The Window

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

Called to serve in new and loving ways

September 2013

Vitalized Ministry

I read a lot of material about what makes a church vital, and opinions change depending on culture, denomination, and location. One study that I read used the early church's vitalization and growth as a measure of today's contemporary church. In particular, the author looked at the writing of Luke found in the Acts of the Apostles:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

From this scripture, 10 characteristics are presented for vitalization, of which I've contextualized for our own community:

- **biblical teaching** – looking to scripture to help shape our common life.
- **quality fellowship** – a culture of mutual interdependence and respect.
- **breaking of the bread** – our lives grounded in the sacrament of eating and drinking together as one body.
- **steadfast prayer** – praying together and individually for the concerns of the world.
- **supernatural awareness** – eyes to be able to see the miracles when they happen, and the movement of God in all things and people.
- **authentic community** – being together, not just during the great times, but also during the tough times; willingness to "do" community rather than walk away.
- **extravagant generosity** – a commitment to giving rather than getting, and being generous with all that we have – time, money, space, companionship…
- **genuine hospitality** – having an open heart and an open home that affirms the value of every single person.
- **grateful praise** – expressing thanks to God for all that we have and are.
- **spontaneous evangelism** – expressing our love of God and church as an overflow of our own vitality and full lives.

When I look across the landscape of our church, I see great signs of vitalization – authentic community that prays, eats, gives thanks, and welcomes others together. I see people who believe that church life increases their own vitality and take seriously the importance of being Christ-like. I see extravagant generosity and genuine hospitality in the way we open our hearts to others.

We have vitality, and we have momentum.

To build upon all that we've already done together, we are living into two very significant happenings:

The Rev. Stephanie Green will be getting up to speed as our Children, Teen, and Family Minister. Stephanie's hiring is a clear demonstration to your commitment towards being a vital church for all people. Because of your support, both financial and spiritual, we can now offer a fabulous resource for our whole church. While Stephanie's focus will be children, teens and their families, her work will strengthen all of us, and everyone will experience the impact of her ministry.

(Continued on page 2)

Stewardship Corner

Flourish the Faith

As I am writing this article in the middle of August, it is hard to even begin thinking about Fall and our Stewardship Program for 2014. However, before we know it, school will be back in session, the days will be getting shorter, the leaves will be turning their brilliant colors, and Fall will be upon us. So, what is happening at St. James' this Fall?

This Fall the Stewardship Committee will be sharing with the Parish the "Flourish in Faith" Stewardship Narrative Series, designed to complement and support our annual giving campaign. This year, six contributing writers plant the seeds of stewardship and faithful giving in connection with Luke's Gospel, beginning Sunday, October 6th, and continuing through November 10th. Pledge Sunday will be Sunday, November 24th.

Scripture tells us that God first placed human beings in a garden to practice stewardship: cultivating, tending, toiling and caring for God's garden (Genesis 2:15). From the opening verses of Genesis, God blesses and calls all of creation to be fruitful and flourish. As God's stewards, it is our highest privilege to use the gifts-relationships and resources-that have been entrusted to us to ensure that the entire created order reaches its potential of life abundant.

Our annual giving campaign is an opportunity for us to flourish in our faith. When we are intentional and faithful in our giving, we boldly tell the world that we want to grow in putting our trust in God. Over the next several weeks, I hope you will read the bulletin inserts written by Episcopal stewardship leaders across the country that will provide reflections on stewardship and faithful giving. Then, when it is time to make your pledge to St. James' Church for 2014, you will prayerfully determine God's will for the gifts and resources with which you have been blessed.

SAVE THE DATE! Our St. James' Stewardship Event this year will take place on Saturday, November 16th, when we will come together for dinner to rejoice in our rich history and celebrate the First Thanksgiving at St. James'. From 1867 to the present, St. James' Church has flourished as an integral part of our community. And, believe it or not, times have not changed all that much in 150 years! So mark your calendar for an evening of food, fellowship and fun! (Rumor has it that George V. will be playing the part of Bishop Kip. Will he outdo his performance in *"Stewardship The Musical"?!)*

Then on Sunday, November 24th, we will celebrate Pledge Sunday, the culmination of the journey when pledges will be completed and offered as an act of worship.

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

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Vitalized Ministry

The second happening is our **All Parish Retreat**, **Being Disciples in the World**. The vestry has put a lot of prayer, thought, and energy into creating a day that will emphasize the points of vitality in our community. We will have time to sing, pray, and talk about all that energizes us as Christians. This will be a fabulous day, led by the Reverend Doctor Rob Moss, and supported by the vestry and many helpers. Please do everything you can to be part of this day, **Saturday, October 5th**. Together, we will have a blast.

