



The Window

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

December 2014

O God of all seasons and senses, grant us the sense of your timing to submit gracefully and rejoice quietly in the turn of the seasons. In this season of short days and long nights, of grey and white and cold, teach us the lessons of endings; children growing, friends leaving, loved ones dying, grieving over, grudges over, blaming over, excuses over.

O God, grant us a sense of your timing. In this season of short days and long nights, of grey and white and cold, teach us the lessons of beginnings; that such waitings and endings may be the starting place, a planting of seeds which bring to birth what is ready to be born-- something right and just and different, a new song, a deeper relationship, a fuller love-- in the fullness of your time. O God, grant us the sense of your timing.

From Ted Yoder, Guerrillas of Grace

Prepare, Wait... and then Act

Advent is a season of preparation, of waiting, but it is not a season of passivity. One only has to glance at the Gospel lessons for the four Sundays to see that Advent is serious business.

The 1st Sunday of Advent presents us with a reading from Mark* in which Jesus is speaking about the return of the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory, with angels sent out and the elect gathered from the four winds, all at an unknown time, so *Keep Awake!*

The 2nd Sunday of Advent gives us Mark's version of John the Baptist, clothed in camel hair and leather, eating locusts and honey, wild-eyed and wild-voiced proclaiming that the *One who is more powerful is coming to baptize with the Holy Spirit!*

The 3rd Sunday of Advent introduces John's version of John the Baptist, only this time, along with his wild dress, we hear that he is also the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, *Make straight the way of the Lord!*

And finally, we reach the 4th Sunday of Advent with Luke's portrayal of the Angel Gabriel

encountering Mary to tell her of the child she would bear, soothing Mary to not be afraid, until Mary, with great courage says out loud, *Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be according to your word!*

Preparation and waiting - yes. Passivity - no. Take action and respond. Keep awake for the one who is most powerful, make way for the in breaking of Christ in this world, and then cooperate with what God wants to do with and in your life. Let this be a season of examination - of what steps we might take to prepare, of what response we might have when God taps on the window of our heart and calls us to something more.

Lori+

**As a side note, St. James' traditionally celebrates Lessons & Carols on the 1st Sunday of Advent. So, while we won't hear a sermon on this particular Gospel, I encourage you to read it (Mark 13:24-37) and ponder what it might mean for individuals or the world to keep awake in anticipation of the Coming of Christ.*

Ask, Seek, Knock, Love

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.
Matthew 7:7-8

We give to God's work through St. James' for many reasons. The one common motivation we have is our belief that all we have comes from God. Ask, seek, knock and it will be given to us. I'd also like to add "love" to that list -- "*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him*" (Romans 8:28). For the past several weeks, parishioners have shared in the Sunday News their feelings and beliefs about giving and pledging. Their comments say it best. In case you missed them, I've included some below:

I have been welcomed and encouraged by St. James' from the first time I walked through the doors on a very dark day in my life. Eleven years later, friendships and support continue to grow. I participate and pledge as best I can, to help us continue to be here for the next person who visits and is looking for faith and direction and comfort. ~
Meg Amouroux

My pledge to St. James' is my tangible way of saying thank you to God for all the good things in my life. I believe that the way the members and clergy of St. James' support each other and the outside community brings God's kingdom here on earth. I am proud to support the community of St. James'. –
Lynn Locher

Because Saint James' brings "church" into my life. It brings loving support into my life from putting God up front; it brings wonderful people into my life. – Anonymous

We take so much from the church, we want to give back! -- Jim & Katie Cunningham

To help support and keep a wonderful community thriving. We have a community that cares—not only for our parishioners but also for outreach into the community. I am grateful for the gifts God has given me and that I am able to share and help keep our community thriving. -- Ruth Poole

The grace of God is that in which we live and move and have our being. I best experience that grace by giving with an open heart and hand – which

includes pledging to my church. -- Janet Fischer

I give thanks for St. James'. This is where I find acceptance, joy and love. I hope my pledge will help St. James' to continue to reach out to others. –
Genore Schaaf

St. James' has included me in 'the' community as a wife, mother, grandmother, employed, unemployed, in relationship, alone. There has always been a place for me. Equally important, it is a spiritual home with appropriately maintained physical environment. – Anonymous

St. James' is my Church Family. – Bruce Roberts

We celebrated the ingathering of pledges on Sunday, November 23rd. If you haven't turned yours in, you may do so at any time by placing it in the offering plate on Sunday mornings or mailing or dropping it off at the Church Office. You may also submit a pledge online – just go to the St. James' website – it's easy. Join me as together we ask, seek, knock, love and pledge to God's work at St. James'.

