The Window

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

December 2013

An Invitation to Advent

This is what I know. The echoes of our sacred stories are written on our hearts and in the very depths of our beings. While we may be casting our vision towards Christmas, the journey from here to there is too relevant to set aside or rush through. The stories of Advent speak to each one of us in a very personal and individual way. As you read forward, think about how your life intersects with the movement of this season.

The First Sunday of Advent brings us the message of the in-breaking of Christ into our world, not for the first time, but for the second time, as in the memorial acclamation we say on Sunday, "Christ will come again." The in-breaking of Christ in our own lives may look like a new insight into a perplexing problem, an unexpected awareness of God's grace, a move towards healing or forgiveness that has kept us stuck in place. The lesson from Matthew assigned to the First Sunday of Advent compels us to "keep awake…for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming." *This week, stay alert to the in-breaking of your Lord into your everyday life.*

The Second Sunday puts John the Baptist in front of us. Often referred to as the final prophet of Israel and the forerunner of Christ, John pulls no punches. In the Second week, John shouts out , "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is our opportunity to both "turn around and be turned around by the work of God in us."[1] *This week, think about the areas of your life in which a turning around is called for.*

The Third Sunday both demonstrates the power of Christ in the lives of humanity, and compels humanity to bear witness to this power. "Tell John what you hear and see: The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." Christ has transformed, healed, and lifted up our lives in very real ways, and our response is to give voice to the power of God. *This week, tell another about the difference being a follower of Jesus has made in your own life.*

The Fourth Sunday focuses on the Holy Family on the verge of giving birth to the new covenant between God and People. It is the start of the paradoxical nature of the King of the Kingdom, an infant son born to an unknown peasant girl. In Matthew we read the now-familiar sentence , "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God with us.'" It is in this story that we recognize that "God with us" means that we, like Mary, are also God-bearers. Through divine grace, we can make God evident in the places seemingly void of God. We can point to the light in the darkness. *This week, imagine what action you might take to make God more visible in our world.*

Advent is not just a time of waiting, but is also a time for intentional engagement with the God who dwells in the inner most parts of our lives and our beings. May this season bring you the fullness of knowing this to be true.

Lori+

[1] ***from The People's Work, M. W. Merriman, 1993***

Stewardship Corner

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work" 2 Cor. 9:9

This year's Annual Stewardship Event on November 16th included the play, *"The First Thanksgiving at St. James' Episcopal Church"* and was followed by a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner complete with pumpkin pie! It was an entertaining evening due to the participation and support of a number of people. Again, the people of St. James' showed their spirit of community. I think we all will be looking at the windows in the Little Church in a different light (and also when we hear someone say "me, too!"). Highlights from the evening included:

- The Play beginning a few minutes late because the actors were also the cooks;
- Some of our "senior" members passing themselves off as the "youth" of St. James';
- The fanciful hats worn by Mrs. Mowry, Mrs. Bunting, and Mrs. Mosher;
- The historical view of our past presented by the ghost of Bishop Kip;
- The words of Treasurer Lynn Locher reminding us of what our gifts to St. James' accomplish and reassuring us that the Vestry provides diligent oversight of our finances;
- Rev. Lori speaking about the importance of pledging and the hope to have 100% participation in our pledge drive this year.

The realization that today we really are not so different from those struggling pioneers who had a vision and a dream of forming a church during a time in history plagued by bad weather, war, race relations, poverty, lawlessness, and illness was apparent. Those determined pioneers succeeded in forming what we today know as St. James' Church, and generations down through the years continued that determination and struggle to grow a church based on a shared belief in God and a gratefulness for all that God provides.

We are benefactors of that dream back in 1862. It is incumbent upon us to see that the dream continues to grow in our community. How do we do that? We pray and thank God for giving us this church and this community in which to share in God's work. Then we give prayerful consideration how we each may personally share our time, talent and treasure to further God's mission through the church.

