



# The Window

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

November 2014

## A Member of the Body of Christ

I've been thinking a lot about what it means to be a Christian and part of a Christian community and I've been examining all of the building blocks that bring us to a place of intentionally living as Christians – participation in social activities with others striving to live Christ-centered lives, attending Sunday worship as a way of hearing sacred scripture and contemplating its meaning for our own lives, getting involved in some sort of educational opportunity to help form our faith and inner-lives, making a firm commitment to give back to our spiritual community through service and financial support. Being a Christian is multi-faceted. Making a clear and deliberate choice to claim Christianity as a way of living brings to us a life that is active, full of purpose, transformative, and joyful.

In other words, being a member of the Body of Christ is integral to the whole life of a person. It is not a twice-a-month-Sunday thing, but a way of life. It is a world-view perspective and inner-movement that informs all that we do in the rest of our lives – how we engage in relationship, treat the stranger, assess what is good and true and just, use our material and emotional resources, raise our children and grandchildren, and much, much more. Being Christian is the primary mechanism of our compass, and our compass is calibrated through our engagement in Christian community.

So, what does it take to be a “member” of St. James’? I would say being a member of St. James’, or any Christian community, looks something like a commitment to personal spiritual formation through being part of a class or activity; something like engagement in the community by emulating Christ through an outreach program; something like a regular discipline of glorifying God through common worship with others seeking to glorify the same God. Our faith has so much to offer, steeped in tradition and meant to radically shape the present and future.

We come to church because we are seeking meaning, transformation and a way to deepen our lives. We come to church because in the midst of all the gunk of the world, Church gives us many things – a place to find hope, a roadmap to walk the rocky terrain of being human, a view that helps us see beyond the darkness into a light and beyond the depths of despair into the abundance of living water. Church gives us story and history, ritual and beauty, peace and music, laughter and tears, a community of all ages in relationship with each other, a place where diversity and difference make an exquisite tapestry, and where people really, really try to practice love, forgiveness, generosity and justice.

Where else can one find so much in one place?

Take advantage of the living water by daring to step into the stream – not just with your toes, but perhaps with your legs and torso and even more as well. Think about your current level of participation – on Sunday morning (services, coffee hour, Sunday School), in the programs offered (faith formation, contemplative practices, fellowship opportunities, etc.), in the outreach efforts (Sacred Space, support for Abode Services, donations to discretionary accounts or other needs, etc.), and in financial support (pledging just a little or pledging until it stretches you or pledging at all). And then ask yourself – are you fully embracing your life in Christ and for Christ? Are you striving to make the most of what the Church offers?

Only you can answer the question, and the answer for everyone will be different. But it is a question worth examining, for maybe being a member is an invitation to be more of who you are simply meant to be.

Lori+

# Giving With a Grateful Heart

November is usually when we are asked to submit our treasure (financial pledge) for the coming year. Each of us has our own personal reasons why we pledge. Jesus teaches us to not hoard our resources but to use them wisely; to be content with enough and to be a cheerful giver. Stewardship means returning the first portion of all God has given us—a way of thanking God for blessing us with all we have. You will soon receive a pledge card for 2015 in the mail. Have you given thought to what your response will be?

We are all part of the strong and diverse community of faith that is St. James', over 150 years old, whose mission is to carry out the work and word of Jesus Christ. Over the last century and a half, our predecessors laid a firm foundation of stewardship and service on which we are called to build. It is time to add our chapter to this story. With God's help, we have many opportunities ahead of us. How will you help St. James' continue to tell its story?

At St. James', we know that financial stewardship is an important component of a balanced spiritual life. Returning to God from that which God has given us is a tangible way to express our faith. When each of us gives as we are able, we fund the ministries within our parish, the tri-cities community, and the world. Together, when we all pledge, we grow into our full potential as the body of Christ.

In order for St. James' to manage its budget, you are encouraged to pledge a certain amount on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual basis to fund the operation of the church for the next financial year. Your pledge makes it possible to plan for a certain level of expenditure. The Vestry is then able to develop and manage an operating budget in support of the mission and ministry to which God has called us. While plate offerings are important, your pledge allows the Vestry to plan more accurately for the ministry we can accomplish.

A Pledge is an estimate of giving, sometimes called a statement of intent. It is not a legal obligation. Your pledge amount may be changed, increased or decreased during the year, at any time

your financial circumstances change by contacting the Parish Treasurer. Please don't let uncertainty prevent you from making a pledge.

What should you pledge? There is no one answer, but we should all give according to what we have been given. Determining the amount of your annual pledge is between you and God. I read awhile back that only God knows what is fair, but one way to know when you are making the right gift is when you stop making excuses for its size and stop trying to rationalize why it is enough. God does not judge us by how much we give, but by how faithful we are in making the gift.

