



The Window

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

February 2014

Looking Towards the Upcoming Year

Below is a portion of my address to the St. James' Annual Meeting on January 19, 2014.

In December, I attended the general ordinations at Grace Cathedral. Every time I go to an ordination service, I reflect on my own ministry and identity as priest. I was compelled the other day to re-read the service, and I share with you this portion spoken by the Bishop, in my case, Bill Swing:

"As a priest, it will be your task to proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to fashion your life in accordance with its precepts. You are to love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. You are to preach, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing, to share in the administration of Holy Baptism and in the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood, and to perform the other ministrations entrusted to you. In all that you do, you are to nourish Christ's people from the riches of his grace, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come." Some days I think I'm right on top of it. Other days I fear I've fallen short. But on all days, I do my best to honor God with my life. We are all works in progress, aren't we?

Every person ordained in this diocese is given a bible as a reminder of our ordination vows. Written on the inside cover of my bible on the day of my 'priesting,' Bill Swing wrote this paraphrase of 1st Peter: "Do you give service? Give it as in the strength which God supplies" Bishop Swing goes on to write: "Authentic ordained ministry combines the ingredients of inadequacy, willingness, creativity, failure, persistence and grace. You make the offering, God supplies the strength."

This wise advice applies to all ministry, of course. We are all at times inadequate, willing, creative, failing, persistent, and grace-filled. We make the offering, and God supplies the strength.

This past year in some ways has acted as a hinge year. At our Vestry Retreat last January, we did a lot of brainstorming about what we do and what we could be doing as a church. In the end, we came up with a measure of where to spend our energy. In all that we did, we tried to ask the question "How do we make God present in our church, our families, our neighborhood, our town, our world?" All of our activities, ministries, and work needed to point towards Christ or make Christ more evident. This may seem obvious, but sometimes the institutional church can get into a rut and forget that our overarching purpose is to be witness to God.

In October we held an all-parish retreat where around 60 of us gathered to dream about our future as disciples. From that conversation, we identified some key areas and activities that we will begin focusing on this year. One area of identification was the desire for expanded spiritual formation for adults. To that end, we have significantly expanded our offerings for adults which include Tuesday evening courses, Sunday morning Contemplative Practices, and the 1st Sunday discussions for Parents, Godparents and Grandparents.

Because we have such strong lay-leaders in our congregation, the vestry is going to begin looking at being a group that develops new ministries or strengthens existing ministries that could use support. This is a bit different than what we've done the past three years. Instead of having clusters that maintain and track existing ministries and events, the vestry will move more towards ministry and leadership development, and will become more project-focused. A large portion of our retreat will be to better define our role as vestry members and to brainstorm what new things we might do. Much of this will build upon the work done at the Parish Retreat.

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Stewardship Corner

Recently, I began reflecting on the idea of praying for God's guidance and whether or not we actually listen—especially when it comes to the difficult stuff like giving. When we say, “*God’s will be done.*” do we really mean it? If I am honest, I know I sometimes want God’s will be done only as long as it’s the same as mine. Having spent some time thinking about our stewardship campaign over the past couple of months, I have come to a new understanding about God and giving. I believe that God cares deeply about how we use the resources and blessings of our lives. All the gifts of this life were given not to be squandered or used carelessly, but to do God’s work in the world. That’s what it means to be a *steward* of God’s gifts. How we choose to steward God’s gifts is a reflection of who we are and of our relationship to God. It is an incredible challenge and blessing, which allows us to honor God and grow in our faith. And, because we believe God delights in our acts of generosity, giving feels more like another gift than like a sacrifice.

Thank you to everyone who made a pledge to St. James’ for 2014. I am extremely grateful for your dedication to the Church’s ministry and mission at all levels. Your pledge is a statement of your commitment to, and belief in what God is doing in and through St. James’. While we have completed our *formal* pledge drive for 2014, if you haven’t yet made a pledge, be assured that you may make one at any time during the year. I invite you to offer your response to God’s grace and goodness by making your pledge now.

