



The Window

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

July 2015

How Do We Grow?

To grow, or the act of growing, can be observed through countless different lenses: personal growth, intellectual or emotional growth, the growth of children, the growth in a skill set. At any given time, you may be the one growing, or the one nurturing the growth.

Another way to observe growth can be seen outdoors, in nature. There are wonderful people in the world who work farms. There are folks who can grow a home garden, those who nurture bees and birds. Others spend hours over seed catalogs and at the garden center. There are those among us who can name flowers and plants along a hike or on a neighborhood walk as easy as they can count to ten. What amazing talents these people have.

I am not one of these people. I thought that being from a more rural state meant that I had this skill in my DNA, but this is not the case. I've kept a potted orchid alive for 5 years, and it actually still blooms now and then. But that was the extent of my "garden" skills.

Last summer, after taking out an old orange tree in our yard which was past its prime, we looked at this wee patch of dirt and decided to try to get a garden going. My first thought? This will not go well.

But with summer, and a clean view of a nice little area of dirt, came the optimism that maybe we could actually grow a little vegetable patch. To our future garden's benefit, I have a very optimistic and patient husband. We researched how to best use our limited space. We built a container terrace out of cinder

blocks and redwood boards, and blended our soil to make the richest base possible. We put in a drip system with a timer so we wouldn't waste water, or forget to water the garden.

With the containers ready, we tromped off to get the plants, as seedlings and seeds. Tomatoes, zucchini, peppers, the basics. Planting the seedlings felt a little like cheating - hey were already growing and flowering - even I couldn't mess that up (I hoped). But could we make the seeds grow? Surely those little seeds know I'm no good at this, and we'll have a big empty patch.

In go the seeds: a row of carrots, then onions, and peppers. Add water and sun. Wait. Repeat.

Every day I would go out to our little garden patch, looking past the seedlings which were doing all right, to my delight. Staring closely at the dirt patches where the tiny seeds were planted, I would hunt and hunt for the first signs of growth. And then, I saw it. There was definitely was a lump in the soil. Surely was something trying to bust out to find daylight. Then, three weeks in, there was a whole row of soil rising up, in every place we had put seeds. Before long I could see the faintest of thin green tendrils where carrots were supposed to be. Then onions, then peppers. We did it! Well into the summer, we had our harvest. And we're doing it again this year, with a lot more confidence.

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St. James' Recycles

This month I'd like to share with you some follow up on the "Recycling Sunday" hosted by the Stewardship Team in April. We've had a good response to our efforts, and I want to thank everyone who took the time to wander through the Parish Hall following services on Sunday, April 19. I also want to thank the Stewardship Team for hosting the coffee hours and especially for all the yummy treats.

For the "Recycle Game" participants were asked to classify objects as Organics (yard waste bin), Landfill (trash bin), Recycle (recycle bin), or Rethink (reuse or repurpose) and was enjoyed by a number of people. The results are in – no one got all 16 items correctly designated, but ***Congratulations*** to Elizabeth Hart, who only missed one!! As a result of this exercise, some common misconceptions stood out. Plastic wrap (Saran, Glad, etc.) is not recyclable if it is clean, it may be reused and should never go in the recycle bin. Aluminum foil, if it is clean, may be recycled, but the sample in the exercise was dirty and must be disposed of in the trash/garbage. These two were probably the most often missed items. Lessons learned – *do not put plastic wrap or dirty aluminum foil in the recycle container in the Church Kitchen!*

Anything going in the Church Kitchen recycle container should be relatively clean, so be sure to empty soda cans, bottles, and plastic cups before tossing them. There is no green waste container at St. James', so food scraps and food-soiled paper plates, paper cups, and napkins must be placed in the trash.

Also, do not put used paper towels in the recycle container. You may place them in a green/yard waste container at home, but at St. James' they need to be put in the trash.