November 24th was Pledge Sunday and as of the writing of this column, the results weren't known. We are hoping that every member will turn in a Pledge Form. It is not the amount of the pledge but why you give and the act of making a commitment with God that is important. A pledge may be modified at any time throughout the year should your circumstances change, so don't let that keep you from making your commitment with God. There are practical reasons for making a pledge (it enables the Vestry to plan for the coming year), and there are spiritual reasons (giving back to God for all that you have been given). If you haven't yet turned in your Pledge Form, please do so soon. If you need a form contact either myself or the Church Office.

Through this Season of Advent, let us be thankful for all that we have been given. For all we have comes from God.

Gail Blalock
Stewardship Chair

John McCutcheon Strikes Again

Can you believe this will be the eleventh year that John McCutcheon, famous songwriter and folk musician has performed at St. James'? Come January 20, 2014, it will be Concert #11 for John at St. James'. Isn't that too much? He performs at the Freight & Salvage in Berkeley each year; would you rather drive the 30 miles to Berkeley on a Monday night and drive home in the dark – or you could take BART?

Oh, you aren't aware of John McCutcheon? As a folksinger he has toured the country for over 40 years. As a musician he has mastered piano, guitar, hammer dulcimer, 5-string banjo, fiddle, 12-string guitar, autoharp and others you probably haven't heard about. When I say "mastered" I'm not making it up, he can really play with other master instrumentalists. He has written hundreds of songs and knows hundreds and hundreds more. Each year about this time he leaves the East Coast for his Left Coast Tour. One of his California stops is St. James', one of the most intimate venues to which he travels. He likes the St. James' crowd; we are lively, we love to sing along with John, and we request good songs, songs he likes to sing.

What has he been doing since his last visit to St. James'? He has been busy; among other things….when you talk to him, just ask him about his Australian Concerts this past summer.

So, John will "strike" again on Martin Luther King Monday, his 11th year with us. He comes in early for a sound check, has dinner with the McCutcheon Team, and sings until both we and he are tired. The show starts at 7:30 pm, and some of us don't leave until John has finished talking to folks in the Parish Hall after the concert, usually 10:00 pm to 10:30 pm.

We do throw in a prize drawing at the intermission, a chance for you to pick up a dandy prize such as a restaurant gift certificate, gift certificates for merchandise or services, and art objects. So no standing around during intermission, cookies and coffee are available while you eagerly await the drawing for your favorite item.

As was the case in 2013, a portion of the proceeds from the concert will go to Abode Services, which provides housing and services to homeless people in our community. Support Abode, support St. James'.

So, there's the windup for the pitch: Tickets remain at $25 (sixth year in a row) for adults, $15 for children under twelve (under 5 for free). Drawing tickets are $1 each or 6 for $5 and multiples thereof. Tickets go on sale in the Parish Hall on Sunday, December 8th. Tickets to the concert will make a great gift for the person or persons you love.

Bruce Roberts

P.S. - For additional information on John McCutcheon go to his website www.folkmusic.com

Relaxing after the concert with John McCutcheon at St. James'

Calling All Singers!

Anyone who would like to sing with the Adult Choir on Christmas Eve is welcome to do so! We will be singing "Gesu Bambino" by Pietro Yon and "For Unto Us a Child is Born" from Handel's Messiah, plus many of your other favorite Christmas Carols!

If you would like to join us for this wonderful event, please come to the following rehearsals at St. James' Church:

Wednesday - December 11th, from 7:30pm - 8:30pm
Wednesday - December 18th, from 7:30pm - 8:30pm
Tuesday - December 24th, from 9:30pm - 10:15pm

Please let me know if you plan to sing with the choir! You can email me at music@saintj.com or jennifercarini@comcast.net.

Jennifer Carini
Music Director

VESTRY MINUTES

The Vestry met on Thursday, November 14th, to discuss the work of the parish. Of particular note was a vote to designate $1000, from our special interest fund to be sent for Philippine Hurricane relief.

