The Window

The Newsletter of St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont, CA

Called to serve in new and loving ways

March 2013

Giving Up God

I recently read an article written by an Orthodox Christian theologian who talked about "giving up God for Lent." His position was that he has, and continues, to spend a lot of time defining God, worshipping the God of his "rigid ideologies [and] complacent Theology… who validates his unwillingness to explore heresies and rewards him for arrogantly dismissing them as sinful; the God who grounds his intellectual arrogance in His omniscience, and his politics in His omnipotence…"[1]

The article was an excellent reminder of how often we create God in our own image, a deity who conveniently confirms our passion for being right and corroborates with us in our own righteousness. The author goes on to say that this is a God who is nothing more than an idol of Modernism, and is dead. The urging is to meditate on a God who, try as we might, is ultimately a mystery. The suggestion is to look for a God who is more complex than we imagine, who is more magnificent than we can grasp, and who is more powerful and present than even the most religious of us can discern.

I don't know about you, but the truest way that I have found to let go of the God of my imagining is to settle in prayer and silence. Whenever I am able to let go of God in my image, I find that a space within me is cleared just for the God who truly is. And in that space, I find a restfulness that no longer seeks to have definitive answers, and I find my longing for God is satisfied.

Sometimes people take on a new discipline for Lent. It is a worthy endeavor, and even more so if it moves us to a deeper connection with God, so I invite you to find some silence in your day for the purpose of letting go of your preconceived ideas of God in order to meet the God who truly made you and loves you beyond all measure.

Lori

[1] http://www.huffingtonpost.com/brandon-ambrosino/why-im-giving-up-god-for-_b_2683164.html

"For Lent, 1966"
By Madeleine L'Engle

It is my Lent to break my Lent,
To eat when I would fast,
To know when slender strength is spent,
Take shelter from the blast
When I would run with wind and rain,
To sleep when I would watch.
It is my Lent to smile at pain. But not ignore its touch.

It is my Lent to listen well
When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence, turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.

Stewardship Corner

Invitation to Join the Stewardship Team!

Okay, with a title like that, how many people will actually read any further?!

I am beginning my eighth year on the Stewardship Committee and, as the old saying goes, "time flies when you're having fun"! I can't believe how fast the years have flown by!! Who says Stewardship can't be fun? Whenever the word "stewardship" is used, however, most people automatically think of money. It's probably because the Stewardship Committee is usually associated with the annual pledge campaign, and for the most part, everyone thinks that's all the Committee does. So, when we put out an invitation or ask someone to join us on the Stewardship Committee, they usually shy away because they don't want to ask people for money.

I've learned a lot about stewardship over the past seven years. Stewardship is much more than just money or keeping the church lights on or paying for staff. Stewardship is about responding to God's generosity with a glad, grateful, and generous heart. Stewardship is about being a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. And stewardship is something that blesses the giver more than it does the receiver.

The Stewardship Ministry Team (as I prefer to call it) works together to promote year-round stewardship within our parish focusing on regularly giving of our time, talent, and treasure. Our experience is that joyful giving results in spiritual growth. There is no set number of people on our Team, and we welcome new members at any time.

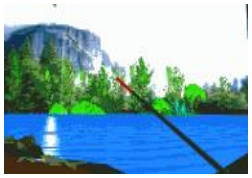
We meet monthly, usually on the third Tuesday, however meeting days and times may be modified to accommodate the schedules of our members (we are flexible).

(continued ~ Stewardship Corner)

We like new ideas, we welcome change, and we love to have fun! Last November's *"Stewardship The Musical"* was a perfect example of new, of change, and of fun. With your help, what new ideas might we come up with for the Fall 2013 Program? Join us on the Team, whether it be all year long or to help with the Fall Program.

I invite you to join our Team! Still not sure or have questions? Call me (510/490-7565) or any member (Sandra Motley, Brad Hoffman, Ruth Pool, George Vlastelica) of the Team. We welcome you to visit or join us!

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair



Men's Trip to Arnold

St. James' 6th Annual Men's Trip to Arnold has been scheduled from 08/15 - 08/18. The tentative cost, depending on attendance, should be about $120 per person.

