



# The Window

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

February 2013

## A Holy Vision

***Diversity – Care – Serving – Helping – Learning – Giving – Love – Welcome – Invitation – Sharing – Tradition – Newness – Growth – Opportunities***

What do all of these words have in common? They are just some of the values identified as being important to the community of St. James' Episcopal Church. Sitting on top of a rolling hill in the middle of the beautiful landscape of Healdsburg, surrounded by sunshine, good food, and crisp air, the Vestry tackled the important task of examining what we've done in the past and imagining where we might turn our energies towards in the future. To start, we brainstormed a list of what we found valuable in our community. Then we built from there.

Through our prayerful conversation, we soon realized that everything we do — from worship to celebrations, from reaching out to studying together — all of these things should be examined through this overarching question:

***How do we make God present in our families, our church, our neighborhood, our town, and our world?***

If what we are doing does not make God present in some way to some person, then it is our challenge to question whether we should be doing it. If the programs we offer do not seek to deepen a relationship with God, then we must wonder if the program is effective. If how we are Church together does not communicate the Love of God to all people, then it is our responsibility to tweak it enough so that the Good News becomes our primary purpose and reason for being.

This is not always an easy thing to do. So often we fall into the habitual movements of the past. It is how we've always done it, it is what is

comfortable for us, it is part of our history and we have a hard time letting go. Yet, we also know that living organisms change and transform. They adapt to current environments and reach for better, more life-giving ways. To that end, each vestry cluster will be asking if how or what we do is the best, most life-giving way of making God present. When the answer is "maybe not," then change will happen to better align ourselves with our mission of sharing God. When the answer is "absolutely," then we will seek to increase that energy.

We, Saint James' Episcopal Church in Fremont, California, have amazing, dedicated, thoughtful, and wise leaders. We will do great work together; work that is wholesome, healing, transformative, and life-giving for all who are with us and all who come near us.

May God continue to bless us.

Lori



2013 Vestry Members; Front row: Mike, Janet, Lori, Elizabeth;  
2nd row: Bob, Donald, Lynn, Bud, Alison; Back row: Jack, Gary, Ralph,  
Dave ; Missing: Al, Bev

## Putting Off God's Priorities

(from *The Stewardship Study Bible*)

It's easy for fear, rationalization and excuse-making to disguise themselves as "forethought" and "prudence" when God asks us to move forward by faith. It's easy to tell ourselves to avoid hasty plans or to be certain of our footing before forging ahead. After all, good stewardship means having our priorities and our households in order. And when it comes to our giving, we shouldn't overextend ourselves, right?

The prophet Haggai directly rebuked these kinds of excuses and reminded the exiles who had returned to Jerusalem that the time to engage in God's work is always now. When you are thinking about giving of your time, talents or money, what are some things that hold you back?

- ◆ To what extent do you struggle in faithful giving: in giving willingly, generously, joyfully?
- ◆ What fears regarding giving and generosity hold you back?
- ◆ How do you serve people who are in need, or do you feel it's someone else's responsibility?
- ◆ How do you go about seeking God's direction regarding opportunities to give special gifts to God's work in addition to your regular giving?
- ◆ Do you feel some things in your lifestyle could be changed so that you could give more generously to God's work?
- ◆ What areas in your lifestyle could be changed so that you could spend more time helping at church or in the community?
- ◆ In what areas are you sensitive to stewarding your resources? In what ways do you live in a responsible manner toward the earth's resources?

- ◆ To what extent is your giving to God's work commensurately generous in light of your ability?
- ◆ Do you sense a spirit of joy as you give, serve or help others?

Martin Luther once called the book of Haggai "the easiest of all the prophets" because his message was clear-cut. Haggai simply tells God's people to reorder their priorities; God's work must come first; God's house must be built, even if it means putting God's work before our own comforts. While the prophet's message is easy to understand, it is hard to obey, especially for contemporary Christians.

Gail Blalock  
Stewardship Chair

## Why Do They Do That?

If you've attended the 8:00am service on Sundays in the Little Church, you've probably seen a parishioner go forward and stand in front of the Pulpit during Communion. *Why?*, you may ask. Is it a receiving line?...*No!* Greeting place?...*No!* Well, then - what's happening?

During the sacrament of Holy Communion, it's a friendly hand outstretched, if you need it. A helping marker for the descending steps. Sets your pace to locate the steps and keep you safe.

Most worshipers in the Little Church are used to the guiding hand that steadies your steps. Just one more of St. James' community's helpful ways to make all welcome at the Lord's Table.

