



The Window

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

June 2015

Strategic Planning – Following in the Wake of the Holy Spirit

When I was much younger, I remember pondering the “big questions” of life:

Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?

These are the natural questions of someone who is maturing, developing an identity, and trying to figure out what path to take in life. And while these questions have lost some of the ambiguity and urgency of youth, I find that I still ask these questions of myself – who am I now, what am I meant to do in this time and place, where is God leading me?

St. James' has been around for a long time, and at points in our history, we have asked these questions as a community. However, in days past, the questions about the identity and purpose of a Christian Church were much clearer. There was a time when the Church was the center of society, where civic duty was played out and where, for most people, primary relationships were established. In today's world, the Christian Church has been unseated as the major institution of belonging and often we find ourselves struggling between what we once were and what we are becoming.

At the same time, I believe that we, the Church, are more relevant than we have ever been. The need for

connection, community and a place of unconditional acceptance and love is desperately needed in a society that leans towards individualism, competition, and isolation. This belonging offered by the Church can take many forms – forms identified in ministry, fellowship, culture, worship, and other aspects of religious life. So, asking the questions once again is appropriate:

Who are we? What has God called us to do?
Who is our neighbor?

As part of the ongoing vitality of our church, I am initiating a process of Strategic Planning to help us form answers to the above questions. For the next several months (or longer), under the leadership of Mike Scrutton, a series of gathering and conversations will take place to help us ponder, dream, imagine, and listen to the beckoning of the Holy Spirit. At the end of this process, we may have solid answers – or not. We may have a set direction – or not. The end result is not as important as the conversations we will have; it is the sharing of stories, dreams and reverent listening that will give us clarity and help us form a strengthened and more vitalized community.

Stay tuned for more information, and for invitations into this Holy Conversation.

With great hope for who we are becoming,

Lori+

Celebrating Friendship

(A reprise of an article from a few years ago)

I've wanted to write another article about being a good steward of friendship because I believe friends are very vital to a healthy and happy life. Looking through my files, I found this article which I wrote a few years ago for *The Window* and decided to share it again. If you remember it, I'm impressed! I hope you enjoy it the second time around.

Friends are an important part of our well-being. We all have basic needs for community and for the fellowship of others. Friends help us to grow, comfort us in times of need, and laugh with us or help us laugh when we become too serious. Different types of friends help us explore the different needs in our life. Every friend gives us something unique and adds something special to our existence. We don't usually think of friendship as a gift we must steward but, rather, think of it as a benefit for ourselves.

If you were to ask just about anyone at St. James' what makes them feel good about St. James', I'd be willing to bet that one of the top two responses would be "the people." We are all important to the Lord Jesus, and we are all important to each other as well.

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." (John 15:12-15)

Cherish and nurture your friends at St. James' and in your daily lives. As a garden that needs care and nourishment to grow, so do our friendships. Cultivate new friendships. When you see someone on Sunday morning you don't know, introduce

yourself and invite them for a cup of coffee in the Parish Hall. Remember to wear your nametag on Sunday mornings.

Friends are special because they make us glad that we are who we are. Be a good steward of friendship, remember your friends and don't take them for granted. Thank the Lord and thank them for being your friend. And I challenge you to welcome a new friend into your life next Sunday morning!

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

What Happens to the Birthday and Anniversary Donations?

Part of the Sunday church services is a time for people to come forward to acknowledge their birthday, anniversary or other milestones in their lives. At this time the acolyte will have a brass or wooden container into which the individual may make an offering. This "Birthday Money" offering is traditionally small, one cent or more for each year.

Each month this money is transferred into a Special Interest account and, at the end of the year, the money is sent to The Diocese of California, which then adds it to "Birthday Money" from other parishes and sends it to the national church's Department of Education & Department of World Missions. For further questions, please contact Lynn Locher at treasurer@saintj.com.

Lynn Locher, Treasurer

Looking Forward Together

There is no doubt that St. James' has evolved over its history of almost 150 years. Whether you've been a member of St. James' for 6 months, a year, 5 years, 10 years, 25 years, 50 years, maybe even more, there's a good chance that you have noticed and been a part of that change. As rectors come and go, as members come and go, as the cities of Fremont, Newark and Union City have formed and evolved, so too has this church we call home. We often refer to our Christian lives as a journey – one of exploration and growth – and so it is with the life of St. James'.