We play golf, fish, hike, ride bikes, tell stories, relax and enjoy each other's company. We may eat out one or two times but for the most part it's shared cooking, eating, and cleaning.

Some come for 4 days while others come just the weekend. Carpooling is highly suggested. Look for a sign-up sheet around mid-May in the Parish Hall and get in on this wonderful time.

If you have any questions, please contact Gregg at 510-795-1870 or email to dgfeeney@comcast.net

Gregg Feeney

Easter Lilies

The Big Church will be decorated with beautiful and fragrant Lilies for Easter to honor the memory or in thanksgiving of a loved one . A sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall and the suggested donation is $10.00 per plant. Please indicate "Lily Fund" on your donation. The cut-off date is March 27th to allow time for purchasing.

The names of donors and those honored will be printed in the Easter Bulletin.

Submitted by: Ruth Poole

Take a Hike

Not surprisingly, many St. James' parishioners enjoy hiking as the Bay Area is renowned for its multitudinous parks with hundreds of beautiful trails. Some have also expressed an interest or desire in group hikes. Consequently since both members of the Parish Life Cluster enjoy hiking, we have decided to walk the walk by announcing the first organized hike of the season at Sunol Wilderness Regional Park on Saturday, April 6th at 10am.

It will be a 5.5 mile round trip hike, with some moderate uphill hiking, starting from the parking lot at the end of Geary Road on the Camp Ohlone Road. You can download a copy of the map at http://www.ebparks.org/parks/maps#S. Assuming we get some more rain between now and then, the spring wild flowers should be in full bloom.

If you think that you may be interested in joining us for this hike or a future one, please let us know by email parishlife@saintj.com or by adding your name to a sign-up sheet posted on the Parish Life board in the Parish Hall.

Ralph Locher, Parish Life

Ducks for Bucks

GET READY TO ENTER YOUR ST. JAMES' DUCKS IN THE *ANNUAL "DUCKS for BUCKS"* BENEFIT RACE

Help St. James & Your Community!!
It's Our 9th Year in a Row!!

The Vestry has authorized participation again this year in the "Ducks for Bucks" program. The Kiwanis sponsors this annual event and provides community based organizations, like St. James', an easy, almost effortless, way to raise funds. So, be on the lookout for the guys in the duck aprons who will have Duck Race forms and are happy to answer any questions.

A letter and Duck Race form will also be mailed to parishioners in mid-March. We've had St. James' winners in the past ,and again this year we will have special prizes available only to St. James' Duck sponsors.

The race will be held on the last Saturday in April (the 27th) at Lake Elizabeth in Fremont where there will be a variety of activities including games for children, food, and fun. You do not need to be present to win the prizes.

For questions, forms, or information, contact Tom or Gail Blalock, (510) 490-7565.

Submitted by: Gail Blalock

Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday
March 24

We will begin outside with a blessing of the palms, followed by the reading of the Passion Gospel from St. Mark at the 8:00 and 10:30 services. A visual representation of Jesus' Passion will be displayed at the 10:30 service.

Maundy Thursday
March 28

A simple meal in monastic style will begin at 6:30pm. During the meal, we will have the a Liturgy of the Word and the rituals of foot washing and cross exchange. We will continue in the Main Church for Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday
March 29

From 12-2pm

A Service of Jesus' Seven Last Words with short reflections given by parishioners, prayer, and music in the Little Church.

From 2-8pm

Walking the Stations of the Cross in the Main Church, an activity for all ages that can be done anytime between 2 and 8, at your own leisure.

At 4:30pm

Holy Week for Children & their Parents and Grandparents. An age-appropriate look at Holy Week using story and crafts in the Parish Hall. Dinner included.

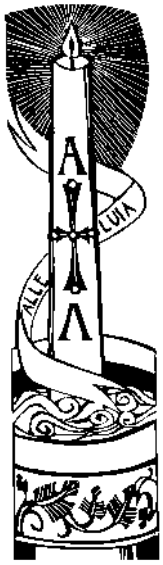
At 8:00pm

A Tenebrae Service of Readings and Music in the Little Church.