Tom Blalock

# FAITH FORMATION FOR FEBRUARY

## READING MUSIC 101

February 3<sup>rd</sup>

The second part of the two part series 'Reading Music 101 will be held in EB-1 at 9:15am on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## SLAVERY AND ITS AFTERMATH

February 10<sup>th</sup>

### PART I - MEET ABRAHAM LINCOLN



Abraham Lincoln did not belong to an institutional church nor did he profess the Christian Faith explicitly. However, he often quoted the Bible and thought deeply about God's ways in human history. Some of you may have seen the current movie "Lincoln." Bring your thoughts to add to our conversation.

To quote from the Emancipation Proclamation, January 1, 1863, "And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God." President Lincoln signed this document, a document of justice, to set free the slaves of the states in rebellion against the United States.

Explore President Lincoln's inspiration for us all. And bring your reading glasses because we have some reading to do.

### Part II – THE CONTINUING STRUGGLE

February 17<sup>th</sup>

An introduction to the aftermath of slavery, and the struggle we still have with its deep scars. Bruce Roberts and Jim Cunningham will lead this session, Bruce with exposition and Jim with his own story growing up in Montgomery, Alabama. Where is the Justice today?

## END-OF-LIFE WISHES AND HOSPICE

with ELLEN CUOZZO, R.N.

February 24<sup>th</sup>

Ellen has talked to us in the past regarding

hospice care. This visit she would like to spend time discussing the importance of having a discussion with your loved ones and health providers about your end of life wishes and implementing a document that will enhance your chances of having your wishes honored. She will also spend time discussing hospice and palliative care, what it is, who is eligible and how to access this specialized care. Avail yourself to Ellen's expertise, come to this important event! EB-1 9:15am.

Bruce Roberts.

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## Cookies for a Goat

During the Annual Meeting on January 20, some



of our Sunday School children, with help from members of the youth group and some parents, decorated cookies to raise funds for their charity project supporting Heifer International.

Thank you to everyone who came along and bought a cookie. In this one morning, the children made enough money to buy a goat! This goat will not be wandering around campus but will be given to a family in need. The class now needs to decide what their next aim will be – maybe a flock of geese or a trio of rabbits or even a sheep to donate. Watch out for more fundraising efforts.

Heifer International encourages people to sponsor a gift of livestock for a family in the USA or overseas. Along with the gift (a goat, rabbits, ducks, a heifer or chicks) comes the training needed and families are able to improve their diet, earn money and, as we have learned in Sunday School, even improve other crops by adding manure to their soil. Heifer's projects improve communities when recipients pass on the offspring of their livestock and train their neighbors. For more details check out their website at [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).

Jan Scrutton

## Something Good From the ‘Fiscal Cliff’

If you know people who are 70.5 or older, you may have some good news for them: The recent ‘Fiscal Cliff’ legislation permits one to pay their 2013 parish pledge out of their IRA and, thus, bypass having it taxed. What a great opportunity!

Normally IRA owners of this age are required to withdraw a certain amount each year from their account and add it to their taxable income. But this new law, without changing the amount that must be taken out of their IRA, permits them to contribute these funds directly to their church or other charity and, thus, reduce their 2013 income taxes.

For seniors, this opens another ‘pocket’ to finance their pledge. They may also use their tax-free IRA to make a one-time donation, of up to \$100,000, to create a named endowment fund, or for some other special purpose.

For more information about how to do this, contact your Gift Planning Officer. I’ll be very happy to assist you!

The Rev. Richard Schaper, CFP  
Episcopal Diocese of California  
[www.EpiscopalGift.org](http://www.EpiscopalGift.org)

## MARCH 3 FAITH FORMATION Advance Notice

Join Janet Fischer on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for an exploration of Elaine Pagels’ newest book: *Revelations: Vision, Prophecy, & Politics in the Book of Revelation*. Pagels explores the history of this confusing and controversial book. We will find out who the author was, the political context in which he wrote it, and why it was included in the New Testament canon.

This will be a PowerPoint presentation, so reading the book beforehand is not necessary. See you in Education Bldg. Room #1 on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:15am.

Bruce Roberts

## Are you Available for Lunch?

Come and celebrate the Lunar New Year (Year of the Snake) with us with some delicious Chinese food at Newark Buffet on **Sunday, February 24** at noontime. Newark Buffet is located in the shopping center at the corner of Cedar Boulevard and Newark Bouelardv., a few doors from the Ranch 99 Market.

