



The Window

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

August 2015

Living Wood

Living wood on a lathe. I have always appreciated wooden forms created with a lathe. Usually seen at art fairs around Christmas time, it was the shape of these art forms which caught my attention and drew me closer. The wood was beautiful, but it was how the shapes were made that had me puzzled. What kind of tools and techniques were used to create them from a piece of wood?

I've diced up wood since I was a young boy at the family cabin. My first memories were use of a two-man saw (I've always referred to it as a push-me pull-you), other large hand saws, wedges and hammers. This was for the firewood supply for the Wedgewood stove — the only means to cook and the fireplace — the only source of heat. Occasionally we moved whole trees with block and tackle to shore up the road where it had been washed away the prior winter. During these early years I learned to respect the force of a tree. My grandfather always said: "It has a mind of its own, you will never know what it will do." This phrase became so true when ten years later my cousin died when his leg was severed by a splintering oak tree he was cutting with a chainsaw.

As a tree grows, it is stressed by numerous factors; weather, insects, fire, soil conditions and the way its branches grow. These stresses create odd grain formations, stretch marks, color patterns and other interesting "figures." These intricate characteristics within the tree would remain concealed if the tree were not cut open and its inner beauty revealed. We take trees for granted. Each species is very different. The foliage, flowers and fruit all vary widely. There are many meaningful differences within the wood as well. The grain pattern and color, the density and the hardness are all

very different from species to species, in fact from tree to tree of the same species.

My work with the lathe over the years has taken me through several phases. Learning tool use and technique to create toys, and fun shapes. Then on to more functional items like bottle stoppers, pens and pepper mills, followed by my original ambition of turning bowls. As my skills improved and I gained more confidence, I began thinking of these objects more as art forms than functional items. I have learned to identify unusual grain patterns and special figure within a piece of wood and shape the wood into an object which best highlights these features. When I begin to work with a piece of wood, it is from a tree whose life is over. I have the honorable task of revealing the inner beauty of that tree, giving it new life which can be shared and appreciated by many.

I think of parallels with our own journeys. As we grow we are influenced by a multitude of factors; physical, emotional and spiritual, which culminate in the individuals we become. There is an inner beauty given by God within each of us. Often guarded and not easily visible, it is as unique as the individuals we are. We have the honorable task of revealing our inner beauty to others by sharing our stories and our lives with each other. We are also tasked with acknowledging the beauty in others as we see it, so it can be shared and appreciated by all. In this sense, we are meant to be Christ and seek Christ. Just as the woodworker discovers the inner beauty of the wood, through Christ, the world can discover the inner beauty of humanity. We all have a part to play as we live our lives through Christ.

Dave Nelsen, Sr. Warden

Put Your *Talents* to Good Use

When we talk about Stewardship at St. James', we say we practice year-round Stewardship of time, *talent* and treasure. Time and treasure are easy to figure out. We volunteer our time and we give our treasure (money) to carry out God's mission through St. James'. But what about "*talent*"? Among Webster's several meanings of *talent* are "a characteristic feature, aptitude, or disposition of a person or animal; a special, often creative or artistic aptitude; and general intelligence or mental power/ability."

We are familiar with the Parable of the Talents in Matthew where Jesus tells the story of the man going on a journey and leaving his treasure with each of his servants "according to his ability." In biblical times, a *talent* was a unit of exchange of varying amounts of gold, silver or copper. (Another of Webster's definition is "any of several ancient units of weight/a unit of value equal to the value of a *talent* of gold or silver"). It could have represented as much as 20 years' work for a day laborer. Over the years, *talent* has come to mean intellectual powers and natural abilities that can have tangible value. So, what did Jesus mean by *talent*? Stewardship theologian Ronald E. Vallet explains how our *talents* are currency in the language of kingdom stewardship -- "everything you have and everything you are comprise the *talents* entrusted to you by God. This includes your abilities: each precious moment of every day, every week, every month, and every year given to you; your material and financial resources; your relationships with loved ones and friends; the gift of God's salvation and redemption in Jesus

Christ—in short, your very life! All of this is entrusted to you by God. And you are called to be God's steward. The parable makes it very clear that, as stewards, we are accountable to God."

