



# The Window

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

July 2013

## Bible Study: It Really Can Be For Everyone!

I haven't read the Bible in a long time. Sure, I listen to the passages read on Sundays and other occasions, but half of me says, "Been there, done that." and the other half simply cannot read scripture without hearing those old voices telling me what it's supposed to mean and what I have to believe about it before I've even had a chance to think. Those who know me know that I spent my teenage and young adult years in fundamentalist churches. I will say this for them: they know the Bible! In that culture Bible-reading is a high priority and preaching is strictly Bible-based. Unfortunately, they also often use the Bible as a weapon – with all the subtlety of a bazooka - to manipulate obedience to church authority and its selected social and political choices.

That's why it was a really, really big deal for me to commit to the "Read the Bible in a Year Challenge" at the beginning of Lent. Neither the size of the Bible nor the year-long commitment scared me; I was scared of my own reaction to reading it all again. But the years since my involvement in fundamentalism have not been idle; I've been studying a number of other approaches to the Bible and the work of modern scholars such as Borg and Crossan. I made the commitment in the hope that I would be able to read – and hear – the scriptures with fresh eyes and ears.

I am delighted to discover that reading the Bible again ("again for the first time" as Borg would say) is proving to be a very positive experience. The questions I keep in mind as I read are: "Why? Why are these things recorded in this way? What is so important that the writers wanted us to remember this?" For example, the Mosaic Law seems tedious as best and punitive at worst. But consider the situation of the Hebrew people: they had been slaves

in Egypt for around 400 years. There is no evidence, at least not in scripture, that they had a structured religion.

They were from the clan of Abraham and followed the clan's religious beliefs and traditions, but there are no details about what those were. They were slaves; they had nothing - twenty generations of nothing. Then they became free and had to create an entire polity from the ground up. So, verse after verse describes the decoration and ornamentation for priestly robes. To me this is saying, "You CAN have nice things. This is important. You deserve it." Priests cannot touch dead bodies. What did the Egyptian priests do? They made mummies. "You are different; you will not do what they did." Egyptian priests also shaved their heads and often their whole bodies. Those dedicated to the Lord were to let their hair and beards grow. It seems that many of the laws "given to Moses" stem from defining a new society and religion in opposition to the Egyptian culture from which they came.

As of this writing, the Old Testament reading schedule has progressed from the days of Moses to King David (approximately 300 years later). As events move closer toward the time that the stories were written down, details become more specific. The stories are often violent and bloody, with almost bigger-than-life emotions and battles and struggles. But through it all we can see these people's faith in God, even as their understanding of who God is and what God wants changes through the generations.

I'm so glad to be reading the Bible again!

Janet Fischer, Sr. Warden

### How Do You Steward Your Time?

The Scriptures say a great deal about stewardship because it affects virtually every aspect of our earthly existence. If stewardship, in part, is about giving, we cannot deny that one of the greatest gifts we can give others is our time, energy and affection. It does not have to be highly planned or costly, but giving a few moments or a few hours in humble and simple ways can be invaluable to the ones who receive it. And often the giver is enriched with more than he or she gives.

Time is also a gift for the use of which we are accountable to God. Like other assets, our time is owned by God and our use of it generally reflects our priorities. God gives time to us with certain expectations of how we'll use it. However we use it, we need to know we are accountable to God for it.

When I think of stewarding time, I am constantly reminded of the many people who volunteer their time in service to God through St. James'. A most recent reminder was the Sunday after the regular (3<sup>rd</sup>) Saturday work party. It also happened to be Volunteer Appreciation Sunday. The St. James' campus looked spectacular! The Memorial Garden looked absolutely beautiful and the plantings around the children's play area shouted out *come and play here!* What a difference a few hours once a month makes. Everyone is always welcome, no special skills needed, and best of all, the friendships you'll make are priceless. This is just one example. "The *Window* you are reading right now is another example of people volunteering their time to share God's message. There are many opportunities at St. James' to share your time and in doing so, you will also receive. So the next time you see, hear, or read--*volunteers needed*--be a faithful steward and answer the call!

*God, there is a time for everything. Help us to steward the minutes, hours and days that you have given to us.*

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

### June Vestry Report

The June vestry meeting was held on June 13. We discussed:

- Termite inspections and repairs to wood damage, fungus and dry rot in the main building on campus. The Facilities Cluster will get bids for this work.
- The list of current, active ministries at St. James' was updated.
- We discussed the upcoming All-Parish Retreat planned for October 5 with the Rev. Dr. Rob Moss. The Vestry approved the budget for this event.
- We discussed our upcoming St. James' Day on July 21, with a single service at 10am and pot-luck lunch to follow. We will again be joined by the Philippine Independent Church.