We have some great fellowship together. Cost of the buffet is \$15; drinks (tea, soda or beer) are extra. You pay for your own lunch. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions or need a ride, please call Sylvia 510-552-6549.

Do join us if you are available for lunch.

Sylvia Ma and Meg Williams  
Available for Lunch Ministry

### Financial Summary December 2012

Fund Balances	<u>12/31/2011</u>	<u>12/31/2012</u>
Operating Fund	\$ 73,622	\$ 40,466
Building Fund	\$ 40,199	\$ 35,372

#### Year To Date Operating Fund Summary

<b>Pledges Budgeted</b>	\$ 233,930	\$ 236,810
<b>Pledges Paid</b>	\$ 243,174	\$ 236,944
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 9,424	\$ 5,979
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 16,643</u>	<u>\$ 18,605</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ 269,241	\$ 249,384
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 21,559</u>	\$ 12,144
Transfers to Building & Special Interest Accounts		\$ 45,000
<b>Income less Expenses &amp; Transfers</b>		<b>(\$ 32,856)</b>

\*Includes Fundraising

## Be a Rebel, Read the Bible

For Lent the Rev. Lori Walton will start us on a journey that will transform some people's lives. Be a Rebel, Read the Bible – in a year.

Don't we read the Bible during our Liturgical Calendar in church every three years? No, only certain parts deemed important by the Church. What do you mean, "Read the Bible?" ? I mean read the whole Bible, stem to stern, front to back, Genesis to Revelations. Wouldn't that take a long time? Yes, it could. But with a plan you could read it in a year. Only a year? Surely, you jest. No. And my name isn't Shirley.

So, here is the plan. Starting in Lent.... You mean Lent will last all year? No, but as a time of reflection, what a way to start transforming yourself by doing something you have always wanted to do, should have done.

Starting in Lent on Tuesday nights, we will initiate the Reading of the Bible, a little bit each day, some Old Testament, a Psalm, and some New Testament. We'll actually try some different types of Bible study to supplement our daily reading during our Lenten Tuesday night sessions.

Isn't this going to be a BIG chore? You could make it a chore. Or you could look at it as reading the Bible in a year (Hey, how many books do you read in a year?) as a joy to uncover stories, people you have heard of but don't understand, and places that have always seemed mysterious to you. What a feeling of accomplishment you will feel at the end!

So the Challenge is:

**Read the Bible in a Year.**

**Be Transformed.**

Read the article **Bible Light** in the next column for time, place and dates. More information is available at "More info available at: <http://saintj.com/wp/ministries/adult-faith-formation/the-bible-challenge/>"

Bruce Roberts

## Lenten Program

### READ THE BIBLE – LIGHT

You are invited to come to the Lenten evening classes to participate in a weekly Bible study and discussion starting at 6:30pm. A list of daily Bible readings will be available should you decide that you want to be a Bible Rebel..

Time, place and dates:

February 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

6:00 Soup Supper

6:30 Class Starts

Bruce Roberts

## The Imposition of Ashes Service Times

Make sure to get your annual ashes to begin the Lenten season. Join us for one of the scheduled services:

\* Imposition of Ashes for Children & Youth\*  
Tuesday February 12 at 6:45pm in the Little Church  
(following the Shrove Tuesday celebration)

Ash Wednesday Services February 13

7:00am in the Little Church

12:00pm in the Little Church

7:00pm in the Main Church

Lori

## Capturing St. James' Activities

As part of the Annual Parish Meeting, we enjoyed a video compilation of photographs of many of the events, activities and people of Saint James'. It was a great opportunity to reflect on how We Are Family at Saint James', and to relive some of those happy memories.

If you have any photos of life at Saint James', please feel free to email them to [photos@saintj.com](mailto:photos@saintj.com) for inclusion in our archive - help us by providing the name of the event, as well as your name, in the Subject line. Rest assured that you won't be filling up anyone's mailbox as this is a curated method that allows us to gather everyone's pictures and share them within the community. These photos aren't searchable from outside and are only visible to those who are sent a link.

Mike Scrutton

# CONCERT REVIEW

## John McCutcheon - January 21, 2013

Jim Cunningham said with enthusiasm, "It's his best concert ever!" To those who had missed his first nine concerts at St. James' came comments like, "Where have I been to have missed such great performances"? Indeed John McCutcheon's performance could be deemed a treasure; stories and songs, even a tutorial on playing the Jaw Harp, all made for a delightful evening. From the traditional 900 Miles to John's recently composed "Forgotten" to songs we sang with him like "Kindergarten Wall," the concert was rich with humor and meaning.