We received a number of "how we recycle" tips from parishioners, and those will be shared another time. It is clear that St. James' parishioners are concerned about the environment and work hard to preserve and protect our earth. Recycling has become a way of life for most people – a real "no brainer!" Greg Miller has been recycling since he was in high school, Bruce Roberts regularly recycles ink cartridges at Staples, and the Kimbers do a lot of composting for fertilizer (and at one time had a worm farm). Several people commented that they use a smaller container in the house to collect the recyclables during the week and then empty it into the larger bin, which makes it easier to remember and to handle. All in all, St. James' recycles!

God cares deeply about his creation and charged us in Genesis 2:15 ("The Lord took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.") to take good care of the earth. It is very comforting to know that St. James' parishioners have heard and accepted the challenge.

Thank you St. James' for being good stewards of the environment.

Gail Blalock
Stewardship Chair

How Do We Grow? *(continued from Page 1)*

Our little garden has helped me grow in patience, and reminds me to try new things, to stretch myself. This growing patience, confidence and curiosity reach well beyond my garden, into my spiritual life. When I first came to St. James', I must have been like one of the seedlings: I had a little head start, having grown up Episcopalian, but was in need of some tending - I needed the spiritual equivalent of water and sun, and the confidence of a good gardener. As I would come to discover, the gardener watching over me is more than God alone, it is also my new family at St. James'. All of this tending and growth gives me a life I can easily, and gratefully, call bountiful.

I wish you all a warm and safe summer. May it be full of growth -for yourself, and in the helping of others grow as well.

Meg Amouroux
Jr. Warden

Thank you St. James' Volunteers

Sunday, June 14th was Volunteer Appreciation Sunday at St. James'. We honored the wonderful multitude of volunteers among us, with cake and ice cream after both Sunday services. It was easy to see just how widespread the kindness, caring and thoughtfulness reaches.

A heartfelt thanks to the many members of the St. James' community, for their countless talents and generosity, for all they give of themselves and their time, both on campus and into the community.

Submitted by: Meg Amouroux



One of St James' Own Holding the NBA Trophy of the Warriors!!!



Some of you may remember little Michael, he is now all grown up. Michael and his brothers and sister grew up at St. James'. Michael Leslie is the son of former St. James' Rector Richard Leslie. He was with the Warriors and traveled with them during the 2015 championship games.

Submitted by: E J Foster Hilliard

Fall Stewardship Event

Saturday Afternoon, October 3, 2015
Another "tailgate" fun day !!!

Review – “Joe Hill’s Last Will”



“I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night.... It’s June 13, 2015, and I did see Joe Hill...”alive as you and me” the words sung by Paul Robeson as we left the *Theater Saint J*. They made me realize I had seen Joe Hill. And I was that callow, young reporter Joe addressed throughout the play. Cowed at times by the power of Joe’s singing, by the power of his words proclaiming the plight of the worker and workers’ collective potential, I, that poor reporter, was just doing my job, seeing the waste of the condemned man. I was mesmerized and ready to join the union himself.

Could it be that Joe was innocent? Certainly he didn’t confess to me in that dark prison cell. I was glad the prison let him have a guitar to play; he sang me his songs as he told me about his life. He made me laugh at the Bosses, his own situation and at himself. I got real scared for him as his execution approached. I cried when he shouted “Fire” and he died.

That’s my review of “Joe Hill’s Last Will.” I’m sorry for those of you who missed it. The play certainly woke me up to those “issues “ of 1915. Issues! Working men and women treated like animals. Immigrants degraded. Death to those who don’t think the way we do. ... Good thing we don’t have those issues today.

When John McCutcheon returned without Joe Hill’s hat at the end of the play (encore?) to sing Joe Hill’s last words, his last will, I realized he *was* Joe Hill for 90 minutes. I also realized we still need to work on those issues of 1915. In some ways they were issues in 1215 – remember the Magna Carta?

Can we add to John McCutcheon’s appellations of singer, songwriter, musician and storyteller one more, that of Actor? I say, “ Yes!”

