



The Window

The Newsletter of St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont, CA
Called to serve in new and loving ways

November 2013

Disciples in the World: St. James' Parish Retreat

On October 4 we experienced a day of laughter, reflection, and thinking about our future as about 55 members of St. James' participated in a day-long retreat. The Rev. Dr. Rob Moss, Pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Master in Lakewood, Colorado, facilitated our retreat and also preached at both services the following day.

The day went a bit like this: First, in small groups we came up with lists of what we think God is like based on our reading of different Bible passages. Then as a whole group we discussed what God's mission in the world looks like and what God is accomplishing today. How do we know what God's mission looks like? What qualities are present when God's mission is evident?

Then we discussed what it looks like when God's mission is NOT evident. How do we know when God's mission is not honored in our lives, our neighborhoods, our political and social worlds? Our work as disciples of Christ is to "stand in the gap" between what is and what should be to make the work of God evident in our world. How do we already do this? How can we do this better, or differently?

We also looked at the timeline of our parish marked with significant events and added our own, such as marriages, births, deaths, confirmations, etc. Rob asked each of us to sum up in one word how we see God's story, St. James' story, and our own individual story.

We wrapped up the day with brainstorming for action items – things to be done at the parish, committee/ministry, and individual levels. Lots of laughter, food and music were interspersed throughout the day. Feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive.

Now what? The brainstorming ideas tend to fall into five main areas: visibility (promotion, being

available to the neighborhood, etc.), drawing people in (offering programs of interest and meeting needs), feeding ourselves (good teaching programs, fellowship, etc.), outreach (sharing God's love through action, service), and evangelism (telling our stories of how God is manifested in our lives and our church.) Promoting our visibility and feeding ourselves spiritually tied for first place, with outreach a close third. From here the vestry will evaluate our active ministries and where they fit in, what might be added or subtracted, and how can we all be fed spiritually as we also seek to feed others. Lori paraphrased from a book she is currently reading: "Everything a church does should be examined through the question, 'How are you changed by being here?'"

We are so grateful to Rob Moss for facilitating our retreat, and to everyone who was able to attend. Look for some concrete plans for action in the next few months.

Janet Fischer, Sr. Warden



Stewardship Corner

Flourish in Faith

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." (Luke 17:5-6)

The words of Bishop Robert C. Wright of the Diocese of Atlanta in the first **Flourish in Faith** bulletin insert on Sunday, October 6, are well worth repeating. Bishop Wright wrote:

God is a real world God, which means God is in the common things of this world. These common things show us God's genius and provide opportunities for our transformation. Money is one of these things. Money is neither positive nor negative. Money is simply a tool. If the Bible says anything about money, it says that this tool, used wrongly, will wound our souls and our communities. Jesus talked a lot about money. One indication of Christian maturity is how we handle money and how we talk about money, if at all.

Sadly, too many of us too frequently miss great opportunities to GROW. Jesus' friends asked him to "increase their faith." I'll bet you Jesus just grinned with delight at that request. What a willingness to learn that request showcases! We share what we have, because everything we have is a gift. We give graciously so as to bear witness to a generous God in the real world. It's always about God's abundance pouring through us. That's the evidence of us becoming new: I like the way St. Paul put it: "poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything." (2Corinthians 6:10)

How do we get there? One step at a time! Begin where you are. Start with the disciples' request: Pray, "Lord, increase my faith." Then, look at your checkbook. What does it say about your reliance on God? What does it say about your gratitude for all the blessings of this life? What does it say about your participation in building up God's kingdom in the here and now? Answer those questions honestly, and then you're ready to GROW. That's the point, after all.

Growing with God means growing to be more like God. Jesus never told us to worship him; Jesus said

follow me. And in walking towards God, we find that love increases, healing increases, joy increases, generosity increases. Practically, to grow in generosity means facing the chaos of our personal finances. It means weaning ourselves from the excesses we call necessity, while systematically working toward giving ten percent of our net income away every year.

If you're willing to partner with Jesus in this spiritual growth experiment called stewardship, you'll find out that to give is to GROW, and growing is from God. And that "God loves a cheerful giver." (2Corinthians 9:7)

Let us all have faith the size of a mustard seed.