Easter Vigil
8:00pm March 30

On the Patio with Fire, Stories and Song!

Followed by the Proclamation of Easter and Holy Communion in the Main Church.



Easter Principal Service
10:00am March 31

A Festive Service in the Main Church with music and Holy Communion, followed by the annual Easter Egg Hunt for Children.

March Faith Formation

Music 102

For two class sessions Jennifer Carini tutored a class of parishioners teaching them the basics of reading music. The idea behind the two classes was to promote the understanding of all those lines and figures that appear in our Hymnal 1982 and other hymnals in order to give parishioners a better idea of the musicianship behind what they are singing. The content of the class was such and the participation created was so extensive that Jennifer did not finish the lessons. Demand for finishing the class has resulted in scheduling another class on March 10th in EB-1 at 9:15 am. This class will pull together the information from the two first classes resulting in literate singers at St. James' (or not—depending on the interest and aptitude of those attending). Come join Jennifer for this class. This is a wrap-up for singers who want more out of their hymnals.

Note that St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17th is a free day, a recess day for Faith Formation. Prepare for Palm Sunday on March 24th and Easter on March 31st.

Bruce Roberts

On February 12th, St. James' parishioners celebrated Shrove Tuesday with our annual Pancake Supper. It has been a long time tradition that the men of the parish do the prep, the cooking and the most fun of all, the cleaning. They "slaved", yes slaved in the kitchen, cooking a wonderful feast of scrambled eggs, sausage and fluffy pancakes.

This was a wonderful time to share fellowship and a great meal the night before we begin the Lenten Season with Ash Wednesday. Many thanks to all who helped out, especially the wonderful men of St. James'.

Submitted by: Gary Gearheart

Holy Week for Kids

Lent is a difficult season to celebrate with our children and youth; it includes some of the darkest and saddest stories of our faith. So often we skip from the Pancake Supper to Easter eggs and hope something of the stories in-between will be absorbed. For the last 2 years Lori has offered an imposition of ashes for children and youth in the Little Church following the Pancake Supper. This year we are building on our offerings to serve children and young people in Lent. We have events on Good Friday for children and their parents/grandparents.

Holy Week for Kids. Good Friday 4:30 pm-6:00 pm

This activity-based session with Lori and Jan will take place in the Parish Hall. As well as sharing a meal together, we will celebrate the stories of Holy Week from Palm Sunday, through Maundy Thursday and onto Good Friday. Children will leave with a family activity for Easter Sunday. This evening will enable families to work together on activities and to hear the stories that complete our Lenten and Easter experience.

Please sign your family up for this activity by email (Jan – ctfcoord@saintj.com) or on the list in the Parish Hall. Suggested donation of $10 per family is appreciated. To assist with food please contact Jan.

Interactive Stations of the Cross. Self-guided. Good Friday, Church 2:00 pm-8:00 pm

This self-guided walking of the Stations, or Way, of the Cross will be open all afternoon on Good Friday for individuals or families to walk. A special booklet of activities/prayers is available for children/young people to experience this activity at their own pace and level.

For more info on our events for families during Lent contact Jan Scrutton at ctfcoord@saintj.com

Stations of the Cross

For many people walking the Stations of the Cross is an important part of Holy Week. Reflecting on the experiences of Jesus as he was tried, sentenced, made his way to Golgotha and died on the cross, the practice of walking the stations is reflective and meaningful. The stations are often marked by art work and The Episcopal Book of Occasional Services offers a set of prayers for The Way of the Cross.

This year at St. James' we will be offering a self guided Stations, or Way, of the Cross on Good Friday. From 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Suitable for all ages, people will be able to arrive anytime during these hours and using the prayers, reflections, and activities provided walk through the last hours of Christ's life, reminding themselves of the events and reflecting on their significance for us today. A booklet will also be available for children (accompanied by an adult) and for young people introducing them to this spiritual practice and important story.

The interactive aspects of our stations this year, while optional, encourage us to think of the sights, sounds and feelings of that first Good Friday while also reflecting on our place as Christ's hands in our world.

