



The Window

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

June 2017

A Shared Language of Love

I recently read an account about pet parrots and cockatoos in Australia that had escaped, breaking out of their captive homes and returning to the wild. It seems these birds are able to find their way back to their indigenous roots, reconnecting with other parrots and cockatoos that had never been held captive. And how do ornithologists know that some of these birds were once held domestically? They know because many of these birds are still speaking the language they were taught by their owners. What is even more fascinating is that these once-domestic birds are now teaching their wild counterparts to speak as well. According to an article in *Australian Geographic*, the most common phrase being spoken from one bird to another is "Hello Cocky," a common phrase used when addressing one's cockatoo.

Bird to bird, the language taught is being shared. In February at our annual vestry retreat, we discussed the need and desire for our church to be more visible in the Tri-City area. We talked about ways to be out in our local neighborhoods making a difference, ways to let the City of Fremont know that we are an integral part of the City, seeking to make a difference and to be known as a place from where good works, deep values, and compassion radiate. We, in effect, want to share our language with others – both through words and through actions.

We enter into our sanctuary each Sunday and learn the words of our faith. We learn about how to allow God to shape us into the best humans we can be, about how to ask God for a blessing upon others, about how to take the teachings of Jesus and incorporate them into our own lives. All of this

makes our lives more whole and holy, but none of this is meant to stay within the walls of the church. At the end of our Sunday worship, the dismissal is meant to compel us to bring it all out into the world. "Let us go forth in the name of Christ." "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." "Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit." These dismissals tell us to take what we've learned and spread it around. To teach our language to others, so to speak.

There are multitudes of ways we do this. Our new street banner expressing that everyone is welcome without exceptions is one way. Donating funds to alleviate school lunch debt for children in Fremont is another. Walking in the Fourth of July parade with our St. James' t-shirt and banner, hosting a National Night Out event, a benefit concert for a good cause, a candlelight vigil for people who have died on the street are all ways as well.

It is our duty as Christians to shape our communities in ways that help them look a little more like God's Kingdom. God's Word was never meant to be hoarded or kept within the four walls of a building. God's Word was meant to be shared, and shared widely. As you continue into the summer months, think of ways that we, St. James', can continue to bring the blessings of Christ to others, and in return, discover Christ. Think of ways that we can let Fremont, Newark, Union City and beyond know that at the intersection of Thornton and Cabrillo Terrace, the language of love and grace is being learned and shared, not just with our selves, but with all people. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Lori+

How Jesus Changed My Life Through St. James'

It seems in many ways that Christianity in the United States is in crises; crisis of attendance and attention, of identity, of relevance to people's lives. I don't think that we should be surprised. We live in a time and in a society, that teaches us that little beyond the material and the immediate has, or should have, any importance in our lives.



Far too often we are taught explicitly and implicitly that fulfillment in life is found in personal accomplishment, in money and what money can buy and that the pursuit of worldly and material goals is always the best possible use of our time and energy. Such a world view is synergistically enhanced by the proliferation of demands and distractions for our bodies and minds that our current world produces in abundance.

Where is the room for spiritual life? Where is the space for God? These are not simple or idle questions, but callings of the highest importance to our true selves. If we cannot find the space and time for our spiritual lives, then our lives risk becoming like a kitchen full of shiny appliances and beautiful dishes but with no room for any food or nourishment. Nevertheless, many of us carry on for years, decades of our lives without finding space for God in our lives.

I know that I have done so, and I still am finding all the ways that I turn my face towards the material, the professional and the personal and away from the call of Jesus. It is a struggle in which I frequently lose, but one that I must win in the end.

I have been thinking lately about the message that Jesus gave to us in Luke 15:11-32, the parable of the Prodigal Son. Like many of us, the younger son of

the parable focused on the perceived needs and the desires of his life. He focused on the material and replaced his identity and his family with the immediate demands of his life and desires. When he returned home he felt there was little space left in his life for connection with his family and yet he was so desperate to find that connection he was willing to serve even as a slave. Yet what happened?