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

"It is not that I want merely to be called a Christian, but to actually be one. Yes, if I prove to be one, then I can have the name."
St. Ignatius of Antioch

Financial Summary September 2013

Fund Balances	<u>9/30/2012</u>	<u>9/30/2013</u>
Operating Fund	\$ 87,793	\$ 46,246
Building Fund	\$ 12,530	\$ 36,768
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	\$ 177,607	\$ 182,717
Pledges Paid	\$ 171,627	\$ 170,603
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 3,904	\$ 3,890
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 13,909</u>	<u>\$ 16,874</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ 189,440	\$ 191,367
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 174,969</u>	<u>\$ 185,919</u>
Income less Expenses	\$ 14,472	\$ 5,447

*Includes Fundraising

Celebrating Reception into the Episcopal Church

Three Children's Ministers and One Family of God

On the Feast of All Saints (November 3) when we will baptize four people, we will say these words: "There is one Body and one Spirit; There is one hope in God's call to us; One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; One God and Father of all." The Feast of All Saints and Baptism remind us that our Christian faith is not a matter of individual belief or solitary relationship with God; we live out our faith in the midst of community: within the Body of Christ.

As St. Paul says, in one Body there are many parts. Put differently, within one Church there are many churches. Sometimes "God's call to us" brings us from one part of the Body into another as we live more deeply into our baptismal covenant. In the Episcopal Church, when someone who has been confirmed in another part of the Church wishes to continue to live out his or her faith in the Episcopal Church, she or he is formally "received". The Bishop lays hands on the person and pronounces these words: "We recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you." And the people say, *Amen!*

On November 2, at Grace Cathedral, Adrienne Farrell, Lauren Doherty, and Bob Doherty will all formally renew their commitment to Christ and will be received by Bishop Marc Andrus into the Episcopal Church. In anticipation of their *reception*, I spoke with Lauren and Adrienne about their involvement with St. James'—the seedbed experience of community that has led to their making this important step in faith.

Both Lauren and Adrienne talked about the warm welcome of St. James'. Lauren said, "We are so excited about being involved in a community of people who care about everyone." Adrienne agreed, "I love the people at St. James'; I feel warm and loved. For a long time I haven't felt loved, but I do now."

Adrienne, who grew up in the Roman Catholic Church but did not practice Catholicism as an adult, came to St. James' two-and-a-half years ago after her mother died. "God was always in my life, but I wanted to be closer. I wanted people who love the Lord around me. Because I feel the love of the people of St. James who love the Lord, I feel closer to God." Lauren and Bob also have Roman Catholic roots; as adults they spent many years teaching and

ministering with children. Bob and Lauren found St. James' four years ago when they were leaving their church home because they were unable to reconcile their love for the gay members of their family with the Roman Catholic Church's teachings on homosexuality. "We have multiple lifestyles in our family. Religion is about *everyone*—it does seek out people. The Episcopal Church says, 'Come here! We'll wrap our arms around you and give you big hugs!'"

Lauren, who describes the Episcopal Church as "warm and fuzzy," also identifies a certain rigor. She calls St. James' "grassroots Episcopalian." She explains, "It is open to everyone and asks you to participate in tradition. But if you're not happy, you bring it up; you use your reason." She sees St. James' at the forefront of social service. "St. James' is a place where the community doesn't stop at any age and where actions speak louder than words."

Lauren and Bob bring their gifts of ministry with children to St. James' as regular Sunday School teachers and in leading the children in making lesson-related crafts. "We like working with that age group," says Lauren. "We do have a good rapport with kids. We're still going through our childhood years!" Adrienne is also vitally active with the summer Vacation Bible School. "The night before VBS started I got no sleep because I was so excited!" And how was the week? "I loved it. To see the look in the children's eyes when we did crafts, to see their faces—that meant so much—because I could see that it meant something to them...I was exhausted, but I'll do it again!"

Lauren, Bob, and Adrienne are all clear about their communal commitments to the Episcopal Church as they look toward being received. Adrienne explains, "I want to feel a part of the Episcopal Church—that I belong." What does it mean to belong? "It means that I have a family," she says with conviction. "I just hope that I can involve myself more and make a difference in someone else's life." Lauren similarly expresses, "When we acknowledge that we're part of something, it [the Episcopal Church] is becoming our family. The community bond is out in the open; we have no excuse but to make it better." And let the people say, "*Amen!*"

The Rev. Stephanie Green

St. James' Welcomes the Christmas Season with Las Posadas

A Family Holiday Celebration for All Ages

Sunday, December 8 from 5-7pm.

*DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS December 1
(CAPACITY IS LIMITED TO 120 PARTICIPANTS)*



In Mexico, Christmas is an important holiday season with strong traditions. One of the most colorful traditions is the posada party, celebrated every evening from December 16 to 24. These celebrations commemorate Mary and Joseph's cold and difficult journey from Nazareth to

Bethlehem in search of shelter. "Posada" in Spanish, simply means lodging or shelter.