Interestingly, John faced the hammer dulcimer to the side this year so most of the audience could get a better view of the strings and hammers and the delicacy of the way one plays the instrument. Speaking of instruments, he brought the same instruments as last year, commenting on the number of them in his remembrance of Mike Seeger, with the exception of the Jaw Harp, of which he displayed three. After demonstrating them and encouraging folks to learn to play the Jaw Harp, he played a tune on the Russian one and sang.

Meaning went beyond singing and story telling. John introduced Bonnie Burger of Fremont Friends of the Library for whom we had set up a table so she could make the community aware of their goals. John also donated one dollar for each CD/DVD/book he sold to our local Friends of the Library. The Rev. Lori Walton introduced Louis Chicoine and his wife Colleen in the audience. Louis serves as Executive Director of Abode Services, working to eliminate homelessness in our community. St. James' will donate a portion of the concert ticket proceeds to Abode Services.

Before the Prize Drawing at intermission the din in the parish Hall strained one's auditory senses. As

soon as the actual drawing was announced a hush fell over the crowd. Many folks were pleased with the prizes they won. Olivia Carini's ticket was drawn for the percussion instrument signed by John McCutcheon and she was happy. See the photo with Johanne LaRocque supporting Olivia with encouragement.



Siri (the voice of the Apple iPhones) encouraged us to return to our seats after the intermission, a first in concert history. Among the songs after intermission was the "Ode to Common Things," the evening's encore. Inspired by Pablo Neruda, John wrote this song lending a spiritual meaning to everyday objects. Look in awe to what we've made and be thankful.

So now, with ten years at St. James' and 33 on the "left" coast and 40 years of touring, John McCutcheon is still singing strong, telling stories and spreading love around as he travels.

Bruce Roberts

## PANCAKE SUPPER

February 12



Please plan to join your St. James' family as we prepare for the Lenten season, sharing a traditional meal of pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage.

This special evening takes place on Shrove Tuesday, February 12th - the day before Ash Wednesday. Dinner will be served from 6:00 to 7:30pm. 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 imposition of ashes for children will take place at 6:45 in the Little Church.

Dave Nelsen



John and some of the help

# 2012 Annual Meeting

The Rev. Lori Walton opened the meeting around 11:30am on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. In her address, she said that St. James' had become a vibrant center of spiritual transformation. Some new and notable activities are:

- ◆ The participation of our church is growing in the new Sacred Space Program to offer a meal and Holy Communion to the homeless on Sundays in Hayward;
- ◆ Abode Kids program in which our kids bring stories and snacks for the children at Sunshine village;
- ◆ The Filipino Independent Church has started a second church service on Saturday evenings.

She also thanked and presented gifts to the outgoing Vestry Members, Laura Winter, Nancy Castenada, Brad Hoffman, and Steven Ferro.

Senior Warden Janet Fischer thanked the Vestry in their decisions and actions to distribute the Schaefer Memorial Funds to facilitate the following:

- ◆ Helping in the purchase of clergy housing;
- ◆ Parking lot restoration;
- ◆ Little Church renovations;
- ◆ Establishing the Children, Teen and Family program.

She noted that the total income from fund raising was \$7,956 thanks to the McCutcheon Team and our

Duck-for-Bucks reps Brad Hoffman and Tom Blalock. Ducks-for-Bucks gave us \$1294.

The congregation approved the appointment of Jack Rux to fulfill the term of Valle Brokes and later unanimously elected four new Vestry members, Al Casas, Ralph Locher, Dave Nelsen and Alison Saichek.

Treasurer Lynn Locher reported that 2012 was a good year financially for us. Pledges paid equaled Pledges pledged. The Building Fund has a \$24,000 balance. In Outreach, the Vestry has allocated monies for AEMCH, Abode Services, Sacred Space, Viola Blythe Community Services and Shield the Vulnerable background checks as well as a new line item allocating monies for a Mutual Ministry Review.

