



# The Window

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

January 2015

## The Purpose of the Popsicle Stand

My friend and colleague Mark begins every vestry meeting by asking the question, “What is the purpose of this popsicle stand?” with the popsicle stand being their particular church. Along with visualizing the Good Humor Ice Cream Truck rolling down the street towards a utopian view of the world, I think the question is an excellent one to raise periodically. So often, we run the risk of losing sight of our purpose. Our attention gets distracted, our priorities shift, we get caught up in the onslaught of messages coming at us from all directions, and we take our eyes off the ball. I’d like to begin this new calendar year with a reflection on what I suppose this popsicle stand is all about.

Another colleague recently wrote that he spends a lot of time visiting Episcopal Churches around the nation. One of his favorite questions is to ask, “Why would someone new come to this church?” He goes on to say that most often he hears about how the congregation is a “family”, which may be why the person he’s talking to loves his or her church, but it’s not usually why a person who is new would come to a church. Systems that see themselves as “family” can tend to be insular and closed (think about it, how many families are permeable enough for *anyone* to enter and stay?). Rather, along with a sense of family, my colleague also listens for the stories where someone tells him that he or she is at the church because being part of the church has changed their life.

And that, I believe, is what this popsicle stand is all about. ***The purpose of the church is to assist in the transformation of lives so that the world may be***

***transformed.*** Period. Now, that happens in many ways – through education, worship, fellowship, serving others, meditation and prayer, working with others towards a common goal, etc. It happens in partnership between the church and its members, with active participation and intentional work towards growing in the likeness of Christ. Sometimes this growth is painful and uncomfortable, like when our presupposed ideas are challenged or when we fall short and are compelled to turn around and try again. Other times this growth is wondrous and awe-filled, like when we experience that moment of unconditional love or that enlightenment that no words can define and we “get it.” But always, this growth is made real through the commitment of both church and person to seek and find Christ.

When this happens, when those who come together week after week do so because they know that their connection to their spiritual home is transformative, then the community comes alive and is vibrant. And when a community is alive and vibrant, it becomes engaging, magnetic and permeable for others to enter.

The new calendar year us upon us, which will bring new experiences and opportunities. Let these experiences and opportunities be times of transformation and growth. And let all who see know that we hold within and magnify out the likeness of Christ.

Lori+

## A New Year is Here!

Happy New Year to everyone! I am excited about the future of St. James' Church and the many opportunities for ministry we will have in 2015. Our church is growing, and it is so wonderful to see all the children filling our Sunday School and in church on Sunday mornings. These are exciting times!

My message this month is short and sweet. The future of St. James' is in your hands. If you have made your pledge for 2015, thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are the lifeblood, the very essential body of Christ at St. James'. If you have not yet made a pledge, please do so. Pledges are important to the ongoing ministries at St. James' and it's never too late to turn in a pledge. We are off to a super 2015, but we will need everyone's support.

Jesus teaches us to give of our time, talent and treasure. Making a pledge is important, but we must not stop there. Please give prayerful thought to how you might also give of your time and talent to further the ministries at St. James' in 2015. If you're not sure how you might do this, just ask someone -- talk to the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, our Rector Lori, or me! You will find that even the smallest of tasks, like washing coffee cups after Sunday services or making lunches for Sacred Space, will bring you joy and fulfillment. Everyone pitching in builds the St. James' Community.

I am so pleased to be a member of St. James' Church. It is the place for me to worship, learn and explore my faith. I am challenged and I am nurtured by the wonderful people at St. James'. Together, I believe we can move mountains, one rock at a time.

May your 2015 be filled with God's peace and love.

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

## Sunday School Fall 2014

This Fall the theme in Sunday School has been 'Love Your Neighbor.' Starting with the story of St. Francis and collecting school supplies for distribution by Tri-City Volunteers, we have thought about who our neighbors are and what we can do to help them. Simple acts like smiling, helping at home, and reaching out to someone who is sad have been talked about alongside the story of the Good Samaritan and Jesus healing the man who was lowered through the ceiling (by some very good friends).