The young son may have turned himself away from his father, but his father had never turned away from him. The young son was able to return to connected and fulfilling life when he embraced his father, and he realized that his father's love was all that he needed. The young son's many corporeal desires fell away and he found that he had plenty of room in his life for love and spiritual richness. I think that many of us are like the prodigal son. I know that I am frequently like the prodigal son. In contemporary life, it is so easy to forget that God is always calling for us to return home and Jesus is our guide and friend on that journey home. Sometimes, however, we forget the way even to Jesus and that is where congregations like Saint James' are so important. We can always come to Saint James' to become reacquainted with Jesus and let Jesus lead us on our return to our spiritual home. If you let them, the people of Saint James' will help you tear out the walls that you have put up that block out the shining friendship of Jesus. Like the father of the Prodigal Son parable, the people of Saint James' will always open their door for us. We just have to find the space and the time to knock and come inside. Then we will find that the space that we make for God and our spiritual life is far smaller than the space that God has made for us.

Charles Hall

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY VESTRY MEETING

The Vestry met for our monthly meeting on May 11th. Bruce Roberts provided the meal. We started the meeting sharing Godly moments and prayer. Absent were Bruce Roberts, Jill Buono, Ashley Francis and Charles Hall. The highlights from the meeting are below; a detailed copy of the monthly vestry minutes is available for viewing in the church office. Vestry minutes and current church budget/financials were approved. We are waiting for statements for the Special Interest accounts and we will review and approve those financial reports at the next meeting.

- A termite inspection is planned for May 17, 2017. It will be reviewed by the Vestry when it is completed for further action if needed.
- The structural work on the walls of the Little Church is expected to continue for 3 more months. Please continue to take care when near this work.
- A new Paschal candle was purchased from the memorial donation special interest account.
- The Vestry approved a donation of \$1,000.00 for Corazon. Corazon is known for their "One-day House Building Program" that supports the needs of those living in poverty in Mexico. Volunteers from the churches in our deanery, supported by donations from the deanery churches, travel to Mexico on Friday, build a house on Saturday and return home on Sunday.
- Ducks 4 Bucks was a huge success this year. The booth St. James' set up at the event in April drew much attention thanks the creativity of Cathy Knotts with a Trivia game about St. James' 150th celebration. A check for \$1878.xx was presented to Senior Warden, Vivienne Paratore and will be deposited into the church account.
- St. James' will have a display with historical items celebrating our 150th Anniversary at the Fremont Library. St. James' anniversary t-shirts will be on sale, at cost, starting May 28th.
- The copier in the office has been replaced under our lease program due to poor operating issues.
- Sadly, Jill Buono has resigned her position with vestry, leaving an opening for the remainder of her term (approximately 2 1/2 years). We will seek a replacement for her remaining term.

We shared compline in the Little Church and the Vestry meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Penny Trant



St. James' Episcopal Church
150th Anniversary. 1867-2017

In This House

Summer Day Camp returns to St. James' this summer with In This House. From July 24th - 28th, 9am-12 noon daily, we will explore stories of Jesus visiting people's houses and of his time in his Father's house. We will also think about our own place in God's house. For the last 6 summers, our day camp has been a week when our campus is open to children from our church and local communities. Volunteers of all ages have helped deliver a program of story, music, games and crafts.

Registration is now open - please register before July 6th for regular pricing of \$35 a child, \$60 for two siblings and \$80 for 3 or more siblings.

For scholarships or other questions, please contact Jan at jan@saintj.com. Registration forms can be picked up at church or printed from the church website - saintj.com

150th Anniversary T-shirts.

