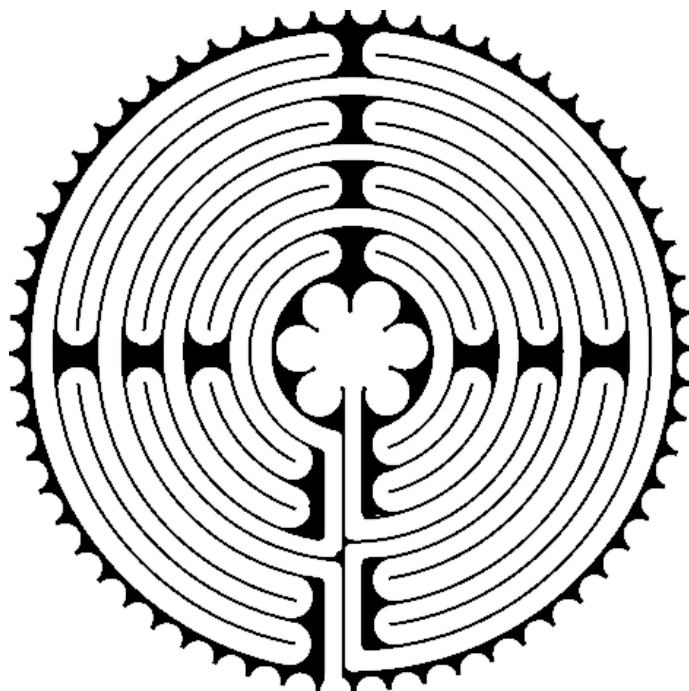


Annual Report for 2009

Prepared January 2010



**St Anne's Episcopal Church
Fremont, CA**

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Rector's Report

I am happy to report that 2009 was a year of continued growth for St Anne's! The following is a summary of the prayer and community service highlights of the year.

Our 2009 liturgical celebrations included 8 baptisms! We started the year with a new Recovery Worship Service on the first Sunday of every month at 4 PM. While much smaller than our 10 AM service, this service has developed a very faithful congregation of between 10 and 20 people and I believe that it will continue to grow and bring new members to our community. 2009 Holy Week and Easter services were better attended than ever before and we continued our new tradition of an Earth Day service on the labyrinth. We had a Service of Healing during the summer and blessed the animals on St. Francis Day (including a couple of snakes!). We participated in the national celebration of Children's Sabbath Weekend (sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund) with a special service that celebrated our children and prayed for the children of our world. In addition to our regular Wednesday service of Evening Prayer, the choir brought us two beautiful Evensong services. We again celebrated the beginning of the liturgical year with An Advent Festival of Lessons and Music, and our Christmas Day service welcomed almost twice as many worshippers as last year!

We also served the community in many other ways. Our new Prayer Shawl Ministry took prayers and shawls to the sick. We continued to faithfully provide meals to the homeless twice a month (see report below) and we participated in a Walk-A-Rock-A-Thon with St. James to raise money for the Winter Relief Program. During Lent, the Sunday school collected money in "Hope Chests" for Episcopal Relief and Development and contributed to the "Gifts for Life" program. We provided Children's Bibles to an orphanage in Uganda. We collected money for back to school shoes for local homeless families and provided backpacks filled with school supplies to Abode Services. We continue to financially support many other organizations including Abode Services, the Alameda County Food Bank, CDSP, The School for Deacons, The Bishop's Ranch, S.A.V.E., and the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. The generosity of this community is inspiring.

We were also very active in our deanery. In January, we participated in the first ever Deanery-wide Vestry Retreat at The Bishop's Ranch and in August we prayed and picnicked together at the "Deanery Bash." I once again participated in the liturgies sponsored by the Tri-City Interfaith Council – the Holocaust Remembrance Service at Temple Beth Torah and the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at St. Joseph's Church. I am pleased to say that both of these services were well attended by members of St. Anne's!

Our Parish Narrative (published in November) tells the amazing story of all that you contribute to St. Anne's. I am awed by the many ways your faith is made visible and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve this parish and the community of Fremont alongside all of you!