Submitted by: Bruce Roberts



Photos courtesy of
Bruce Roberts



Joan Roberts Memorial Picnic Table Blessed

On Sunday, June 7th, after the 10:30am service, many parishioners gathered near the children's playground to bless the new Joan Roberts Memorial Picnic Table. The Rev. Lori Walton blessed the table while the Rev. Ken Parris asperged (sprinkled) the table and all in attendance with holy water.

Thanks to Jan Scrutton for the idea of the picnic table as a memorial to Joan. Thanks to the Roberts family and the many St. James' parishioners for contributing funds to acquire the table. Much appreciation to Dave Nelsen and Jim Cunningham for assembling the blue steel table, more of a job than it appeared. The table can be used for picnics and for parents sitting to enjoy their children utilizing the playground equipment. By request here is the grace written by Joan that was read at the blessing:

Thank you for the food we eat,
For those who share and serve it.
And if there be a good dessert,
Grace us to deserve it. (Amen.)

The Sunday School Open House and a Picnic BBQ followed the table blessing. Joan would have been delighted with the picnic table; her great grandchildren were special to her. Placing the picnic table near the Sunday School and the playground would have pleased her immensely.

Submitted by: Bruce Roberts



Photos courtesy of
Bruce Roberts



June Vestry Minutes

The Vestry met on Thursday, June 18th for their monthly meeting.

We heard from our parish treasurer Lynn Locher regarding the healthy state of our finances, and the Vestry thanked her and Jan Brandt for their time and energies with our recent diocesan audit.

Nancy Castaneda updated us about St. James' Cares, and the program's launch scheduled for this summer.

Rev. Lori led an informative educational session on Congregational Development.

For our final block of time, we broke into our two groups focusing on Ministry Development and Invitation and Integration.

Please note these changes to our vestry meeting schedule: the July and August meetings will be combined into a single meeting to be held on Thursday, July 30th at 7:00pm.

Meg Amouroux
Jr. Warden

The next issue of ***The Window*** is August

We welcome your **comments, essays, cartoons, poems, photos, newsworthy items of interest, art work, group activity information and reviews.**

Email your submission to
newsletter@saintj.com

Mary Mitchell Single Adult Courtyard Garden Dedicated

The Mary Mitchell Courtyard Garden was dedicated Saturday June 6th at 11:00am at Sunrise Village on Brown Road in Fremont. The dedication was led by Abode Executive Director Louis Chicoine and attended by many St. James' members.

Scott Whitaker offered the following prayer at the celebration:

“God of all creation, you are wondrous in all your works. We give you thanks for the beauty of this place, for the impact of Mary Mitchell’s ministry and life, for the good work of Abode Services and for those who live in this place. We ask that you continue to bless all of us with your goodness and grace so that every member of the human family may know the love of community and the comfort of home. Amen.”

Mary was among the leaders who fought for the formation of housing for the homeless and the formation of the Tri-City Homeless Coalition (TCHC). She served two years as President of TCHC, which has grown into ABODE Services. “Abode Services believes everyone should have a home. Every day we provide housing and services to homeless people in our community while working to end the cycle of homelessness.”

ABODE is leading the way to restore dignity to homeless people through Sunrise Village (1993) and the many other services ABODE offers. It is difficult to realize the effort it took to start TCHC. Mary’s efforts and determination, providing meals, opening St. James’ for temporary housing and encouraging other churches to do the same, sparked the movement to fund TCHC through the City of Fremont.

In these days of many people surging into the Bay Area and driving up rents and housing prices, the need for low-cost housing is greater than ever. Imagine having no home to go to at the end of the day. Imagine having no place for your belongings. Imagine no place to cook a meal. Mary recognized those difficulties and fought to bring housing and dignity to those afflicted with homelessness.

A long-time member of St. James’, Mary offered hospitality to one and all, dignity and a smile. She housed people who could not find a room in a local motel. She offered and served refreshments to the fire department responding to the call of a downed helicopter when the area was being

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Mary Mitchell (continued from Page 6)

sprayed for the Mediterranean fruit fly. Her children never knew when they arrived home at the end of the day who would be sleeping there that night.