The Vestry heard a report on the Diocesan Convention, and an update on the ministry at Sacred Space following the vote by Hayward City Council to prohibit the distribution of food in public spaces.

Preparations for our 2014 budget are under way, and this will be a focus for the vestry over the next couple of months. Everyone is welcome to join our Vestry meetings, held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm.

Mike Scrutton
Junior Warden

Save these Dates In December

Faith Formation

December 8th ~ Vestry II (What does it mean to be on Vestry, etc.)

December 15th & 22nd ~ Discussion on Film, "Chain of Love"

Financial Summary
October 2013

Fund Balances	10/31/2012	10/31/2013
Operating Fund	$79,445.24	$35,614.98
Building Fund	$9,739.11	$36,793.67

Year to Date Summary Operating

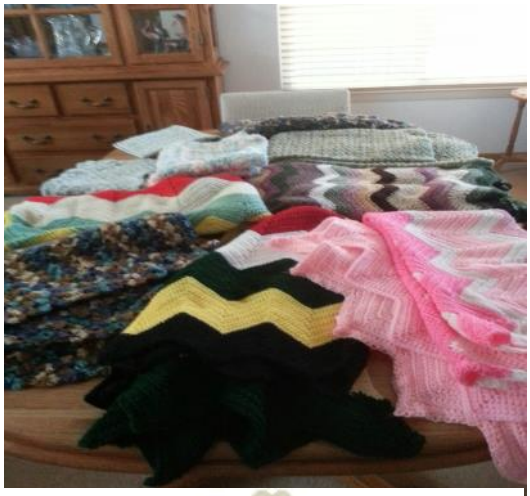
Pledges Budgeted	$197,341.66	$203,018.34
Pledges Paid	$184,508.74	$185,718.12
Unpledged Contributions	$4,324.00	$4,140.00
Other Operating Income*	$14,243.94	$17,817.46
Total Operating Income	$203,076.68	$207,675.58
Total Operating Expenses	$196,953.55	$212,859.70
Income less Expenses	$6,123.13	-$5,184.12

*Includes Fundraising

The Linus Project

In November, 10 afghans were delivered to the local chapter of The Linus Project, [link: http://www.projectlinus.org/] a national organization that collects and distributes hand-made afghans to children in the hospital. St. James' Comforters made these afghans in sizes ranging from "preemie" to young adult and in a variety of colors, as you can see from the photos! Grateful thanks to those who contributed their time and yarn to this project.

Janet Fischer
St. James' Comforters



2013 Pledge Update

Dear People of St. James',

Our church operating fund has been stable throughout the 2013 year. However, in October for the first time our expenses exceeded our income by over $5000. As of this writing, with two months remaining in our fiscal year, pledges are underpaid by over $17,000.

If you have not brought your pledged contributions up to date and you are able to, the vestry encourages you do so soon.

As always, thank you all for your continued support of St. James' and all of our programs and ministries.

Janet Fischer
Sr. Warden

Where in Our World?

Recognize what is in this photo? Have you seen this before? Where could this be in our world? The person who took this picture is asking just those questions. Do you have the answer?

Its location will be revealed in the coming weeks. The hunt is on!

Diocese of California Annual Convention - Grace Cathedral October 26, 2013

Bishop Marc Andrus presided. Enthusiastic song leaders helped open each session. The day was filled with lively discussion and debate.

Five resolutions, submitted by the Resolutions Committee, were all passed by the lay and clergy delegation. Details of the resolutions can be found on the Diocese of California website. A summary is as follows:

Passed: RESOLUTION 1: 2014 Peace, Justice and Environment: Resolved that the 164th Convention of the diocese of CA affirms our Baptismal Covenant to strive for peace and Justice; and resolved that the diocese designates 2014 as a year to educate, discern and engage in four quarterly program themes … as follows: 1) Human Trafficking Awareness Day, January 2014 or 15; 2) Environment Earth Day 2014; 3) Economic Justice Labor Day 2014; 4) Immigration International Migrants Day December 18, 2014.

