



The Window

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

May 2013

In the Face of Uncertainty

If I were to name one of the great losses of the 21st century, I suppose I would name the loss of certainty. Not much seems to be a given anymore. We cannot be sure that working hard and paying our bills will lead to security. We cannot know for certain that a good education leads to a good career. Being free doesn't allow us freedom from poverty. Even the things that used to seem so concrete are no longer so – the icecaps may not survive, we can no longer assume safety in public places, and the institutions that used to make up the core of our country are found weak and unstable. Surely, there is no greater time for God than these times. Yet even our beloved religion faces an uncertain future. Sounds a bit dismal, doesn't it?

The problem with uncertainty is that it can force us to go one of two ways – we either slip into a denial that things are changing and we grasp desperately to what once was, or we face things head-on, suck in our breath, adopt a fatalistic stance, figuring we have no control anyway so we might as well get through it.

And yet – we follow Jesus Christ who throughout his life taught a third way. When faced with the choice between violence and passivity, for example, Jesus taught that the power within was greater than violence and often more useful than our passivity. When facing the Roman Empire's demand to quiet down and the Jews' cry for a conquering Messiah, Jesus offered a third way of humility and strength, love and servanthood.

So, following Christ as our model, perhaps in these uncertain times we, too, can find a way that gives others and us something to hold on to. Perhaps what we hold on to is an awareness of possibility, of growth, of transformation that brings life and wholeness, and maybe even a miracle or two. When

things change, we are given an opportunity to see things differently than before. We are given a window in which our world can expand, our vision can be stretched, and our hearts can be broken open to love even more.

With economic uncertainty, we can see the potential of new ideas that launch new industry and individuals learning to reinvent and market themselves. We can also see a redefinition of what it means to succeed and a recasting of who gets to define the American Dream. The uncertainty of our environmental health brings the potential for new scientific discoveries and a new awareness of just how important our treatment of the earth is. The lack of safety in public places is causing us to do the important work of re-examining our individual rights in light of our most precious commodity, the human life, and weakened institutions have thrown a light on poor business practice and corruption that simply needed to be unveiled.

Change is upon us; there is no stopping it. But with that change, by the movement of the Holy Spirit, also comes new life. To quote Sister Joan Chittister, "*Conversion is the opening of the heart to the grace of new possibilities. It does not blame God for plotting nefarious plans to test and try and torment us. It recognizes in the glory of new life that God simply companions us, simply stands by ready to receive our tattered, restless selves, as we are tested, tried, and tormented by the machinations of life itself. God guides us to new life by allowing us to open our eyes to the possibility and find it for ourselves.*" (*Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope*, pg. 25)

Lori

Stewardship Corner

Celebrating Friendship

Friends are an important part of our well-being. We all have basic needs for community and for the fellowship of others. Friends help us to grow, comfort us in times of need, and laugh with us or help us laugh when we become too serious. Different types of friends help us explore the different needs in our life. Every friend gives us something unique and adds something special to our existence. We don't usually think of friendship as a gift we must steward but rather think of it as a benefit for ourselves.

If you were to ask just about anyone at St. James' what makes them feel good about St. James', I'd be willing to bet that one of the top two responses would be "the people." We are all important to the Lord Jesus, and we are all important to each other as well.

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." (John 15:12-15)

Cherish and nurture your friends at St. James' and in your daily lives. Like a garden that needs care and nourishment to grow, so do our friendships. Cultivate new friendships. When you see someone on Sunday morning you don't know, introduce yourself and invite them for a cup of coffee in the Parish Hall. Just last Sunday Lori reminded us to wear our nametags to make it easier for Deacon Ken to know who we are. It also helps us to know each other better. I must confess that I need to do a better job of putting on my nametag. I will work on it. Will you join me?

Friends are special because they make us glad that we are who we are. Be a steward of friendship, remember your friends and don't take them for granted. Thank the Lord and thank them for being your friend. And I challenge you to welcome a new friend into your life next Sunday morning!

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

Spring Service Day at The Bishop's Ranch

Saturday, May 4

Come help improve the environment of the Ranch through hands-on projects. Participants will work with Ranch staff to improve the gardens or work on conservation projects in the woods, depending on the day and the weather.

This Service Day is held from 9:30am until 3:30pm and includes lunch. This is a great way to spend the day outside, learn new things about the Ranch environment, and meet new friends. Come broaden your knowledge of the Ranch and help create a more harmonious place of renewal for all.

Wear work clothes and bring work gloves, a hat, sturdy shoes or boots, and a water bottle.

Date: Saturday, May 4th, 2013

Time: 9:30am - 3:30pm

Fee: There is NO CHARGE for your ministry. Lunch will be provided in the Refectory.

You are welcome to camp free of charge at the Ranch on Friday and/or Saturday night. Additional meals, starting with Saturday breakfast, are also available for a fee.