The Rev. Luran K. Pifke

Senior Warden's Report

St. Anne's has been a great comfort to our family this past year as I hope it has been to all of you. And as a church family, we are healthy and happy. 8 people were Baptized as compared to 5 last year (and 2 the year before); 5 people were Confirmed and we added 18 new family members! Our budget isn't quite balanced, but we are in reasonably good shape given the state of the economy. This year we completed a Parish Narrative Budget in which we captured and reported all the contributions that St. Anne receives, both in funds and in volunteer hours. The results are truly heartwarming and show, through our volunteer hours, that our Parish is healthy. We held several Adult Education Seminars this year: 5 Part Lenten Series; Stewardship of the Earth; Workshop: The Book of Job; Parish Narrative Budget Workshops. We served at the Abode shelter by offering meals twice a month and have increased the number of people who volunteer their time for this ministry; we care for our planet with recycling and reuse at all our events; we reached out to our local community through LEV (Lay Eucharistic Visitors), Blessing of the Animals, Chamber of Commerce, annual children's shoe drive, children's 'back to school backpacks', and a small, but high quality music program.

Since I have served for three years on the vestry (and two years as Senior Warden), my term is now up. It was a privilege to serve as Lauran was called to our Parish and especially to work with her as she established herself in our family. It was an honor to serve all of you and I am humbled by the experience. I wish you all a grace filled 2010.

Robert Hum
Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report

This has been my second year on the Vestry and my second year as Junior Warden. At St. Anne's, we've identified this job as being the "communications officer" for the church. The communications efforts have fallen into four categories:

1. Keeping an e-mail list of all church members and sending out periodic e-mail reminders about upcoming events and important dates.
2. Contributing to the bi-monthly Church Mouse, St. Anne's newsletter. The Mouse is a valuable source of information about the members and ministries of our church community, as well as focusing our spiritual attention on the particular time in the church calendar that we are entering. The Mouse is mailed to all St. Anne's members and all past Mice are available on the Web site.
3. The ongoing Prayer List. The Prayer List is included in each week's announcements and is read during each Sunday's Prayers of the People. Anytime,

let me know who in your life needs to be included for healing and support, thanksgiving, or remembrance. (ann-at-st-annes@live.com)

4. Summer Storytelling Bonfires. Again this past summer, we enjoyed three evening bonfires together. It is a fun opportunity to sit around a campfire on the labyrinth, roast marshmallows, and share our stories with each other. Not a thing you get to do much of these days!

I value my time on the Vestry and appreciate the opportunity to participate in decision making and to serve St. Anne's in this way.

Ann Mountford
Junior Warden

Deacon's Report

"It is the nature of grace always to fill spaces that have been empty." Goethe

Grace that fills in the empty space comes from grieving a loved one who has died. This year, Diana and I have been graced with starting a grief group here at our church. Running under the guidance of Pathways Home Health & Hospice, the group started meeting in September, and continues with 6 week sessions up to May of this year. We have been blessed with having up to 9 people attend the various sessions. These groups provide a place to share grief and discover what grieving is. The people attending come from all walks of life in the community, coming together to discover this grief process, to learn that the feelings they have are ok, and to uphold each other through sharing and caring for and with each other.

Both Diana and I have been blessed by this ministry and intend to continue it in 2010 when the groups start in the fall. Let me leave you with another thought, from John Donne:

"God never says you should have come yesterday;
He never says, you must come tomorrow,
But today if you will hear his voice,
Today he will hear you . . .
He brought light out of darkness,
Not out of lesser light;
He can bring thy summer out of winter,
Through thou have no spring.
All occasions invite his mercies,
And all times are his seasons."

Continuing from the book "Healing after Loss" by Martha Whitmore Hickman:

“What must we think we must do, what must we believe, to feel any sense of ease from the pain of this grief?

There are no hoops to jump through, no concessions to a dogma we cannot believe. There are people who embody love for us. Can we believe that we are accepted, that there is in the universe a Oneness, an Embracing Love, a God---whatever word or impulse of mood seems possible to us? If we can, let us give over some of our grief to that Other, as in the dark a child hands over to a trusted friend some burden too heavy to carry.

No burden is too heavy---or too light

No anxiety is too inconsequential---or too monumental.”

May you all be blessed this year.

The Rev. Robert Partanen

Music Director's Report

2009 has been a busy and fulfilling year for the choir! We have gained new members and have been able to sing some wonderful music!