Passed with substitute resolution : RESOLUTION 2: Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies: Resolved that… Executive Council actively works toward full divestment from all public equities or corporate bonds in fossil fuel companies as determined by the Carbon Tracker List. Substitute for Resolution 2: Sustainable and Responsible Investing: Resolved that … Executive council … work towards incorporating sustainable and responsible investment practices in the management of the diocesan endowment and Resolved that these practices be consonant with principles outlined by our Presiding Bishop …

Passed: RESOLUTION 3: Commemoration of the Rev. Peter Williams Cassey and Anna Besant Cassey (final version posted 10/18/13): Resolved that the diocese of California's calendar include the Reverend Peter Williams Cassey and Anna Besant Cassey's feast day of April 16….

Passed: RESOLUTION 4: Disaster Preparedness: Resolved that the 164th… hereby directs all congregations, diocesan institutions and offices within the Diocese of California to have current disaster preparedness plans…

Passed: RESOLUTION 5: Gun Violence Prevention: Resolved that all congregations … are encouraged to study the causes of urban gun violence, and to pray for peace in our streets…

Three additional resolutions were presented from the floor, and two of those were acted on by the assembled delegates.

Passed: Guantanamo: Resolved: that the 164th… call upon the President and the Congress to act to close the Guantanamo Detention Facility as quickly as possible, releasing to their home countries those detainees already cleared for release and transferring to federal prison facilities in the United States those detainees whose cases are still to be adjudicated….

Passed: Immigration: Resolved that the 164th … uphold family unity and the creation of a clear pathway to citizenship for currently undocumented immigrants as the guiding principles for the US Immigration policy and enforcement and, in this regard, deplore the inordinately high number of detentions, ICE holds, and deportations in the Bay Area, which actions are breaking up families and causing economic hardships for our immigrant brothers and sisters already living on the brink of poverty…

A resolution Promoting Justice and Peace in Israel/ Palestine was not acted upon.

Election results for the Standing Commission and the Executive Council were tabled, as there was a "vote of no confidence" in the tabulating machine. These ballots were later hand counted by Bishop Marc and the Standing Commission members. Results may be found on the Diocese of California website.

Bishop Millard was acknowledged by acclamation and resolution on his 99th birthday.

Additional reports were heard from the youth delegation as well as other diocesan groups/committees.

During the breaks delegates were treated to an array of informational displays from various diocesan groups. A lunch group also heard from Indian Bishop Singh.

In attendance from St. James' were the Reverend Lori Walton, Deacon Ken Parris, deanery delegates Jan Brandt, Alice Johnson, Jim McConnell, Scott Whitaker, and Resolution Committee member E.J. Hilliard.

Submitted by: Rev. Lori Walton

Faith Formation Series
Discussion on the Film
"Chain of Love"

<u>December 15</u>: Film: *Chain of Love* (50 minutes), with an Introduction by Janet Fischer, 9:15 am to 10:10 am in EB-1

In observance of International Migrant Workers Day (December 18th), Faith Formation is offering an anthropological film that looks at the global exportation of domestic labor—and maternal love—from the Philippines into the West.

In the year 2000, Filipino women's domestic labor in the US and Europe constituted the greatest source of income in foreign currency for the Philippines. Such a temporary boost to the Philippines' economy, however, often comes at personal cost to the expatriate women in the forms of long-term familial separation, subjection to unfair labor practices, indentured servitude through "sponsorship," and even an inability through indebtedness to return "home."

The film raises questions about globalization: Rather than linking economically and geographically disparate areas of the world, certain globalized practices of labor import/export may ultimately create a greater divide in the distribution of wealth - and social and familial stability- between affluent and "developing" countries.