Wishing you blessings of joy, peace and love this Advent Season.

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

And, one more:

Stewardship Haikus

Oh! Pledge time again!

Time to please the creator

Secure Heaven's prize.

The love for my church

And the lessons learned on site

Need my sustenance.

Give – it shall return

Overflowing gratitude

Rhythm of the Heart!

Nancy & Paul Svenson

St. James' Tailgate Gathering



The rain certainly didn't get in the way of the St. James' Tailgate Gathering on Saturday, October 25! We came together and enthusiastically celebrated all that we accomplish as a Team at St. James'. The Chili Challenge was extremely popular. We did a "blind" tasting of 10 delicious (hot/spicy/mild/

unique) chilies:

- ALTAR GUILD - Katie's Chili w/Beans;
- VESTRY - Pirates' Revenge;
- ST. JAMES' YOUTH - Young Chili;
- LITURGICAL DESIGN - Bowl O' Turkey Chili;
- MEMORIAL GARDEN - Spicy Chili;
- STEWARDSHIP - Pledging Chili;
- CHOIR - Sing for Your Chili;
- MEN'S GROUP - Guadalupe Chili Pie;
- MEMORIAL GARDEN - Vegetarian Chili;
- EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - Texas Red!

Judges awarded 1st place to Memorial Garden Vegetarian Chili by Raelene, Andrea and Caylyn Ramsamy. The Peoples' Choice Award went to Young Chili by St. James' Youth Ami, Tom, Anthony and Jan. Congratulations and thank you to all the Chili Cooks! So many kinds of chili with so many wonderful flavors - all scrumptious!

The Team tailgate decorating and cheers were



awesome with "The Go-Getters" coming in first led by Coach Greg Miller; "Cherubim" second with Coach Dave Nelsen; and "Flat Jesus Freaks" third, the combined team of Coach Mike Scrutton and Coach Lori Walton. The Football Toss was easily won by Jill Buono.



Thank you to everyone who participated, set up, take down, prayed for the rain to hold off (prayers answered), put things away, and cleaned up. It was truly a Team effort in the amazing St. James' style.

The Stewardship Team - Sandra, George, Adrienne, Ruth, Gail, and ex-officio member Lauren.

All that we have and all that we are is a gift from God.



Sacred Gatherings for December 2014

Las Posadas, Sunday December 14

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 Big Church at 5:00pm. We have limited seating for this event, so sign-up in advance in the parish hall, or call the office.



Church Greening, Sunday December 21

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, Wednesday December 24

4:00pm Family Service with Children’s Pageant “Away in the Manger”

All children welcome to participate in our Christmas Pageant. All kids who would like to participate, be at church **by 3:45**. Meet in the nursery for costuming and help us with our “Away in the Manger” Christmas Story!



10:30pm Traditional Christmas Carol Hymn-singing

This is your chance to sing the beloved 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, Thursday December 25

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

1st Sunday after Christmas, Sunday December 28

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.



Advent Faith Formation Ignatian Spirituality

Ignatian Spirituality, developed by Inigo de Loyola, is a spirituality in which God is sought in all things and all situations. It is considered to be a way of life rather than simply a method of prayer or a way of meditating. It is an entire view of the world that is then lived into through both contemplation and action.

The Faith Formation Committee Presents:

*A Touch of Ignatian Spirituality
Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*

Presented by The Rev. Lori Walton

*Tuesday Evenings, December 9 and 16
6:30 – 8:00pm (a light dinner will be served)
Education Building Room 1*

Join us for two evenings of discussion about St. Ignatius of Loyola and this unique way of living. Lori will share her experience at a 30-Day Silent Retreat, the process of working through the Ignatian Exercises, and the various prayers and tools to connect God and the world.

Sign up in the Parish Hall so we can ensure adequate food.

