



# The Window

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

April 2015

## Claiming Our Faith and Letting It Be Known

*The rite of initiation into the Christian Church is **Baptism**. Most of us have been baptized (and if not, I'd love to talk more with you). All baptized members of the church are considered full members. However, as we grow older, the rites of **Confirmation and Reception** are offered as a mature, public affirmation of one's faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism, as lived out through the traditions and practices of the Episcopal Church.*

If you haven't noticed, I am in love with the Episcopal Church. This love relationship began while in my 30's when I decided to reconnect with organized religion, and finding the denomination of my childhood to be a poor fit for my world view and personal ethics, I wandered into an Episcopal Church and fell in love. I loved the way we used our minds, our spirit, and our bodies in worship. I loved the compelling sermons and the warmth that emanated from the gathered assembly. I loved that people seemed to be in church out of joy and a search for deeper meaning rather than out of a sense of obligation or fear of retribution. I loved that women could rise into full leadership and that all configurations of family and partnerships were celebrated.

However, at first I didn't say I was an Episcopalian. Instead, I'd tell people I was the religion of my childhood. My Irish-Italian blood seemed to have an old religious marker in its DNA, and I had quite a time untangling myself from my cultural bias of what constituted a legitimate church. But then, I was invited to be a Eucharistic Minister, and that in order to do so, I had to be confirmed (or

received if I had already been confirmed in another denomination). That would mean "converting" from my old religion to the Episcopal faith, and I had to either fish or cut bait. I had been active in the Episcopal Church for a few years, but mentally affiliating with a church to which I was no longer connected. It occurred to me that perhaps it was time to commit to the spiritual home that was nurturing me rather than the one that was no longer a part of my life. And so, at the altar of Grace Cathedral by Bishop Catherine Roskam of New York, I was confirmed an Episcopalian. It was a pivotal moment in my life.

Our tradition is a wide tent. We live our tag line "everyone is welcome," which means we draw people from many denominations and backgrounds. We welcome to our table people who have a ton of religious background, and those who have none. Our core belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Holy Spirit, and the Creator of all and our minimal dogma makes a wide door for those who want to claim the Episcopal Church as their spiritual home.

For some, the public affirmation of faith through the lens of our amazing church is an important step. For me, this step demonstrated my fidelity to God through a church that embraced me and empowered me to deepen my relationship with the Divine. I felt strongly about committing myself to a church that had and continues to do so much for me and for the world. Being confirmed as an Episcopalian allowed me to make public my loyalty and commitment to a religious tradition that was aligned with my core beliefs and values. I came to realize that the

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Claiming Our Faith and Letting It Be Known

*(Continued from page 1)*

Episcopal Church stood for all that I believed about equality, justice, personal connection to God, community, and the presence and expression of God in our world, and I was and am proud to call myself an Episcopalian.

Perhaps you are at the same juncture. If you are a regular worshiper at St. James' but have not been confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, I invite you to consider this step. If you are unsure, let this Easter season be a time of discernment. Bring the question to God in prayer. Ponder whether or not claiming a particular denomination makes a difference for you. One excellent way to

learn more about the Episcopal Church is to attend our upcoming class - **“Being Episcopalian: Claiming your Christian Faith”** (*see article below*). This class is open to every parishioner, but might be particularly helpful for those who know only St. James' and are curious about the wider denomination in which we are situated.

Whether or not you are confirmed or received, know that you are an integral and amazing part of the Body of Christ. Our community is made more whole by your presence and participation, and we are deeply blessed to claim you as our brother or sister in Christ.

Lori+

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## Being Episcopalian Claiming Your Christian Faith *Faith Formation Class for Everyone!*

This six-week course, co-led by Janet Fischer, Anna Horen and Lori Walton, will examine various aspects of the Episcopal Church. If you are new to the church, it is an excellent way to learn more. If you've been around a while, it is an excellent way to share your own experiences and stories. In either case, it is an excellent way to take a deeper step

If you are interested in **confirmation** or **reception** into the Episcopal Church (see the lead article in this issue), this class is a great way to discern, and will serve as preparation for the Confirmation and Reception Service to be held at Grace Cathedral on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

All classes are held on **Tuesday nights from 6:30 – 8:00pm** starting with a “Holy Spirit” Potluck. Bring something to share with others!