There will be many opportunities to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of St. James' Episcopal Church during 2017 and just think how cool you would look in your own 150th Anniversary t-shirt! Orders will be being taken from May 28th - June 11th using the order form you will be able to pick up at church or download from the website (saintj.com). Shirts are maroon with our anniversary design front and back. Youth sizes YXS-YXL will be \$10 and Adult sizes S-4XL will be \$15. Samples of all sizes will be available to try on Sunday mornings or by arrangement with the office/Jan during the week. Our order of shirts will arrive in time to be available for those wanting to walk in the 4th July Parade and in plenty of time for our St. James' Day celebrations.

Any questions email Jan@saintj.com

Jan Scutton

Women's Day Retreat

Our Women's Day Retreat on May 13 was a great success. The Faith Formation Committee thanks everyone who helped make it happen, especially Katie, who arrived early to make the coffee, and the Men's Group who prepared and served the women a delicious lunch. Thank you to all who helped and all who attended!

Janet Fischer, Chair
Faith Formation Committee

*Half of life is lost in charming others,
the other half is lost in going through anxieties
caused by others.
Leave this play, you've played enough!
~ Rumi*

The Vestry Hosts Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

The church depends on volunteers, and in return, volunteers depend on the church. The Christian community is a living organism; a shared effort of the faithful, a place where we are all in it together and everyone chips in and participates. The goal is to have everyone doing his or her part, for without each person's contribution, the organism tilts out of balance. St. James' is no different. We run on the effort of volunteers, people who teach, organize, communicate, lead, setup, cleanup, count and calculate, serve, donate, and participate. There really are not enough ways to thank everyone who pitches in, but we can serve cake and ice cream.

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Sunday is coming up on June 18. Join us as the Vestry will host our coffee hours serving you cake (8:00) and ice cream (10:30) as a way of saying how much we appreciate all that you do.

And if you haven't yet found a ministry in which to engage, or an activity in which to help out, keep looking! There are many ways to participate. Ask a fellow-parishioner about all that is going on, talk with a member of the staff, or check out our booklet "The Way of St. J" found on our website (home page), in the foyer outside the office, or at the back of the Big Church.

Lori+

Church Expenses Don't Take a Vacation

Summer time is a great time to travel for weeks or even for a weekend. This often means that one misses church on Sunday and thus does not pay their pledge or make a plate donation. Please mail in your pledge payment or have your bank make your payment while you are gone. This will help the church keep a balanced budget.

Lynn Locher, Treasurer

Financial Summary May 2017

	<u>4/30/2016</u>	<u>4/30/2017</u>
Operating Fund	\$ 49,076	\$ 55,973
Building Investment	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Building Fund	\$ 27,766	\$ 34,096
Year To Date Operating Summary		
Pledges Budgeted	\$ 86,942	\$ 99,579
Pledges Paid	\$ 85,140	\$ 98,219
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 4,276	\$ 3,921
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 8,231</u>	<u>\$ 7,084</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ 97,647	\$ 109,224
Total Operating Expense	<u>\$ 89,200</u>	<u>\$ 102,683</u>
Income less Expenses	\$ 8,447	\$ 6,541

*Includes Fund Raising

On June 4th, The Rev. Karin White will present "The Last Letter before You Die" and "Ethical Wills" as the personal, ethical, spiritual part of your last messages to those you love. She will introduce why and to whom one would write such documents. The "seminar" will reconvene on June 25th to answer questions and" check progress. " Although no one else will read your "Last Letter ... "you will have the opportunity to discuss the content and finalize the documents. The seminar will start at noon on June 4th. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.

WRITING YOUR LAST LETTER BEFORE YOU DIE

7 Things you must not forget to say

We often think about how to pass on our material possessions when we die, but it is even more enduring to pass on our stories and our values. Stanford doctor, VJ Periyakoil founded the Stanford Family and Friends Letter project to help us banish regrets that we didn't talk about what is most important to us. Her team created a "Last Letter" template that people can use to communicate to their families and friends with 7 "Life Review Tasks."

