The Window

The Newsletter of St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont, CA

Called to serve in new and loving ways

May 2015

Living Water

It wasn't too many years ago that I heard on the news that Atlanta, Georgia was running out of water. My little brother lives near Atlanta, so when I hear news from this region, I pay attention. When I heard this piece about the disappearing water, I was shocked. How is it possible for an entire city to run out of water? What kind of world do we live in when nature's most prolific resource runs dry?

Of course, I now know this is not uncommon. An April 2015 article in the Huffington Post listed 11 cities that would soon run out of water, San Francisco (the entire Bay Area, actually) displayed along with Miami, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and others. We know that our earth has run dry, that the ground is thirsty for life, that what was once a given is now a treasure. We know that we all have a responsibility to conserve what has become so scarce.

As Episcopalians, we believe that caring for our creation is part of the Christian walk, supported not only by scripture, but also by our God-given conscience The first thing that is said about God in scripture is that God created the world, the land and the sea, the animals on land and the creatures of the water, and all that is contained in the earth, and God called it good, and at the end, God created humanity. Our faith is intimately connected with God's creation. If we are meant to be in relationship with God, and if God created all things, aren't we then meant to be in relationship with creation? Should we not seek to be in harmony with the universe?

We are blessed to have Celtic Spirituality as part of our Anglican/Episcopal ethos, a particular way of integrating the earth and all that it contains with worshipping and honoring God. Following the Celtic way, we find evidence of God in nature, in plant life, sea life, animal life, in all things living, including water. We praise God by praising that which God created. And every time we pray the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven," we are calling upon God to remind us that God's Kingdom is not only meant to be a far away place entered into upon death, but is also meant to be right here, right now. We cannot realize God's Kingdom here on earth while at the same time depleting and disregarding the earth.

As we move towards the summer months, I offer this piece to remind us that God is everywhere, calling each one of us to honor and respect the creation that God dwells in.

That in the elements of earth, sea and sky I may see your beauty,
that in wild winds, birdsong and silence I may hear your beauty,
that in the body of another and the interminglings of relationship I may touch your beauty,
that in the moisture of the earth and its flowering and fruiting I may smell your beauty,
that in the flowing waters of springs and streams I may taste your beauty,
these things I look for this day, O God, these things I look for.

-from John Philip Newell, *Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter*

Lori+

Stewardship Corner

Time & Talent

One of the most significant aspects of biblical faith is the Call to Stewardship. In the Book of Genesis, God places humankind in charge of creation to diligently, energetically and faithfully take care of the many gifts and resources which God has given for our use. Stewardship means an honest look at the gifts God has given to us and then an honest look at our calendars to see how we can share those gifts with others through our Time and Talent. The Stewardship Team would like to encourage you to spend some time this month considering in what ministry or ministries you would like to be involved. We have each been gifted with such unique talents that we're sure there is a place for you to use your gifts. Your Time and Talent work together to keep St. James' alive, healthy and thriving.

I invite you to reflect on the gifts and talents God has blessed you with and how you might best share them with our St. James' community. I ask you to consider offering your time as a volunteer or as a supporter of the many programs and ministries that are offered at St. James'. *"Many hands make light work."* I'm sure you've heard this old saying and know it to be true. To make St. James' a strong community of faith, we all need to do our part.

This month's prayer: *Thank you, God, for giving us unique gifts and abilities. Help us to realize that only we can do the work you have prepared for us to do. We ask for the wisdom and strength to use our gifts for the good of your people and for your honor and glory. Amen.*

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

Jan Scrutton Appointed Children's Minister

After volunteering her time and creativity in 2012 -2013 and from 2014 until the present, Jan Scrutton agreed to move from the Interim Children's Minister to the permanent Children's Minister. Jan brings a high level of expertise, experience, energy and love to the position. Under her care, our program has flourished and continues to become a model for Christian education. Each week, children are connecting to scripture, learning to pray, and experiencing the love of God for them personally. They are living into the Christian call to serve others and to know Christ through relationship. St. James' is incredibly blessed to have Jan as a resource and treasure. Please join me in enthusiastically congratulating and thanking Jan for her service to our children and community.