*With advance notice, childcare will be provided.  
Please let Lori Walton know asap.*

### Schedule of Classes:

- April 14: Who Are We? The Personal and the Global
- April 21: Episcopal Polity, How We Are Structured
- April 28: The Lived Theology of the Episcopal Church
- May 5: Our History, Anglican and American
- May 12: Sacraments, Ritual, Terminology
- May 19: Our Worship and the Book of Common Prayer

# Help Us Be Good Stewards of the Environment

God's first assignment to humans was to work and take care of the earth (*"The Lord took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."* Genesis 2:15).

As God's stewards, we are charged to take good care of the environment. I've shared this before, but I think it's a message worth repeating as we approach the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2015.

For 45 years, Earth Day has been bringing communities and organizations together to advocate for a healthier environment and a sustainable life. From the first Earth Day in 1970 when 20 million Americans first shared their concerns about the environment to over one billion people in 192 countries now participating in Earth Day activities, it has become the largest civic observance in the world.

The Stewardship Team is focusing on recycling during the month of April and will be sharing information during the coffee hours following both services on Sunday, April 19. There will be

information, displays, tips, and even a recycling quiz set up in the Parish Hall. I like to think that I am familiar with most items that can go in my recycling

bin, but some *"thing"* invariably seems to turn up catching me off guard – juice pouches, bubblewrap, and plastic (Saran) wrap go in the trash! What about an old pair of shoes (no longer wearable)? How can you opt out of receiving all those unwanted catalogs, phone books, marketing mailings, and donation solicitations? Join your Stewardship Team on April 19 and see how you might become a better recycler and steward of the environment.



*"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1*

God, you have given us this great green earth to live on and to steward. Teach us to care for it, to think carefully and unselfishly about how we steward it for the good of all your people.

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

## Hospitality Hosts



We are calling our team **Hospitality Hosts** and it's our pleasure to host the coffee hours each Sunday. This entails setting up the coffee, tea and other beverages before the 8 am service.

Assistance will be

offered with placement of food to groups or individuals who bring food to share. And we will do the dishes, clean up the kitchen and put things away. What seems like a big task is actually quite manageable because of the size of our team. We are 16 people, organized by teams, taking responsibility for the early or later coffee hour on each Sunday of the month. Your hospitality hosts are; Lauren & Bob Doherty, Lynn & Ralph Locher, Elaine & Greg Miller, Barry Hedgpeth, Dave Nelsen, Pam & Tim Young, Gail & Tom Blalock, Meg & John Amouroux, Patty & Robert Lacy.

We welcome everyone to be part of the coffee hour by bringing food to share. The hosts are setting up and cleaning up, we will not be bringing food. And for those who bring food, you will not be expected to do the dishes, although your offer to help will most likely be welcomed. Think about bringing snacks near the time of your birthday or to celebrate the birthday of a friend or family member. Think of bringing a traditional type of food from your cultural heritage. There is a large sign up sheet in the back of the parish hall. Please find it and choose a Sunday to share some treats with your St. James' friends.

Dave Nelsen, Sr. Warden

## Men's Trip 2015 set for Twain Harte, CA August 20-23

Well I'm back at it again for 2015. It is now our



8th year in a row for the Mens Group headed to the Mother Lode country and our second year in Twain Harte. The size of our group has ranged from 13- 20. The Twain Harte area truly has a lot to offer a diverse group of guys from ages 21-80+ who like to hike, play golf, fish, beer and wine tasting, swim, kayak, shoot pool, read, tell stories and eat good food.

It's a great time for new members to get to know your fellow parishioners

better. We do have a few former members of St. James that have moved out of the area or left but are still involved with members of St. James that attend. Alcohol will be served along side equally accessible and attractive non-alcoholic beverages at the homes and events we attend. Only men 21 years or older participate in our trek to the mountains.

Tentative cost is \$155.00 per person, which also includes meals. Beverages are usually handled individually. The first night there many of us choose to eat out; otherwise we have great breakfasts and dinners together.

Feel free to call me at 510-795-1870 or email [dgfeeney@comcast.net](mailto:dgfeeney@comcast.net) for additional info. Once you are on the email group list for this event, then you'll receive updates throughout the year. I'll have a sign up started in April.



# Ducks for Bucks

## Twenty-first Year

### Can St. James' Beat Last Year's Level of Donating?

On Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, St. James' entries in the annual Ducks for Bucks Race will splash their way toward the

winner's gate. The 1:00pm start time will be preceded by a Kids Carnival, food for sale and entertainment starting at 11:00am. Lake Elizabeth is transformed into a sea of yellow ducks that will race, depending on the weather, pushed by the wind or by Fremont Fire Department fire hoses. Either way, your duck can be a winner.

