



The Window

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

October 2013

Clergy Retreat Homily

By request of our Bishop, The Right Reverend Marc Andrus, the following article is offered. The text was provided as a reflection on the annual clergy conference held during the last week of September, and relies on the lectionary lessons assigned for September 29, 2013: Jeremiah 32:1-3a,6-15; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-32

For the better part of the last week I have been at The Bishop's Ranch with more than a hundred of the priests and deacons of the Diocese of California for our annual Clergy Retreat. While I was away on sabbatical, a talented clergy team headed by Rob Droste and Mary Moreno-Richardson put together a stimulating retreat program focused on clergy wellness.

The lessons for today give us a different, more comprehensive picture of wellness than one can get in the doctor's office, though, as we are rediscovering day-by-day it is all tied together.

The passage from Jeremiah seems repetitive and dry, an almost throwaway section about the prophet buying a parcel of land and recording the deed of sale. The last line of the passage and the context of the prophetic book — the siege of Jerusalem by the King of Babylon, help us grasp the portent of the passage. The last line reads: "For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land." The prophet is predicting that the chaos of war will end and that normal life, including real estate sales and the orderly recording of deeds will resume.

We can immediately see that great social and ecological events and trends, like drought, war, and recessions have effects on our individual wellness. This is so obvious in the case of a war siege, as Jeremiah experienced, but our well-being is also affected when there is a chronic condition, lots of

background noise that we adjust to at the surface level but that is working on us insidiously.

I am reminded here of the Lakota people of South Dakota, with whom I worked for over a decade. As you probably know, they have far greater than the national average bad health statistics across a wide spectrum of illnesses and conditions.

While fully understanding these poor health conditions is a complex undertaking, the parallel to the condition of Jerusalem at the time of Jeremiah is instructive — the aftermath of war and subsequent marginalization has meant that the Lakota culture has been tattered and business in the present — the equivalent of normal real estate transactions — is not "as usual."

The passage from 1 Timothy moves us from the consideration of cosmic forces and movements — war, famine, pestilence — and the way those great forces work on our health, to our own choices, the circle of responsibility for our own minds and bodies that we exercise in the face of these overwhelming realities.

The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy recommending a personal stance of contentment with modest living conditions as a way to have peace of mind. The counter-lesson, the corrosive influence of envy, jealousy, and excessive competitiveness is something we begin to experience strongly in childhood. Paired with the Jeremiah lesson, we can understand that while there are sweeping forces that blow across and through our lives, whose movements are far beyond our control, yet we retain the precious ability to choose how we shall respond to these forces.

Finally, the Luke's Gospel, the famous story of the Rich Man and Lazarus takes us into a new and surprising place — our health is ultimately

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Stewardship Corner

Autumn brings the promise of a new program year in the Church and what many view as “Stewardship Season.”

So why the wailing and gnashing of teeth when “Stewardship Season” rolls around? Why the anxiety and complaints of the church talking about money? The Rev. Cliff Christopher, keynote speaker at this year’s TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) Conference, believes it is because people do not want to talk about their guilt when it comes to money — how their relationship with money overshadows their relationship with Jesus.

The Rev. Christopher says the Gospels are clear about this. He recalls the story of the rich young man whom Jesus loved (Mark 10:17-27). The young man leads a prayerful life and obeys the commandments. When he asks Jesus what more he needs to do, he runs away at Jesus’ reply: “Sell everything you own, give the money to the poor and follow me.”

The Rev. Christopher goes on to say that those who view stewardship as a pastoral matter know that stewardship is about getting our relationship right with Jesus, putting God and money in the proper perspective. Jesus spoke about money more than any other subject. If we are going to talk about Jesus, if we are going to study the Gospels, then we are definitely going to talk about money.