Saint James' is a community blessed with the gifts of the Spirit, and like the apostles, gifted with many wonders and signs. May we give thanks to God.

Lori

Endowment Board Report

At the last meeting, the Board acknowledged the six years of service by David Nelsen, which included four years as Board Chairman and Joan Roberts five years as Secretary. During their terms, the Endowment Fund more than doubled and over $5000 was distributed to the Parish. With vestry approval in 2011, management of the investment fund was transferred to the Episcopal Church Foundation, a non-profit, lay-led organization.

Members of the 2013-2014 Board are Tom Blalock, Jan Brandt, Marnie Hartmann, Sylvia Ma, and Scott Whitaker.

The Endowment Board will host coffee hour Sunday Sept 22.

Marnie Hartmann, Chair

September 2013 Faith Formation

School's resuming and I'm ready for Faith Formation to start as well. Hang on to your hats 'cause it's gonna' be a wild ride in September. Your Faith, controversial Diocesan Resolutions, Images of God, Obedience, and Brother Thay — all in one month. It is an eclectic group of subjects to keep you on your spiritual toes.

Faith: A Search for the Truth

Discussion Leader: Ken Trant
September 1, EB-1 at 9:15am

As you will remember, last year on September 2nd Ken gave a short talk on People of Faith in which he gave some "interesting examples" (Ken's words) of what faith is and of people who were considered people of faith by their peers. Ken's research answered the question of what is faith for him in Hebrews 11:1 – "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

One of Ken's concerns was "what it means to be a person of faith." So what does it mean to ***you*** to be a person of faith? But don't expect a lecture. Yes, Ken will start with an overview. Then he will ask a few questions, questions that seem to be on a lot of people's minds, to start the discussion that will lead…to we know not where.

Diocesan Resolutions

Discussion lead by EJ Hilliard
Sunday, September 8, EB-1 at 9:15am

Five Resolutions for Diocesan Convention October 26 at Grace Cathedral

- Peace, Justice and the Environment
- Gun Violence
- Disaster Preparedness
- Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies
- The Cassy Feast Day

Please join us and participate in the discussion on these important issues that will be on the Convention Agenda.

Note: It is important that Clergy and Deanery Representatives to hear as the Deanery Meeting will consider the resolutions at 2pm the same Day

Brother Thay: A Radio Pilgrimage with Thich Nhat Hanh

In Conversation with Krista Tippett
Discussion led by Bruce Roberts
September 15, EB-1 at 9:15am

Breath Prayer is a way of practicing mindfulness. "When you breathe in, your mind comes back to your body, and then you become fully aware that you are alive…and everything you touch could be a miracle."

Brother Thay is a Buddhist monk and peace activist. He first came to the world's attention during the war in his native Vietnam in the 1960s. He forsook monastic isolation to care for the victims of war and to work for reconciliation among the warring parties. He was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Feminist Mysticism and Images of God

Discussion led by Janet Fischer
September 22, EB-1 at 9:15am

Using the book, *Feminist Mysticism and Images of God: A Practical Theology* by Jennie S. Knight as a springboard, we will explore images of God that we grew up with, images we have now, and why it matters. Please join us for a bit of music, an assignment on board the Starship Enterprise, and a lively discussion around what God looks like.

Obedience and Action

A Conversation with Krista Tippett
and Joan Chittister
With discussion led by Jeanne Morris
September 29, EB-1 at 9:15am

Joan Chittister, a Benedictine, a Presbyterian Catholic, and a deep thinker converses with Krista Tippett regarding subjects such as why people spend time in bookstores rather than Church, and does one know, really know, one's values? What are the gifts of women in the church today? The root word of obedience is to listen rather than obey – how does that affect your attitude toward the Church?

As you can see from these snippets of the subjects advanced to you in September, we have great diversity of subject matter. It's time to put away the summer fluff and learn again! Join us in EB-1 on Sunday mornings and widen your spiritual horizons.

Bruce Roberts, Faith Formation Chair

"DISCIPLES IN THE WORLD"

SAVE THE DATE for our ALL-PARISH RETREAT!!!

When: **Saturday, October 5, 9am-4pm**

What: All-Parish Retreat!

Where: St. James' Campus

Your cost: Nothing!

You Bring: Nothing! Just 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 he 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

We will have a morning and afternoon session with Rob, breakout/discussion sessions, a program and activities for children, snacks, lunch, more snacks, and we will end the retreat with a celebration of the Eucharist. Rob will also 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.