The Bible asks us to tithe, to give 10% of our income as the minimum standard for giving. A tithe may sound like an unattainable goal to begin with, but if you start with a certain proportion of your income and increase the percentage each year, you will be tithing in no time. Where you start or whether you tithe on your annual or gross income is not nearly as important as simply making a pledge. Every pledge is important – every pledge makes a difference, regardless of the amount.

When you receive your pledge card, I ask that you prayerfully think about where you place God in your life. Consider what God is calling you to do through St. James' and in our community. If you are able to increase your pledge for 2015, please consider doing so. If you are new to making a pledge, I encourage you to make one. If your circumstances are uncertain, consider pledging a minimal amount. There are many wonderful opportunities at St. James' for us to offer ourselves to God's service.

The ingathering of pledges will take place at both services on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please join me in presenting our pledges, giving out of love of God and with a grateful heart.

Gail Blalock, Stewardship



# St. James' Welcomes the Christmas Season with Las Posadas

## A Family Holiday Celebration for All Ages

Sunday, December 14th

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

On the St. James' Campus

*\* Deadline to signup is December 7th \*  
(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<sup>th</sup> until the 24<sup>th</sup>. 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 procession carrying a doll representing the Christ Child and images of Joseph and Mary riding a burro walk 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-days Posada Celebration and brings it to our campus, refashioned for our community on one special night.

On, Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> we will feature seasonal food and drink, sing-alongs, holiday carols 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 7<sup>th</sup> as seating is limited to 120 participants. A 'free-will' donation of \$5.00 per person is suggested while 9 years and under are free.

If you would like to help with decorating, food, preparation, etc., please contact John Maloney at (510) 656-6809 no later than December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

John Maloney

## The Vestry Approves a Steel Solution for the Little Church

The Vestry approved a solution to the problem of the bowing walls of the Little Church on October 9. With the recognition that the walls of the Little Church have been bowing outward at least since the church was moved to its present location in 1955 and that cracking of the roof to wall connector appears to be continuing, the Little Church Committee posited four possibilities:

1. Do nothing;
2. Utilize permanent rods across the church at the top of the walls in six places;
3. Replace the 6X6 braces with 6X10 braces on six buttresses;
4. Replaces six wooden buttresses with steel tube buttresses.

Each of the last three possibilities requires temporary cross tension cables to pull the walls in for a period of time. For the work on the buttresses, the buttress siding will have to be removed and then replaced after the work on the buttresses is done. Although the last possibility (steel buttresses) will cost the most, it will provide the strongest, most long-lasting solution to the bowing of the walls. The estimated cost of the project is within the monies available. The Vestry approved the steel buttress solution.

The final calculations and plans for the project will be done and permits secured before a contractor is chosen to perform the work.

For more detailed information on the steel buttress solution please contact Sylvia Ma, Jim Cunningham or Bruce Roberts.

Bruce Roberts

## Contemplative Practices

*“Contemplation is more like a spiral than a line; you keep returning to the places you’ve been, even as you progress on the journey of your life.”*

~Carl McColman

**Where:** Education Building room 1

**When:** Sundays, 9:30 - 10am

**Who:** Everyone is welcome! No meditating experience necessary.

Since we began in February, we have covered a number of different meditative practices. For the next few months we will re-visit some of them. During the month of November we will focus on the Anglican rosary. Simple instructions and sample prayers will be provided, along with extra rosaries. You don’t need to have attended the prior class to join us. Contact Janet Fischer with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Janet Fischer

### Financial Summary September 2014

<b>Fund Balances</b>	<b><u>9/30/2013</u></b>	<b><u>9/30/2014</u></b>
Operating Fund	\$ 46,246	\$ 46,659
Building Fund	\$ 36,768	\$ 36,570
<b>Year To Date Summary Operating</b>		
<b>Pledges Budgeted</b>	\$ 182,717	\$ 183,184
<b>Pledges Paid</b>	\$ 170,603	\$ 178,678
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 3,890	\$ 6,386
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 16,874</u>	<u>\$ 15,595</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ 191,367	\$ 200,659
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 185, 919</u>	<u>\$ 207,805</u>
<b>Income less Expenses</b>	\$ 5,447	(\$7,146)
*Includes Fund Raising		

# ST. JAMES' cares



## *Giving With a Grateful Heart*

### **St. James' Cares — a ministry of helping each other**

One of the special things about the St. James' community is its friendliness with one another and with visitors. We greet each other on Sunday mornings and often have strong friendships with one another every day of the week as well.

But have you ever considered what you might do if you found yourself in need of help? Perhaps you've gotten sick and need a hand around the house, or you can't get to the store, or you need a ride to the airport, or you need help walking your dog. All sorts of everyday things can become a challenge if you can't find a way to get them done.

This is where congregational care, or in-reach, can help. We can expand our natural friendliness and willingness to help one another.