Lori+

Lost & Found, Missing, Borrowed

From time to time, items are found in the church pews, the Parish Hall, bathroom or on the floor. The quasi Lost/Found is on top of the file cabinet in the Office. Check this area first. Things are NOT kept indefinitely.

If you have borrowed items from the kitchen to take food home, please don't forget to return the bowl, plate or etcetera.

Have you thoughtfully provided for a reception? You may have forgotten to take it home as there is a platter patiently waiting its owner.

Missing now is a platter which had been used at the reception after the memorial service for Norene Prickett. Please look to see if you were given the wrong one in error. It is a family keepsake so the owner would greatly appreciate having it back.

Finally notify the office if you think you've left an item somewhere at church. It will certainly be looked for.

Sandra Motley

Some Childish Witticisms

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray.

"Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.

A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher: paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Contemplative Practices

Contemplative Practices continues December 7 and 14 with an Advent theme. We will take a break on December 21 and 28.

One of our regular attendees shared with me: *For 30 years I thought I was just a weirdo Christian who also meditated. Now I don't!* Many Christians have discovered the value of various contemplative practices, many of which are directly rooted in the Christian tradition. Anyone is welcome to join us Sundays at 9:30am in EB1 for a half-hour of gentle instruction and practice.

Teacher Carl McColman writes: "Probably the single biggest fear among Christians who don't understand contemplation is that it's 'Buddhist' or 'eastern' or 'new age.' Meanwhile, every year more and more Christians abandon their faith and explore Buddhism or Vedanta because [some] pastors are not equipped to introduce their congregation to the Christian practice of contemplation... And, I should add, just as Christians are not afraid of the Passover Seder or of vestigial pagan practices like Christmas trees and holiday mistletoe, maybe Christians need to be a little less afraid of Buddhism anyway. But that's another conversation for another day." (You can read his full article at:

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/carlmccolman/2014/11/timothy-keller-gets-contemplation-wrong/#ixzz3JLWRFvKb>)

We are fortunate to have a priest who understands the value of contemplative prayer! Please join us. It's good for your spirit, it's good for our church, and it's good for our world.

Janet Fischer

Sacred Space

St. James' has received a lovely Certificate of Appreciation for our work in supported Sacred Space. The letter reads, in part, *"It is with a grateful heart that Sacred Space has celebrated its 4th anniversary... Through the helps and donations of many individuals and organizations we have been able to provide lunches, clothing and counseling support. Most importantly, we have been able to share God's give of love to all that we meet."*

Many of you have donated your time and groceries to provide the lunches we assemble each month. This is not a ministry of one person alone, but of everyone who contributes in whatever way they can. We have one more Sunday this year: **December 7**. The schedule for the first half of 2015 is also on the board. Please sign up to provide food as you are able. Teaming with another is just fine! Thank you so much for your support of Sacred Space.

Janet Fischer, Sacred Space Coordinator

LIVE IN CONCERT



World-Renowned, Grammy-Nominated

Folk Singer/Songwriter

John McCutcheon

Monday, January 19, 2015, 7:30 P.M.

One Night Only

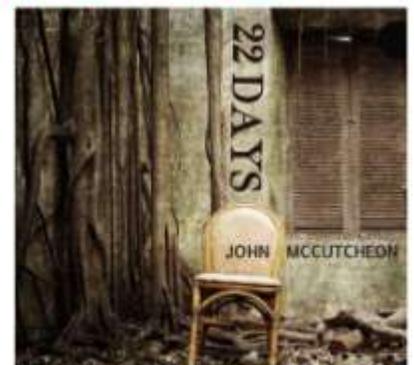
St. James' Episcopal Church
(Thornton Ave. at Cabrillo Terrace, Fremont)

Tickets on Sale December 7, 2014

Suggested Donation:
\$27 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. 203, or events@saintj.com



For more about the artist, go to www.folkmusic.com

Las Posadas Celebration

Sunday December 14

5-7pm on the St James' campus

Don't miss out on this highlight of the Advent season featuring the procession of Mary and Joseph around the St. James' campus, singing of seasonal songs and carols, hearing traditional music, piñatas for the kids, and sharing food and fellowship with your friends at St. James'.

Traditional tamales and side dishes are served.

A free-will donation of \$10 per person 10 years and older is suggested.