More details about the film may be found here: http://icarusfilms.com/new2002/chain.html

Note: A separate program for children will be offered on December 15th to enable parents to attend Faith Formation on this day. St. James' children will meet in the Sunday School classroom and will be making Christmas cards to send to the students at St. André Episcopal School in Hinche, Haiti. There also be time for adult-supervised play on the playground.

<u>December 22</u>: Discussion of Film, *Chain of Love*, 9:15 am to 10:00 am in EB-1

What was new(s) to you in the film? What parts of the film were unsettling—or encouraging? How have your thoughts about the ethics of employing "nannies" shifted?

Might there be parallels between the situations of Filipino domestic laborers in 2000 and the high population of Filipino women working in health care in the Bay Area today, regarding their financial incentives and familial goals and sacrifices? How do race, gender and socio-economic status intersect to create positions of privilege and situations of oppression? How can this film help us to begin to understand the personal suffering of expatriate Filipino workers following the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan? And where does our Christian faith enter in?

These are some of the questions we will consider as we reflect together on the film, "*Chain of Love*" in our continued observance of International Migrant Workers Day which is celebrated on December 18th.

Note: Parents are invited to join Revd. Stephanie on the playground for discussion of the film following 10:30 worship and Sunday School. There will be no special childcare during Faith Formation on December 22nd .

Submitted by: Bruce Roberts

Getting into the Christmas Spirit (Ancient and Post-modern) - in Advent

By: The Rev. Stephanie Green

When many of us come upon a manger scene, we usually expect to find Mary, Joseph, Jesus, the Shepherds, the Sheep, the Wise Men, Angels, an Ox, an Ass, and a fair amount of straw. (Maybe even a star!) But who are these figures, all gathered around the Christ child? In recent years they have come to be for me, the young and the old; the rich and the poor; the uneducated and the highly trained; earth, animal, and the heavens; humans, celestial beings, and God. All creation, and all that was before creation, come in and around the Christ child at the manger. We are all there.

In Advent, as a church, we participate in the ancient longing for the Messiah and look forward to Emmanuel - God with Us - not only in the celebratory symbols of Christmas, but, traditionally, with hope and anticipation for the Second Coming of Christ. Yet it may feel as if we are somewhere between "a long time ago" and "a long time to come." ("Therefore you must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect." - Matthew 24:44) Advent is hence also a season to reflect upon how the reign of God comes into the in-between time of history and the interstitial spaces of our daily lives. We consider, through prayer, conversation and action, how we are preparing for God to be with us, and how, as the Body of Christ, we make way for the kingdom of heaven—for all of us—to be upon us in times, in places, and in communities where we may least expect that "breaking in" of love incarnate.

There is Advent, and then there's the rest of it: "'Tis the season for giving." So it seems, with end-of-year appeals for contributions coming from all those good causes we have supported at least once in the past (nicely coincidental with the end of the tax year), not to mention the potpourri of requests coming at us from within our own parish: the Sunday School children are collecting warm items for the people of *Sacred Space*; the Hillside Ministers are inviting $5 contributions for snow globe nightlights that they will deliver in good cheer to the elderly residents of the *Hillside Senior Care Center*; the Youth are collecting toiletries for victims of human trafficking in coordination with *Love Never Fails*; and all are invited (and asked) to make Christmas cards or bring used computers for the 800 children of *St. André's School* in Hinche, Haiti through *Amelie's Angels* (associated with Global Outreach Programs of St. Mark's, Palo Alto). At this critical time, each of us is also asked to dig deep into our hearts and search the possibilities of our pockets to assist the people of the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan Yolanda). The stories of loss and suffering are only beginning to unfold. Led by clergy, members of all ages, and friends of our parish, we at St. James' are giving space and time in our gathering, learning, and worship to devote ourselves as individuals and as a congregation to these several occasions for giving.