Lori+

Hillside Easter Visit

The Easter Plants were given to each resident right after their lunch. The Easter Bunny was joined by Winnie the Pooh and a group of helpers. While we visited with the residents, Bruce Roberts was busy taking pictures.

Byron Bader was also setting up his keyboard and sound system. Giving him a hand were George Vlastelica and Paul Svenson. George was our "storyteller" accompanied by St. James' bunnies using story "props" made by Nancy Svenson.

Byron played as George read two stories. The music continued with Byron joined by several members of a Fremont Harmonica group, joined by Nancy Svenson and Barbara Lyon, who are also members.

Are you getting the picture? We had a lot going on, and we hope the residents enjoyed it as much as we did! Rev. Lori was there to see it all. We're not sure how we'll top this Easter visit, but suffice to say, we'll try.

Thank you, St James', for all the plants you purchased and to all of you who joined us on the 26th.

Lauren Doherty, Alice Johnson, Sandra Motley

Palm Sunday

March Vestry Report

The Vestry most recently met on Thursday, April 9, for its monthly meeting. We start each of our meetings at 6:30, sharing a meal provided by a Vestry member. The business portion of the meeting begins at 7:00 with an opening prayer.

We reviewed the agreement and policy between St. James' and Cub Scout Pack 163, of which we are now the Charter Organization. We thank St. James' and Pack 163 leadership for the many hours of communication and work to make this connection possible.

The Parochial Report for 2014 was reviewed by the Vestry and approved for submittal to the national church's database.

We were introduced to an upcoming event on May 2, a diocesan-led training event in San Mateo at St. Matthew's: speakers and sessions designed to explore the challenge of ministry in our context, and the resources we may already have for tackling those challenges.

Elaine Vallecillo-Miller shared with us the progress and future plans for our Disaster Preparedness.

Nancy Castaneda updated us on St. James' Cares, specifically the various ways people will soon be able to ask for help, and how those ways will be made known to the parish in the very near future. The group's first request to provide short social visits to a home-bound parishioner has proven to be very successful due to the outpouring of volunteers, a pleasing sight.

The decision was made to combine the July and August Vestry meetings into a combined single meeting on Thursday, July 30.

The meeting concluded with discussion about the Sunday School program and the acquisition of a new thermostat for the Little Church. We then broke into our two groups focusing 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.

Our meeting closed at 9:00, and we finished our evening together with Compline service in the Little Church.

Meg Amouroux, Jr. Warden

Mary Magdalene :: Beloved

St. James' Annual Women's Day Retreat

Saturday, May 9 9:30 – 2:30

All women of St. James' are invited to join us in a day of reflection, fellowship, education, and rest. Explore Mary Magdalene, the first apostle, through historical images, cultural perceptions, and scriptural evidence. Who was Mary Magdalene? What does she represent? How has she impacted the Church and Society? Allow yourself this time to ponder and renew.

All Women ages 16+ are welcome. Location is EB1 on the St. James' campus. A $10 donation is suggested. Lunch will be provided.

Sign up in the Parish Hall, on our website or by emailing admin@saintj.com.

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Financial Summary April 2015

Fund Balances	**3/31/2014**	**3/31/2015**
Operating Fund	$ 41,649	$ 60,670
Building Fund	$ 41,736	$ 34,852
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	$ 61,062	$ 65,206
Pledges Paid	$ 55,947	$ 69,455
Unpledged Contributions	$ 2,105	$ 3,315
Other Op Income*	$ 5,724	$ 6,766
Total Operating Income	$ 63,776	$ 79,536
Total Operating Expenses	$, 72,923	$ 66,450
Income less Expenses	($ 9,147)	$13,086

*Includes Fund Raising

Who Was Joe Hill?