This ministry, St. James' Cares, has been created to help with two things: generate rosters of St. James' volunteers who have offered to help, and provide a way to ask for help.

We are in the first phase, growing the volunteer lists of folks, who can help with some basic needs: rides, meals, help with local errands, and personal help such as social calls, visits, dog walking, etc. The goal is to get long and healthy lists of helpers who may be contacted in the event a need arises. If you think you have nothing to offer, think about yourself in your regular, everyday routine. Can you provide a ride to the airport? Can you help with some light cleaning? Can you stop by or call for a chat? Maybe you can cook but can't deliver it. Maybe you can't cook but can deliver it! The list is truly endless. Everyone has something they can do.

Once we have this list of volunteers, the ministry will move to the second phase — letting you know the volunteers are available, and information about how to contact the St. James' Cares team.

We continue to collect your offerings of help, and encourage everyone to consider participation. Information cards are available in the pews and at the

back of both churches, as well as in the Parish Hall. Fill them out as best you can and just drop them in the collection plate in the coming weeks or mail it back to the church. Alternately you may hand it to an usher, vestry member or leave it in the church office.

Feel free to contact any vestry member with questions. Thank you for your continued support in this new and growing ministry!

Meg Amouroux

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## **Women's Spirituality Group Explores "Grace."**

The women of St. James' are invited to join our group on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm at St James' church to begin our discussion of Max Lucado's book *Grace*. Together we will explore what is meant by grace in the Christian tradition. The book asks "Have you been changed by grace? Shaped by grace? Strengthened by grace? Emboldened by grace? Softened by grace? Snatched by the nape of your neck and shaken to your senses by grace?"

Our study will include Bible study as related to grace. Bring your favorite bible to share various versions of passages. Phone me (510-792-2248) or email me at [lelocher@comcast.net](mailto:lelocher@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

Lynn Locher

# ENDOWMENT FUND IN ACTION!



**Newly expanded Sunday School room**

By founding resolution: “The purpose of the FUND is to enable the PARISH to fulfill its mission more completely by developing ministries beyond what is possible through its annual operating funds.!”

The 2013 Vestry distribution from the endowment Fund was used to expand the Sunday School classroom by combining rooms 3 and 4.

Bless our church family and our children.

Marnie Hartmann, Chair

## Sunday School Supplies Drive

Thank you to everyone who supported the Sunday School Supplies Drive in September. A car full of supplies was delivered to Tri-City Volunteers for distribution. Our collection included 9 backpacks, 78 notebooks, 62 packs of paper, 38 binders and over 60 project folders in addition to bags and bags of pencils, pens, glue sticks, erasers, hole punches and other supplies. We hope to repeat the appeal next summer in time to have the supplies ready for distribution before school starts.

Jan Scrutton



# One Night without a Home

Every day, we see people who appear to be living on the street. Sometimes they're asking for money. Sometimes they're wandering down the street with their possessions in tow. Sometimes we don't see them directly, but we see the evidence of their sleeping outdoors in the form of blankets or trash left behind. Yet, most of us will never really understand what it feels like to sleep outside on concrete without shelter because there is simply no other option.

In an effort to increase awareness of the plight of homeless people, Abode Services is initiating Fremont's first "One Night Without a Home". This is a national effort in which groups of people (in our case, youth) spend one night outdoors with very limited accommodations.

As part of this important endeavor, St. James' will be the host church for this event. For one night in

November, our parking lot will be transformed into a homeless encampment and youth from various churches in Fremont will be spending the night.

The night without a home occurs on **November 21<sup>st</sup>**, coinciding with the National Homeless and Hunger Awareness Week.

Many thanks to our organizers – Gregg Feeney, who is taking care of the physical logistics, including security and campus setup, and Jan Scrutton, who is handling the "people" logistics, working closely with Abode Services to arrange permission slips, supervision, registration, etcetera.

This is a wonderful opportunity to play a part in such an important issue and to partner with Abode Services in this effort.

Lori

## Various Ways to Help A John McCutcheon Concert Cometh



The McCutcheon Concert Team is asking for your help to make our twelfth annual John McCutcheon Concert a success. The concert is an important community outreach and fund raising event for St.

James'. Our 2015 concert is on Monday January 19<sup>th</sup>. We will start selling tickets on December 7<sup>th</sup> in the

Parish Hall. If you could help with ticket sales, please contact Katy Cunningham or Ruth Poole. Our publicity coordinator is Bruce Roberts. If you could distribute flyers in December or January, please contact Bruce Roberts. 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. If you are interested in helping with the snack bar on the night of the concert or with baking cookies, please contact Sylvia Ma.