The spiritual discipline of Advent invites us quite literally, to "get into the Christmas spirit" when we make our gifts--to pray and reflect upon how, in our giving, we are intentionally participating in the hope and expectancy of "the reign of God." We may then act in the hope that our giving is "always already" a sign and a prayer for God's incarnate love in Christ: Emmanuel, God with us.

But how do we pray? As early as the sixth century the Church used each day of the week before Christmas to enact the longing for the Messiah's gift and glory for all peoples through a series of prayers still sung today, known collectively as "The Great O Antiphons." Each antiphon incorporates a name for the Messiah drawn from the prophets: O Wisdom, O Lord, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Day-spring, O King of the Nations, O God with Us. (These names may be familiar to many of us through the hymn, "O come, o come, Emmanuel.") The first letters of the Latin names (**S**apientia, **A**donai, **R**adix Jesse, **C**lavis David, **Oriens**, **R**ex Gentium, **E**mmanuel), when spelled backwards, form the sentence, "Ero cras, " or "Tomorrow I will be there." (Clever, eh?!) Although they were written centuries ago, these prayers, I believe, express hope for the very people to whom we are giving in this season of Advent.

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8 ~ Getting Into the Christmas Spirit)

For the victims of sexual slavery, O Adonai: "O (Lord) Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm."

For those without homes, hemmed in by socially structured poverty, O Radix Jesse: "O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer."

For the children of Haiti who will be given the charge one day of ordering their country, O Sapientia: "O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence."

For the bedridden elderly at Hillside Senior Care, O Oriens: "O Morning Star, splendor of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death."

And for all the people of the Philippines, O God with Us: "O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Savior: Come and save us, O Lord our God."

Ancient longing and post-modern, globalized Christian love: Through our prayers and our giving we find ourselves in the living crèche of the world, gathered around that tiny, boundless gift of love in Christ Jesus. ***We are all there.***

*Translations for the O Antiphons are adapted from those offered at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/O_Antiphons, a concise source for further reading (and in a world of shared knowledge, an anonymous gift!).

The Rev. Stephanie Green
Children's, Teen and Family Minister

Faith Formation Session
Vestry II
Sunday December 8, 2013
9:15 am ~ EB-1

In the next few weeks, outgoing members of the Vestry will be asking members of the congregation to consider having their names placed in nomination for Vestry.

- What is the Vestry?
- What do they do?
- What are the qualifications of candidates to run for Vestry?
- Why should I consider becoming a candidate?

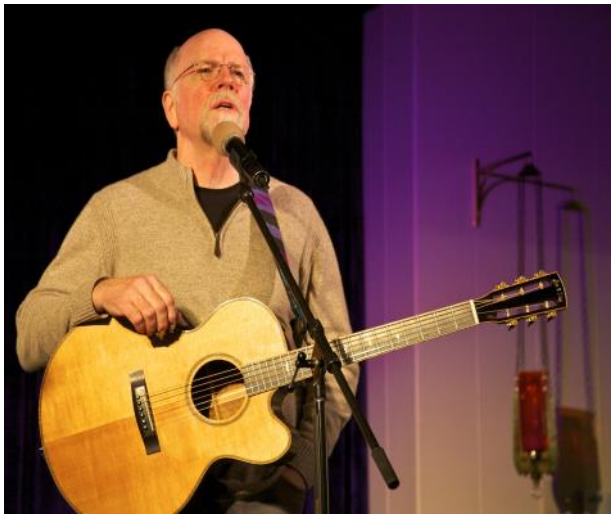
Dave Nelsen, ***Al Casas*** and ***Elizabeth Hart*** will talk with us about the above questions and what it means to be on the Vestry, as well as how much time is involved in being on the Vestry and what the responsibilities are, etc. Elizabeth will focus on her position as Clerk of the Vestry, an appointed position, and the record-keeping process of Vestry, and how the Congregation may access these records.