If walking the stations of the cross is part of your Lenten discipline, we hope you will experience it anew this year. If it is a new practice for you, we hope it will enhance your spiritual life, whatever your age.

Jan Scrutton

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in April. 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:
Date Issue Deadline: March 15th

Vestry Meeting Update

The vestry met on February 14th where we centered ourselves on theme "How do we make God present in our church, our families, our neighborhood, our town, our world?" which we adopted at the vestry retreat. This accompanies the October 2012 Diocesan Resolution "How will what we are doing here affect or involve people living in poverty?" as the two key questions which would help to guide our discussions and decisions in the coming year.

Amongst the regular business, we received a report on the success of the McCutcheon concert, discussed proposals on a sound system for the Little Church, and the care of the painting that has hung for many years in the Little Church, which we now understand to be of "Madonna Del Cardellino" by V. Bianchini. We discussed the allocation of the Endowment disbursement presented at the annual meeting. We also held a lengthy debrief on the Vestry & Deanery Retreat which we attended at the end of January at Bishop's Ranch.

Do remember that you can view the minutes of past meetings at any time on the Saint James' Website.

Mike Scrutton
Junior Warden

Easter at Hillside Senior Care Center

Little Easter Bunnies will be delivered to the residents at the Hillside Senior Care Center on Thursday, March 14th. Please keep a watch for more details in the Sunday Service bulletin and the weekly emails for more information.

Thank you for your continued support.

Thank you,
Sandra Motley

Financial Summary January 2013

Fund Balances	1/31/2012	1/31/2013
Operating Fund	$ 75,992.81	$ 38,564.74
Building Fund	$ 36,555.62	$ 58,046.93
	YTD Summary Operating	
Pledges Budgeted	$ 19,734.13	$ 20,301.84
Pledges Paid	$ 19,432.00	$ 17,972.50
Unpledged Contributions	$ 901.00	$ 245.00
Other Op Income*	$ 1,008.78	$ 836.41
Total Operating Income	$ 21,341.78	$ 19,053.91
Total Operating Expenses	$ 18,671.08	$ 21,060.27
Income less Expenses	$ 2,670.70	$ (2,006.36)

*Includes Fundraising

Food and Fellowship Dinner

The next dinner will be on April 27th.
Look for more info in the coming weeks.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

St. James' Annual Easter Egg Hunt is just around the corner and we could use your help again this year. Bags of empty plastic eggs will be available in the Parish Hall as of March 8th ready to fill. We invite you take a bag or two and return them filled with wrapped treats or child friendly items by March 29th or on Easter morning by 8:00 am.

There is only one service on Easter at 10:00 am and the Easter Egg Hunt will take place directly after the service.

Parish Life

St. James' Library

As I started *Spring Cleaning* a bit early, I came across a dish, a set of gloves and oops, a book from the St. James' library. Each of these were either left at our home from family or friends, but the book, well that was on me.

If you have a book from the library that you have finished reading, please drop it in the return book box next time you are at church Also, if you find a book that needs some TLC, please fill out a repair slip and attach it to the book and place in the Library TLC box. Both boxes are located next to the office side bookshelf.

Thanks for you help and continued support of our church library.

. Penny Trant
Church Librarian

My New Ministry

Dear People of St. James',

First of all — Thank you so much for being who you are and for the wonderful send-off to my new ministry with Deaf People. Lori suggested and I heartily agree that it would be a good idea for me to let you know what is going on in this new work.

My mission this past year has been to become more familiar with Fremont as a Community and St. James' as an Episcopal Church in that community. Soon after arriving at St. James' I made visits to Fremont Oaks Gardens and the School for the Deaf (CSD). However, I soon realized that I had much personal work to do to get settled in our new surroundings. Part of that process was becoming familiar with the church and the community. It has been a wonderful growing experience. It is now important for me to take the next steps.

I am now officially a volunteer for Satellite Housing with the goal of working with deaf senior residents and the community at Fremont Oaks Gardens. I am also a volunteer at California School for the Deaf. These activities I feel confident will lead me deeper in the community of deaf people in Fremont/Newark and perhaps Walnut Creek.