Yes, that is the question. You will be reading and hearing a lot about Joe Hill in the coming couple of months. But just who was he? Was he a composer, a labor union activist, a singer, a murderer, a martyr?

Those are questions that John McCutcheon will answer for us on June 12th. The facts are many but the legend is strong. In the play "Joe Hill's Last Will" John McCutcheon will live out for us the last night in Swedish immigrant Joe Hill's life before his execution by firing squad in the Utah State Prison on November 19, 1915.

It is true that Joe Hill organized workers for the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World). Labor and management strife in the mines of Idaho, Colorado and Utah led to the deaths of many people in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Not only did Joe Hill work for the IWW, he penned cartoons, wrote songs for the IWW and sang them as well. John McCutcheon will sing them all during the one-man play depicting Joe Hill's last night. Among the songs is Joe Hill's Last Will, "My will is easy to decide, For there is nothing to divide….Good Luck to All of you, Joe Hill."

Joe Hill chose not to speak at his trial and denied any involvement in the double murder of which he was accused. The victims' son and a brother did not identify Joe Hill as the murderer at first but then later changed their story. Many say that Joe Hill was convicted of a crime he did not commit. President Wilson, Helen Keller, and the Swedish Ambassador all pleaded for clemency for Joe after the Utah Supreme Court denied Joe's appeal.

Si Kahn wrote the play and John McCutcheon performs it on June 12, 2015, here at St. James'. You will hear John tell the story and perform Joe Hill's songs on that Friday night starting at 7:30. Tickets are $27 for adults, $15 for children (five and under are free).

Bruce Roberts

Young Adults Hike Up and Down the Hills of Ed Levin

On a beautiful spring day, Deacon Ken and I hiked with five young adults in the hills of Ed Levin County Park in Milpitas. The hike was invigorating and educational as parishioner and hike organizer Melissa Ferguson pointed out native grasses and various trees along the way. We shared trail mix and stories, prayed together and pondered whether it was possible for humanity to be in total harmony with nature (and the jury is still out on the verdict). We ended our hike with lunch together and plans for another outing in late spring or early summer. It was a wonderful way to begin the Easter Season in praise of God's beauty!

Lori+

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

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Man Yee, Nonie, Barbara, Donald, Ruth, Dinelle, June, Bob, Claudia and Maurice, Henry, Barbara, Midgene, Olan, Casey, Dorothy, Rev. Jill, Mike, the Kaczanowski family, the Taylor family, Brenda, Peggy, Terrence, Chase, Anita, Jordan, Gina, Adrian, Sharon, Aaron, Barbara, Gary, the Newbrough family, Carroll, Roxanne, Kenny

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Frances, Barbara, Stephanie, Bob, Lynne, Barbara, Sue

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

May Birthdays

1 Burtin Hart
2 Meg Amouroux
4 Jay Butterfield
Margaret Singh
Marco Ramsamy
5 Sandra Motley
16 Jennifer Bodenrader
18 Greg Scheuffle
22 Jon Fuller
26 Betty McCoy
31 Suzanne David
James Rose

May Anniversaries

4 Al & Mary Casas
8 Gregg & Darcia Feeney
19 Bob & Kitty Reed
24 Burtin & Elizabeth Hart
26 Cathy Knotts & Mitchell Pinnix
27 Steve & Barbara Vacchieri
28 Greg Miller & Elaine Vallecillo-Miller
28 Ron Larson and Lori Walton

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in June 2015. 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: **May 15th**

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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
AND FORTH SUNDAY 9:15AM
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00AM

OFFICE HOURS

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

STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector..... lori@saintj.com
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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 & Acolytes:
The Rev. Ken Parris

Altar Guild: Katie Cunningham

Ushers: Burtin Hart

St. J Youth Leaders: Mike & Jan Scrutton

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