



The Window

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

February 2015

The Church as Center

Below is summary and paraphrase of the 2015 Annual Meeting rector's address:

I've had this idea bouncing around in my head and in my heart for a long time – but it has only been this last year that words have begun to form around the idea. The idea is this: God is at the center of all that exists, including – especially – our individual and unique lives, and the church is the place in which we make that reality known. Therefore, as the structure/organization/entity whose primary function is to make God known, perhaps the church should also be at the center of one's life.

Fifty years ago, this was a no-brainer. Church, or religion, was the center of both civic and social lives. In the era of Christendom, parish affiliation was the norm, not the exception. Today, not so much. Belonging to a church now a days is seen as a bit odd, different, antiquated and maybe even rigid and judgmental. Ah. But we belong to the Episcopal Church, which effectively blends the modern sensibilities of inclusivity, personal accountability and thought, and varied expressions of the sacred with an ancient and hallowed way of worshipping God through Jesus Christ. I dare say we are different – but perhaps we are more different from other denominations than from the “spiritual but not religious” group.

There has been a whole lot of chatter in church circles about the decline of the church, and for some, it may feel like we're declining – even dying. But, I look around St. James' and I say “nonsense.” If St. James' is what dying looks like, then living would look like manic insanity.

We have a community that is full of life and energy and joy. Here are just some of the markers:

Our tailgate party in October brought together many, many of us (about 80) – to cook chili, to eat, to compete, to gather, to laugh, to be together. While we're still short of meeting our budget by about \$12,000, we did increase our pledging by about 6%.

More than 25 new people have joined us for regular worship, which speaks to the St. James' ethos of being warm, welcoming, and always looking for the opportunity to make new friends. Our children's program has grown from 6 children listed as members to close to 30 on the roster. We started a contemplative practices group that deepens our spirituality, and an in-reach effort called St. James' Cares that broadens our care for each other.

Looking forward – using the lens as church as the center of one's life – the vestry and others will be looking for ways to increase and strengthen what we're already doing well. We will be looking at our programs and ministries to begin connecting them to create a more cohesive body. And, we will be asking for commitment and participation from each of you. Developing opportunities for transformation only become transformative through the participation of individuals.

I feel great about the ministry we're doing together, and I feel incredibly blessed to be your rector and your priest. I love you. God is good. And 2015 is going to be the best year ever.

Lori+

Stewardship Corner

Use Your Time Wisely

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity” (Ephesians 5:15-16)

I don't generally pay a lot of attention to those “forwarded” emails that contain cute stories, words of wisdom, shocking discoveries, antidotes, etc. from well-meaning family and friends. I'd much rather receive a personal message or just a simple “hi, how are you, we're doing fine (even when the weather in Minnesota might be a minus 20 degrees). Recently, a friend “forwarded” one that had “the magic bank account” in the subject line, and it caught my eye. You may have seen it, too. The gist of the story was to imagine that you had won a prize contest where every morning your bank deposited \$86,400 in your bank account for your use. The catch was that you had to “spend” it all each day or lose it, and the bank could close the account without warning at any time. What would you do? Now, being someone who dreams of winning the Lottery (of course, I'd have to start buying some tickets first), I was hooked and had to read to the end. The bottom line is that each of us is already a winner because the real prize is **time**.

Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life. What we don't use up that day is forever lost. Each day the account is refilled, but our account can dissolve at any time without warning. The moral of the story is to remember to enjoy every second of your life because time races by so much quicker than you think.

What do you do with your 86,400 seconds each day? Those precious seconds are a gift from God and are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars. From the time we draw our first breath until we draw our last, every second is time that God has gifted to us. Making sure we use that time wisely is good stewardship. There are some uses of time over which we have little control, like sleeping and working and taking care of our families. The way in which we elect to use the time we can control becomes an indication of the life style we choose to adopt. Time should be managed and used as wisely and effectively as possible. By determining what is important and what is not, we can practice good stewardship becomes an indication of the life style we choose to adopt. Time should be managed and

used as wisely and effectively as possible. By determining what is important and what is not, we can practice good stewardship

“My times are in your hand” announced the psalmist in Psalm 31:15 – making a positive statement that speaks of security and comfort, even of rest. Time is a gift, the use of which we are accountable to God. Use your time wisely.