Another goal is to become reactivated in the Community of The Episcopal Conference of the Deaf. Hopefully to participate in joint ministry with the Evangelical Lutheran Church which is in full communion with the Episcopal Church. On July 28th through August 2nd there will be a convention in Liverpool, New York of deaf ministry that involves these two denominations. It is my hope to be a participant in that convention. As a past president of the ECD I have many friends in that community.

In any missionary work it is extremely important to get to know the people of the community. We do not make assumptions but join people where they are and see how we can bring our special spiritual gifts into relationships. This is what needs to happen for the Episcopal Church to become a presence once again for deaf people in the Bay Area. To accomplish this

(continued - My New Ministry)

I will be attending various services with deaf people in other churches as well. This will mean our attendance at St. James' will be in accordance to that schedule of events. On many Sundays I may be at the early service but not at the 10:30 am service. On Wednesdays mornings I will have meetings with deaf people at Fremont Oaks Garden at least twice a month.

In my last words with you I mentioned that the church will never be the same and this is true with deaf ministry as well. The internet is effecting the deaf family of Christ in ways that are very profound. It is with profound feelings of gratitude that we at St. James' may be able to be a small part of that ground swell of change.

I have promised our Archdeacon, Carolyn Bolton, to keep her informed on the progress being made and of course it will be important to keep St. James' informed as well.

I remain among you as one who serves in the Deaf Community.

In Christ's Love --- The Rev. Deacon Bill Mosier

Spring Forward

Spring is almost here and hopefully also some warm, sunny days as we move into Daylight Savings Time. On Sunday, March 10th at 2:00 am, it's time to "*Spring Forward*" and turn your clocks ahead one hour .

Most think they loose an hour's sleep; I like to think you can enjoy your day an hour earlier. So don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour and you won't be late for church.

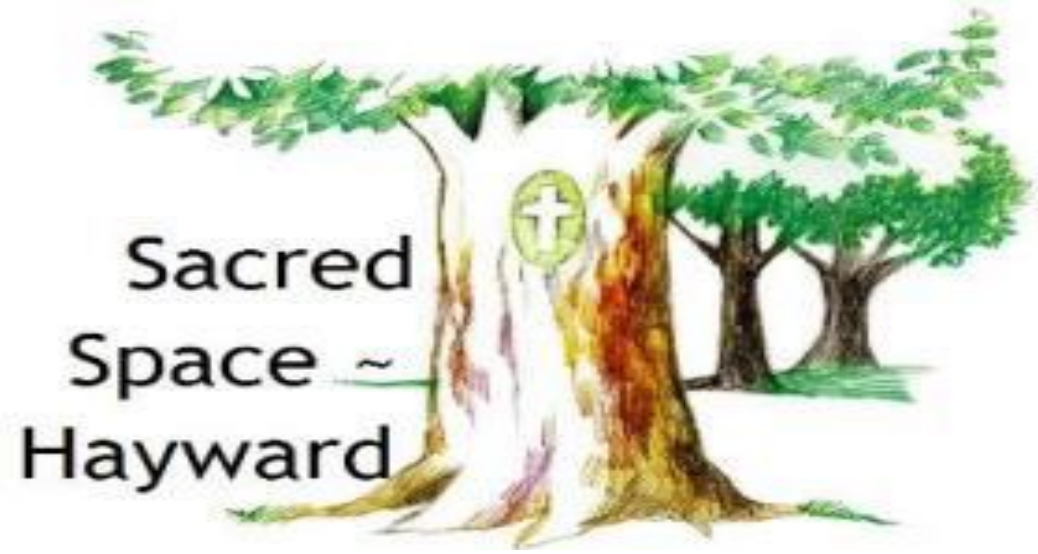
HAPPY SPRING DAYS!!!!

Submitted by: Penny Trant

Help us to reach 100 likes by Easter!

Visit saintj.com and click on the icon, then click Like.

Do you Like Saint James'?