The garden courtyard area at Sunrise Village serves as a quiet place for homeless singles to relax, read and be outdoors while residents there. Thanks to the extended Mitchell family and many volunteers for the plants, tables and chairs, and the major work it took to make the garden a reality. For those of you who cook and serve in the kitchen the cool, quiet garden can be viewed through the courtyard windows on the singles' side of the dining room.

For additional information about Abode go to www.abodeservices.org

Submitted by: Bruce Roberts



Photos courtesy of
Bruce Roberts

St. James' May Financials

Fund Balances	5/31/2014	5/31/2015
Operating Fund	\$ 34,966.09	\$ 59,467.87
Building Investment	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Building Fund	\$ 36,885.48	\$ 38,335.59
Pledges Budgeted	\$ 101,769.17	\$108,677.08
Pledges Paid	\$ 92,640.48	\$107,980.00
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 4,311.00	\$ 4,766.00
Other Op Income*	\$ 10,654.62	\$ 11,555.03
Total Operating Income	\$107,606.10	\$124,301.03
Total Operating Expenses	\$123,445.27	\$112,417.54
Income less Expenses	\$ (15,839.17)	\$ 11,883.49

*Includes Fundraising

Summer Safety Tips

Summer is a wonderful time for outside activities and fun in the sun. Before you plan a special activity with your family, check out the website below for some helpful summer safety tips.

Have a safe and fun time this summer.

Submitted by: Penny Trant

kidshealth.org/parent/summerspotlight/



MUSIC at the GROVE



Free! Concerts On-the-green
Friday Nights, 6:30-8:00pm
Shirley Sisk Grove, Cedar Blvd. at Newpark Mall



If you have a free Friday night and want to hear some great sounds, Music at the Grove is a great time for all. So bring a comfy low-back chair or a blanket and enjoy the wonderful FREE summer concerts.

July 10th Sage Band (Rhythm and Blues)
July 24th Patron Latin Rhythms
August 7th Stealin Chicago

A Moment in St. James' History

Every now and then I like to wander through the St. James' website, making sure I haven't missed an event that is coming soon, or a change in the service time or just WHATEVER. I thought since I am the editor for the July issue and there was some extra space, why not see what history might have happened in the month of July at St. James'.

Now understand I am not a history buff. I still get confused when the World Wars took place, don't laugh, it's a family joke. But I love to read about the past and kind of put myself in that time and try to imagine what it would have been like. So, when I saw that something that happened in July 1940, I gave it a read. I found it quite interesting and wanted to share it with you. The following is taken directly from our church website and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Whenever we feel discouraged about church attendance it is easy to forget that this is not a new concern. A letter dated July 11, 1940, written by the Rev. Allen Pendergraft to the Rt. Rev. Karl Morgan Block, bishop coadjutor of the diocese, reflects problems we've all heard. Pendergraft had arrived only recently at St. James' and he wrote:

The average attendance for the four Sundays I have been here is twelve. The average attendance for the same period over the past five years is fifteen, but one of those four Sundays is always a communion Sunday, which boosted attendance. There were only four in church the Sunday after I came in tired and on the disillusioned side from Tahoe. I did everything I could in the following week and in spite of the vacation slump there were eighteen the following Sunday. The most encouraging aspect of last Sunday's congregation was the presence of a number of young people who had not been to church in years, I'm told. ... I sowed a few seeds concerning a choir and a half dozen or so (youth who have been going to the Congregational Church in Niles but whose parents are Episcopalians) cornered me and wanted to start a choir for St. James'. We have a woman here who would be willing to direct it. The only difficulty is that we have no vestments whatever, and no cross to use in the processional.

Submitted by: Penny Trant



SAINT JAMES'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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WORSHIP TIMES

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

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Elaine Vallecillo-Miller

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:

The Rev. John Trubina

Eucharistic Visitors:

The Rev. Ken Parris

Altar Guild: Katie Cunningham

Ushers: Burtin Hart

St. J Youth Leaders: Mike & Jan Scrutton

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