A second appeal for socks for the Sacred Space community was again responded to amazingly by the congregation. Thank you so much for the part you all played in supporting our curriculum. Two hundred and 52 pairs of new, warm socks were delivered to Deacon John for the community. He thinks they will have enough socks to give out two pairs to each person every week for most of the winter.

For our final project of the unit, we got our hands dirty -- after first washing them very carefully! Sunday School prepared the lunches for Sacred Space one Sunday in November making the sandwiches themselves and assembling the bags. The children recognized they had the skills to help others, even those they didn't know. It was great to see them take pride in doing something to reach their neighbors in need, proving that actions speak louder than words.

Thank you again for your support.

Jan Scrutton

**Coming soon: VBS 2015**  
**Feast @ St. James'**  
**For PreK - 6th Grade**  
**July 27-31, 2015**

## Christmas at Hillside

Christmas Gifts were delivered to the residents at the Hillside Senior Center on a cool Wednesday morning, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am. Santa & Mrs. Claus (aka Bob and Lauren Doherty) were able to wake the reindeer for a daylight appearance.

The residents had been alerted that Santa was on his way and they were ready for his arrival. Nancy Svenson and "Cici" joined Santa along with Alice Johnson & Sandra Motley. The Activities Director and the Staff got into the spirit of the occasion and took pictures of the residents with Santa & Mrs. Claus.

This special Christmas time event could not happen without the continued support of our St. James' Community for Hillside. It is truly heartwarming!

The original date of December 11<sup>th</sup> was changed due to the terrible rainstorms and thank goodness the rain settled down a bit so we could deliver all the wonderful gifts your donations made possible.

Many thanks to all of you who signed up to join us that day and those who agreed to "read", play music, take pictures and join a sing-a-long.

We will see you next Christmas!

Sandra Motley



## Upcoming Happenings in January!

### Annual Budget Meeting – January 18

Gather at **9:15am** in EB1 to go over the 2015 Church Budget, presented by our Treasurer, Lynn Locher.

### Single Service and Annual Meeting – January 25

On this Sunday, we will have **one service at 10:00am** in the Big Church, followed by the Annual Meeting immediately following. This is a great opportunity to hear about the "State of the Church" and to elect our new vestry members and deanery delegates.

### Vestry Retreat – January 30 & 31

Our Vestry will be "retreating" on the evening of January 30 and all day on January 31. Pray for the Vestry as they engage in leading our congregation

---

## Vestry Minutes

The Vestry of St. James' met on December 11<sup>th</sup>. We discussed the status of several projects which your vestry has been working on for some time, including: The St. James' Cares program - ready for launch in January. Solar paneling installation - investing in green energy and long term savings. Assessing the condition of our flat roof and investigating options for repair and maintenance. Study of our electricity costs and how to implement changes which will reduce those costs, like investing in LED lighting and use of timers. A large amount of our meeting was spent discussing the 2015 budget, which will be presented on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Visitors are always welcome at Vestry meetings. We will be electing four new members at the Annual Meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>. All members of St. James' over 18 years old are eligible to serve on the Vestry; for more information, speak to Rev. Lori or to one of the current Vestry members listed on the back page of *The Window*.

Dave Nelsen

## A Special Afternoon

St. James' has a growing number of under 4's within our church family and to celebrate Christmas we held a parent and toddler afternoon event in the Sunday School classroom on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The new classroom lends itself beautifully to a family event like this and 5 families, with eight children aged from a few weeks old to 4 years old being hosted by Rev. Lori and Jan Scrutton.

Starting with a story, the Nativity of course, the afternoon included making models of Mary and Joseph as well as angel placements but most importantly it was chance for families to spend time together.

We hope this will be the first of many opportunities for this age group in the next year, look out for more details soon.

Jan Scrutton



## Pray for the Children

When you read this it will be yesterday's news, but as I write this, I am hearing about the tragic murders of so many in a school in Peshawar, Pakistan, over 145 people, over 132 of those children. This lands near the two-year anniversary of the Sandy Hook murders, and the two events bookmark countless other deaths. In our own time, we know the slaughter of the Holy Innocents.