Besides leading the congregation in singing on Sundays, the choir has participated in the Spring Concert, along with Giancarlo and his daughter, Evensong on November 11th, and Advent Lessons and Carols on December 13th. We were also excited to be able to have the Stanford Brass Ensemble at St. Anne's on December 4th for a spectacular concert!

Giancarlo is currently on sabbatical, and I am honored to be the interim Music Director during his absence. I look forward to the coming year as we continue to support the church with our singing!

Jennifer Carini

Interim Music Director

Altar Guild Report

The Altar Guild is made up of a group of men and women who prepare the church and sanctuary for worship services. This involves preparing the altar for regular Sunday worship and changing the colors of the hangings to correspond with the liturgical calendar. We are also responsible for special services such as Christmas and Easter, wedding, baptisms, memorials and funerals. As the year continues, we plan to continue adding color to the services to reflect the drama of the changing seasons. A further extension of this service is the making of communion bread. We have two great “bread makers” - Fred Hansen and Ian Oxley. The Flower Guild serves with the Altar Guild and

arranges the flowers in the sanctuary for Sunday worship. Joan Carroll currently heads up this service.

The Altar Guild is composed of four teams, one for each Sunday of the month plus an additional team for the months that have five Sundays. This year saw a change in Directresses. Laura Koehler and Mary Patrician now share responsibilities for this position. We are very fortunate to welcome two additional members who will begin training after the first of the year. Teri Minnis and Allen Sprague have graciously agreed to become part of this wonderful ministry. Teri is new to Altar Guild but eager to begin training. Allen is an experienced Altar Guild member having served at St. Anne's many years ago. They will both be great additions. But of course no report would be complete without recognizing the existing dedicated team members that work in the background each week: Karen Smith, Nancy McMahon, Karen Manson, Ann Mountford. Thank you for all you do!

Mary Patrician and Laura Koehler

Buildings & Grounds Report

Part One: Buildings

The break-in over the summer derailed some of the planned work for the church this summer as it required a bit of unplanned maintenance. The majority of the damage was due to attempts to break into the sacristy (damaging the door frame), remove the safe from the wall in the office (damaging the wall), breaking in through a transom window and destroying on lock on the Sunday school building attempting to break in. The following work was done to mitigate the damage and reduce future risk:

- All the building locks were re-keyed (this work was done by a locksmith).
- The door frame on the sacristy was repaired.
- The wall in the office was repaired.
- A deadbolt was installed on the sacristy door and the hinges were replaced with security type hinges (impossible to remove with the door closed).
- The window used for the break in was permanently closed (it had been used to provide ventilation).
- A vent was installed to provide ventilation for the church.
- Locks were installed on the outside power and lighting panels.
- The bottom sills on the exterior doors were shimmed to ensure the doors close securely.
- The door handle mechanism on the Sunday school door was replaced (this work was done by a locksmith).

Nothing of consequence was stolen. The sacristy door held (although just barely), and the safe did its job.

We also painted the west end of the church building this summer. This was a big job which included stripping all the peeling paint, replacing shingles that were beyond repair, nailing down all the warped or loose shingles, and calking before repainting. The west end gets the most abuse as this is the direction most winter storms come from.

The play gym/swing set was re-stained. It was beginning to look pretty shabby, and the wood was beginning to weather due to a lack of protection. Re-staining should add many years of life to our children's play area.

A major water leak developed in the Sunday school building this year requiring replacement of the dry rotted wood around the end window in the Rector's office. Fortunately there was no damage to the interior framing and so the repairs were relatively easy to make.

Fred Hansen

Buildings & Grounds Report

Part Two: Grounds

We are poised to begin Phase III of our landscape project. The Memorial Garden/Columbarium project is ready to move forward. The columbarium committee has been formed and we have our rules and forms in place. Many in the parish have already contributed to the project. We have bids to build the wall. The only thing holding us back is that we haven't raised enough funds to complete the Columbarium wall project. If you are thinking of contributing to the project you have three options. One is to reserve a space for \$500 or the whole niche for \$2000. Two, maybe you already have made plans as to your final resting place but want to participate, your check would be gladly accepted. Third, maybe you just won the lottery and you want to see the Columbarium built and you want to reserve space. As soon as we have enough funds to build the Columbarium we will continue to develop our Memorial Grove.