So we know how much food to plan for, you must register in advance. There are two ways to register:

1. Complete the registration form online at www.saintj.com/retreat
2. Sign up on the board in the Parish Hall.

We look forward to sharing this day with you! Check http://saintj.com/retreat for updates.

Janet Fischer, Sr. Warden

Construction on the Little Church to Start

Repair and renovation construction on the Little Church will start as soon as August 30th, which will require that the 8am Sunday Services and the 10am Wednesday Services to be held in the Big Church. So starting Sunday September 1st and continuing through the whole month of September, those services will be held in the Big Church.

If construction concludes sooner than expected, we will switch back as soon as possible. All church equipment and supplies should be removed from the Little Church Sacristy and the furnace/electrical room until the work is finished.

Bruce Roberts

The choir season is upon us!

Please come join us in song!

The Adult Choir starts rehearsals on Wednesday, September 4th from 7:30pm - 9:00pm, and sings at the 10:30am service.

The Children's Choir will have its first rehearsal after the 10:30am service on Sunday, September 8th.

All people are welcome to sing with us! See Jennifer or any choir member for more information!

Jennifer Carini

Financial Summary July 2013

Fund Balances	**7/31/2012**	**7/31/2013**
Operating Fund	$ 75,418	$ 45,461
Building Fund	$ 28,389	$ 47,185
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	$ 138,139	$ 142,113
Pledges Paid	$ 125,372	$ 123,679
Unpledged Contributions	$ 3,044	$ 3,280
Other Op Income	$ 11,317	$ 14,345
Total Operating Income	$ 139,733	$ 141,304
Total Operating Expenses	$ 137,637	$ 136,384
Income less expenses	**$ 2, 096**	**$ 4,920**

Operating expenses do not include July payroll payment. When paid in August, expenses will exceed income.

August Vestry Highlights

Your vestry met on August 8. Below are some highlights of the business we conducted:

- We approved the next phase of renovations to the Little Church. Sylvia Ma, Bruce Roberts and Jim Cunningham reported on their work so far.
- We set the following dates on the calendar:
  Annual Budget Review: 1/12/2014
  Annual Meeting: 1/19/2014
  Vestry retreat: 1/24-26/2014.
- We selected a cleaning service from four bids to clean our buildings until we hire a new sexton.
- We recorded two email votes taken over the past month; 1) up to $10,000 for termite eradication and repairs. The Rev. Lori, Sr. Warden Janet Fischer, and representatives from the Memorial Garden met with the Facilities Cluster and the manager of HiTech Termite Control to scope out the work and set dates. 2) We approved the Letter of Agreement for The Rev. Stephanie Green as our new Children, Teen & Family Minister.
- We discussed the agenda for our parish retreat in October.
- We planned for our Mutual Ministry Review to take place in September.

Please ask any vestry member if you have any questions.

Janet Fischer, Sr. Warden

Calling All Comforters!

Please bring to church any afghans that you have made for Project Linus. I will be taking them to the Project Linus Coordinator in Fremont at the end of October. You can read all about Project Linus at: http://saintj.com/comforters. I'll take photos of our contributions for a later issue of the Window. We have plenty of prayer shawls on hand, but I'll take those, too, if you have completed any.

Any questions? Please email me at comforters@saintj.com.

Thank you!

Janet Fischer

A New Face in Children's, Teen, and Family Ministries

Greetings! I am delighted to begin serving St. James' as the new Children's, Teen, and Family Minister. I will be building on the excellent foundation set by Jan Scrutton and many others in the last year. It is an honor to come on board and I am very grateful for the warm welcome I have received from so many people!

I am an Episcopal priest with a passion for teaching people of all ages—and being taught by them. Perhaps I began discovering my teaching vocation in high school when my chemistry teacher asked me to tutor his son—in physics! Neither chemistry nor physics were favorite subjects of mine (I had to work *really* hard in both!), but I loved the process of learning together with another person—and coming to those shared "aha" moments.

From tutoring in high school to teaching Art History and Comparative Literature in university settings, I bring my passion for teaching back into developing programs for faith formation in the Church through a committed understanding of God's revelation through symbol, story, and the gathered community. At St. James' I look forward to weaving together original curriculum for the children and youth with our worship through the liturgical year, intergenerational fellowship, and service within the community. I am devoted to being surprised by the "teachable moment" and hope that you will, too. I invite you to join me in opening our eyes and our hearts to the everyday becoming revelatory, even the ridiculous becoming sublime!