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

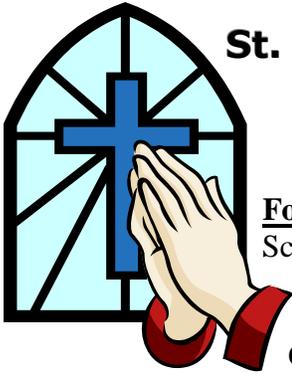
[www.folkmusic.com](http://www.folkmusic.com).

Sylvia Ma

# Blessing of the Animals



*Pictures by Bruce Roberts*



## St. James' Prayer List

*Most Holy God we pray for:*

**For Those In The Military:**

Scott, Jarrod, Megan, Erica,  
Theresa, Mark, Tim, Louis,  
Military

Children of ACBSM, the  
families and Marines of Dark

Horse Battalion, Caitlin, Emily, Robin, Adam, Dave,  
Shawn, Ethan, Paul, Darren

**For Safe Travel:** Rachel, Lenny, Debbie

**For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction:**

Scott, Michael, Robert, Kenny, Jeanne, Alyssa,  
Dustin, Karen

**For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing:** Man

Yee, Nonie, Barbara, Donald, Rosemary,  
Russ, Mary Susan, the Mullin Family, Karin, Ruth,  
Sarah, Patty and Robert, Dinelle, June,  
Bob, Michael and Lylas, Claudia and Maurice, Tanis

**For Families Expecting Children:** Katie and Justin

**For Those Who Have Passed Away:** Mary, Lorin,  
Diane, Doug, Irena, Kelly, Bessie, Judy



## November Birthdays

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Ami Locher     | 25 John Paratore |
| 4 Ken Parris     | 27 Pam Young     |
| 7 Nat Bryant     | Andrea Ramsamy   |
| 10 Yvonne Archer | 29 Judy Peeler   |
| 12 Eric Caron    | Don Rose         |
| 17 Travis Koonze | Rick Spalding    |
| 18 John Maloney  | Raelene Ramsamy  |
| 19 Gail Blalock  | 30 Nancy Svenson |
| 22 Karen Watkins | Rebecca Fuller   |
| Andrew Paratore  |                  |

## November Anniversaries

- 1 Michael Aquino & Donald Razzolini
- 3 Marco & Raelene Ramsamy
- 24 Tom & Gail Blalock
- 27 Ralph & Lynn Locher

To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please complete a pew card and place it in the offering plate OR call / email the Church Office. After six weeks, names are removed from the list. Please renew your request as needed.

Thank you

**Please note:** If your birth month or anniversary is in this month and your name(s) is not listed or the information is incorrect, please email the appropriate information to [admin@saintj.com](mailto:admin@saintj.com)

The next issue of *The Window* is in December. We welcome your **comments, essays, poems, photos, cartoons, newsworthy items of interest, art work, any group activity information and reviews.**

Email your submission to [newsletter@saintj.com](mailto:newsletter@saintj.com) by the **December Issue**  
**Deadline: November 15<sup>th</sup>**



**SAINT JAMES'**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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PO Box 457  
Fremont, CA 94537-0457  
[WEB: http://saintj.com](http://saintj.com)  
Tel: (510) 797-1492

**WORSHIP TIMES**

SUNDAY SERVICES: 8:00AM & 10:30AM  
CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES: 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**

The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector .....[lori@saintj.com](mailto:lori@saintj.com)  
The Rev. Ken Parris, Deacon . [deaconken@saintj.com](mailto:deaconken@saintj.com)  
The Rev. John Trubina, Office Administrator  
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Jennifer Carini, Music Director .....[music@saintj.com](mailto:music@saintj.com)  
Lynn Locher, Treasurer ..... [treasurer@saintj.com](mailto:treasurer@saintj.com)

**VESTRY**

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*Mike Scrutton*

**Junior Warden .....** [jrwarden@saintj.com](mailto:jrwarden@saintj.com)  
*Dave Nelsen*

*Meg Amouroux*

*Bob Bynum*

*Al Casas*

*Nancy Castaneda*

*Karen Koonze*

*Ralph Locher*

*Elaine Vallecillos-Miller*

*Bev Mosier*

*Alison Saichek*

*Bud Spalding*

**Vestry Clerk:** *Elizabeth Hart*

**Other Important Coordinators**

**Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:**

The Rev. John Trubina

**Eucharistic Visitors & Acolytes:**

The Rev. Ken Parris

**Altar Guild:** Ruth Poole

**Ushers:** Burtin Hart

**St. J Youth Leaders:** Mike & Jan Scrutton

**Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator:**

Jan Scrutton

**Facilities:** ..... [facilities@saintj.com](mailto:facilities@saintj.com)

Al Casas

Bud Spalding

**The Window Staff**

Ralph Locher

Marilyn Rose

Penny Trant

Jack Rux

Laura Winter

Article submission.....[newsletter@saintj.com](mailto:newsletter@saintj.com)