As always I am grateful for the support that the people of St. Anne's have shown for all our landscape projects. As I have said before, our site reflects the beauty of the people that make up this wonderful parish.

Bobbie Armor

Called to Right Relationship

The Diocese of California has implemented a comprehensive new program known collectively as “Called to Right Relationship.” It includes standards, policies, and procedures for clergy and lay leader conduct, including:

- standards of conduct for clergy and lay leaders;
- procedures for reporting misconduct;
- behavioral standards for protecting children, youth, elders, and dependent adults;
- definitions of terms; and
- various resources for creating safe churches.

St. Anne’s has implemented all procedures and policies that are a part of this program and we are in full compliance. This includes (among other things):

- Interviews, background checks and training for all lay leaders involved with our children.
- Background checks for everyone with a key to church facilities and
- Practicing safe church guidelines at all times.
- Completion and approval by the vestry of an annual audit

The Called to Right Relationship document is available in the church office. In addition, you can view the document on the diocesan website (www.diocal.org, under the Resources tab).

Fred Hansen

Education Programs: Adults and Youth

In September 2009, our EfM group had 10 participants led by Nancy Vital (see report below). We also offered four different Adult Education Series (including a First Annual Summer Bible Study Series on the Book of Job) connected to seasonal stewardship themes (see Stewardship Report below). Workshops were led by several different people and were well attended. In addition, we had two adult forums on “Understanding the Liturgies of Holy Week,” and several pre-baptismal classes led by the rector.

The Rev. Lauran Pifke

Education Programs: Children

St. Anne’s continues to operate an active Christian Education program for children from September through June.

Ages 0 to 4

Babysitting is available in the Nursery every Sunday. From one to four children are typically served, with Daniel Woo serving as babysitter.

Ages 3 to 7 Godly Play

We continue to offer the Godly Play program for the younger children. This is a well regarded program based on Montessori principles adapted to spiritual education. Godly Play uses a careful telling of scripture stories, engaging story figures and activities to encourage children to seek and find answers to their own faith questions. Godly play respects the innate spirituality of children and encourages curiosity and imagination in experiencing the mystery and joy of God. Our Godly Play storytellers are Therese Gain and Karen Sullivan. Our Helpers/Greeters are Madeline Johnson, Carol Larin, Catherine Rice, Stephanie Smith, and Judy & Allen Sprague.

Ages 8 and above Whole People of God

The curriculum (“Whole People of God”) offered for the older children is a lectionary based program using the New Revised Common Lectionary. The children are able to follow the same seasonal readings as the adults are using in the Church. The program includes activities that are adaptable to the ages and learning styles of the children. The curriculum ties the lessons of the scripture to the daily lives and congregational worship that the children experience. In addition it explores themes, such as “forgiveness” and how these spiritual concepts can be explored in the children’s day to day activities.

Robert Hum prepares and leads the weekly Sunday lessons. Fred Hansen, Lenora Laughlin or Madeline Johnson join Robert every Sunday so that two adults are supervising the children at all times. Lessons consist of a variety of items such as bible readings, dramatization, crafts and discussions so that every child's unique learning style is engaged. We've had an average attendance of 5 children with some children achieving near perfect attendance.

Sunday School starts at 9:30 each Sunday so that we can have time to engage in the lessons and still have the kids join the congregation for communion.

Therese Gain and Robert Hum

Education Programs: EfM

In EfM participants deepen personal faith through better understanding what we believe and why we believe it ...

EfM is a distance learning program created and administered by the School of Theology, University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

At EfM we discover that our personal experience is a primary resource for our theological education. EfM enables us to learn more about God and ourselves by relating history, culture and scripture to our own experience in the world.

Over a course of 9 months of study, worship and personal reflection with a group of 6-12 people, we share our insights and discoveries about who God is and what God is saying to each of us. Through this process we discover the implications of our personal theology. This year our EfM group is comprised of 10 participants: 3 new members and 7 returning for their second, third or fourth years.

Our EfM community provides a confidential, safe and nurturing space to seek, share and question our relationship with God and consequent ministry in the world. The entire program consists of four 9-month segments that may be taken consecutively or at your own pace.

This year is the 14th year that EfM has been offered at St. Anne's. We meet once a week for 3 hours, for a total of 36 weeks, taking breaks for Christmas and Holy Week.