As a testament to Love, and to each person's responsibility and call to honor and hold sacred the lives of others, I commend this poem.

### ***Shoulders***

by Naomi Shihab Nye

A man crosses the street in rain,  
stepping gently, looking two times north and south,  
because his son is asleep on his shoulder.

No car must splash him.  
No car drive too near to his shadow.

This man carries the world's most sensitive cargo  
but he's not marked.  
Nowhere does his jacket say FRAGILE,  
HANDLE WITH CARE.

His ears fill up with breathing.  
He hears the hum of a boy's dream  
deep inside him.

We're not going to be able  
to live in this world  
if we're not willing to do what he's doing  
with one another.

The road will only be wide.  
The rain will never stop falling.

Submitted by: Lori+

The next issue of *The Window* is in February. 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](mailto:newsletter@saintj.com)  
**February Issue Deadline: January 15**



## About those Cats

The other day I walked past the children’s playground during a rare sunny afternoon and saw Sassy, the black cat, chasing a butterfly she would never catch. Now, I am not a “cat person” as I lean towards the more loyal and simpler creature, the dog. However, I smiled at the innocence of her play and the lightness of her step. There’s another cat that hangs around. Her name is Lulu. She’s more shy than Sassy, likes to keep to herself and doesn’t wander past the education building much. I know the names of these two cats because I have built a relationship with the woman from the condominiums who cares for them. When I first arrived to St. James’, she explained to me that the cats would not “move” to her condo because of their fear of her small dogs. They’re outside cats, and for whatever reason, they’ve decide to spend their time on our campus. I’d like to think it’s because we have good “ju-ju” and they know it.

I knew that some had concerns about stray cats on the property, so I made an agreement with the woman from the condos. I agreed we would not disturb the food she leaves for the cats (the only way they get fed is by her feeding them). She agreed to clean up any mess made by them, to contain the food to the back side of the building, and if any other cats appeared, to catch them to be fixed and released. So far, our agreement has worked well; we have two cats on the property that do not disturb really anything and have posed no problems (we did have a tiny litter of kittens under the storage container that we were working on catching and fixing, but those kittens perished for an unknown reason before we could accomplish our task).

I love that we have open space for God’s animals to explore and that we have a generous spirit towards life in general. I love that we are willing to extend a kindness towards a neighbor and are willing to accommodate the sometimes not-so-ideal situations that life presents. Thank you for supporting me in allowing these animals to exist. Thank you for “welcoming” even the four-legged wanderers along the way.

Lori+

## Faith Formation Presents... The Parables of Jesus

**Where: EB1**

**When: Tuesday evenings 6:30pm - 8pm on  
Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 10**

Please join us for this 4-week Bible Study (skipping Jan. 20, the day after the McCutcheon Concert) as we take a look at the parables of Jesus. About one-third of all of Jesus’ recorded teachings are parables. What exactly is a parable, and why did Jesus tell so many of them? What did they mean to his followers then, and what do they mean to us now?

Join us for some Bible Study and lively discussion. Please bring your Bible! Each session includes a very simple potluck dinner – bring what you wish and we’ll eat what shows up! The class will be led by Janet Fischer.

Submitted by: Janet Fischer

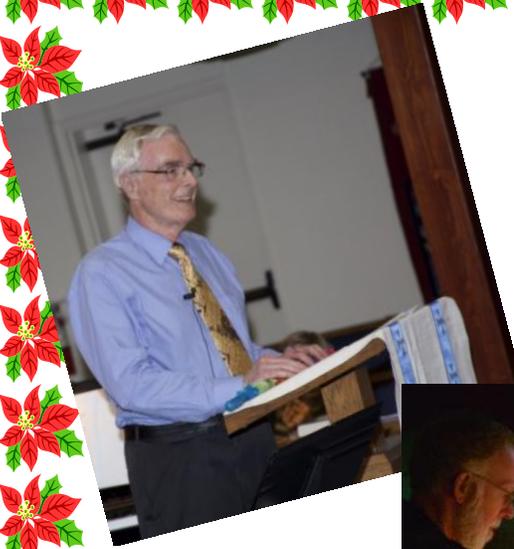


**Fellowship Dinner**

**Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**

Save this date for the next Fellowship Dinner.  
Look for more info soon.