St. Paul knew well that proper giving glorifies God and produces healthy Christians. “*You will glorify God by your obedience in acknowledging the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your contribution.*” (2 Corinthians 9:13)

Gail Blalock, Chair
Stewardship Committee

Looking toward the Upcoming Year

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The Diocese of California is beginning a pilot project in Congregational Development. St. James’ is one of six churches asked to participate in a year-long conversation and learning meant to help congregations become more faithful, healthy and effective expressions of the Body of Christ. This is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation and for our leadership. I am excited to announce that our team will consist of me, Mike Scrutton, Dave Nelsen, Lauren Doherty, Bruce Roberts, and Lynn Locher.

These are just a few of the things in store for us moving forward. I imagine our church to be one of increasing inter-generational community that impacts the Tri-City area in a powerful and transformative way. We are well poised to move into our next phase of our identity as St. James’ Episcopal Church in Fremont.

Rev. Lori

Financial Summary December 2013

Fund Balances	<u>12/31/2012</u>	<u>12/31/2013</u>
Operating Fund	\$ 40,466	\$60,805
Building Fund	\$ 35,371	\$37,157
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	\$ 236,810	\$243,622
Pledges Paid	\$236,944	\$252,024
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 5,979	7,030
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 18,605</u>	<u>\$22,261</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ 261,528	\$ 281,315
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 249,384</u>	<u>\$261,209</u>
Income less Expenses	\$ 12,144	\$20,106*

*Includes Fundraising

Notes: * In January the Vestry voted to move \$5,000 of Pledges Paid to building and add \$5,000 to expenses to be moved to Rectors’ Sabbatical.

Contemplative Practices

Beginning February 2, every Sunday morning at 9:30am Faith Formation will explore contemplative practices. We will learn about basic meditation, praying with the Anglican rosary, praying with icons, lectio divina, Centering prayer, I Chuan meditation, and other practices that may enhance our connection with God. The class is structured so that we will have 5-10 minutes of instruction from someone skilled in the method followed by 20 minutes of actual practice. Those who wish may stay for an additional 10 minutes to debrief and ask questions.

Classes are normally held in EB#1 but **on February 2 we will meet in the Little Church** where we begin with basic meditation for the month of February.

All are welcome!

Janet Fischer

A Thank you to all



Many thanks to all who attended, participated in, and *worked* on and for Joan's Memorial Service. Such an outpouring of love. Joan's extended family was moved by St. James' love, efforts and support of the family. For myself, I was humbled by your love for Joan. Joan's

love in all she did for family, friends, for the St. James' Community was reflected in her Memorial Service. God's love shown all the day long for Joan and all of us.

I pray that we continue to remember Joan and her love for us as we continue to love her and each other.

Bruce Roberts



PANCAKE SUPPER March 4th

Please plan to join your St. James' family as we prepare for the Lenten season, sharing a traditional meal of pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage. This special evening takes place on **Shrove Tuesday, March 4th** - the day before Ash Wednesday. Dinner will be served from 6:00 to 7:30pm. A contribution of \$6 per adults and \$3 per child is requested.

Please sign-up in the parish hall to ensure we purchase adequate food.

Dave Nelsen

Are you Available for Lunch on Sunday, February 16 at noon?

Come and celebrate the Lunar New Year (Year of the Horse) with us with some delicious Chinese food at Newark Buffet on Sunday, February 16 at noon. You pay for your own lunch and we have some great fellowship together.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions or need a ride, please call Sylvia 510-552-6549.

Sylvia Ma and Meg Amouroux
Available for Lunch Ministry



Adult Faith Formation Class The Wide Tent: Becoming Episcopal

The last two classes are on Tuesday, February 11th and 18th from 6:30-8:00pm.

The Right Reverend Marc Andrus Visits St. James' :

February 23rd, at both the 8:00 and 10:30am services

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper:

Tuesday, March 4th from 6:00 to 7:30pm

Candlemas and Christian Hope

From the Temple to Dr. King's Dream

If you're reading this article on the day of publication and you still have your Christmas decorations up, don't worry, you're still safe. In some places in the world, Christmas decorations are left up in good faith through Candlemas—through February 2—the official end of the celebration of the Nativity and Epiphany. “Candle- what? But isn't February 2nd Groundhog Day?” Indeed! In the Church, however, the date serves as a pivotal point, not between the seasons of winter and spring, but between the liturgical seasons of Christmas/Epiphany and Lent. In both calendars, the play of light and darkness is central.