Today, the posada has evolved into a religious and social celebration, paying a festive homage to Mary and Joseph's journey. Each Christmas season, a processional carrying a doll representing the Christ Child and images of Joseph and Mary riding a burro walks through the community streets. The processional stops at a previously selected home and asks for lodging for the night. The people are invited in to read scriptures and sing Christmas carols called "villancicos." Refreshments are provided by each host. The happy end to each posada has always been the piñata.

St. James' takes the spirit of the traditional nine-day Posada Celebration and brings it to our campus, refashioned for our community on one special night. Sunday, December 8, we will feature seasonal food and drink, sing-alongs, holiday carols, piñatas and much more. This year, we will have two piñatas, with one designated especially for our youngest celebrants.

Our posada journey will proceed around various points on our campus, ending in a grand celebration in the Parish Hall. All ages, from kids to grandparents, will enjoy this spiritual entrance to the Christmas season.

Please sign up in the Parish Hall, or call the office at 510-797-1492 by December 1 as seating is limited to 120 participants. A 'free-will' donation of \$5.00 per person is suggested; Children 9 years and under are free.

If you are interested in helping with food preparation, decorating, etc., please contact John Maloney (510-656-6809), no later than November 18.

We hope you can join us in what has become a favorite St. James' tradition.

John Maloney



You will read other reports about our very successful parish retreat on October 4. But here I would like to thank the following people without

whose help it would not have happened:

Setup in Big Church: Mike Scrutton, Bud Spalding, Dave Nelsen

Setup in Parish Hall: Dave Nelsen & Bud Spalding

A/V: Mike Scrutton

Music: Jennifer Carini

Morning coffee and pastries: Donald Razzolini & Mike Aquino

Lunch arrangements: Dave & Linda Nelsen

Afternoon snacks: Al & Mary Casas

Everyone who helped clean up and put everything away afterwards

Thank you all for your time and efforts in making this a successful day!

Janet Fischer, Sr. Warden

Abode Services

Winter Relief Rapid Re-Housing/Home Warming Program Update

The support among the parishioners at St James' has been great and our storage unit on site is filled with donated items to help families move into apartments and homes. Abode Services keeps expanding it's outreach in an effort to bring more families off the streets, out of cars and temporary housing and into permanent housing.

The families we've supported along with the other 14 churches have done well and most have moved out of the program. The program is designed to provide financial support for 12 months and the goal to have them out on their own between 12-18 months. Our biggest challenge is to find affordable housing units and the high demand for rentals has been a stumbling block for some. Higher financial assistance is needed to move in and more churches are pooling their resources to make it happen.

In support of the foster youths, Abode Services established My First Home Warming Program in mid 2012 specifically tied to getting foster youths into permanent housing and provide services needed to keep their

independence. The first youth was a young woman and her baby, and they were moved in late June. Since that time 8 more youths have been entered into the system and it's been the help of all the churches that this program has succeeded. This program alone takes a lot of coordinating of new items since these youths have nothing to start with. Abode Services provides new mattresses for them and it's a key element along with new household items from the churches to start a new home for the youths.

In November we expect to move in 2 families, one being a male veteran who is employed part-time and the second is a husband and wife with kids 10,11 and 13. St James' will be reaching out to our partner church Harbor Light to help get these families into permanent housing. If you have any questions or wish additional information, feel free to call Gregg Feeney 510-795-1870, or email, dgfeeney@comcast.net and Scott Whitaker 510-797-2125, or email straightrail1@yahoo.com.

Thanks for all the continued support with the various programs through Abode Services.

Gregg Feeney

Thinking about Vestry?

The Vestry is the governing board of the Church, meeting monthly to discuss the work of God as expressed through the ministries and programs of St. James'.

Our meetings consist of food and prayer, as well as discussions about the financial health of the parish, new and existing programs, and how we might best exemplify Christ in our church and in our world. It is exciting and important work. Members participate in various areas of ministry, from facilities to faith formation, and work with the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Rector to guide the congregation in living out its mission.

Each year at our January Annual Meeting (January 20, 2014), we elect four new members to the Vestry. All members (18 years or over per our bylaws) are eligible to run. If you have ever considered Vestry, perhaps 2014 is your year! If you know of someone who might enjoy this type of leadership, perhaps you'll nominate them (get their permission first, though). Please prayerfully consider the 2014 Vestry as a part of your own ministry. You can talk to any current member of the Vestry for additional information.