We each bear the ultimate responsibility for discovering and using our *talent*. The good news is there are many opportunities at St. James' to use your *talents* for the Lord's work. We see examples every Sunday in the preparation of the altar by the Altar Guild; the dedication of the Lectors and Eucharistic ministers; the helpful attention of the ushers; the helping hands of those who make the coffee, prepare refreshments, and clean the kitchen; the music of the choir; and the commitment of the Sunday School teachers. Beyond Sundays are the teams who prepare meals at the homeless shelter; the helpers who provide food for Sacred Spaces; the workers who care for the Memorial Garden and maintain the beauty of the church and Kidz Club at Sunrise Village; and the many people who help settle a homeless family into a home. These are just a few of the numerous opportunities available through St. James' to put your *talents* to use doing the Lord's work. Don't be like the man who received the one talent and hid it in the ground. Put your *talents* and gifts to use at St. James'.

Lord, help us to love you with all our heart, soul and mind. And help our giving to reflect that we love others as we love ourselves. Amen.

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

Looking Ahead:

The Biennial All-Parish Retreat is Here!

Two years ago, we engaged in a fabulous retreat to talk about what it means to be disciples in the world. Following the retreat, a parish-wide survey indicated the desire to have an all-parish retreat every other year.

So... on **August 29** from **9:00 – 3:00pm**, on Campus, we'll gather to discuss our vision for the future of St. James':

- Who are we?
- What is God calling us to next?
- Who are our neighbors?

This effort is part of our larger visioning project.

Sign Up on-line at:

http://saintj.com/wp/event/parish-retreat-2015/?instance_id=42213 or in the Parish Hall.

Saturday - August 29, 9:00-3:00pm

All Ages Welcome!

Activities for Children available!

Lunch and snacks provided!

Coming Soon... Foyer Groups!

Want to get to know and have fun with more folks at St. James'? Foyer Groups are gatherings of 8 people who share dinner four times a year. The purpose is to broaden and deepen the social connections of newer members of the parish, and help even "old-timers" get to know folks from the "other service." The group meets for dinner four times a year, in each other's homes, or at the parish. The hosts provide the main dish while the others bring an appetizer, a side dish, drinks, or dessert. The first meeting date will be proposed by the "kick-off pair" and the rest of the dinner dates will be set at the first dinner.

Sign-ups will be held in mid-September, with the first dinner taking place in mid- to late-October. Parishioners will sign up as couples or individuals, (if you're single, we'll pair you up) and will be assigned at random to a group. The purpose of Foyer Groups is not to have groups of friends sign up together, but to "mix it up."

It's a fun way to get to know one another better, particularly the newer members of our wonderful community. Questions? Email Anna Horen at anna@saintj.com. Watch for our sign-up announcement in early September!

Anna Horen



The 78th General Convention Highlights

Every three years, the bishops and deputation of every Episcopal diocese gather to debate resolutions, pass the triennial budget, and elect officers. This year, the gathering took place in Salt Lake City from June 25 through July 3, and like past conventions, it was an event filled with a lot of energy, deep prayer, and some controversy. Below are a few highlights. For more information, check out <http://www.deputynews.org> and <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/>

Policy on Alcohol and Heightened Awareness of the Disease of Addiction in our Church:

Resolutions encouraging all dioceses and churches to update their policies on Alcohol use with suggested areas of consideration, including clear labeling, alternative options, and the absence of alcohol at church meetings and events where minors are present.

Approval of “A Great Cloud of Witnesses”: A liturgical resource to replace the trial version of “Holy Women, Holy Men.” This resource will be supplemental to “Lesser Feasts and Fasts” and is to be used for midweek Eucharistic celebrations. The availability of the resource is undetermined.

Election of the Next Presiding Bishop: The election of the Right Reverend Michael Curry, first African American Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

Focus on Church Planting and Mission: Significant monies allocated for new church plants and mission, specifically within Latino/a communities.

Book of Common Prayer: An agreement to begin a process of examining the writing of a new prayer book.