I believe that at St. James’ we have a caring and generous congregation that is continually working on getting its relationship right with Jesus. Could we give more? I think everybody knows the answer – yes! There are some who do not pledge; they give but do not pledge. If you have not pledged in the past, I ask you to consider making one for 2014. It’s not the amount of the pledge, but the joy of making a commitment to God in thanksgiving for all you have been given. We should all be thinking about this as autumn draws near and as we approach a new year in the life of St James’.

Last month I reported to you that we will be including the *Flourish in Faith* narrative inserts in the Sunday bulletins for six weeks beginning October 6 (and I think it’s important to mention it

again). The intent is to create an ongoing gospel-centered consciousness about money, God and our lives at St. James’ and to plant the seeds of stewardship and faithful giving in connection with Luke’s Gospel. I invite you to join me in reading these reflections, and then I hope you will spend some time considering and examining what it truly means to “flourish in faith.”

Flourish can be defined as a bold or extravagant gesture or action, made especially to attract the attention of others. What is it that you can do to boldly trust in God? The annual giving campaign is an opportunity for us to flourish in our faith. When we are intentional and faithful in our giving, we boldly tell the world that we want to grow in putting our trust in God.

As we approach the “Stewardship Season” at St. James’, I hope that we all will take time to pray and listen to God during this pledge season. Trust God to enable you to *flourish in faith!*

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

Financial Summary August 2013		
Fund Balances	<u>8/31/2013</u>	<u>8/31/2013</u>
Operating Fund	\$ 74,788	\$ 45,266
Building Fund	\$ 16,569	\$ 36,248
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	\$ 157,873	\$ 162,415
Pledges Paid	\$ 142,595	\$ 145,169
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 3,354	\$ 3,370
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 12,619</u>	<u>\$ 15,345</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ 158,568	\$ 163,884
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 157,102</u>	<u>\$ 159,417</u>
Income less Expenses	\$ 1,466	\$ 4,467
*Includes Fundraising		

FAITH FORMATION PRESENTS

ANIMATE FAITH

October 13 through November 24

Please **sign up** for the “Animate Faith” series of presentations in October and November on the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. The sessions will be held in EB-1 on Sunday Mornings at 9:15am.

What is **Animate Faith**? Imagine an irreverent look at the subjects that get thrown at you in church such as God, Religion, Jesus, Salvation, Cross, Bible, and Church.

Faith is a quest on **Oct. 13** – when the subject is **God**. Is God a mighty fortress or a mystical, unknowable force or something else? Bruce Roberts will facilitate this class.

What does it mean to be spiritual? The subject is **Religion** on **Oct. 20**. Does organized religion play a role in the growth of your faith? EJ Hilliard will facilitate this class and the one the following week.

On **Oct. 27** the subject is **Jesus**. What if we practice being like Jesus at church? What kind of social and economic risks would you take to practice being like Jesus?

Modern theologians and authors Brian McLaren, Lillian Daniel and Mark Scandrette respectively kick off the sessions on DVD. Your Animate Journal will assist you at home and in class. You will get to voice your opinions or outrage in class.

The four sessions in November will cover the last subjects listed above, namely Jesus, Salvation, Cross, Bible, and Church. More on those subjects next month. If you like to draw or enjoy looking at drawings, the journal will help you in your quest of the subjects covered. If drawings help you think, this class is for you.

Faith Formation would appreciate a donation of \$15 for the journal. **Sign up so we know how many journals to order.** The journal covers all the seven classes.

Bruce Roberts

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Bishop's Homily

dependent not on our choices about and for ourselves as individuals, but depends on how we care for one another. We don't need the confirmation at this cellular level, but neuroscience is confirming that good health stems more from compassion exercised towards others than it does on taking care of ourselves. Neuroscience can tell us that this is so, and one day may give us a hypothetical rationale for why it is so, based on factors like evolutionary advantage. As people of faith we might say that compassion promotes our greatest health because we are made in the image and likeness of God, and when we behave in accordance with God's nature we exist in the harmony of health.