When I started writing this article it was just going to be a quick paragraph about Sacred Space Hayward with times and dates for the Sunday Service. Then suddenly a quick note became a full blown article. I will admit I write the same way I talk, sometimes a bit much, but I feel strongly about this subject and the impact it has made in my life.

Last March our Priest, Lori wrote an article about '"taking it to the street' as Jesus did; that is, letting our faith be a beacon to others, a source of warmth, welcome, and care, and an unapologetic expression of our own walk with Christ."

Then the next month in April, she wrote about Reverend John Trubina, a vocational deacon who with support from the Diocese and Deanery churches has started both Sacred Space Oakland and Sacred Space Hayward. Well it's been a year and Sacred Space ministry is going strong with over 40 in attendance on any given Sunday. Yes, it's a service that is held outdoors, rain or shine, celebrating God with song, prayer, communion, and fellowship and a meal.

The churches in our deanery rotate Clergy and Lay leadership once monthly to serve at Sacred Space Hayward. Parish members provide bag lunches and during the recent cold months, hot meals, drinks, eyewear, clothing, whatever that may help and support those who attend. Many of us go a couple of times a month to support and take in this wonderful ministry.

Ken and I have met many members and clergy of other churches in our deanery and people within the Hayward community over this past year. You begin to recognize faces and things feel very familiar; a church family.

As Lori did last April, I would also like to invite you to sign up to help for the monthly Sunday that St. James' serves or just come down any Sunday at 2:00 pm to Sacred Space Hayward, located on "B" Street behind BART. You *will* leave with more than you came.

I would like to especially thank Gary Gearheart who keeps us organized and present and the wonderful people at St. James' who have come out and been an integral part of this ministry, sharing of themselves, making and serving meals and keeping "Sacred Space" going strong. I am reminded of a well known bible verse, Acts 20:35; "And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is better to give than to receive'." I can only say I believe in the true spirit of this statement, but I have received so much more than I could ever give being a part of Scared Space.

If you have any questions, please contact Gary at socialministries-congcare@saintj.com

Penny Trant

ST. JAMES' PRAYER LIST

Most Holy God, we pray 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

Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Naudia, Paula, Paul, Jordon, Deja, Rhonda, Kenny,

Families Expecting Children: Candace, Ann and David, Jana and Mike, Erica, Amaya, Lacy, Tarka and Joey, Hoa and Erik

Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Philip, Dwarka, Dana, Brenda, Teri, Ed, Brad, Victor, Clayton, Peg, Lexie, Ann, Selina, Margaret, Robert, Megan, Catherine, Marco, Shawn, Sandy, Jan

Those Who Have Passed Away: Jack, Patsy

Submitting Prayer Requests

To add someone to the "Special Prayers List", please complete a pew card and place it in the offerings plate at Sunday Service or send an email the church office with the name and reason for prayers. After six weeks, names are removed from the list. Please renew your request as needed.

Thank you.

For the St. James' calendar, please refer to our website saintj.com

March Birthdays

1 Dwarka Sankar
2 Penny Trant
3 Emily Locher
7 Kimberley Maxey
8 Jan Scrutton
12 Wayne Kimmel
14 Jennifer Carini
15 Polly Nelsen
Kelly Lowe
20 Bill Spalding
Laura Castaneda
21 Debbie Fuller
24 Alice Johnson
25 Janet Fischer
Pat Spencer
Ian Perry
26 Pat Spalding
28 Deja Singh

March Anniversaries

13 Jack and Connie Rux
25 Paul and Nancy Svenson
30 Bob and Roberta Tomkinson

Please note: If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect or your name(s) is not listed, please email the appropriate information to admin@saintj.com

Thank you!!

SAINT JAMES'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace
PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94537-0457
WEB: 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
The Rev. Bob Dobbin ..... deaconbob@saintj.com
Music Director ..... music@saintj.com
Children, Teen & Family Coordinator…… ..... ctfcoord@saintj.com
Office Administrator ..... admin@saintj.com
Treasurer ..... treasurer@saintj.com
Newsletter submission ..... window@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
Gary Gearheart, 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
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