The feast we celebrate on February 2nd is known by various names in the West: The Feast of the Purification of the Virgin, the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord at the Temple, and Candlemas. (In the East it is called, “Hypapante,” or “Meeting,” but that would be another article—or sermon!) The feast is called the Purification because Mary, in accordance with the Law of Moses and Israel (Leviticus 12:2-8), came to the Temple forty days after giving birth to her first son to offer two turtledoves; she came at this important time, as we say in Godly Play, to come close to God. (And yes, there are forty days from December 25th to February 2nd.) It is called the Presentation

because, again according to the Law, every first-born male who opened the womb, animal or human, was to be consecrated to God. Animals were sacrificed; male children were redeemed (Exodus 13:1-2, 11-16). A first-born son was dedicated and consecrated to God at the Temple, but he returned home with his parents.

Finally, this Feast is called Candlemas because of the ritual blessing, lighting, and processing of candles performed since the fifth century that allows us as a sacred community in Christ to remember the proclamation of Simeon to God about Jesus as “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to they people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32). In our celebration, when flame is passed from congregant to congregant, we enact the spreading of light by the prophetess Anna who “gave thanks to God,” when she saw Jesus “and spoke of him to all who were looking for redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38). In our candles we remember that Jesus is the “light of the world”; in lighting one another's candles, initiated by the children in our own celebration of Candlemas at St. James', we remember our call to share the light of Christ with one another and carry it out into the world.

I had a taste of what this can mean when I recently attended an assembly dedicated to

remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at my son's elementary school and joined all the children from the school in their “freedom march” down one of Berkeley's busiest streets. In the cafeteria/auditorium we sang songs sung by the Freedom Riders more than 50 years ago (“If you miss me at the back of the bus, and you can't find me nowhere, Come on up to the front of the bus, I'll be ridin' right there”—remembering Rosa Parks) and watched Dr. King's “I have a dream” speech at the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. We learned that it was the singer, Mahalia Jackson, calling out to Dr. King, “Tell us about your dream!” and Dr. King gazing out at 250,000 people that led to his diverging from his prepared speech and uttering the words which I can only call “prophetic”. Dr. King gave us a vision as a country—reminded the United States of its own dream to “let freedom ring”—and called on the words of the Hebrew prophet, Isaiah, to inspire our faith that “we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nations into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood”: “And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together” (Isaiah 40:5).

Prophecy both brings judgment for conversion—a turning to God

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From the Temple to Dr. King's Dream

and to one another—and presents hope. When we children, teachers and parents marched down College Avenue in Berkeley, some 50 years after that historic march on Washington, we made memory alive and we carried hope again. The lead fourth-grade class carried an amazing, four-foot construction paper portrait of Dr. King and the first graders carried their own signs of peace, love, non-violence and justice with images of Dr. King that they had colored. (One boy, Zaire, had given Dr. King a haircut!) The children chanted, “Equal rights! Equal rights!” and joined in a call and response with their teachers: “What do you want?” “Freedom!” “When do you want it?” “Now!” People passing in cars honked and smiled. Pedestrians stopped and waved and cheered. Who pulled out their phone cameras? Construction workers, housewives, bus drivers, college students.... People of many different backgrounds and walks of life. And they smiled—delighted and amazed. Why? Because they recognized a sign, I think—that the children walking together, who themselves are of many different heritages and are the descendants of peoples from around the world, are in many ways the fulfillment of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s dream. They are the ones who make memory alive and the living sign: the hope, the faith, and the message that there is still work to do. This is the wonder of prophecy for a faithful community who both sees and hears: it is now and not yet, and we all have a role in its fulfillment.

So it is with Candlemas on February 2nd—the feast of the Meeting between the God-bearer and the God-receivers. We remember Simeon’s prophetic words about Jesus and Anna’s prophetic sharing with all looking for the redemption of Jerusalem, and we celebrate Christ, our light. In this pivotal time between Christmas/Epiphany and Lent, we rejoice together in newborn hope even as we ache in knowing the sacrifice that will give birth, through death, to new hope with understanding. We are the living memory and the sign—we carry the light. Now let us, whether on freedom marches or in other spots of darkness, carry Christ’s light into the world.