Lori Walton, Rector



Interfaith Choir Seeks Singers for Performance on November 25th

After a successful experience last year, the Tri-City Interfaith Council is putting together an interfaith choir to sing at this year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. The choir will be led by our own Jennifer Carini and will rehearse on Tuesdays, November 12 and 19 at St. James' Episcopal Church, 35071 Cabrillo Terrace, in Fremont, from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

The interfaith choir will sing "Hine Ma Tov," arranged by Allan Naplan, at the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 25. The service starts at 7:30 p.m. and is held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 43148 Mission Blvd, Fremont.

If you would like to join the choir, it is helpful (but not required) that you contact me at in early November at music@saintj.com.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The 52nd Annual Tri-City Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held on Monday, November 25 starting at 7:30pm in St Joseph Catholic Church, 43148 Mission Blvd, Fremont. The program is sponsored by the Tri-City Interfaith Council and co-sponsored by Interfaith Women of Peace. This year's theme is "Building Community; Giving Thanks." Shamsa Rafay, an active member of the Islamic Center of the East Bay, will be preaching.

From 1962 when three Protestant Christian churches gathered for Thanksgiving worship, this holiday service has evolved to reflect dramatic historical changes and diversity in the Bay Area. Vatican II encouraged interfaith dialogue between Catholics, Protestants and the Jewish community. Then in the late 1980s representatives from the Hindu, Baha'i, Muslim, Ohlone Indians, Unitarian Universalist, Latter Day Saints, Unificationist, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, and Zoroastrian communities joined to share in the Thanksgiving Service.

The liturgical fabric of the service is rich in readings from sacred prayers, chants, songs, as well as beautiful traditional costumes, dancers, and musicians. The importance of passing the sacred tradition to the next generation is highlighted as younger members of our faith communities' traditions share in rendering sacred text and songs.

Those who attend are invited to bring refreshments for a time of fellowship following the service. Non-perishable foods will be collected for Tri-City Volunteers. A financial offering will also be received for Tri-City Volunteers.

Parents are encouraged to bring children and youth for this inspiring and educational program. The Thanksgiving service provides a unique opportunity to become acquainted with the varied cultural and religious traditions which are such an important part of our community.

Jennifer Carini, Music Director

In Loving Memory of Brad Hoffman 1955-2013

Dedicated on Sunday, October 20, 2013, the Little Church's first ambry was to be the work of Brad Hoffman, one project among many. Ruth Poole enlisted my help in reviving the project. The suppliers of all things church did not have an ambry fitting for the Little Church.

Design elements existed near the designated location of the proposed ambry in the chairs that had sat there for "to these many years" and for many of those years had gone un-noticed. Two of them stand out, the cross in the backrest of the chairs and the egg-and-dart molding in the chairs. The cross itself has elements of the Trinity Cross, the Celtic Cross and the Canterbury Cross. This cross decorates the front of the ambry. The



crosses on the sides resemble the fleury or fleur cross. Notice the egg-and-dart element in the crown of the ambry.

With the considerable woodworking skills of Perry Jackson of the Fremont Cabinet and Fixture Co., I tried to utilize the designs already in the Little Church to design the ambry and the bracket to hold the sanctuary lamp above it. Perry took my fuzzy idea for the bracket and designed it to hold the lamp. When it came to the actual support for the light, he needed a ball-end on the hexagonal pillar. Dave Nelsen turned the piece on his lathe forming a perfect sphere to accept the brass fixture under which the lamp is suspended.

Finding the necessary parts to finish the Ambry, such as the red velvet, the special hinges, the plaque, and the egg-and-dart molding, turned out to be a challenge as most folks build ambries very seldom.

Special thanks to Rose and Frank Hoffman for their gift of the Ambry and the bracket to hang the sanctuary light.

Bruce Roberts

Exciting Gift for St. James'

Some of you may remember the Rev. John Baker, who was a parishioner here in the past and then served as Interim Rector for a year after the Rev. B.B. Lyon retired. John recently completed a trek on the El Camino de Santiago in Spain, a holy trail that is dedicated to St. James'. He found it a life-changing experience, providing an opportunity "to meet people from all over the world, break bread with people of many different belief systems – truly a special gift of the Camino."

He now hopes and wishes that other parishioners make the same trek to receive this "special gift of the Camino." As an additional incentive, he has presented a generous monetary gift to St. James' to help cover some of the costs.

For more information or answers to your questions, please contact Nancy Svenson, Bobbie Tomkinson or Pat Spalding.