Please come and join us, especially if you are considering becoming a candidate for Vestry. This talk is for people new to the Episcopal Church and/or St. James' and for parishioners who want to know how the Church works and is governed on the Parish level. Please bring your questions and comments and join us in conversation.

We look forward to seeing and being with you on ***Sunday, December 8, 2013 @ 9:15 am in EB-1.***

Thank you,
E J Hilliard,
Faith Formation Committee

LIVE IN CONCERT



World-Renowned, Grammy-Nominated

Folk Singer/Songwriter

John McCutcheon

Monday, January 20, 2014, 7:30 P.M.

One Night Only

St. James' Episcopal Church
(Thornton Ave. at Cabrillo Terrace, Fremont)

Tickets on Sale now
Suggested Donation:
$25 Adult, $15 Child (12 & under)
Children under age 5 admitted free
MasterCard, Visa, Cash or Check

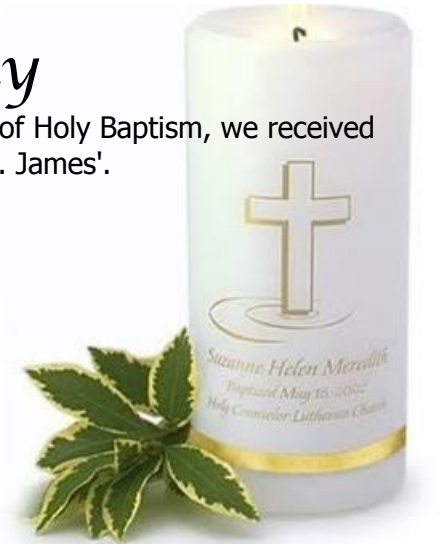
A portion of the proceeds from this concert will be donated to Abode Services

For information or to purchase tickets, contact St. James' Episcopal Church at 510-797-1492, ext. 4, or events@saintj.com

McCutcheon's latest album : *22 Days*
For more about the artist, go to www.folkmusic.com.

Baptism Sunday

On the Feast of All Saints, November 3rd through the sacrament of Holy Baptism, we received into the household of God, 4 members of St. James'.



Ollie

Gabby

Katy

Adam

Photos courtesy of Marilyn Rose

The Stable

The winds were scornful,
Passing by;
And gathering Angels
Wondered why?

A burdened Mother
Did not mind
That only animals
Were kind.

For who in all the world
Could guess
That God would search out
Loneliness.

Sr. M. Chrysostom, O.S.B.
Robert, Cyril. Mary Immaculate: God's Mother and Mine. New York: Marist Press, 1946.

Glory to God

It must have been quite a sight –
to see the angels, to look at the star,
to behold the Child.

It must have been quite a sight –
to see him flee to Egypt,
to observe Him talking to the elders,
to watch Him use a carpenter's tool.

It must have been quite a sight –
to observe His miracles,
to view His crucifixion,
to witness His resurrection.

And it must have been quite a sight
for him to see the reward
of His birth, His life, His suffering,
and His triumph being fulfilled
through the lives, the love
and the praises of His people
this Christmas season.

(taken off of a Christmas Card, author unknown)

Important Dates in January

***Sunday, January 5*:** *The celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany, the revelation of the Son of God with the visit of the Magi to the Baby Jesus. O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen."*

***Sunday, January 12*:** *Budget Meeting at 9:15am in the Education Building #1*

***Sunday, January* 19:** Single *service at 10:00am in the Main Church followed by our Annual Meeting*

***Friday, January 24 - Sunday, January 26*:** The *Vestry is on Retreat*

Christmas Poinsettias

Remember in the years past, how beautiful the church looked at Christmas all decorated with poinsettias. Once again this year you can have a plant in thanksgiving for someone or something, or in memory of a loved one. We are asking a $10.00 donation per plant. Please look for the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. Please indicate in the memo line of your check, "*poinsettia fund*."