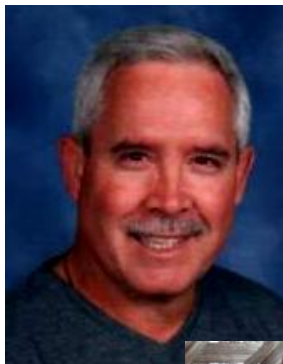
Outgoing Endowment Board Chairman Dave Nelsen gave us an update on the Endowment Fund. The 12/31/2012 value was \$123,100, from which it authorized a payment of \$4,551, which is 5% of the 12 Quarter Rolling Average Value. Dave presented checks of:

1. \$2,288 for the Operating Budget to Senior Warden Janet Fischer;
2. \$1,311 for the Memorial Garden to Ruth Poole;
3. \$951 for the Little Church Restoration to Sylvia Ma.

Ralph Locher

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## New Vestry Members



**Al Casas**



**Dave Nelsen**



**Ralph Locher**



**Alison Saichek**



**Jack Rux**



## 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, Robert, Adam, Darren, Robert

### For Those Who Need Guidance and

**Direction:** Paula, Adrian, Anthony, Verna, Phillip, Bruce, Johanne, Kenny, Kris

### For Those Who are Traveling:

**Families Expecting Children:** Candace, Ann and David, Jana and Mike, Erica, Amaya, Lacy

### For Those Who Need Comfort and

**Healing:** Brad, Leonard, Linda, Clayton

### For Those Who Have Passed Away:

Keith, John, Jack



## February Birthday Celebrations

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Claudia Noddin    | 23 Jason Fisher     |
| Mike Scrutton       | 24 Scott Kennedy    |
| 4 Bruce Roberts     | 25 Maresa Decena    |
| 5 David Kem         | 26 Charles Peeler   |
| 7 Linda Zetterholm- | Lauren Doherty      |
| Nelsen              | Scott Whi taker     |
| 8 Vicky Greening    | Francis Singh       |
| 11 Darcia Feeney    | 27 Chris Ma         |
| 12 David Colby      | 28 Michael Peterson |
| 15 Joan Roberts     | Luke Scheuffele     |
| 18 Margaret Broun   | 29 Adrienne Farrell |

## February Anniversaries

- 14 Lorin Decena and Karl Drescher
- 15 Lauren and Bob Doherty
- 16 Pegeen and Chris Perry
- 24 Vivienne and Charles Paratore

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 [window@saintj.com](mailto:window@saintj.com) by:  
**Date Issue Deadline: February 15**

**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](mailto:admin@saintj.com)



Click on [February Calendar](#) to be directed to the Parish calendar..





# 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  
FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY 9:15-10:15AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM  
YOUTH GROUP SECOND SUNDAY 6:30PM  
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00AM

### OFFICE HOURS

TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY: 9:00AM-1:00PM

### STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton ..... [lori@saintj.com](mailto:lori@saintj.com)  
The Rev. Bob Dobbin ..... [deaconbob@saintj.com](mailto:deaconbob@saintj.com)  
The Rev. Bill Mosier ..... [deaconbill@saintj.com](mailto:deaconbill@saintj.com)  
Music Director ..... [music@saintj.com](mailto:music@saintj.com)  
Children, Teen & Family Coordinator .....  
..... [ctfcoord@saintj.com](mailto:ctfcoord@saintj.com)  
Office Administrator ..... [admin@saintj.com](mailto:admin@saintj.com)  
Treasurer ..... [treasurer@saintj.com](mailto:treasurer@saintj.com)

### VESTRY

Senior Warden ..... [srwarden@saintj.com](mailto:srwarden@saintj.com)

*Janet Fischer*

Junior Warden ..... [jrwarden@saintj.com](mailto:jrwarden@saintj.com)

*Mike Scrutton*

Christian Formation ..... [christianformation@saintj.com](mailto:christianformation@saintj.com)

*Alison Saichek*

Social Ministries/Congregational Care ..... [socialministries-congcare@saintj.com](mailto:socialministries-congcare@saintj.com)

*Gary Gearheart, Beverly Mosier, Donald Razzolini*

Communications/Welcoming ..... [communications-welcoming@saintj.com](mailto:communications-welcoming@saintj.com)

*Dave Nelsen, Jack Rux*

Parish Life ..... [parishlife@saintj.com](mailto:parishlife@saintj.com)

*Bob Bynum, Ralph Locher*

Facilities ..... [facilities@saintj.com](mailto:facilities@saintj.com)

*Al Casas, Bud Spalding*

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

### Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors: Janet Fischer  
Children, Teen and Family Ministries: Jan Scrutton  
Altar Guild: Ruth Poole  
Treasurer: Lynn Locher  
Ushers: Burtin Hart

### The Window Staff

Ralph Locher  
Marilyn Rose  
Jack Rux  
Penny Trant  
Laura Winter