How is that so? All the thousands of ducks are dumped in the water. Then the wind pushes them toward the chute through which the ducks must pass to win. If there is no wind, or it's blowing in the wrong direction, the Fremont Fire Department gives the duckies a powerful nudge with blast from a fire hose. The ducks sail toward the chute. The first duck through is the winner! But there are many winners as we, at St. James', discovered last year. Laura Winter, Evelyn Martinez and Tom Blalock's daughter were all prize winners of cash or valuable prizes with St. James' ducks. In addition, St. James' had its own drawing for special prizes for those who buy their ducks from St. James'. Watch for the growing list of prizes posted in the Parish Hall.

How to win and why sponsor a duck? First sponsor a duck. For every duck "sponsored" for \$5, St. James' receives three of those dollars until 250 of them are sponsored. Then St. James' starts to receive \$4 for each one. Last year, St. James' received a check from Kiwanis for \$1,906 for the ducks sponsored by St. James'.

How to win? Fill out the forms provided by your

Duck representatives, Tom Blalock, Marlene Benedict and Bruce Roberts. Depending on how many ducks you want to sponsor - \$5 per duck or 6 ducks for \$25 - for as many as you want to sponsor, we take cash, check, or a Master or Visa credit card. It is fun to watch the race, you may win a prize and... ultimately you support St. James'.

In addition to getting the forms from your Ducks for Bucks reps, you can find them in the Parish Hall, or outside the Church Office. The deadline for returning the forms is Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Bruce Roberts

#### Financial Summary February 2015

<b>Fund Balances</b>	<b><u>2/28/2014</u></b>	<b><u>2/28/2015</u></b>
Operating Fund	\$ 36,054	\$ 52,894
Building Fund	\$ 42,158	\$ 34,853
<b>Year To Date Summary Operating</b>		
<b>Pledges Budgeted</b>	\$ 40,708	\$ 43,471
<b>Pledges Paid</b>	\$ 34,899	\$ 45,800
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 1,185	\$ 2,485
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 2,279</u>	<u>\$ 4,629</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ 38,363	\$ 52,914
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 53,115</u>	<u>\$ 47,605</u>
<b>Income less Expenses</b>	(\$ 14,751)	\$ 5,309
*Includes Fund Raising in 2015 but not 2014		

The Vestry appreciates those who paid their pledges in full at the beginning of the year. This will help our cash flow. However we will continue to need pledges paid on a regular basis to be able to live out our mission.



## New Co-editor Named

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Katie Porter has volunteered to join our newsletter staff as a co-editor. The responsibility of composing and editing our monthly newsletter will rotate among her, Penny Trant and myself. I also want to thank retiring co-editor Marilyn Rose for her years of dedicated service to the newsletter.

Ralph Locher, co-editor

One of the great resources of our Church is the offering of summer camps (away camps) for children of all ages. The Diocese of California has two fabulous retreat centers – St. Dorothy’s Rest in Camp Meeker, Occidental and the Bishop’s Ranch in Healdsburg. Both are sites for camps for children (at St. Dorothy’s) and older children & youth (at the Bishop’s Ranch).

*St. Dorothy’s Rest offers week-long camps for ages 5 – 15 in June and July.*

*The Bishop’s Ranch offers week-long camps for grades entering 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> and just graduated, also in June and July.*

Summer Camp is a great way for children to connect with others through fun, activities, prayer, and song. I have never met a camper who didn’t love going to camp.

Check out the “wider church” bulletin board in the parish hall for information, or go to [www.stdorothysrest.org](http://www.stdorothysrest.org) or [www.bishopsranch.org](http://www.bishopsranch.org)

***Detailed information and registration forms for St. Dorothy’s is found in the Sunday School room.***

And don’t forget our own day camp – “Feast @ St. James” held on campus 9:00am to Noon, July 27 – 31, 2015. Registration forms will be available soon!

Submitted by: Rev. Lori Walton

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## Men’s Group Meeting April 25

During the **Pancake Griddle Break-in Breakfast** held on February 7<sup>th</sup>, we talked about meeting on a more regular basis. We decided on another breakfast meeting — this time cooked by someone else.

As well as eating a great meal our agenda will include;

1. A debriefing of the Pancake Supper;
2. Discuss what we think future men’s group meetings might look like;
3. Plan a spring service project to do at church;

This will be a great opportunity to get to know each other a little better and work together to serve our church and community.