Janet Fischer, Sr. Warden

#### Financial Summary May 2013

Fund Balances	<u>5/31/2012</u>	<u>5/31/2013</u>
Operating Fund	\$ 71,036	\$ 41,883
Building Investment		\$ 10,000
Building Fund	\$ 30,201	\$ 47,159
<b>Year To Date Summary Operating</b>		
<b>Pledges Budgeted</b>	\$ 98,671	\$ 101,509
<b>Pledges Paid</b>	\$ 85,731	\$ 88,746
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 2,454	\$ 2,195
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 9,400</u>	<u>\$ 11,896</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ 97,585	\$ 102, 837
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 99,872</u>	<u>\$ 101,496</u>
<b>Income less Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (2,287)</b>	<b>\$ 1,341</b>
*Includes Fundraising		

## All Parish Retreat!!!

When: Saturday, October 5, 9am-4pm  
What: All-Parish Retreat!  
Where: St. James' Campus  
Your cost: Nothing!  
You Bring: Nothing! Except an open mind and heart.



Your vestry is planning an all-parish retreat, just for you. Just like a cruise, everything will be provided for you. All you have to do is show up! We have secured the talents of the Rev. Dr. Rob Moss, pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Master in Colorado. His work explores how the

church fulfills its purpose as part of God's mission of care and redemption in the world. The theme of our retreat will be: "Being Disciples in the World." Rob writes about this in a series of blog posts: "We Will No Longer be a Welcoming Church." Intrigued? Check out Rob's blog at

<http://daelcarev.wordpress.com/>

Details will follow as they are worked out, but know that there will be a track and activities for children, a morning and afternoon plenary session and breakout/discussion sessions, snacks, lunch, more snacks, and we will likely end the day with the Eucharist. Rob has also agreed to preach at both services the next day, Sunday, October 6. We are very excited about this event in the life of our parish and hope that everyone will mark their calendar and plan to attend.

Janet Fischer, Sr. Warden

## Vacation Bible School Preparation



*Photos by Bruce Roberts*

## Vacation Bible School



It is not too late to get involved in our Vacation Bible School this summer. For 5 mornings (22-26 July) Christmas will return to St. James' with crafts, music, games and fun. Preparations are well underway and

some of the volunteers had a fun evening in June trying out some of the crafts we will be doing. We look forward to sharing the fun at church on July 28, VBS Sunday.

To register a child (Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade) check out the form on the website, [www.saintj.com](http://www.saintj.com). To volunteer: contact Jan Scrutton, [ctfcoord@saintj.com](mailto:ctfcoord@saintj.com).

# St. James' Feast Day Celebration

**Sunday, July 21, 2013**

**Join St. James' and the Philippine Independent Church for a single service at 10am followed by a potluck and fun festivities**

This will be the fifth time that we have concelebrated St. James' Day with the Philippine Independent Church and it has always been a joyous, fun-filled day.

The Parish Life Cluster has posted sign-up lists:

1. Who are planning to attend and what food items they wish to bring. Parish Life will provide soft-drinks, ice tea, bottles of water, etc.
2. Volunteers to help set-up and clean-up.
3. Portable canopies to provide shade.

We also welcome any suggestions about enhancing the celebration or questions by email at [parishlife@saintj.com](mailto:parishlife@saintj.com) or by our phone numbers shown below.

Parish Life Cluster  
Bob Bynum (510-659-1413)  
Ralph Locher (510-792-2248)

The next issue of *The Window* is in August. 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: **August Issue Deadline: July 15th**

## Is Your Pledge on Vacation?

If the answer is YES, then depending upon how you plan to pay it, please do one of the following:

1. Have your bank pay the church using bill pay. Be sure to put your pledge number in the memo box.
2. Mail your pledge payment to the church.
3. Drop your pledge payment off at church during business hours.

Any of the above will ensure that the church can pay its bills.

Thank you,  
Lynn Locher, Treasurer

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## American Sign Language Anyone?

If people are interested in taking sign language classes this summer, please email Bev Mosier at [bevjan@gmail.com](mailto:bevjan@gmail.com). Potential offerings may include:

1. A continuing class for those who remember enough to pass a simple "test."
2. A beginning class for newbies and repeaters who have forgotten a lot.
3. A children's class, if there are enough children interested.

Classes #1 and #2 would be for adults and youth with longer attention spans. Class #3 would be for school age children with more "active" learning styles.