Pat Spalding

Your Participation is Requested

The McCutcheon Concert Team is asking for your help to make our 11th annual John McCutcheon Concert a success. The concert is an important community outreach and fund-raising event of St. James'. Our 2014 concert is on Monday January 20. We will start selling tickets on December 8 in the Parish Hall. If you could help with ticket sales, please contact Mary Casas, Ruth Poole or Marnie Hartmann. Our publicity coordinator is Bruce Roberts. If you could distribute flyers in December or January, please contact Bruce. We will again have a prize drawing during the concert intermission. If you are willing to donate a prize, please contact Connie or Jack Rux. We are stilling looking for someone to coordinate the snack bar. If you are interested in helping with the snack bar on the night of the concert or with baking cookies, please contact Sylvia Ma (510-552-6549).

Of course, concert tickets are wonderful Holiday gifts. If you would like to find out more about John McCutcheon, please visit his website: www.folkmusic.com

Thank you.

Sylvia Ma

Renovation of the Little Church

We are happy to let you know that great progress have been made on the repairs needed for the Little Church. By the end of October, the Health and Safety phase of repairs should be completed. Thank you for your patience while constructions were going on in the last 2 months. We hope you have a chance to take a look at all the improvements.

We have new slanted roofs above the Little Church Sacristy and above the Electrical Room (on the Memorial Garden side). Extensive dry rot /water damage above, in and around the Sacristy and the Electrical Room has been repaired. After the repairs, the closets in the Sacristy have new shelves. During the repairs, the old cabinets in the Sacristy needed to be pulled out and could not be put back due to age. New cabinets made by Viny's Custom Cabinets in Newark are now installed with a new sink. Thanks to a generous donor, the Sacristy now has new wood flooring. The Fremont Historian advised us that the window in the Sacristy did not match the period of the Little Church. Now we have a "new" window that meets the City's approval.

Electrical upgrades have been done in the little Church as well in the Sacristy. They are all up to code. We now have 100 ampere service in the sub-panel. There are new lights in the Sacristy and new lights above the Columbarium.

Beautifully custom-made Sanctuary light and Ambry (donated in memory of Brad Hoffman, designed by Bruce Roberts and made by Fremont Cabinets) have been installed in the altar area.

A new seismic gas shut-off has been installed on the Memorial Garden side of the building. Our furnace has been insulated. Venting has been improved and made quieter.

We not only would like to thank our contractor, Neal Cowan of Cowan Construction, but would also like to thank the Altar Guild and numerous parishioners who donated talent, time and treasure to this phase of the project. We would also like to thank the Vestry for its support.

Our next phase of the renovation is to upgrade the seismic bracing underneath the Little Church. We have engineering plans and calculations done by the structural engineering firm, ESI. We are now evaluating contractors and will forward our recommendation to the Vestry.

The Little Church Renovation Committee consists of Sylvia Ma, Bruce Roberts, Jim Cunningham, Jim McConnell, Patty Lacy, Jan Brandt, Chris Perry, Tom Blalock, Mary Casas, Bobbie Tomkinson and Laura Winter.

Please contact us if you have any questions . Your comments and prayers are always appreciated.

Sylvia Ma

Sacred Gatherings November and Early December

Just as the warmer days begin to slide into a cooler existence, we, too, begin to gently move into a new season. November brings to us a spirit of abundance and generosity seen in the bounty of Thanksgiving, and early December presents the first weeks of Advent and our preparation for the Christ Child and the incarnation of God With Us.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming gatherings and events to remind us of the great joy of being people of God.

The First Thanksgiving at Saint James', Saturday, November 16

Presented by the Stewardship Ministry Team, this evening will be one filled with entertainment, food, and fellowship. Join us for a play and dinner as we eat and laugh and pray together.

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 28

Celebrate all that we have to be thankful for with a Service of Holy Communion Thanksgiving morning in the Little Church at 10:00.

Family Advent Wreaths, Sunday December 1

Create your own Advent Wreath for your family worship at 9:15 and again at 10:45 in the Parish Hall. A \$10 donation is suggested, but not required.

Lessons & Carols, Sunday December 1

Join us in song and scripture as we welcome the 1st Sunday of Advent with a Service of Lessons & Carols at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services.

Las Posadas, Sunday December 8

With song and laughter, with story-telling and fellowship, help us welcome the Mary and Joseph as they seek shelter for the birth of Christ. We begin in the Main Church at 5:00pm and continue with a Mexican in the Parish Hall.

The Rev. Lori Walton



SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY SERVICES 8:00AM & 10:30AM
FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY 9:15-10:15AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM
YOUTH GROUP SECOND SUNDAY 6:30PM
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00AM

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY: 9:00AM-1:00PM

STAFF

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Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors: Janet Fischer
Altar Guild: Ruth Poole
Ushers: Burtin Hart

The Window Staff

Ralph Locher
Marilyn Rose
Jack Rux
Penny Trant
Laura Winter