The Body of Christ is to me the living church—the church that extends through time and through geographic space. I am grateful to join St. James' with my 6-year old son, Liam, at this time and inspired to be part of the ministering Body of Christ here in Fremont.

The Rev. Stephanie Green

Men's Outing

Back row: Mike, Bob, Dave, Gary, Greg, Al, Ralph
Front row: Stephen, Charlie, Ken, Bruce, Bud, Gregg

Picture credit: Bruce's camera

Thirteen of us "got away from it all" up in Arnold for a long weekend. Golfing was popular at the Sequoia Woods Country Club. Some hiked in the Calaveras Big Trees State Park while others proved once again that there are no fish in the Stanislaus River running through the park. Chief Chef and Baker Gregg wowed us with his epicurean chocolate mayonnaise cake.

Ralph Locher

St. James' Feast Day

Pictures by Bob Bynum

St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God, we pray for…

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

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Kenny, Robert, Heather, Brandyn, Muleeda, Jordan, Deja, Roger

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Barbara, Marilyn, Paula, Selina, Ann, Verna, Michael, Barbara, Laura, Anthony, Norene, Kathy, Barbara, David, Amos, Eric, Florinne, Isaac, Anapesi

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

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Brad, Don

September Birthday Celebrations

2 Bob Reed
5 Aurora Thompson-Lynch
7 Mel Johnson
8 Ron Larson
14 Jan Brandt
18 Rod Whitehouse
20 Barbara Lyon
25 Michael Aquino
Barbara Dabney
26 Connie Rux
Jeanne Morris
Mitchell Pinnix

September Anniversaries

3 Jon and Debra Fuller
11 Paul and Vicky Greening
12 George and Pat Vlastelica
18 Tim and Pat Spencer
21 Scott and Becky Whitaker
23 Bud and Pat Spalding
25 Frank and Rose Hoffman

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in **October**. 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:
Issue Deadline: September 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

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

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **8:00 am** Holy Communion **9:15 am** Faith Formation – Faith, A Search for the Truth **10:30 am** Holy Communion	2	3	4 **10:00 am** Holy Communion **6:30 pm** Tai Chi class **7:30 pm** Choir Rehearsal	Ladies' Flatlanders Trip **2:00 pm** Women's Spirituality Group	6	7
8 Back to School Sunday **8:00 am** Holy Communion **9:15 am** Faith Formation – Diocesan Resolutions **10:15 am** Sunday School **10:30 am** Holy Communion **2:00 pm** Sacred Space **6:30 pm** SaintJ Youth	9	10 **6:00 am** Bible Study	11 **10:00 am** Holy Communion **6:30 pm** Tai Chi class **7:30 pm** Choir Rehearsal	12 **2:00 pm** Women's Spirituality Group **7:00 pm** Vestry Meeting	13	14
15 **8:00 am** Holy Communion **9:15 am** Faith Formation – Brother Thay **10:15 am** Sunday School **10:30 am** Holy Communion	16	17 **6:00 am** Bible Study	18 **10:00 am** Holy Communion **6:30 pm** Tai Chi class **7:30 pm** Choir Rehearsal	19 **2:00 pm** Women's Spirituality Group	20	21 **9:00 am** Church Work Party
22 **8:00 am** Holy Communion **9:15 am** Faith Formation – Feminist Mysticism and Images of God **10:15 am** Sunday School **10:30 am** Holy Communion	23	24 **6:00 am** Bible Study	25 **10:00 am** Holy Communion **6:30 pm** Tai Chi class **7:30 pm** Choir Rehearsal	26 **2:00 pm** Women's Spirituality Group	27	28
29 **8:00 am** Holy Communion **9:15 am** Faith Formation – Obedience and Action **10:15 am** Sunday School **10:30 am** Holy Communion	30					

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY SERVICES 8:00AM & 10:30AM
FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY 9:15-10:15AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM
YOUTH GROUP SECOND SUNDAY 6:30PM
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00AM

OFFICE HOURS

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

STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector.....lori@saintj.com
The Rev. Ken Parris, Deacon. deaconken@saintj.com
The Rev. Stephanie Green, Children, Teen & Family Minister ..... stephanie@saintj.com
Jenefer Carini, Music Director.....music@saintj.com
David Goldstein, Office Administrator ..... admin@saintj.com
Lynn Locher, Treasurer..... treasurer@saintj.com

VESTRY

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

Other Important Coordinators

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

***The Window* Staff**

Ralph Locher
Marilyn Rose
Jack Rux
Penny Trant
Laura Winter

Article submission…..window@saintj.com