Let Bev know:

- If you are interested
- Which class you or your child are likely to be interested in
- Adults and youth: which evenings (Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday) you would NOT be available.
- Children: if days or evenings would be better and when your child would NOT be available (Mon – Fri days and Mon – Wed evenings)

Submitted by Bev Mosier

# The Sights and Sounds of Beauty: The Episcopal Asia America Ministry Celebration



Music from Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, Korea, India, and Pakistan, readings in Cantonese and Hmong, taiko drums, a gangsa procession, a Japanese dance troupe, the Filipino Dance of Light, Lion Dancers, topped off with no less than ten bishops from the Episcopal Church! This is what made up the worship service for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Episcopal Asiamerica Ministry held at Grace Cathedral on Sunday, June 23. It was an amazing celebration of diversity, unity, and joy. Our Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori preached a heartfelt sermon about the history of Asian Ministries in our church, and the Eucharistic Table was presided over by The Reverend Doctor Fran Toy, the first Asian American woman to be ordained priest in the Episcopal Church.

Clearly, the Spirit of God blew through Grace Cathedral and continues to blow through our beautiful church. Sunday's service celebrated the many expressions of the Holy alive and well throughout our country.



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## Ever Wonder about Ladies Flatlanders?

It is that time of year again to begin planning for the annual Ladies Flatlanders trip. What you may ask is Ladies' Flatlanders all about?

Well, it is about the three F's.... Fun Female Fellowship. This annual trip has been taking place for well over 25 years. It started out with just a few women camping. It grew over the years to 40 or more women camping (all in tents). It is all about fellowship, sharing stories, sharing chores, sharing fun activities.

The Ladies Flatlanders weekend is held on the Thursday after Labor Day through Sunday. This years dates are September 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>.

Ladies join in for as many days as they can, sometimes only joining for 1 day.

This year we are once again renting houses at Pajaro Dunes in Watsonville. We have space for 26 ladies. We ask anyone interested to contact Mary Casas, Jackie Whitehouse, Nancy Castaneda or Dorothy Balderston.

There will be a sign up list in the Parish hall or fill out a flyer and leave it in the Narthex.

A deposit of \$150 is due by August 4<sup>th</sup>. The deposit covers the rental fee; there will be additional cost for food.

Hope to see you there.

Nancy Castaneda

# Graduation 2013

St James' has three high school graduates this year, and I had the privilege to talk with all of them. Ami Martinez-Locher (Washington HS), Ian Fuller (Mission San Jose HS) and Anthony Prickett (Mission San Jose HS) each received their diplomas in June. All of them have good memories of their time at school:

- Anthony mentioned his time in choir, and that he had the opportunity to help create and participate in a saxophone quartet. He is headed to San Jose State in the fall and will major in either Music or English. Someday he hopes to be a high school teacher or professor and share his joy of learning with others.
- Ami said the recent Senior Week was the most fun, and a favorite class was Psychology. She will continue at Ohlone in September, and looks to study Early Childhood Development. Being a Pre-School teacher is a dream of hers.
- Ian's face completely lit up when he shared his memories of his four years on the water polo team, especially that their team was league champions this year. He will put his experience to good use – he has a scholarship to continue playing at Cal Baptist University in Riverside. Not sure what he will study, right now Ian is thinking kinesiology sounds interesting.

All of them shared their good times here at St. James' also. Ian and Ami have been here as long as they can remember and enjoyed growing up in our midst. Both went through Sunday School, and Ami has taught some classes and worked in the Nursery. Ian served as acolyte a number of years. Anthony has attended about two-three years, and was confirmed at the cathedral last November. He has played music before the 10:30 service a few times, and hopes to do more this summer.

Special times mentioned were varied – Anthony likes hanging out with his friends at church, and likes Lori's sermons. Ian's best memory is from earlier this year. He had knee surgery and was away a few months; when he returned he experienced great support from the whole congregation and appreciated it very much. He also likes the annual get-together

with the Philippine church, especially the people and all the great food. Ami thinks of St James' as her second family. She singled out the time when Bob Honeychurch was rector here – he really listened to her and truly cared about her thoughts and feelings. She also likes participating in our outreach to the children at Abode as well as helping serve dinner to the residents there.

Congratulations Ami, Anthony and Ian! We hope you continue to call St James' home for many, many years to come.

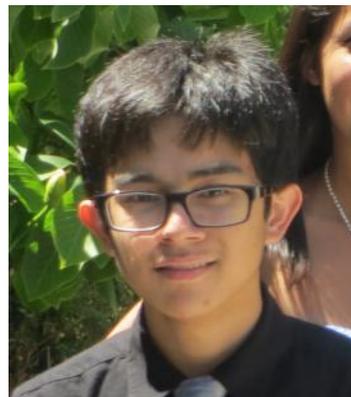
Submitted by Laura Winter



Ami



Ian



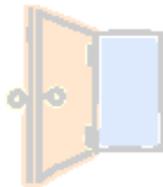
Anthony



## Transitional Housing Plus (THP+) Foster Care: Helping At-Risk Young Adults Transition to Independence

### THP+ Foster Care: Background

Through 2011, children in the California foster care system “aged out” when they turned 18 and were cut off from state support. Unfortunately, many 18-year-olds exited the foster care system into homelessness or extremely unstable housing situations, limiting their ability to secure a job, an education – or a future.