Lord, thank you for all the days, hours, minutes, and seconds you have given us. Help us to steward our time wisely so that we may be a good manager for you.

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair



IT'S ALMOST DUCK RACE TIME AGAIN!

GET READY TO ENTER YOUR "ST. JAMES" DUCKS IN THE ANNUAL "DUCKS for BUCKS" BENEFIT RACE

Saturday, April 25, 2015

Entry forms will soon be available after Sunday Services and will be mailed to parishioners in late March



March 8 at noon for Available for Lunch at Newark Buffet. Sign-up in the Parish Hall.

January Vestry Meeting

The vestry met on January 8. This was our last meeting of the 2014/2015 vestry and the last meeting for four retiring members. We give thanks to Bev Mosier, Bob Bynum, Bud Spalding and our Senior Warden, Mike Scrutton for their faithful service to St. James' the last 3 years.

Much time was spent reviewing the 2014 year end financial statements and discussing next year's budget. This led to our passing the 2015 budget. The vestry is extremely grateful for the countless time and organization our Treasurer, Lynn Locher offers us. Throughout the year and especially during generation of our next year's budget, Lynn's presentations give us a clear picture of the financial condition of our parish. Our appreciation also goes out to Gail Blalock and the Stewardship Committee who give us visibility of our anticipated income in 2015.

Dave Nelsen, Junior Warden

New Bibles



On January 18 Lori, with the assistance of the Sunday School children, blessed the new Sunday School Bibles. Twelve copies of the Deep Blue Bible have been bought for the classroom. This Common English translation is easy to read and laid out to help children find and follow along with the stories we cover in class. We hope to encourage children to become familiar with not just the stories of our faith but their source. As well as encouraging the older children to look things up for themselves we will be following a course of study to find out how the Bible is made up and how to navigate it.

If you'd like to take a look at the Deep Blue Bible please visit the Sunday School classroom after church one Sunday.

Jan Scrutton

Imposition of Ashes for Children

Children inherently understand ritual and prayer and find meaning in being able to participate fully in worship. Understanding the traditional Ash Wednesday Liturgy is not geared towards the child's world, children often miss this important service of making a confession and having their foreheads marked with ashes. To address the importance of offering ritual to our children, **we hold a Service of Imposition of Ashes for Children.** This is an age-appropriate service that allows the child to move from Epiphany to Lent with the rest of the congregation through worship.

Our Imposition of Ashes for Children will be held on Tuesday, February 17 at the tail end of our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We will gather in the little church between 6:45 & 7:00 for a short 30 minute service. This allows the children to participate in Shrove Tuesday (begins at 6:00) and end the evening with receiving ashes. All children and teens are welcome to participate. Parents of young children are also invited.

The Parables of Jesus *A Faith Formation offering*

The presentation and discussion of The Parables of Jesus continues in February on the 3rd and 10th. Led by Janet Fischer and contributed to by all in attendance, the parables as teachings of Jesus are examined and the meanings for us today discussed. Do we need to be taught the same way? Do Jesus' teachings using parables have parallels today?

Even if you missed the January sessions, please join us for our discussions. And remember the accompanying potluck, bring what you wish to share and enjoy eating together.

Tuesday evenings, Feb 3 and 10 at 6:30 PM until 8 PM in EB-1

Bruce Roberts

Just \$10 A Month

I would like to offer a challenge to all church members who do not tithe (give 10% of income) to the church. This year we are faced with a budget deficit that you could help eliminate. Whether you pledge or not, an **additional donation of \$10.00** a month by everyone would increase our income enough to offset our expenses. For some, just finding an extra \$10.00 would be difficult but for most of us we could do without two fancy coffees a month, or brown bag our lunch a few times. A little sacrifice on your part would mean a big reward in a fiscally sound church. A fiscally sound church can dream big both for its members and for the community.

Lynn Locher, Treasurer



Imposition of Ashes

I invite you...in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word... from the Ash Wednesday Liturgy, Book of Common Prayer

The observance of a holy Lent, the season in which we exercise a deep interior examination of self, begins with the imposition of ashes at the Ash Wednesday Service. This service marks the shift between the imagery of light in Epiphany to the more subdued and somber imagery of shrouded crosses and silence. It is during the five weeks of Lent that we remember our place as God's beloved and the need to always turn back to the one who created us, leading us to Holy Week, the walk of Jesus to the cross, until finally, we experience the glory of the Resurrection on Easter.