Because we are so excited to share about our experience, once again we held an open house in September for interested individuals to come see what EfM is all about. The open house provided a means to experience the program before making a commitment. Those who came found the gathering to be valuable and we plan to hold another open house this spring as well as next September. We look forward to welcoming new members for the fall. If you would like to know more about the program or our EfM group here at St. Anne's, please contact Nancy Vital at 623-9639 or at nvital@comcast.net.

Nancy Vital

Environmental Commission Report

In 2009 we extended our observation of Earth Day in April through the month of May in a series of events, starting with our Earth Day Eucharist service on April 26th. We again celebrated outdoors on the Labyrinth and included the telling of Ugandan creation stories and the participation of the children into the service. Immediately after church on May 3rd and May 17th, we held group discussions exploring the moral issues surrounding climate change and why religious groups and people of faith around the world are leading the way in trying to address them. The culmination of our exploration was the celebration of Pentecost on May 31st. Our guest celebrant, the Reverend Canon Sally Bingham, preached about our sacred duty to protect the environment and the varied voices making that call, as reflected in her recently published compilation "Love God Heal Earth". Approximately 12 parishoners participated in the discussion sessions.

In September Shawn Dean and Therese Gain attended the diocesan gathering of parish environmental liaisons. They were able to share both practical and philosophical insights with participants from other parishes throughout the diocese.

Therese Gain

Eucharistic Visitor Ministry

In this past year we have completed visits each month with a number of those unable to worship with us: Pearl Navarathan, John and Ann DeGarmo, and 102 year old Theodora Das (who recently died).

The commissioning prayer at the end of the service is particularly meaningful. We feel the support of the whole congregation sending us out to serve others as a witness to Christ's love and grace, and so our visit becomes a sacred gift of service to others. Sometimes those we visit have joined in our small service, sometimes they are silent, but it is always a very special visit. Our time with them is short, but it appears to leave a positive impact. Bringing communion to my parents is a rare treat. My Dad was also a Eucharistic Visitor for many years and we use his original communion set. No matter what the circumstances with their health or mental confusion, prayer and communion reach them. Our goal is to continue monthly Eucharistic Visits; please let us know if you have others who would appreciate having "church" brought to them. We hope others will be called to this ministry; we would be happy to have you come along and see for yourself.

Lori Prince and Robert Hum

Healing Ministry

Nancy McMahon and Therese Gain have served this year as the healing ministers during the Sunday worship. This has been a popular ministry which offers individuals the opportunity to receive intercessory healing prayer focused on the individual and, if desired, his or her specific needs. The Healing Ministry adds an element of individual prayer to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The Eucharist symbolizes in general our human brokenness and God's healing through Jesus the Christ. The Healing Ministry focuses both the awareness of brokenness and God's healing power on the individual. The Ministry prays for the individual's specific need, whether in mind, body or soul or unspoken.

Expanding on this ministry, this year we held our second worship service focused specifically on healing. The laying on of hands was done in front of the congregation, incorporated into the Eucharistic celebration. The service also included readings and hymns chosen especially for the occasion.

Further expansions of the healing ministry in 2009 were the Recovery Worship Service and the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Therese Gain and Nancy McMahon

Homeless Shelter Meal Teams Ministry Report

St. Anne's congregation has supported 2 meal teams for 20 years or so. Each team is entirely responsible for serving dinner once a month at the Abode's Sunrise Village Homeless shelter, a transitional housing shelter for people (many with young children) who have gotten off of the streets and are clean and sober and working to get into their own homes.

Each team buys the food, cooks and serves approximately 60 – 70 dinners each time. Team 1, led by Judy Sprague, usually serves fried chicken, chicken nuggets, corn, mashed potatoes, stuffing, rolls, salad and dessert on the 2nd Friday of every month. Team 2, led by Teri Minnis, usually serves turkey enchilada casserole, chicken nuggets and macaroni and cheese (for the children), mixed vegetables, French and garlic bread, salad and a variety of desserts on the 4th Friday of every month.

There are many ways congregation members (including children) can become involved in this very important outreach ministry. We welcome any folks who want to help prepare the meal, serve it and/or donate money for purchasing the food items. These teams are completely self supporting and do not rely on financial contributions from the church itself, although individual donations are reported on our books and can be a tax write off for the contributors. We continued to see increased participation by congregation members again this past year and are grateful for your support. It is a wonderful way to connect with our greater community and know that we can make a difference by sharing our blessings with others that are going through difficult times. For further information please see Judy or Teri.

