

Southern Alameda Deanery Report to Diocesan Convention 2015

The activities of the Southern Alameda Deanery were various and good. Each year, our congregations gather for a deanery-wide vestry meeting. This gathering allows each congregation to highlight their own ministries and also allows us to focus on our common mission and ministry. With both Bishop Marc and Canon Schatz in attendance, Southern Alameda was and is super-charged for ministry. Several mission-oriented ministries came out of our gathering this year.

First, we agreed once again to build a home in Mexico through our partnering agency, Corazon. At a cost of approximately \$10,000, Southern Alameda sent a team of 40 people across the border to build a home in one day for a family that has never owned a place of their own. This is our sixth year doing this build. Second, the Rectors of the deanery meet monthly at St. Clare's, Pleasanton to collaborate and support our common mission and ministry. Third, the Deanery affirmed and continues to support Sacred Space, Hayward. We support this ministry in the following ways:

- Clergy to help lead worship.
- Parishioners from deanery congregations that serve on the board.
- Preparing meals for each Sunday service.
- Providing lay leadership to help minister to the needs of the Sacred Space congregation.
- Provide financial support to Sacred Space, Hayward.

Finally, in partnership with Episcopal Charities, Southern Alameda Deanery has two grants that support ministry in our region. The first is the Big Heart Wellness Center located at St. Bart's, Livermore, and the second is a social worker for Sacred Space, Hayward.

We also have a third grant, approved at our September meeting, going to FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition). This organization provides shelter, meals, and support to families living in Hayward, Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, and San Leandro. FESCO is the only Shelter in Southern Alameda County that serves families in all of configurations.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the Deanery held all its mandatory meetings this year and looks forward to deepening our ties to our congregations and to the diocese.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Ronald D. Culmer, Rector, St. Clare's Episcopal Church, Pleasanton