1. Acknowledge the important people in your life.
2. Remember treasured moments from your life.
3. Apologize to those you love if you have hurt them.
4. Forgive those who love you if they have hurt you.
5. Express your gratitude for all the love and care you have received.
6. Tell your friends and family how much you love them.
7. Take a moment to say "Goodbye".

After services on June 4 and June 25, The Rev. Karin White will lead one-hour workshops to get us started on writing our last letters -- and then putting them on file at the church so that they can be shared with loved ones at the appropriate times. If you would like to get started sooner, begin to jot down your thoughts and share them with your loved ones now. You'll be glad you did.

Questions? Contact Karin by email at karinreedwhite@gmail.com.

Amazon Smile Helps St. James'

Over the last year, Amazon Smile has paid St. James' \$123.08 towards our fundraising. These are funds that the Vestry can use for both inreach and outreach. I encourage you to use Amazon Smile with St. James' Episcopal Church Fremont as the beneficiary when you make purchases on Amazon.

Lynn Locher, Treasurer



St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God we pray :

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, Matthew, Johnny

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction:

Ryan, Karl, Crystal

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing:

Ron, John, Linda, Jerry, Mark, Julian, Bruce, Bobby,
Ellison, Bobby, Nancy, Claudia and Max, Adrienne

For Families Expecting Children: Jeffrey and
Erica

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Fran,
Frank, Gretchen, Aubrey

To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please complete a pew card and place in the Sunday 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

June Birthdays

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|-------------------------------------|
| 6/2 | Callie Patton | 6/23 | Ian Kallitta |
| 6/3 | Charlie Paratore | 6/25 | Sylvia Clayton
Robert Lovellette |
| 6/4 | Dorothy Balderson
Mary Reed
Nancy Castaneda | 6/26 | Greg Miller |
| 6/5 | Ivy Sankar | 6/27 | Marlene Benedict |
| 6/8 | Patty Lacy | 6/28 | George Vlastelica
Pat Vlastelica |
| 6/9 | Bob Doherty | 6/29 | Julie Guizior |
| 6/16 | Bruce Prickett | 6/30 | Emma Feeney |
| 6/20 | Timothy Prickett | | |
| 6/22 | Tim Spencer
Mark Locher | | |



June Anniversaries

- | | |
|------|------------------------|
| 6/4 | Craig & Julie Gentner |
| 6/21 | David & Judy Colby |
| 6/22 | Charles & Judy Peeler |
| 6/24 | Keith & Sherea Westra |
| 6/25 | James & Frankie McLeod |
| 6/27 | John & Joan Kimber |

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

Email your submission to newsletter@saintj.com
by: **June 15th**



SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace
PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94537-0457
[WEB: http://saintj.com](http://saintj.com)

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY SERVICES: 8:00AM & 10:30AM
CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES: SUNDAY 9:15-10:00AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00AM

OFFICE HOURS

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

STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector lori@saintj.com
The Rev. Anna Horen, Priest Assoc. anna@saintj.com
Jan Scrutton, Children's Minister..... jan@saintj.com
The Rev. John Trubina, Office Administrator
..... admin@saintj.com
Jennifer Carini, Music Directormusic@saintj.com
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VESTRY

Senior Warden srwarden@saintj.com
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Bruce Roberts

Josephine Amadi *Kimberly Patton*
John Butterfield *Katie Porter*
Ashley Francis *Penny Trant*
Charles Hall *Scott Whitaker*
Evelyn Martinez

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

The Window Staff

Ralph Locher
Katie Porter
Penny Trant
Laura Winter

Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:

The Rev. John Trubina

Altar Guild: Katie Cunningham

Ushers: Burtin Hart

St. J Youth Leaders: Mike & Jan Scrutton

Convention Delegates

John Amoroux
Meg Amoroux
Jim McConnell
Ken Trant
Scott Whitaker

Alternates

Jan Brandt
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller

Article submission.....newsletter@saintj.com