News from John Baker

(The following is an extraction from his latest email after finishing his hike on the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Editor)

The trail is remarkable but not without some pain and agony and certainly many angels carried us along. I placed stones on the camino in honor of St. James' people for all you do to promote peace and equity in community. Do see the film *The Way* and/or read Paulo Coelho's book *Pilgrimage*. Both excellent.

Agape, John

Sunday School

Celebrating Holy Week

Vacation Bible School

This year we took on the challenge of bringing those important stories of Holy Week to our children in Sunday School. On Palm Sunday they followed the cross into church with a pull-along donkey!

On Good Friday our Stations of the Cross were set up around church offering an interactive or reflective experience for everyone, from a three-year-old collecting the stamps to complete the prayer to 11-year-olds reflecting on Jesus' last day, and on to adults experiencing the stations anew. Activities included tasting salt to be reminded of Jesus' tears, kneeling on stones to reflect on Jesus' falling on the road to Golgotha and thinking of places to pray for in the world.

Also on Good Friday five families gathered for Holy Week for Kids. This was an opportunity to share the stories of Holy Week using crafts, stories and activities as well as to share a meal together. Laughter was heard as children were involved in washing of feet to remember Maundy Thursday.

Palm branches were waved and an activity for Easter Sunday was taken away. Our youth group joined the Easter Vigil on Saturday night with their skit about The Creation (name that monkey!) and slept over at church to welcome in the Easter morning with walking the labyrinth and a great breakfast.

With 40 children hunting for Easter Eggs after church on Sunday the energy was high (and some of the eggs were pretty high up too as the youth group had hidden them!)

Thank you to everyone who played a part in bringing this week of activities to all our church families, and especially to the parents and grandparents who bought their children along.

Jan Scrutton



Save the dates!

We are starting our countdown to this summer's VBS when we will celebrate **Christmas in July** from July 22-26. Thank you to everyone who has donated resources so far. A new list of items will be out soon!

If you would like to volunteer for VBS this year, as a leader or in helping to set up, prepare or take down, please let Jan know.

We have two leaders meetings planned on April 30 and June 6. On April 30 we will look over the whole outline and think about additional crafts and activities we can use while on June 6 we will have our "try a craft night" where leaders get to try some of the activities we are offering.

New and experienced volunteers are all welcome.

For more info please contact Jan Scrutton ctfcoord@saintj.com

Pictures by Jan Scrutton

Faith Formation Programs in May

May 12th

What is this Vestry Business All About???

"Someone has asked me to stand as a candidate for Vestry and I haven't got a clue as to what this means. What should I do? How do I get some information on this? It sounds very important.

“Help!!”

Every November/December members of our congregation face this question as we prepare to elect new members for terms of office on the Vestry. So, we decided to get started early to address some of the concerns that may help us all to have a better understanding of the What, when, why, how of Vestry.

On May 12th at 9.15am in EB1, the Faith Formation Committee is featuring Mike Scrutton, Jr. Warden and Donald Razzolini of the Social Ministries/Congregational Care Cluster to facilitate discussion on the work of the Vestry at St James'.

They will address such questions as:

- What is Vestry?
- What does Vestry do?
- What is the term of office?

Janet Fischer, Sr. Warden will also be present to answer questions as needed.

This discussion will introduce some of you to an, enhance the understanding of others to this very important organizational component of Parishes in the Episcopal Church. Please bring your questions (coffee, snacks) and join us for what should be a very lively discussion.

EJ Hilliard

May 19th & 26th

Nature Spirituality

otherwise known as paganism.



We have explored many other faiths as part of “comparative religions” classes, but we’ve never taken a look at one of the fastest growing religions today: paganism.

Misconceptions of paganism abound: that they worship Satan (they don’t actually believe in Satan), they worship multiple gods (some do, others are monotheistic), paganism isn’t really a religion (the government says it is, and so does the military), pagans have no morals (they actually have strict moral codes), they’re just weird, crystal-ball gazing, tarot-card reading flakes who can’t find a decent job. Don’t let the Hollywood stereotype fool you. Come and judge for yourself!

On May 19 and 26 at 9:15am in EB1, Ava Moore and Janet Fischer will take you on a gentle exploration of pagan religions. Who are these people, what do they believe, and should you be afraid of them? (Hint: No!) Come and see.

Janet Fischer

Financial Summary April 2013

Fund Balances	<u>3/31/2012</u>	<u>3/31/2013</u>
Operating Fund	\$ 68,777	\$ 46,809
Building Fund	\$ 33,105	\$ 57,059
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	\$ 59,202	\$ 60,906
Pledges Paid	\$ 51,697	\$ 55,328
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 1,196	\$ 1,825
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 3,126</u>	<u>\$ 6,370</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ 56,019	\$ 65,010
	<u>\$ 60,564</u>	<u>\$ 58,667</u>
Income less Expenses	\$ (4,545)	\$ 6,343

*Includes Fundraising

April Vestry Meeting

The Vestry met in April in continued service to the community and the parish. Amongst the topics:

We discussed the Certification of the Parish Parochial Report for 2012. We submit this annually to the National Episcopal Church as part of its survey of church strength. Our report included the interesting note that we have an active membership of 361 members, up 6 from last year.