This kind of harmony and health are, of course, what we all hope to live out in our own lives and model for each other. This Sunday after our diocesan Clergy Retreat offers us a unique opportunity to consider how our congregations can, and do, encourage the our clergy towards wellness — to maintain the balance of work, rest, prayer and play is healthy for all of God's people. With that, I offer these provocative questions for your reflection:

1. How might we communicate to each other — clergy and laity alike — that we all need to rest and recharge?
2. Do we expect our clergy to be all things to all people? Do we know what they are best at, what their growing edges are, and how we might support each other in a sustainable ministry, according to the gifts we are given?
3. How might we as a community model responsibility for everyone getting enough rest, recharging spiritually and taking care of family obligations?

Amen

Marc Andrus

Food & Fellowship Dinner

The next F&F Dinner will take place in the home of Bob and Debbie Czerwinski on Saturday, October 26, at 5:30pm. Should you wish to attend, email Bob at bobcz007@comcast.net or sign up on the list posted in the Parish Hall by October 20.

“Young and Called”

Sunday Faith Formation for Children

As a Church we are a community held together by sacred stories. We share the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the stories of many people of God in the Bible, the stories of the saints who have gone forward in faith before us, and the stories of our own lives. Our focus for faith formation with children ages 4-11 this Fall will be to tell a series of sacred stories of people who are “young and called”: Samuel, the last judge and first prophet of Israel; Francis and Clare, servants of God who leave their wealthy families and their ways to follow the example of Christ in preaching, prayer, and caring for the poor; and David, shepherd and King of Israel. Through Advent we will tell the story of the Nativity of Jesus, a different kind of king, in our preparation for Christmas.

This Fall we will also focus on forming ourselves into a community of Christian friends who gather for worship and fellowship, and that is part of our learning, too! We gather on the lawn for games from 10:15-10:30am to learn each other’s names and learn to work and play together. Often following our sacred story, we will have free choice “work time” where children are at liberty to choose and work with story sets or art and building materials, alone or in pairs. Each month we will also do a craft to give visual expression to our learning. Every Sunday we will join the rest of the congregation for the Eucharistic Prayer and to receive communion.

Beginning in October we would like to try something new. Just as in the liturgy the service ends with the post-communion prayer, a blessing, and a hymn, and in the culture of our church, the Eucharistic feast continues with fellowship at coffee hour, I would like to invite the children to join together to do the same in a way that more directly involves them. The children together and/or with their families are invited to receive Communion directly after the choir. The children will then return to their classroom (EB3) for a “feast,” conversation, singing, and a closing prayer and blessing. When we see that the service is over, we will clean up and go

to the play structure. Grown-ups may pick up their children on the playground (or in the classroom if it is raining) and are welcome to take some time for conversation with each other beforehand!

I am looking forward to getting to know all of the children at St. James’. I am hopeful that this last ritual for our Sunday mornings together (a change to try for awhile!) will foster that aim while stretching out our learning and our own formation as a communion of friends in Christ. Certainly families are also welcome to join us in our classroom for our closing song and feast.

How good it is to gather together!

The Rev. Stephanie Green Tramel

Endowment Ministry

Greetings from your 2013-2014 Endowment Board – Marnie Hartmann, chairperson, Sylvia Ma, secretary, Tom Blalock, Jan Brandt and Scott Whitaker.

Endowment is a wonderful and vital ministry that allows us to set up a fund that does Permanent Good. Approximately 5% of the fund is given to the Vestry each year for them to distribute based on their assessment of the needs of St. James’.

Contributions to the Endowment can be made in the memory of a loved one or as a celebration of a birthday or anniversary. A contribution can also be given as an acknowledgment of someone or something meaningful in your life. Or contact a board member to learn more about including St. James’ in your will.

Scott Whitaker

St. J Youth Plans

As St. J Youth starts the new school year, they welcome new members and old to attend some or all the upcoming events. As a group for high school and college age students the group will meet at least twice a month as well as looking for opportunities to serve in the wider community and enjoy each other's company.