Teri Minnis and Judy Sprague

Hospitality Report

Saint Anne's continues to provide a warm and welcoming environment for our congregation. Woven into every service, coffee hour, concert, and bountiful potluck event, Saint Anne's shares love of God, warm friendship, and good food with all.

Share your small or large celebration by signing up to host a coffee hour. Bring a neighbor to enjoy our next concert. Walk the labyrinth. Discover, share, and enjoy all the hospitality that Saint Anne's offers.

Lenore Olivas

Prayer Shawls

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was started at the beginning of Summer 2009. It currently has 3 active members who knit and crochet Prayer Shawls: Teri Minnis, Bobbie Armor, and Angela Sandell. By November 2009, the Ministry had made a total of 7 shawls; 3 were given out the same day they were blessed, and another was given to someone a few weeks later. The Prayer Shawls are a tangible way of letting people know they are loved and cared for. They are something a person can wrap around themselves in times of need and know that someone is thinking of them and praying for them.

If you are interested in joining the Ministry please contact Teri Minnis or Angela Sandell. Even if you don't currently know how to knit or crochet, we'd be happy to help you learn. :-)

Angela Sandell

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers

Twenty members of St. Anne's community have given their time this year to serve as readers for our services. Reading the Old and New Testament lessons, leading the Prayers of the People, and serving as Lay Eucharistic Ministers are ways the liturgy servers have ministered to St. Anne's. Schedules are made up in advance on a three month time frame. Effort is made to schedule each person on dates that are convenient for him or her. Each person is responsible for his or her replacement if it is not possible to serve on a scheduled date. Lessons for the readings are found in the wall file inside the door of the office in the narthex. Lessons are in the file well in advance and each reader is responsible to get the lesson if practicing is desired. Liturgy scheduling fits my needs and allows me to serve St. Anne's community in a flexible manner. I enjoy setting up the schedules and contacting everyone when its time to do it again. Many thanks to the liturgy readers and servers who were active this year: Bobbie Armor, Cindy Barley, Joan Carroll, Fred Hansen, Robert Hum, Johnathon Jamison, Madeline Johnson, Edward, Kyama, Nancy McMahan, Diana Miller, Teri Minnis, Lenore Olivas, Ian Oxley, Lori Prince, Allen Sprague, Judy Sprague, Bob Vital, David Vital, Nancy Vital. A new sign up sheet will be in the narthex before the end of January, so anyone who wants to serve St. Anne's by reading or is trained as a LEM can sign up for this ministry.

Susan Kazarinoff

Small Groups: Parents of Young Children

We met four times in the spring of 2009 either in a home of someone in the group or at a park. Six families attended total, with at least three families each time. In addition, some people have said that this has cascaded into additional togetherness outside the auspices of the group.

Johnathon Jamison

Southern Alameda and Executive Council Deanery Report

St. Anne's has an active presence within the Southern Alameda Deanery. The deanery consists of elected lay representatives from each parish (church) as well as the clergy from each. The number of lay representatives is determined by the size of each parish. St. Anne's has two lay representatives. These deanery reps also serve as delegates to the General Convention of the Diocese of California, an annual event where much work of the diocese is done. In 2009 St. Anne's representatives were Therese Gain and Teri Minnis, with Fred Hansen and Diana Miller as alternates. The clergy in our deanery are very supportive of one another and are preparing for the 2nd annual retreat of vestries and deanery representatives from each church. The first retreat which took place at Bishop's Ranch early in 2009 was deemed a success – opening conversations to find ways that the parishes can support each other in our presence within the communities that we belong to and want to serve as best we can.

Each deanery in the diocese elects 2 people (at least one of which must be lay) to serve on the Executive Council. The Executive Council consists of these representatives, our bishop, people elected at convention and others appointed by the bishop. It is the governing body of the diocese, charged with carrying out the work of the diocese between conventions, including fiduciary responsibilities. This past year was the first year of this Council, having combined the Board of Directors and the Diocesan Council into one body. Some of the work that was done this year included reviewing the bi-laws to be sure they are in line with the National Church, budget, deanery realignment options, assessment relief requests and a variety of other responsibilities.