Begin your season of Lent by participating in one of our Ash Wednesday Services on **February 18:**

7:00 AM - Little Church
12:00 PM - Little Church
7:00 PM - Big Church

Financial Summary December 2014

Fund Balances	<u>12/31/13</u>	<u>12/31/14</u>
Operating Fund	\$ 60,805	\$ 47,584
Building Fund	\$ 37,157	\$ 33,644
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	\$ 243,622	\$ 244,246
Pledges Paid	\$ 252,024	\$ 248,704
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 7,030	\$ 9,804
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 22,261</u>	<u>\$ 21,313</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ <u>281,315</u>	\$ <u>279,821</u>
Total Operating Expenses	\$ <u>261,209</u>	\$ <u>283,042</u>
Income less Expenses	\$ 20,106	\$ (3,221)
*Includes Fundraising		
Transfers to Building & Special Interest		
Income less Expenses & Transfers	\$ 10,106	\$ (3,221)

Note regarding above table.

In January, 2014 the Vestry voted:

- 1) \$5000 to be moved from pledged money to Building Fund.
- 2) \$5000 to be moved to Supply for Rector's Sabbatical in Special Interest.
- 3) to keep \$10,106 in Operating as reserves against a deficit budget for 2015

The next issue of *The Window* is in March. 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
March Issue Deadline: February 15th

2014 Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 25, the St. James' annual meeting opened with a prayer by Deacon Ken Parris followed by a slide show highlighting some activities of the past year and memorial remembrances of the



passing of Norene Sun, Florinne Becker and Doug Hamilton.

Retiring Sr. Warden Mike Scrutton thanked the vestry members for their service, especially Jr. Warden Dave Nelsen for all he did around the church. In an effort to focus on areas that we are called to serve, the

traditional clusters, with the exception of Building and Grounds, were dissolved. Congregational Care was identified as such a need and he commended the work performed by Nancy Castaneda, Meg Amouroux, Karen Koonze and Bev Mosier for organizing this program.

Rev. Lori stated that God is the center of all that exists, and the church's function is to make this reality known.



Therefore, it makes sense that the church be the center of our lives. Our church is alive and vibrant, as is evidenced by a strong Stewardship campaign led by Gail Blalock, a growing Sunday school and teen program promoted by Jan Scrutton, Faith

Formation programs on Tuesday evenings, Contemplative practices on Sunday mornings organized by Janet Fischer plus social activities. There are always additional ways in which the church can help individuals connect with each other and with God

For keeping our finances in order, she thanked Lynn Locher, Mary Casas, Jan Brandt and Gail Blalock, for record keeping Elizabeth Hart, Wardens

Mike Scrutton and Dave Nelsen, and retiring vestry members, Bob Bynum, Bud Spalding, Bev Mosier.

Lynn Locher reported that the church was doing better financially. While the year ended with a \$3,720 deficit, 2015 pledges were up and she is hopeful that we will end this year in the black.

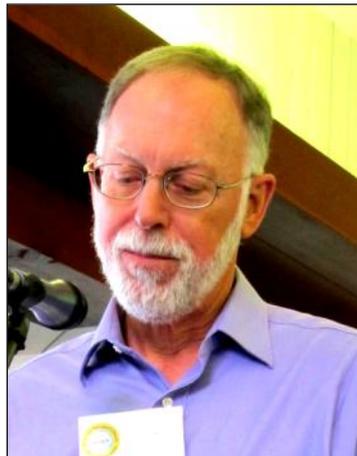


On behalf of the Endowment Board, Jan Brandt distributed a check for \$3,504 for church programs and a check for \$812 for maintenance of the Little Church.

Newly elected Vestry members are Ashley Francis, Charles Hall, Vivienne Paratore and Barry Hedgpeth.

Newly appointed Sr. Warden Dave Nelsen closed the meeting with a prayer.

Ralph Locher



Concert Review - John McCutcheon January 19, 2015 at St. James' Episcopal Church, Fremont, CA



Enter John-McCutcheon-World. That is what the sold out crowd did Martin Luther King Monday night. From the opening, banjo-accompanied story which led into Pete Seeger's "Well May the World Go" the audience had been captured in McCutcheon World. The 7:30 PM show seemed shorter than usual, but, as John left the stage after his encore of "How Can I Keep from Singing" accompanied by a Tibetan singing bowl, my watch said 10:30 – time flies in McCutcheon-World.