So, mark your calendars for Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am. We will meet at Normans (name recently changed to Cabrillo Cafe) located at 4949 Stevenson Blvd on the corner of Blacow Rd. A sign up sheet will be in the parish hall so the restaurant can plan for our group.

Call Dave Nelsen with questions, 510-673-5042.

Dave Nelsen

# Vestry News

Your vestry met for its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 12.

Our meeting opened with our financial status update. We are very pleased to see a positive financial status (see the Financial Summary in this issue on Page 5). All are encouraged to contribute their pledges on a regular basis to maintain our cash flow and allow us to continue our ministries and mission. Continued thanks to Lynn Locher, for her time and contributions as our parish treasurer.

The vestry was pleased to welcome Marnie Hartmann, representing the Endowment Board, to the meeting. After explaining the Board's background and set-up, she introduced the names of the newest prospective Board members, Jeanne Morris and Bruce Roberts, with the vestry giving them full approval. Jeanne and Bruce will replace retiring Board members Sylvia Ma and Marnie Hartmann. On behalf of the vestry and all the parish, we thank Sylvia and Marnie for their time, energy, and commitment to the Endowment Board.

The vestry then proceeded to allocated the 2014 Endowment distribution (\$3404) to the Building Fund, to help finance upcoming capital needs.

After beginning an examination last year involving the possible addition of solar power to the campus, the vestry received recommendations from the team of parishioners who have worked with both solar and roofing contractors. Their update is included on Page 8. A vote was passed to proceed with recommended maintenance, along with their suggestion to develop a plan for future roof replacement, and a review of solar installation at that time.

Rev. Lori shared background about Collaborative for Church Vitality (CCV), a program of insight, tools and programs geared to congregational growth and development. She had attended an initial presentation about the program with four other members of the parish in 2014. The vestry fully supports her attending the program's sessions over two weekends, one in April and one in October of this year, with continuing sessions in 2016. We look

forward to energizing and exciting new programs and ideas!

The meeting continued with a review of the 2015 events calendar, an update of the St. James' Cares ministry program, as well as conversation about the children's ministry.

The vestry's major ministry projects for 2015 continue, as we focus on improving ways to welcome, invite and integrate visitors and new members of St. James', and growing the participation and impact from the many ministries already in place.

Meg Amouroux, Jr. Warden

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## SAVE THE DATE

### John McCutcheon

#### Returns as Joe Hill

#### In the play

#### “Joe Hill’s Last Will”

#### Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>

#### at 7:30 PM



Age 18-30

# Spiritual Hike



## Ed Levin County Park

**Date:** 04/11/2015

**Time:** 10:00 - 2:00

**Cost:** \$6 for parking

Join us for an easy hike and spiritual thoughts through the beautiful hills of Ed Levin County Park. All are welcome regardless of faith, orientation, or hair color.

Trail mix will be provided! (Please bring your own snack if you have nut allergies.)

We will meet by the front of the Visitor's Center near the park entrance at 3100 Calaveras Road, Milpitas, CA 95035.

**Contact Melissa:** 936 645 9692  
melissa.a.ferguson3@gmail.com

### To Bring:

- **Hiking/walking shoes**
- **Two bottles of water**
- **Hat**
- **Sunscreen**
- **Enthusiasm!**



Sponsored by St. James Episcopal Church [www.saintj.com](http://www.saintj.com)

# Solar Panel / Roof Update

In the Fall of 2014, it was recommended (on a diocesan level) that the parish investigate the merits of adding solar power to our campus. Our buildings and campus were evaluated by American Solar, and a proposal was submitted for building a 12.4 kW system comprised of 38 solar panels.

They proposed the panels be mounted to the flat portion of the Big Church roof above the main entrance into the building. It was strongly recommended the flat roof be replaced prior to installation of the panels, unless there is at least ten years of life remaining in the roof.

This and a current leak prompted us to investigate the condition of the roof. Approximately ten roofing contractors were asked to submit bids for replacing the roof, which three did. The quote we were most comfortable with lists nine different options and prices for each, including \$2,350 for maintenance of existing roof and \$25,600 for replacement of roof.

Comments regarding the current condition of the roof were consistent from all three bidding contractors. The roof, now 15 years old, has weathered normally. They found no real evidence of

deterioration (other than normal wear) and would expect this roof system could last another 5 - 8 years (with some minor maintenance).

We do not question the importance of installing solar paneling, however, considering we could expect to see 5 to 8 years of life from the current roof system, we recommend:

- Not installing solar paneling at this time.
- Contract with the selected vendor to perform suggested maintenance.
- Over the next 5 years, plan for the expense of replacing this roof.
- Revisit addition of solar paneling when this roof is replaced.