This year, on the second Sunday evening of each month, the group will meet in the Youth Space from 6:30-8:30pm with Jan and Mike. The topics covered will be generated by the group around the theme of "Issues." A list of things concerning the group is being created and we'll be holding discussions, welcoming speakers and looking for resources to understand, support and help each other with those things that bother us most. In November, the Rev. John Trubina will join us to talk about Sacred Space as a response to homelessness.

A new monthly meeting is being established on the fourth Sunday morning each month. Stephanie will join the group for faith formation (and breakfast snack) from 9:15-10:15am in the Youth Space. Topics will include the life of St. Francis, how holy hoopla has given us Halloween, friends, Saints and social activists and names of the Messiah.

Young people are welcome to attend one or all meetings, the schedule can be found on the church website (saintj.com) as well as from the office or back of church.

In addition to the regular programming, the group will be helping at Sacred Space on December 1st as well as at Abode Kidz Club each month. Their acting skills will be on show at our Las Posadas evening (December 8) while there are plans afoot for two social evenings – at Christmas in the Park in San Jose and a movie night.

To keep in touch, the group has established a Facebook group. All young people in high school or college who are connected to St. James' are welcome to join the group. Look out for details soon in the weekly email.

Jan and Mike Scrutton

McCutcheon Concert Planning Meeting

You are all invited to our 2014 McCutcheon Concert planning meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 1, at 7pm in EB#1. Come to find out more about this annual community outreach and fundraising event for St. James'. Bring your ideas and your "Yes, I can help!" attitude and make our next John McCutcheon Concert another great success. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Sylvia Ma hsiehtingsueh@yahoo.com or call 510-552-6549. Thank you for your support.

Sylvia Ma and the McCutcheon Concert Team

Creative Ways to Pay Your Pledge

At the end of August St. James' had not received 10% of your pledged payments. There are two alternatives that might help you pay your pledge and save you paying capital gains tax.

1. Transfer stock to St. James'. Your treasurer will sell the stock and you will receive tax credit for the average price on the day of transfer. You also will not owe any capital gains tax on the sale of the stock. Your pledge statement will show the amount that the treasurer was able to receive minus fees for sale of the stock. Contact Lynn Locher, treasurer at treasurer@saintj.com for instructions.

2. Pay your pledge with money from your IRA. You can do this if you are 70 ½ years of age or older. Have the company that manages your IRA cut a check made out to St. James' Episcopal Church Fremont and include your pledge number in the memo section. Let Lynn Locher know to anticipate the check so that it is properly credited.

Lynn Locher

Ladies Flatlanders

The weekend of September 5th thru 8th 14 women from St. James', 4 former St. James' women and 3 guests had a chance to escape from everyday life. We assembled in two condos at Pajaro Dunes for a weekend of renewal. The location enabled us to take long walks on the beach; view spectacular sunsets and watch the fog enclose us from three sides. We enjoyed quiet reading, noisy game playing and stimulating



Front row: Jackie, Cathe, Linda, Mary, Mary, Nancy; Middle: Marilyn, Guest, Guest, Lynn, Kathy, Pam, Connie, Alison; Back: Andrienne, Margaret, Joan, Pat, Dorothy, Cathy, Guest (Photo credit: Marilyn Rose)

conversation. Our meals were outstanding thanks to the planning and purchasing of our leaders as well as the cooking skills of our group. We shared a communion service as a fitting ending of our retreat.

Lynn Locher

September 2013 Vestry Meeting

The Vestry met on the second Thursday of September and celebrated a full room with several visitors to this month's meeting.

Mary Casas, Ruth Poole and Sylvia Ma made a presentation on the on-going work of renovating the Little Church, focusing this month on the work in the Sacristy. The ceiling is being replaced as part of the work on the roof and the furniture and cabinets in the Sacristy date back to the move of the Little Church in the 50's. The Vestry was shown sketches of the new units and plans for the refitting of the closets to make them more suitable for their present use. The flooring is being replaced thanks to a generous donation from a parishioner. The Vestry approved the request to release funds for this stage of the work.