Same Sex Marriage: Resolution passed that eliminates language in the national canons referring

to marriage as a sacrament between a “man and woman,” to allow for a broader definition. Resolution passed to allow both the Marriage Rite in the Book of Common Prayer and the Specialized Rite to be used by either same sex or opposite sex couples.

Lori

Sacred Space Reminder



the East Bay.

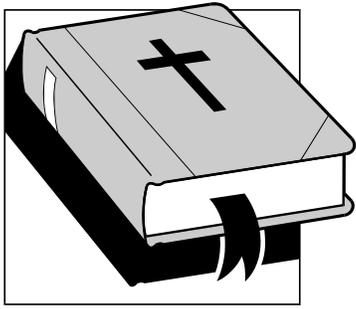
Sacred Space holds a weekly worship service in Hayward. Clergy lead a communion service, and then a bag lunch is provided to those who attend. St. James’ rotates with other churches in the Southern Alameda Deanery to provide lunches once a month.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall for volunteers to sign up to help provide lunch. Please contact Janet Fischer, Sacred Space Coordinator, with any questions.

Thank you!

Janet Fischer

“The Episcopal Church, resisting simplistic theology since 1789.”



Coming in September:

“The Culture Behind the Bible” facilitated by Anna Horen

As Christians, we believe that the Holy Scriptures are the inspired Word of God. As Episcopalians, we also recognize that each book of the Bible was written by a human author, living in a particular place, time, and culture. Understanding the context of the Scriptures is an important safeguard against misinterpretation and misuse.

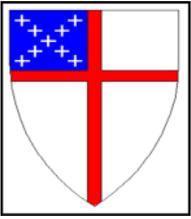
While the ancient Mediterranean culture that informs Scripture has some similarities to our own contemporary American culture, it also contains some very important differences. This five-week Adult Faith Formation program will explore the foundations of this culture and how it manifests itself in Scripture. We will look at the core values of honor and shame and the ways in which these values govern all relationships and human activity in both the Old and New Testaments. We will examine Scripture passages where these cultural influences are particularly prone to misinterpretation in the light of our own cultural context. We will also look at relevant contemporary examples of Mediterranean culture like “The Godfather,” and the problem of “honor killings” in various areas of the world.

evenings in EB1 beginning September 8th, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. For those who would like to eat together beforehand, please arrive at 6:00 pm with a dish to share. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Parish Hall starting Sunday, July 25th.

Anna Horen

Financial Summary June 2015		
Fund Balances	<u>6/30/2014</u>	<u>6/30/2015</u>
Operating Fund	\$ 42,424	\$ 56,293
Building Fund	\$ 36,988	\$38,143
Building Investment	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	\$ 122,123	\$ 130,412
Pledges Paid	\$ 118,010	\$ 125,120
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 4,741	\$ 5,055
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 11,812</u>	<u>\$ 12,793</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ 134,563	\$ 142,968
Total Operating Expense	<u>\$ 142,944</u>	<u>\$ 134,259</u>
Income less Expenses	(\$ 8,381)	\$ 8,708
*Includes Fund Raising		

The series will be held on five Tuesday



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

JULY 26, 2015—NINTH SYNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (B)

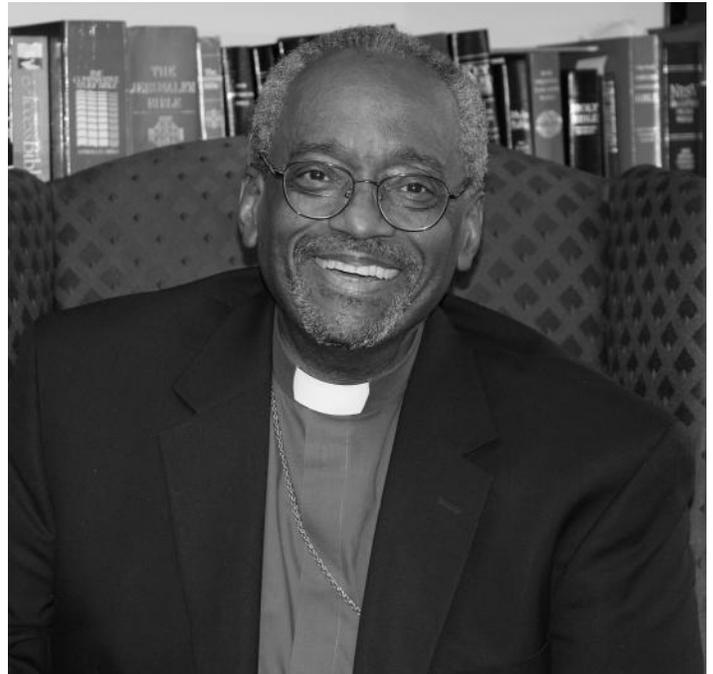
The 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church was held in Salt Lake City June 25- July 3. On June 27, Bishop Michael B. Curry of the Diocese of North Carolina was elected as the 27th Presiding Bishop.

Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry, 62, was elected by the House of Bishops from a slate of four nominees on the first ballot. He received 121 votes of a total 174 cast. The election was confirmed an hour later by the House of Deputies, as outlined in the church's canons, by a vote of 800 to 12.

He will serve a nine-year term that officially begins Nov. 1. On that date, Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry will succeed current Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and he will become the first person of color to hold that position. The election also made history by being the first time a presiding bishop was chosen on the first ballot.

At the General Convention's closing Eucharist, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori read a letter of congratulations from President Barack Obama written to Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry. In part, it reads "Your leadership over the years has reflected your powerful vision for a more inclusive tomorrow." Read the full letter from President Obama on Episcopal News Service here:

<http://tinyurl.com/or55gum>



Additional Links:

Episcopal News Service full length interview with Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry:

<http://tinyurl.com/curryinterview>

Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry's sermon delivered at General Convention's closing Eucharist:

<http://tinyurl.com/currysermonGC>

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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 Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Scott, Michael, Gloria, Kenny

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Man Yee, Nonie, Donald, Dinelle, June, Bob, Annie, Michael, Donald, Rolando, Cura Program, Scotty, Liam, Bobby, the McKim Family, Gary, Robert, Matthew, Linda

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Stephanie, Neal, Kim



August Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Ralph Locher | 21 | Phyllis Williams |
| | Tim Young | | Vivienne Paratore |
| 4 | Adam Locher | 23 | Monique Manjarraz |
| 6 | Steven Krimmel | 26 | Paul Cudlip |
| | Shalini Singh | | Ken Trant Jr. |
| 7 | Kathleen Almond | | Rachel Whitaker |
| 9 | Sylvia Wessel | 27 | Barbara Johnsen |
| | Bonnie Nelson | | Roberta Tomkinson |
| 10 | Lacey Hicks | | Steve Vacchieri |
| 10 | Joey Carini | 29 | Dave Nelsen |
| 17 | John Becker | 30 | Anthony Prickett |
| 18 | Becky Whitaker | | |
| | Maria Rose | | |

August Anniversaries

- 6 Mike and Jan Scrutton
- 13 Bill and Bev Mosier
- 20 Maria and Robert Rose

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

The next issue of *The Window* is in September 2015. 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 by: **August 15th**



SAINT JAMES'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Tel: (510) 797-1492

WORSHIP TIMES

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector..... lori@saintj.com
The Rev. Ken Parris, Deacon. deaconken@saintj.com
Anna Horen, Ministry Intern..... anna@saintj.com
The Rev. John Trubina, Office Administrator
.....admin@saintj.com
Jennifer Carini, Music Director..... music@saintj.com
Jan Scrutton, Children's Minister jan@saintj.com
Lynn Locher, Treasurer.....treasurer@saintj.com

VESTRY

Senior Warden srwarden@saintj.com
Dave Nelsen
Junior Warden jrwarden@saintj.com
Meg Amouroux

Al Casas
Nancy Castaneda
Ashley Francis
Charles Hall
Barry Hedgpeth
Karen Koonze
Ralph Locher
Vivienne Paratore
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller
Alison Saichek

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

Facilities: facilities@saintj.com

Al Casas
Barry Hedgpeth

The Window Staff

Ralph Locher
Katie Porter
Penny Trant
Jack Rux
Laura Winter

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