At the March 12 vestry meeting, a vote was taken, and passed, to proceed with the recommendations of this team.

*Submitted by Dave Nelsen for a team comprised of Al Casas, Barry Hedgpeth, Ralph Locher, Dave Nelsen, Bud Spalding, and Mike Scrutton*

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## Lucky Stores Cookware stamps a huge success with St. James'

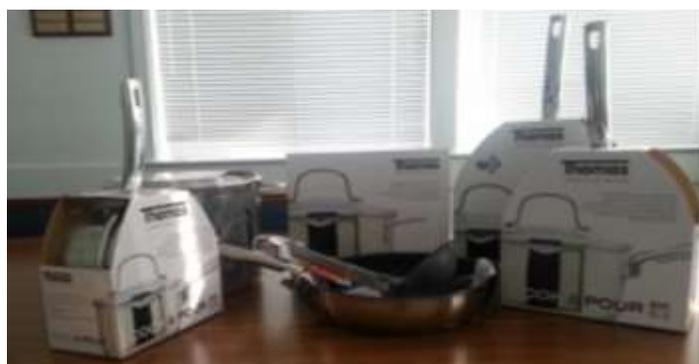
Late last year Lucky Stores ran a program where their customers would earn 1 stamp for every \$10.00 they spent.

The stamps were collected and redeemed for brand new pots and pans. Thanks to Patty Lacy for taking on this project and through her efforts, she was able to come up with 3 full sets of pots and pans.

The pots and pans are slated for **Abode Services - Home Warming Program**. We gave one set away in January to a homeless vet and his three boys. They were very thankful for the gift.

Thanks so much to St James' for supporting this cause.

Gregg Feeney



The cookware



## 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, Tom

### **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, Henry, Nikkole, Pat,  
David, Annie, George, Marilyn, Sandra,  
Barbara, Midgene, Olan, Pete and Betty, Casey,  
Robert, Cindy, Gary, Carolyn, Dorothy, Rev. Jill

**For Families Expecting Children:** Lindsay and  
Robert, Matt and Maria, Jordan and Anna

**For Those Who Have Passed Away:** Judy, Ella,  
Darrell, Candido, Pat



## April Birthdays

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 4 Robert Bell    | 16 John Butterfield |
| 6 Ann Jamison    | 17 Tom Scrutton     |
| John Trubina     | 20 Ruth Poole       |
| 7 Ian Fuller     | 23 Karl Drescher    |
| 8 Andy MacRae    | 26 Elizabeth Hart   |
| Renee Whitehouse | Michael Hart        |
| EJ Hilliard      | 28 Marnie Hartmann  |
| 13 Allen Krimmel | Al Casas            |
| 14 Tim Feeney    |                     |
| 15 Alan Saichek  |                     |
| Elyse Lovellette |                     |

## April Anniversaries

- |                               |
|-------------------------------|
| 9 Mel and Alice Johnson       |
| 19 Bud and Jan Pearson        |
| 25 Wayne and Victoria Krimmel |

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](mailto:admin@saintj.com)

The next issue of *The Window* is in May. 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)  
by: **May Issue Deadline: April 15<sup>th</sup>**



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 9:30-10:00AM  
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](mailto:lori@saintj.com)  
The Rev. Ken Parris, Deacon . [deaconken@saintj.com](mailto:deaconken@saintj.com)  
Anna Horen, Ministry Intern .....[anna@saintj.com](mailto:anna@saintj.com)  
The Rev. John Trubina, Office Administrator  
.....[admin@saintj.com](mailto:admin@saintj.com)  
Jennifer Carini, Music Director .....[music@saintj.com](mailto:music@saintj.com)

**VESTRY**

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

*Al Casas*  
*Ashley Francis*  
*Nancy Castaneda*  
*Charles Hall*  
*Barry Hedgpeth*  
*Karen Koonze*  
*Ralph Locher*  
*Vivienne Paratore*  
*Elaine Vallecillo-Miller*  
*Alison Saichek*

**Vestry Clerk:** *Elizabeth Hart*

**Other Important Coordinators**

**Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:**

The Rev. John Trubina

**Eucharistic Visitors:**

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](mailto:facilities@saintj.com)

Al Casas  
Barry Hedgpeth

**The Window Staff**

Ralph Locher  
Katie Porter  
Penny Trant  
Jack Rux  
Laura Winter

Article submission.....[newsletter@saintj.com](mailto:newsletter@saintj.com)