Rev. Stephanie

Vestry Report January 2014

The vestry met on January 9th for what was the first meeting of 2014, yet the last meeting of the 2013-2014 Vestry Year. In preparation for the Financial Presentation and Annual meetings, the evening was spent diligently reviewing the financial statements for the complete 2013 year and discussing the budget for 2014. The meeting culminated in our passing of the 2014 budget, the results of much hard work by the entire body. The vestry is particularly grateful to the preparations and presentations made by our Treasurer, Lynn Locher, aided by Gail Blalock whose leadership of the Stewardship Committee helps give us visibility into our anticipated income in 2014.

This was the last meeting for our outgoing vestry members, Donald Razolini, Jack Rux and our Senior Warden, Janet Fischer. On behalf of the whole St. James’ community, the vestry thanks them for their service and for helping make the vestry such a rewarding experience for all its members.

Mike Scrutton

The Great Tent Revival at the Club Saint J

McCutcheon Concert Review January 20, 2014

The Road Crew flipped off the lights, strode out the main doors of the Big Church and they felt as though they had witnessed an old-fashioned tent revival at the one-night-a-year Club Saint J. Even though the last encore had to do with “The Night That Dan Ryan Got Locked in the Pub,” the overall tenor of the evening smacked of a revival meeting. From “Forgotten” to “I Am Here” to “When I Grow Up” to “Deportees” to “Joe Hill” followed by “Step by Step” and “Christmas in the Trenches” to Lori’s request “The Great Storm Is Over,” the power built all the way to the end of the evening.

Speaking of “Deportees,” John enlisted the talents of four parishioners reading the names of the 28 “unwanted” who perished in the 1947 tragedy in Los Gatos Canyon, Pat Spalding, Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, Linda Nelsen, and Laura Winter in a moving audio memorial.

I peeked at the basket of song requests after the show. The basket was filled with so many requests they bulged from the top of the basket. No wonder John could not honor them all. No wonder that John McCutcheon loves to come to St. James’ to entertain us. We treat him like a friend, and he is a friend, an old friend who we get to visit with once a year. From the soup supper we feed him, to the way we help the sound and lights crew and Tommy, John’s Road Manager, to the way he thanks the Saint James’ Concert Team (and team it is with so many parishioners helping to make the concert a success), to the enthusiastic reception John gets after the show – it shows we are now old friends.

You may have noticed the show ran a bit long with the audience’s excited affirmation. By my count, John played 23 songs and endured a long, prize-drawing, cookie-buying, intermission that the drawing winners thought was worth it and others thought was exciting and/or disappointing. The Team’s apologies to those who had early wake-ups on Tuesday morning. John sang his heart out for us, was energized by us, and strode into the night feeling as exhilarated as we did leaving the show talking

about his fiddle playing around the Dan Ryan poem, or his amazing hammer dulcimer version of “Under the Double Eagle.”

And John McCutcheon was the tent revival leader.



Bruce Roberts



Photos by Bruce Roberts

Re/Imagining Mission: The Vestry Retreat

In the midst of unseasonably warm weather, in the beauty of wine country, amongst the sounds of chirping birds and in the company of our sisters and brothers in Christ, the vestry and clergy of St. James' engaged in an exercise to imagine and re-imagine the ministry and mission of our church. Beginning with an effort to "map" all of the activities and efforts being done, we soon realized that as a church, we are fully engaged in helping to bring the Kingdom of God near. After identifying over 75 (!) ministries emanating from our church, we glanced across the congregation to see what areas were strongly led, where leadership needs strengthening, what ministries need renewal, and what new ministries we might engage in.

What a wonderful thing to recognize that people other than vestry members are accomplishing many, if not most, of the work of St. James'! This not only demonstrates strong leadership, but also indicates that there are many places for people to plug into as a way of deepening their relationship with Christ and with others. Such strong leadership spread throughout the congregation also means that the vestry is free to move into a role that is more intentional about renewing ministries that are ready for change and developing new ministries that meet the needs of our neighborhoods and parishioners.