It has been my privilege to have served as a representative from our deanery for the last year on this newly formed Council, with 2 more years to serve. I am excited to tell you that Lauran was elected at Convention to serve on the Executive Council this coming year, so St. Anne's and the Southern Alameda Deanery will have quite a presence in our Diocese. I look forward to continuing to serve St. Anne's in this way.

Teri Minnis

Stewardship Report

It continues to be our Stewardship Vision to build a year-round focus on giving based on the amazing promises in scripture:

- Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need. Luke 12:31 NLT
- Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38 NIV
- All glory to God who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Eph 3:20 NLT

We completed a number of activities throughout the year, listed below. The year's Stewardship focus culminated with the St Anne's Parish Narrative Budget. As a way to acknowledge the gifts we give, we collected information about the number of hours and dollars we contribute within various parish groups and summarized the results into six Mission categories: Worship, Communication, Education/Spiritual Growth, Evangelism/Outreach, Pastoral Care and Fellowship, and Care of Resources/Building and Grounds. We heard from many of you in our discussion sessions that it was inspiring to see the cumulative results of our time and resources. The results-to-date of our annual pledge campaign are very encouraging: we have four new pledges and the total amount pledged is higher than last year even though there are several pledges that have yet to be turned in. We are very grateful for everyone's generosity as we support the work of St Anne's in the world.

2009 Winter Theme – “LETTING GO”

- 3 Lenten study groups led by Lauran
- 2 Labyrinth Workshops, one led by Mark Stanger and one by Nancy Vital

2009 Spring Theme – “RE-BIRTH”

- Workshop series on Stewardship of the Earth led by Therese Gain and Shawn Dean

2009 Summer Theme – “UNION WITH GOD”

- Study series on the Book of Job led by Lauran

2009 Fall Theme – ST ANNE'S PARISH NARRATIVE BUDGET

- 2 Parish Narrative Discussion Groups
- Ingathering Service and Celebration Brunch
- Annual pledges and budget commitments

Looking ahead to 2010, we would like to further expand the group of those actively involved. We look forward to new ideas and leadership in the new year.

With a grateful heart,
Lori Prince and Shawn Dean

Ushers Report

Ever wonder who those smiling faces are that greet you every Sunday morning with an Order of Service, the Readings, and the Announcements? They are the Ushers and their job is to coordinate with the Clergy to make sure the service goes as planned and to make sure everyone is in their seats by 10:00AM so the service can start on time. The following is the current team of Ushers: **Fred Hansen and Ray Mena, Judy Sprague and Shawn Dean, Karen and Kevin Sullivan, Ian Oxley and Joan Carroll, Bill and Sara Brennan**, with **Edward Kyama and Chip Koehler** as alternates.

Serving as an Usher is a great ministry for newcomers and several of the ushers are relatively new to St. Anne's. Are you a newcomer to St. Anne's and want to meet the parishioners that have been here a long time? Have you been at St. Anne's a long time and don't know the newcomer's names yet? Do you want to get involved with the Sunday service and don't know how to get started? If you answer YES to one of those questions then Ushering is just for you.

The ushers have several very important functions in the Sunday Service.

Function of the Ushers:

1. Support special needs of the Rector (or Celebrant – if there is a guest Celebrant the usher's help is even more important) in the Service
2. Greet people entering the church and hand them the order of service. (This is the job of primary importance! A friendly greeting can make the difference in whether a guest returns or doesn't. If you are serving as an usher, make it your priority to greet guests first, greet and chat with friends second. Make sure that you never block the doors when chatting with friends – this is unwelcoming body language.) Help them find a seat if needed.
3. Handle administrative and facility matters, particularly counting the number of people attending the service as well as lighting, windows, fans, doors, and chairs
4. Help set up for coffee hour (of secondary importance)
5. Notify Sunday School Teachers when its time for the kids to come to the service
6. Coordinate the flow of people for Communion – select oblation bearers
7. Help with the offertory money with the Counters (1 usher + 1 vestry member = ideal counters)

If you are an individual or a couple and would like to make a once a month commitment to be an Usher please call Chip Koehler at 651-8597 or send him an email at charleskoehler@comcast.net. He will help put you on the regular Usher Schedule and will train you to be an Usher too.

Chip Koehler