Sign-up in the Parish Hall or at saintj.com by Sunday December 7
Capacity is limited to 120

When the Big One Comes

If a major disaster were to befall our neighbourhood, be it an earthquake or something less imaginable, what would your first reactions be? Maybe to ensure the safety of you, your family and friends? How quickly would you turn to your church community? In times of disruptive events, it's natural that we would turn to St. James' to be close to those with whom we share a common bond, to pray and to support each other.

Over the past 12 months, a team of volunteers have been discussing the issues around Emergency Preparedness in the context of St. James'. We've given thought to what our priorities would be as a community – what we need to get up and running quickly. We've compiled a binder that includes details such as our important contact information for local responders, details of our insurance policies and what facilities we have to offer the local community. A copy of our binder has been shared with the Diocesan office, which is collecting similar binders from all over the diocese.

The next phase of work is to consider specific action plans – not just what would we want to

achieve, but how do we achieve it? How do we get St. James' back and functioning? How do we reach out to and support both St. James' members and the wider community when lines of communication may be down?

We're hoping that you answered the question "How quickly would you turn to your church community?" with "As soon as my family and I are safe", and we want to hear from you. We're not looking for a large commitment of time, just for a group of like-minded folks to be familiar with and help implement the recovery of St. James' and our community when the big one comes. Please speak with Mike Scrutton (srwarden@saint.com), Dave Nelsen (jrwarden@saintj.com) or Elaine Vallecillo-Miller and let us know you'd like to be a part of the team.

Our thanks go to the team that have helped to bring us this far: Al Casas, Bud Spalding, Dave Nelsen, Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, Greg Miller, Karin White, Mike Scrutton, Scott Whittaker, and Steve White.

Submitted by Mike Scrutton, Senior Warden

Being on the Vestry

A Commitment to God and Church

Every Episcopal Church (Parish) has a vestry, a group of 12 individuals who are elected by the congregation at the annual parish meeting (January 25, 2015) to serve a three year term. In January, we will be electing FOUR new members to the Vestry. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to run for a spot in this important body.

Why is it called a Vestry?

Originally the word referred to the room where the priest would put on his vestments. At this time, the laity, or parish council, would meet with him to discuss the affairs of the parish. Over time, the name of the room came to signify the group of men who governed a parish because it was where they met. While the vestry meeting location has changed, the name has remained the same.

What is the role of the Vestry?

Per the Canons of the Episcopal Church, the Vestry is responsible for the fiduciary integrity of the church. The vestry also works with the rector to establish policy, to cast a vision for the future of the parish, to delegate resources and to identify, develop and motivate leadership. The vestry also serves as an advisory council to the rector who by church law is the parish's chief liturgical and pastoral officer.

Who can serve on the Vestry?

Any pledging member of St. James' who is over 16 years of age is eligible to run for a vestry position.

What is the expectation of the Vestry?

The vestry meets once a month on the second Thursday. We begin with dinner at 6:30pm. The meetings last from 7:00-9:00pm, and we end with the service of Compline. Each member agrees to provide dinner and lead the prayer once per year. Vestry members engage in one annual retreat and are expected to participate in church-wide events such as the Annual Meeting and Stewardship Event.

Are you enthusiastic about what is happening at St. James'?

Are you looking for a way to contribute to the vitality of our church?

Do you enjoy great company, joyful laughter, and making a difference?

Consider Running for Vestry!

Any vestry member can share with you their experience – ask them!

Mike Scrutton (Sr. Warden/retiring), Dave Nelsen (Jr. Warden), Bob Bynum (retiring), Bev Mosier (retiring), Bud Spalding (retiring), Alison Saichek, Al Casas, Ralph Locher, Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, Meg Amouroux, Nancy Castaneda, Karen Koonze

Financial Summary October 2014		
Fund Balances	<u>10/31/2013</u>	<u>10/31/2014</u>
Operating Fund	\$ 35,615	\$ 31,122
Building Fund	\$ 36,794	\$ 36,650
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	\$ 203,018	\$ 203,538
Pledges Paid	\$ 185,718	\$ 195,463
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 4,140	\$ 6,841
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 17,817</u>	<u>\$ 16,745</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ 207,676	\$ 219,049
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 212,860</u>	<u>\$ 238,732</u>
Income less Expenses	(\$ 5,184)	(\$19,683)
*Includes Fund Raising		

John McCutcheon Rides Again!