# St. James' Celebrates Las Posadas



*Photo by Bruce Roberts*



# The Gift of Music - John McCutcheon

How does one give away music? I suppose by playing and singing it. The nifty thing about giving away music is once heard it is gone. Then it can be given again, and again, and again. It can be captured in a recording and played (or given) over and over. The recording gives one the memory of the performance, not the performance. The performance, the live performance, of music invokes an emotion, or provokes laughter or resolve. The recording when played causes one to remember the live performance and the emotions from it.

Which brings me to the point of this article. I really enjoy my recordings of John McCutcheon's songs and stories, but they are the memory of his performances. His performance has elicited comments such as, "Where have I been to have missed such great performances!" (in the past). That's the thing. The performance, and singing along with the performer, constitutes the gift. Growing up in a place where live performances were few and far between, I relied for many years on recordings. The emotion, the power of his live performance lifts my spirit, invigorates me, makes me glad I saw John sing and play, and then I'm ready to replay those moments in his recordings some more.

To see and hear John play (quite a number of instruments), sing and tell delightful stories, come to his twelfth concert at St. James', 7:30 PM, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Remember that a portion of the proceeds goes to Abode Services,

working to eliminate homelessness in our community. Remember we are raising funds for St. James' as well. And further remember that John asks for requests before the intermission so you can hear, and maybe sing along to, your favorite John McCutcheon song in the second half of the show.

As an added excitement during the intermission the McCutcheon Team has included a prize drawing. See the items on display each Sunday between now and the concert. John McCutcheon Concert: Tickets \$27 for adults, \$15 for children 12 and under, and under 5 for free. Drawing tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Come join the rest of your friends at the Club Saint J and laugh, sing, and stomp your feet for a good cause.

Submitted by: Bruce Roberts



## Contemplative Practices

*"Contemplation is more like a spiral than a line; you keep returning to the places you've been, even as you progress on the journey of your life."*

~Carl McColman

**Where:** Education Building Room 1

**When:** Sundays, 9:30 - 10am.

**Who:** Everyone is welcome! No meditating experience necessary.

During the month of January we will revisit the practice of Centering Prayer, led by Brian Cochran and Barbara Dabney. If you didn't attend the Centering Prayer class in the Fall, don't worry. No prior experience necessary. Check out the resources for contemplative practices at <http://saintj.com/wp/ministries/adult-faith-formation/contemplative-practices/>



Submitted by: Janet Fischer

### Financial Summary November 2014

Fund Balances	<u>11/30/2013</u>	<u>11/30/2014</u>
Operating Fund	\$ 39,778.37	\$ 32,047.75
Building Fund	\$ 3,6939.15	\$ 33,778.71
<b>Year To Date Summary Operating</b>		
<b>Pledges Budgeted</b>	\$ 223,320.17	\$ 223,891.17
<b>Pledges Paid</b>	\$ 212,046.22	\$ 217,670.88
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 4,980.00	\$ 8,526.00
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 19,716.82</u>	<u>\$ 18,779.88</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ <u>236,743.04</u>	\$ <u>244,976.76</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 237,763.77</u>	<u>\$ 263,734.27</u>
<b>Income less Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (1,020.73)</b>	<b>\$ (16,757.51)</b>
*Includes Fundraising		

## Thank You Very Much

St. James' is very fortunate to have a beautifully kept campus and very fortunate to have a group of wonderful people aka "The Work Party" who make it so. One Saturday each month they come out and weed, rake, mow, trim or whatever it takes to clean up, to neaten up and, well, just to take great care of our grounds.

Chris Perry leads this ministry and keeps things running smoothly. Every year, usually around April, there is the annual trimming of the trees. This is big job to do and usually takes a full day. The normal Saturday will last about 3 - 4 hours and then the group is treated to pizza lunch at the Round Table in Centerville.