In the recent report on “[Episcopal Church Growth and Decline](#)”¹, the authors wrote:

“Much more important to the growth profile of a congregation is the religious character of the congregation and its sense of mission and purpose. Churches that are clear about why they exist and what they should be doing are most likely to be growing congregations. They do not grow because they have been at their location for a century or two nor because they have an attractive building where they worship. They grow because they understand their reason for being and make sure they do the things well that are essential to their lives as communities of faith.

“Without a clear purpose, congregations often resemble inward-looking clubs or clans where fellowship among friends is the primary reason for being. Growth is very unlikely if a church has no definable purpose (other than existing) or if it takes its purpose for granted. The nature of purpose will vary among churches, of course, but the key is to have one.”

In her lead article in this month's *The Window*, Lori poses the questions: *Who are we? What has God called us to do? Who is our neighbor?* These are key questions posed in the book, “[Holy Conversations](#)”², which is widely renowned as the authoritative guide for congregations of all

denominations looking at strategic planning as a spiritual practice. What we're hoping to achieve during this period is to help answer these questions for our present time, for our present congregation and community.

“Who are we?” is the identity question – this is something that obviously changes over time, and something we last looked at while preparing our [Parish Profile](#) during our last rector search process in 2009.

“What has God called us to do?” is the purpose question. Based on what we know about ourselves and our situation, what do we believe we are called to do? How are we to develop or mature?

“Who is our neighbour?” is the contextual question. Where does St. James' fit into the wider community and world in 2015?

At this time, we don't have a pre-defined notion of what the outcome of this process will be, other than a better understanding of the answers to these questions, and a sense of mission, vision and opportunities for our future.

On **Sunday June 14th** we will be holding a pair of Town Hall meetings after the two morning services to discuss further why this is an important project and how we see the process unfolding. It's important that the entire community gets the opportunity to take part in this conversation in the coming months. We hope to see you there!

Mike Scrutton

¹New FACTs on Episcopal Church Growth and Decline, Kirk Hadaway, 2015.

²Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations, Gil Rendle & Alice Mann, 2003.

Middle School Nightwatch



On Friday, May 1st, I was fortunate enough to accompany five of our young people to Middle School Nightwatch at Grace Cathedral. This event is held annually and is a great opportunity to meet and get to know other middle school students from the diocese, and beyond. After some icebreaker games, the group played in the Cathedral – with the lights out! Playing Cathedral Commando is a Nightwatch tradition and those, who had been before, were keen to share it with those of us who were newbies! Moving around the Cathedral so as not to be caught in the light of those out to catch us out was both fun and scary. Glowsticks then came out for a team game and their light added something to the atmosphere.

After a snack and crafts downstairs, we returned to the Cathedral in pajamas to set up beds on the floor around the altar. Yes – the stone was cold! We gathered on the labyrinth to start our evening reflection. While singing, we were guided to

four different prayer stations where we heard stories of young people, who had stood up for something important. We heard about Ralph Lazo, Barbara Johns and Barbara Garrison. (*See pg.5 for their stories. Ed*)

Saturday morning started early The cathedral is open to the public at 8am and it needed to look as though we had never been there! We moved downstairs for breakfast and more activities before walking to the outside labyrinth to close our pilgrimage there.

Nightwatch was a great opportunity to meet others from around the diocese and beyond, both for the young people and for me. We are already talking about going back in November for the High School event and next year for Middle School Nightwatch while younger siblings are counting the years until they can join us. Maybe we will plan our own event in the meantime!

Jan Scrutton

Three Adolescents Who Made a Difference

The stories of these three young people were featured in the evening reflections at Nightwatch at Grace Cathedral this May. Their stories show how young people can walk a path that influences and impacts those around them, and beyond.

Ralph Lazo was 16 in 1941 living in LA. He was of Mexican-Irish descent but his best friends were Japanese-American. He played basketball at the Filipino Community Center and despite not liking school, he studied Japanese. When his friends and their families had to leave to go and live in internment camps, he told his father he was going to summer camp and moved to the desert camps with his friends. He was the only non-Japanese person (apart from husbands and wives) who voluntarily remained in the camps.

Barbara Garrison grew up in Sebastopol. In the 1940s she was a teenager and member of the church youth group. Just like Ralph Lazo, she noticed the treatment of her Japanese neighbors but she also saw that once the families of Japanese heritage had been taken away to the camps, some people in the town wanted to destroy things that were important to their absent neighbors. One night people tried to set fire to the Enmanji Buddhist Temple. With the support of their pastor, the youth group arranged overnight and weekend vigils to keep the temple safe until their Japanese friends returned.