Concert January 19, 2014



Maybe I should have said “Entertains Again” for his twelfth consecutive year at St. James’.

Folk singer, showman, musician, student and storyteller, that’s what John McCutcheon is. His concert at St. James’ will start at 7:30 PM on

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Seeing and hearing John McCutcheon in person is the best way to experience his songs and musicianship. He builds an environment on stage that includes everyone in the audience, especially in a small venue like St. James’. In a way nearly every seat in the ‘house’ is close enough for a personal concert. That’s the way I feel after his encore each year.

“John McCutcheon is a life-affirming marvel.” -- Napa Valley Register

John visits this West Coast USA each January to keep singing for causes in which he believes. The way he tells his stories and sings about those causes makes believers out of those of us who listen to him. I counted 37

CD recordings on his web site www.folkmusic.com. Imagine the repertoire from which he must choose family songs, labor songs, silly songs, serious songs, sad and happy songs, baseball songs, a long, long list...

What will John McCutcheon sing at St. James on January 19th? Lots of songs of course, he’ll tell stories, and he’ll get us all to sing along with him. But which songs? Well, how about new songs and old songs, songs you have heard before and want him to sing again, songs that he sang years ago and now is the time to sing them again, and songs we haven’t heard before. And his accompaniment? Any of the instruments he brings with him. It could be a guitar, piano, fiddle, hammer dulcimer, banjo, spoons, who knows – all played by John the master musician.

A portion of the proceeds from the concert will go to **Abode Services** to end homelessness in our communities.

Just remember:

- Tickets for the concert go on sale Sunday, December 7th ;
- Prices are \$27 for adults, \$15 for children, no charge for children under five years of age.
- **Save the Date: Monday, January 19th, 2015**

Bruce Roberts



St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God we pray for:

For Those In The Military:

Scott, Jarrod, 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:

Scott, Michael, Jeanne, Ryan, Alyssa, Dusty, Viola, Jennifer, Kris

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Man Yee, Nonie, Barbara, Donald, Rosemary, Russ, Mary Susan, the Mullin Family, Ruth, Sarah, Dinelle, June, Bob, Michael and Lylas, Claudia and Maurice, Travis, Rose, Ellison, Peter, Buddy, Henry, Larry, Adrienne, Nikkole

For Families Expecting Children: Lindsay and Robert

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Irena, Bessie, Judy, Robert



December Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Cassandra Locher | 19 | Donald Razzolini |
| | Courtney Whitehouse | 20 | Sylvia Ma |
| 2 | John Kimber | 21 | Frank Hoffman |
| 4 | Rose Hoffman | | Chris Perry |
| | Alex Locher | | Jill Buono |
| 6 | Paul Svenson | 22 | Bud Spalding |
| 8 | Genore Schaaf | | Karen Koonze |
| | Carol Lynch | 26 | Olivia Almond |
| 11 | Pegeen Perry | 30 | Robert Tomkinson |
| 18 | Elaine Vallecillo-Miller | | Cynthia Fisher |
| | John Butterfield | 31 | Denise Lovelette |

December Anniversaries

- 4 Ken and Penny Trant
- 7 Sylvia Ma
- 31 Jim and Katie Cunningham

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 January. We welcome your **comments, essays, poems, photos, cartoons, newsworthy items of interest, art work, any group activity information and reviews.**

Email your submission to newsletter@saintj.com by: **January Issue Deadline: December 15th**



SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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, Rectorlori@saintj.com
The Rev. Ken Parris, Deacon . deaconken@saintj.com
The Rev. John Trubina, Office Administrator
..... admin@saintj.com
Jennifer Carini, Music Directormusic@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:

The Rev. John Trubina

Eucharistic Visitors & Acolytes:

The Rev. Ken Parris

Altar Guild: Ruth Poole

Ushers: Burtin Hart

St. J Youth Leaders: Mike & Jan Scrutton

Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator:

Jan Scrutton

Facilities: facilities@saintj.com

Al Casas

Bud Spalding

The Window Staff

Ralph Locher

Marilyn Rose

Penny Trant

Jack Rux

Laura Winter

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