Janet Fisher, the Senior Warden, read a note of thanks to the Vestry from the Reverend Bob Dobbin who retired earlier this year.

We also recorded our appreciation of the volunteers who are helping to run the church office smoothly while we seek a new office administrator – the process of hiring a replacement is well under way.

The Vestry voted to approve the new Endowment Board members, Jan Brandt and Scott Whitaker.

Mike Scrutton, the Junior Warden, highlighted the new Parish Events Calendar, which can be found online at saintj.com. A separate calendar which is used to administer use of church facilities is also accessible via the website. The Junior Warden is looking after bookings of facilities in the absence of a full-time office administrator.

If you're interested in hearing more about the work of the Vestry and what it's like to serve, join current members Donald Razzolini, Mike Scrutton and Janet Fischer at Faith Formation on May 12th at 9:15am in EB1.

As always, remember that you can view the minutes of past meetings at any time on the [St. James' Website](#).

Mike Scrutton,
Junior Warden



The Comforters are Back!

The Comforters at St. James' began many years ago as part of the "Comfort for AIDs" project. We knitted and crocheted blankets and afghans for those with AIDS who were in hospital or hospice. Later, the ministry expanded to include those in nursing homes and infants in the hospital. We distributed the blankets through our deacons and through hospice workers. A few years ago, Comforters expanded to include prayer shawls. While the prayer shawl ministry has continued, the Comforters disbanded as it was getting harder and harder to find venues that would take the blankets.

Enter **Project Linus!** Project Linus is a national organization with a local chapter right here in Fremont. Its mission is to "provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers." Project Linus welcomes blankets of all styles, including quilts, tied comforters, fleece blankets, crocheted or knitted afghans, and receiving blankets in child-friendly colors. *Blankets must be new, handmade and washable. In addition, they must come from a smoke-free environment.*" Blankets are for newborns to teenagers. Please see their Web site at: <http://www.projectlinus.org/> for details and blanket specifications.

If you are interested in taking up your quilting, knitting needles or crochet hooks for this worthy cause, please contact Janet Fischer (jfischer357@ymail.com or 510-796-0158). First meeting is **Saturday, May 4 at 9am in the Vestry Room.**

Let's join the Blanketeers!

Janet Fischer

Easter Celebrations



Pictures by Bob Bynum & Ralph Locher



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, Robert

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction:

Shaun, Aaron, Barbara, Paul, Rhonda, Deja, Jordon, Kenny

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing:

Barbara, Marilyn, Paula, Selina, Ann, Verna, Ami, Jim, Donald, Jim, Katie, Megan, Don, Philip, Noah, Don, Marilyn, Rich, Manny, Michael

Families expecting children:

Tarha and Joey, Lorena and Luis

For Those Who Have Passed Away:

Bonnie, Brad, Patti

A's Night Baseball Game and Fireworks Show

The Southern Alameda Deanery has reserved 100 tickets for this event on Friday Night, June 14th starting at 7:05pm. The Oakland A's are playing the Seattle Mariners followed by a Fireworks Show. Seats are located in the first 20 rows from the field in the Lower Box Section. Ticket price is \$25.

To purchase tickets or for any questions, contact **Lauran Pifke at (510) 490-0553 or rector@stanneschurch.org**. Deadline to purchase tickets is Monday, May 27.

The next issue of *The Window* is in June. 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:
June Issue Deadline: May 15



May Birthday Celebrations

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Burtin Hart | 16 Jennifer Bodenrader |
| 2 Martha Kennedy | 18 Greg Scheuffele |
| Meg Williams | 20 Iris Noddin |
| 4 Margaret Singh | Jonathan Fuller |
| Marco Ramsamy | 26 Caitlin MacRae |
| 5 Sandra Motley | Betty McCoy |
| 10 Allison Ferro | 31 Suzanne David |

May Anniversaries

- | |
|--------------------------------------|
| 4 Al & Mary Casas |
| Bruce & Joan Roberts |
| 8 Gregg & Darcia Feeny |
| 19 Bob & Kitty Reed |
| 24 Burtin & Elizabeth Hart |
| Elsa & Lloyd Benedict |
| Jennifer Bodenrader & Jennifer Evans |
| 26 Cathy Knotts & Mitchell Pinnix |
| 28 Greg & Elaine Miller |
| Lori Walton & Ron Larson |

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



For the most recent St. James' calendar, Go to:
<http://saintj.com/wp/about-us/events/>



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
The Rev. Ken Parris deaconken@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](mailto>window@saintj.com)

VESTRY

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Junior Warden jrwarden@saintj.com

Mike Scrutton

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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