Ruth Poole
Altar Guild

Christmas Calendar

Las Posadas, Sunday December 8

With song and laughter, with story-telling and fellowship, help us welcome the Mary and Joseph as they seek shelter for the birth of Christ. We begin in the Main Church at 5:00pm.

Church Greening, Sunday December 22

In preparation for Christmas, we "green" the church in the traditional manner of poinsettias and pine. Join us immediately following the 10:30 service. Bring a snack to share with others.

Christmas Eve Services, Tuesday, December 24

4:00pm Family Service with "Ad Hoc" Children's Pageant and Communion

All children welcome! No rehearsals necessary, no line-memorization required! All kids who would like to participate in our "Ad Hoc" pageant simply need to be at church **by 3:45**. Meet in the parish hall for costuming, and process in our pageant to create the Holy Nativity Scene.

10:30pm Traditional Christmas Carol Hymn-singing

This is your chance to sing the beloved Christmas hymns you've waited all year to sing!

11:00pm Festive Christmas Service with Holy Communion

As the hour approaches midnight, we will celebrate the birth of Christ with this traditional and festive Christmas Service with full choir and Holy Eucharist.

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

Begin this holy day with a service of Holy Communion in the Main Church at 10:00am.

First Sunday after Christmas, Sunday , December 29

We will celebrate this marking of the Christmas Season and the beginning of a new calendar year with our usual two services at 8:00am and 10:30am.

CHRISTMAS SONG PICTURE GAME

Thank you to JAMES STANUSZEK of Ohio for creating the illustrations
and to"ROBIN WOOD" of Missouri, for a copy of the Game!!

To play: Take a piece of paper and number 1 - 24. You can either set a timer for 5 minutes or whoever finishes first and has the correct answers is the winner. This is a fun family game to play. Enjoy !!!!

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, Adam, Robert, Dave, Shawn, Ethan, Paul, Darren

Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Kenny, Robert, Leo, Heather, April, Eric, Brandyn, Muleeda, Jordan, Deja

Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Barbara, Marilyn, Paula, Selina, Ann, Verna, Michael, Nonnie, Barbara, Laura, Neal, Tim, Vicki, Heather, David, Dermont, Jim, Anthony, Norene, Kathy, Barbara, Jean, Joan, Tim Young and family

Those That Are Traveling: Margaret, Susie, Lilly

Families Expecting Children: , Hoa & Erik, Lindsay & Robert, Allison & Patrick, Dor & Ed

Those Who Have Passed Away: Don, Lucille, Alex, Vickie, Rick, Eric

The next issue of ***The Window*** is January 2014. We welcome your **comments, essays, poems, photos, cartoons, newsworthy stories or other items of interest, art work, group activity information and reviews**.

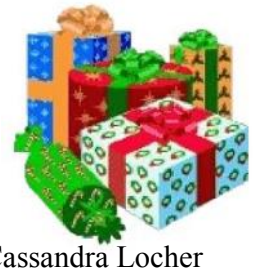
PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

newsletter@saintj.com

Deadline for Submissions: December 15th

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!!



December Birthdays

1 Cassandra Locher
Courtney Whitehouse
2 John Kimber
4 Rose Hoffman
Alex Locher
6 Paul Svenson
8 Genore Schaaf
Carol Lynch
11 Pegeen Perry
12 Elaine Vallecillo- Miller
17 Barbara Gifford
19 Donald Razzolini
20 Sylvia Ma
21 Chris Perry
Jill Buono
Frank Hoffman
22 Bud Spalding
Karen Koonze
23 Monique Manjarrez
30 Bob Tomkinson
Cynthia Fisher
31 Marlene Benedict
Denise Lovellette

December Anniversaries

4 Ken and Penny Trant
10 George and Sylvia Ma

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not! For, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, Which shall be to all people. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David, A Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, Lying in a manger.

- St. Luke 10-12

SAINT JAMES'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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WEB: saintj.com

WORSHIP TIMES

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

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Bob Bynum, Ralph Locher
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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

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