If you are interested in helping with the work party, let Chris know. He sends out monthly reminders and updates. Even an hour will help to keep our campus looking so beautiful.

So, many thanks to all those who have helped this past year to keep St. James' looking so beautiful.

Penny Trant

# The Book We Read

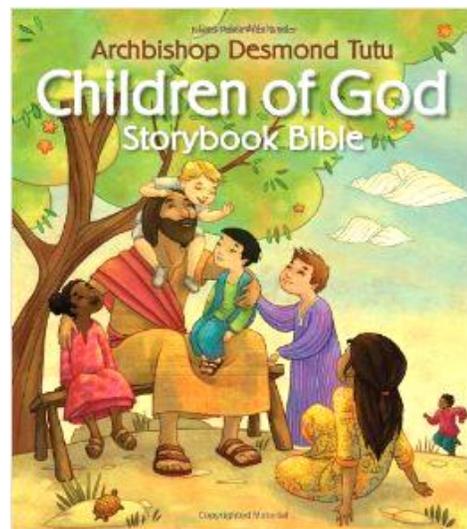
Essential to the spirituality of our children is exposure to our sacred stories through scripture. Helping our young people become familiar with the Bible and the wonderful offerings of characters, tales, teachings, prayers, history, and cultures is a primary responsibility of the Church. It is also a primary function of the child's family, grandparents, guardians, godparents, and so forth. With this in mind, Jan Scrutton, Sherea Westra and I have been on the lookout for books that would help us "break open the Word" for our youngest members.

To that end, we will be supplying our Sunday School room with Bibles geared towards elementary-age children. After looking at several versions, we opted for *The Deep Blue Kids Bible*. This version is one of the Common English Bibles, an accessible, accurate, and well-vetted translation. It allows children to read scripture directly from the Book, and highlights important points such as the character traits (both positive and challenging) of the characters, context for the more difficult passages, and short devotions that help the child personally connect to the scripture. ***If you are looking for a good Bible for your child's bookshelf, this is an excellent choice.*** Drop by the Sunday School Room and take a look at a copy.

I have also been searching for a story-book bible to give to new families with young children as a "Welcome to St. James" gift. I encourage all families to spend time reading the Bible together, and with young children, reading bible stories from a storybook is an excellent way to engage the scripture and have an active faith life at home. I decided on *Children of God Storybook Bible*. This book is written by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and contains within it fifty bible stories beautifully written and illustrated. The stories are short and suitable for children ages 4-7 (though both younger and older ones could easily sit through a story and be captivated by the images on the page as well), and each story ends with a short prayer. ***This storybook makes a wonderful gift for any child or family interested in reading and learning the sacred stories of the Bible.*** We will have a copy in the Sunday School Room if you'd like to browse through it.

If you have any questions about these books, please let me know. If you have other suggestions for bringing faith into the home, I'd love to hear about them.

Lori+







**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  
CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES: SUNDAY 9:15-10:15AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM  
YOUTH GROUP SECOND SUNDAY 6:30PM  
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00AM

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

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

**STAFF**

The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector..... [lori@saintj.com](mailto:lori@saintj.com)  
The Rev. Ken Parris, Deacon.....[deakonken@saintj.com](mailto:deakonken@saintj.com)  
Jennifer Carini, Music Director ..... [music@saintj.com](mailto:music@saintj.com)  
The Rev. John Trubina, Office Administrator.....  
.....[admin@saintj.com](mailto:admin@saintj.com)  
Lynn Locher, Treasurer .....[treasurer@saintj.com](mailto:treasurer@saintj.com)

**VESTRY**

**Senior Warden**..... [srwarden@saintj.com](mailto:srwarden@saintj.com)  
*Mike Scrutton*  
**Junior Warden**..... [jrwarden@saintj.com](mailto:jrwarden@saintj.com)  
*Dave Nelsen*

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

**Vestry Clerk:** *Elizabeth Hart*

**Other Important Coordinators**

**Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:** John Trubina  
**Altar Guild:** Ruth Poole  
**Ushers:** Burtin Hart

**Facilities:**..... [facilities@saintj.com](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@saintj.com)