Ken Parris, our Deacon, who was installed on September 8th at the 10:30am service, shared with us

some insights on his background and the plans for our upcoming ministry together. His observations of his first few months as a part of St. James' were thought provoking, and we look forward to our continued growth together.

The Vestry also discussed our present arrangement with the external cleaning service and agreed to investigate extending the contract to cover the upkeep of the campus externally, including watering and grass cutting. We have decided not to hire a sexton at this time.

The Rector closed the meeting by leading us in Compline.

All parish members are very welcome to join our monthly Vestry meetings on the second Thursday at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

Mike Scruton, Junior Warden



St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God, we pray for...

For Those In The Military: Scott, Jarrod, Bryan, Megan, Erica, Theresa, Mark, Tim, Louis, Military Children of ACBSM, the families and Marines of Dark Horse Battalion, Caitlin, Emily, Robin, Adam, Robert, Dave, Shawn, Ethan, Paul, Darren

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Kenny, Robert, Heather, Leo, Josephine

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Barbara, Marilyn, Paula, Selina, Ann, Verna, Michael, Barbara, Laura, Norene, Barbara, Isaac, Anapesi, Debbie, Bud, Barry, Nonie, Peter

For Families expecting children: Hoa and Erik, Lorena and Luis, Lindsay and Robert, Allison and Patrick, Alyise and Manny, Dor and Ed



For the most recent St. James' calendar, Go to:

www.saintj.com/

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

Email your submission to window@saintj.com by:
November Issue Deadline: October 15



October Birthday Celebrations

10/3	Dana Muse	10/17	Anne Keshishian
10/6	Lynn Locher	10/18	Victoria Krimmel
10/7	Mary Casas	10/19	Bud Pearson
10/8	Keith Westra		Sherea Westra
10/9	Margaret Rainey	10/22	Alyssa Koonze
	Cathy Knotts	10/23	Marilyn Rose
	Beth Scrutton		Lauren Zarovy
10/10	Bobbie Naidoo	10/24	Ruby Pike
10/11	Jessica Stair	10/25	Gloryanne Bryant
10/13	Judy Colby	10/28	Florinne Becker
10/14	Richard Kostick	10/29	Joan Kimber

October Anniversaries

10/15 Dave Nelsen & Linda Nelsen
10/21 Bruce Prickett & Norene Sun

Please note: If your birthday 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'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace
PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94537-0457
WEB: <http://saintj.com>
Tel: (510) 797-1492

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY SERVICES 8:00AM & 10:30AM
FAITH FORMATION 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
The Rev. Ken Parris, Deacon.....deaconken@saintj.com
The Rev. Stephanie Green, Children, Teen & Family
Minister.....stephanie@saintj.com
Jennifer Carini, Music Director.....music@saintj.com
David Goldstein, Office Administrator admin@saintj.com
Lynn Locher, Treasurer.....treasurer@saintj.com

VESTRY

Senior Warden.....srwarden@saintj.com
Janet Fischer
Junior Warden.....jrwarden@saintj.com
Mike Scrutton
Christian Formation.....christianformation@saintj.com
Alison Saichek
Social Ministries/Congregational Care.....socialministries-congcare@saintj.com
Beverly Mosier, Donald Razzolini
Communications/Welcoming.....communications-welcoming@saintj.com
Dave Nelsen, Jack Rux
Parish Life.....parishlife@saintj.com
Bob Bynum, Ralph Locher
Facilities.....facilities@saintj.com
Al Casas, Bud Spalding
Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors: Janet Fischer
Altar Guild: Ruth Poole
Ushers: Burtin Hart

The Window Staff

Ralph Locher
Marilyn Rose
Jack Rux
Penny Trant
Laura Winter

Article submission.....[window@saintj.com](mailto>window@saintj.com)