So, what would this look like? In the recent past, the vestry was broken into "clusters" that were responsible for tracking or performing the ministries under them. Because the actual ministries are so well led by a wide span of congregants, we believe this is an opportune time to shift the vestry focus to looking at new areas of ministry and redeveloping areas of ministry that could use some attention. To that end, the "cluster" model will be set aside. Rather than working in individual clusters, the vestry will be project-oriented. For example, suppose we discern a need for a stronger method of doing congregational care. Either the whole or a portion of the vestry might opt to make this a priority project for 2014, and may work on it until it becomes a set ministry that can be handed to others to lead. Or suppose we'd like to expand our outreach ministries.

Rather than having a single cluster tackle it, a team of vestry members might get together to research and implement a new effort. The vestry will not do this alone, but will invite other members of the congregation to work with us. We believe that this newer model will help St. James' move into new and exciting ways of being church.

While we move into a project-oriented model of ministry, we realize the need for a strong foundation from which to do our work. To meet this need, a segment of the vestry will be responsible for attending to the facilities. Our Facility Team will consist of Al Casas and Bud Spalding. The Lead Team (Rev. Lori Walton, Sr. Warden Mike Scrutton, Jr. Warden Dave Nelsen and Treasurer Lynn Locher) will take an active role in gathering information from various leaders and communicating to the wider vestry. While there are still some details to work out, we are excited about the upcoming year and celebrating and growing the ministry of St. James'!

The Lead Team: Dave, Lori, Lynn, Mike

New Vestry Members



Meg Amouroux & Elaine Vallecillo-Miller



Nancy Castaneda



Karen Koonze



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, Dave, Shawn, Ethan, Paul, Darren

For Those Who Need Guidance and

Direction: Kenny, Robert, Heather, Josephine, Carrol, Deja, Paul, Rhonda, Thomas

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing:

Barry, Ruby, Fiona, Madison, Clayton, Sam, Bill, Regina, Miranda, the Amouroux Family, the Benedict Family, Pamela, the Roberts Family, the Harrison Family, Bruce, Jean and Family, Ray, Nantege, the Nabbaale and Lubwama Families

For Families Expecting Children: Hoa and Erik, Allison and Patrick, Alyise and Manny, Dor and Ed

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Rick, Eric, Bud, Gregory, Joan, Gerry, Monte, Otis, Erios



February Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 03 Mike Scrutton | 23 Jason Fisher |
| 03 Claudia Noddin | 24 Scott Kennedy |
| 04 Bruce Roberts | 25 Maresa Decena |
| 05 Kem David | 26 Charles Peeler |
| 07 Linda Zetterholm-Nelsen | 26 Lauren Doherty |
| 08 Vicky Greening | 26 Scott Whitaker III |
| 11 Darcia Feeney | 26 Francis Singh |
| 12 David Colby | 27 Chris Ma |
| 18 Margaret Broun | 28 Luke Scheufelle |
| | 29 Adrienne Farrell |

February Anniversaries

- 14 Lorin Decena and Karl Drescher
- 15 Lauren and Bob Doherty
- 16 Chris and Pegeen Perry
- 24 Charles and Vivienne Paratore
- 26 Bobbie and Claudette Naidoo

To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please complete a pew card and place it in the offering plate OR call / email the Church Office. After six weeks, names are removed from the list. Please renew your request as needed.

Thank you

Please note: If your birth month 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

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



SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY SERVICES: 8:00AM & 10:30AM
CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES: 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
Jennifer 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
Mike Scrutton
Junior Warden jrwarden@saintj.com
Dave Nelsen

Meg Amouroux
Bob Bynum
Al Casas
Nancy Castaneda
Karen Koonze
Ralph Locher
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller
Bev Mosier
Alison Saichek
Bud Spalding

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

Other Important Coordinators

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

Facilities: facilities@saintj.com
Al Casas
Bud Spalding

The Window Staff

Ralph Locher
Marilyn Rose
Jack Rux
Penny Trant
Laura Winter

Article submission.....newsletter@saintj.com