John paid homage to Joe Hill, Woody Guthrie, and Pete Seeger throughout the concert with songs, such as "Joe Hill's Last Will," "Pastures of Plenty," and "Turn, Turn, Turn" among others, giving them their due as folk music ancestors to himself. After the show I found a sheet of paper with prompting words to the song "Je Suis Charlie," so newly written (the massacre, only twelve days ago) that John needed some prompting words to help him through it.

John sang many requests after the intermission. A few years ago Beth Scrutton requested "Immigrant," a heartfelt request, and I don't remember that John sang the song. This year two people requested the song, one request as insistent as Beth's. John sang the song and Beth was here to hear it. How many generations are you away from being an immigrant?

The Sunday article in the Argus alerted many people to the concert resulting in many last-minute calls for tickets. We managed to seat all who walked through Club Saint J's front doors. A woman said to me that she prefers to see and hear John at St. James' rather than Berkeley because she likes the more intimate/cozy atmosphere.

Attending the McCutcheon concert for the first time at St. James', Bishop Marc not only enjoyed the performance but he liked what John McCutcheon represents as a person.

Two technical glitches, one sound and one lights, were deftly handled almost as if no one noticed. A nearly perfect evening of story-telling and singing was had by all. The house lights illuminated the wildly applauding crowd standing as one at the concert's end generating John's encore. We exited McCutcheon-World into the crisp night air revitalized yet again.

Submitted by Bruce Roberts

PANCAKE SUPPER - February 17



Please plan to join your St. James' community as we prepare for the Lenten season, sharing a traditional meal of pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage. This special event takes place on Shrove Tuesday, February 17th - the day before Ash Wednesday. Dinner will be served from 6:00 to 7:30. A contribution of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children is requested. Please sign-up in the parish hall to ensure we purchase adequate food.

The Pancake Supper is put on by the men of the parish. There is a second sign-up sheet for those willing to serve at this fun event. We need help setting up, preparing, cooking, serving and cleaning. A new pancake griddle was purchased recently and we will be breaking it in on Saturday, February 7th at 8:00 am. We will bless this new equipment and season it with as many hotcakes as we can consume. Of course there will be eggs, sausage, coffee, juice and fruit to

accompany our meal followed by a brief Pancake Supper organization meeting. Look for a third sign-up sheet in the parish hall for this fun griddle blessing, seasoning, breakfast meeting.

Call Dave Nelsen at 510-795-9273 with any questions.



Prayer Requests

Most Holy God, we pray for:

Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Man Yee, Nonie, Barbara, Donald, Rosemary, Russ, Mary Susan, the Mullin Family, Ruth, Sarah, Dinelle, June, Bob, Michael and Lylas, Claudia and Maurice, Travis, Rose, Henry, Nikkole, Pat, Adrienne, David, David, Janet, Geoff, Village of Gobowenin Shropshire, England, Bud, Ray, Suzanne, Erika, Miranda, Inga, Sarah, Lavonne

Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Scott, Michael, Ryan, Kenny, Tom

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

Families Expecting Children: Lindsay and Robert, Matt and Maria, Lauren and Daniel, Jordan and Anna

Those Who Have Passed Away: Irena, Bessie, Judy, Michael, Ella, Darrell, Lem, Mike, Candido, Mark



February Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|--------------------|
| 3 | Mike Scrutton | 24 | Scott Kennedy |
| | Claudia Noddin | 25 | Maresa Decena |
| 4 | Bruce Roberts | 26 | Charles Peeler |
| | | | Lauren Doherty |
| 5 | David Kem | | Scott Whitaker III |
| 7 | Linda Nelsen | | Francis Singh |
| 11 | Darcia Feeney | 27 | Chris Ma |
| 12 | David Colby | 28 | Luke Scheuffele |
| 18 | Margaret Broun | 29 | Adrienne Farrell |
| 23 | Jason Fisher | | |



- 15 Bob and Lauren Doherty
- 16 Chris and Pegeen Perry
- 24 Charles and Vivienne Paratore

To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please complete a pew card and place it in the offering plate OR call / e-mail 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



SAINT JAMES'
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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

WINTER OFFICE HOURS

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

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