In January 2012, recognizing that some foster youth need additional support beyond the age of 18, California legislators passed AB 12, the Fostering Connections to Success Act. AB 12 gave young adults the choice to stay in foster care, with support for their basic needs and assistance from Child Welfare staff, until the age of 21.

### Preventing Homelessness Among At-Risk Youth

Abode Services has been serving emancipated foster youth for more than a decade through Project Independence, our homelessness prevention program for at-risk youth exiting foster care. As a way to provide additional support to vulnerable young adults, we will soon be opening our THP+ Foster Care Program. Through this program, youth who remain in care will receive housing, a monthly stipend for basic needs, and support from a case manager until they turn 21.

Instead of being at risk of homelessness, the up to 50 youths this program will eventually serve will have the help they need to grow into flourishing adults – and through Abode Services’ My First Home Program, members of the community can play a key role in supporting them through these critical years.

### My First Home: How You Can Help

You and the members of your organization can help the young adults in this program get settled into their first home of their own. In order for an apartment to be ready for a youth to move in, the unit must be fully furnished and stocked with basic food for a month.



#### You can help create a young adult’s first home by:

- Providing furniture for the new apartment, along with new or gently used linens, bath towels, kitchen supplies, personal hygiene items, and a stock of non-perishable food.
- A move in list of furniture and items needed will be provided for each new apartment.
- Storing all donations at your site until the apartment is ready for move in.
- Helping to set up furniture and stage and set up the apartment as needed.

For more information about the My First Home Program, [please contact Community Outreach Director Jean Morgan at \(510\) 657-7409 ext. 804 or \[jmorgan@abodeservices.org\]\(mailto:jmorgan@abodeservices.org\)](#).



## Faith Formation Is on Summer Vacation

Looking at Faith Formation from last Fall through Spring, we have had a fabulous run of subject matter and presenters. We finished "The Challenge of Jesus" begun the previous spring – Jesus as a challenge to the religious community of the time, and also to the Roman Empire – with Janet Fischer at the helm of the discussions. An early surprise star was Ken Trant who delved into people of faith. Bob Dobbin gave us a history of the development of the Book of Common Prayer. As she will again this fall, EJ Hilliard raised our consciousness regarding the Diocesan Resolutions prior to

the Diocesan Convention. Our Music Director, Jennifer Carini, turned her talent (twice) to teaching the unteachable how to read music, or at least made us aware of what those funny lines and dots are in the Hymnal 1982.

Barbara Dabney and Brian Cochran shared their knowledge of mystic Evelyn Underhill last fall and reprised their efforts reminding us of the tools in our spiritual toolbox. George Vlastelica shared his Korean War experiences telling us about faith in a foxhole. Janet Fischer took us into the world of the Book of Revelation reviewing Revelations by Elaine Pagels. Bruce Roberts reviewed Abraham Lincoln's belief in God and assisted Jim Cunningham in his discussion of his own life growing up in Montgomery, Alabama, and his observations of the Civil Rights Movement.

Janet Fischer tackled paganism in her presentations Nature Spirituality Practice, many of those practices not far divorced from our own. Ellen Cuzzo reminded us of our own mortality with her presentation on medical directives and hospice. The academic year finished up with a presentation on the life of Rumi and discussion of his poetry and its relationship to our own beliefs.

The question remains – were you there? And if you were, what do you remember, and did it increase your faith?

**A challenge to you.** What would you like to learn about your faith? What better way than to teach others about it. The Faith Formation team can assist you, and will gladly do so. Faith Formation Sunday classes will resume in September.

Bruce Roberts

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## Guess Who Came to Dinner? Twila Smith the Walking Seminarian!



*Photo by Bruce Roberts*

Twila Smith was welcomed to St James' by Greg and Elaine Miller, who hosted her for overnight. She also joined several parishioners at Mel and Alice Johnson's home for dinner on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

She is currently a seminarian at CDSP and this pilgrimage around the San Francisco Bay Area is part of her own spiritual journey. This is no ordinary pilgrimage as she is walking her entire route with plans to visit 70 Episcopal churches, two cathedrals and other sacred spaces, St. James' among them. She planned to end this "walk" at Grace Cathedral on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The dinner group asked gentle questions and heard several interesting stories about her venture, such as dangerous ravines, vanishing bike trails, no sidewalks and random revealing conversations.

Lori and Twila enjoyed a quick cup the next day before she headed off to St Anne's and then south to Milpitas.

Submitted by Alice Johnson





# SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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[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

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

### STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton ..... [lori@saintj.com](mailto:lori@saintj.com)  
The Rev. Ken Parris ..... [deaconken@saintj.com](mailto:deaconken@saintj.com)  
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*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*

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*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