Barbara Johns grew up in Virginia in a time when schools were fully segregated. She was 16 in 1951. To protest the poor resources and overcrowding in her school, she persuaded every child in her school to walk out of classes. Holding a general strike to protest conditions was dangerous to black people. Even kids had been killed for standing up for themselves.

With the support of her parents and the NAACP, Barbara and her friends didn't just ask for a better school, but also to be able to attend the same school as the white kids. This was a dangerous time to take this position, but Barbara prayed about it and felt strongly that God was with them. She and her family had to move to Alabama after death threats were made. It was in 1954 that the Supreme Court of the United States ruled, in *Brown vs. Board of Education*, that you cannot separate kids into different schools based on their race because separate can never be equal.

Jan Scrutton

Treating People Right and Joe Hill

John McCutcheon Becomes Joe Hill



In the wake of the industrial revolution, people came cheap. At least cheap is what many captains of industry thought because machines could produce goods faster and cheaper. Not everyone thought that way, especially people having a hard time making a living in hard and dirty jobs. Joe Hill, a Swedish

immigrant and labor organizer, campaigned for workers to join together and fight for an eight-hour day and higher pay. In his efforts to recruit members for the IWW, the Industrial Workers of the World, he wrote songs and penned poems. He performed them to promote the IWW union.

In an unfortunate turn of events Joe Hill was executed in Utah in 1915 for a double murder he did not commit. Many say he was framed because of his union activities. In any event he became a martyr to the union cause, the subject of a song (I dreamed I saw Joe Hill Last Night) that claimed he never died because his spirit lived on in those who continued to organize miners and mill workers, a powerful symbol of the union movement.

A hundred years after Joe Hill's death John McCutcheon shows us that the efforts of the labor organizer, his fight for workers' rights and improved wages, still have relevance today. In the one-man play "Joe Hill's Last Will" John becomes Joe Hill for an evening, singing Joe's songs and acting out Joe's story. He sings "The Preacher and the Slave" and "There is a Power in a Union" where Joe adapted his

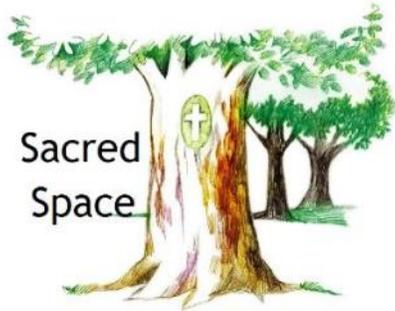
lyrics to popular songs of the day. John sets "Joe Hill's Last Will," a poem, to his own tune. In the folk tradition, if there had not been a Joe Hill, there would probably not have been a Woody Guthrie, a Pete Seeger, a Bob Dylan, or even a John McCutcheon.

Come see the play based on the life of a pioneer, a working man driven to treating people right, like Pete Seeger who followed him, like John McCutcheon who channels him in the play. Tickets for "Joe Hill's Last Will" at St. James' on June 12th at 7:30pm, can be obtained in the Parish Hall at coffee hour on Sundays or by calling St. James' at 510-797-1492.

Bruce Roberts

Financial Summary April 2015		
Fund Balances	<u>4/30/2014</u>	<u>4/30/2015</u>
Operating Fund	\$ 39,821	\$ 56,631
Building Investment	\$ 15,000	\$15,000
Building Fund	\$ 39,301	\$ 38,335
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	\$ 81,415	\$ 86,942
Pledges Paid	\$ 79,017	\$ 85,140
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 3,146	\$ 4,276
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 7,509</u>	<u>\$ 8,231</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ 89,672	\$ 97,647
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 100,657</u>	<u>\$ 89,200</u>
Income less Expenses	(\$ 10,984)	\$ 8,447
*Includes Fund Raising		

Sacred Space Update



Sacred Space East Bay continues to meet faithfully each Sunday at Cannery Park in Hayward.

Attendance runs consistently between 15-20 people.

Attendees are eager to participate in the short liturgy and the Eucharist. When a priest isn't available, we have a prayer service instead, with Holy Communion. See <http://saintj.com/wp/ministries/sacred-space/> for more details.

St. James' provides a bag lunch for the congregation at Sacred Space one Sunday per month. We are so grateful for your participation and generosity. The schedule for July through December will soon be posted in the Parish Hall. Please take a look to see what you can provide. "Many hands make light work!" Thank you!

Janet Fischer
Sacred Space Coordinator for St. James'

Name Tags

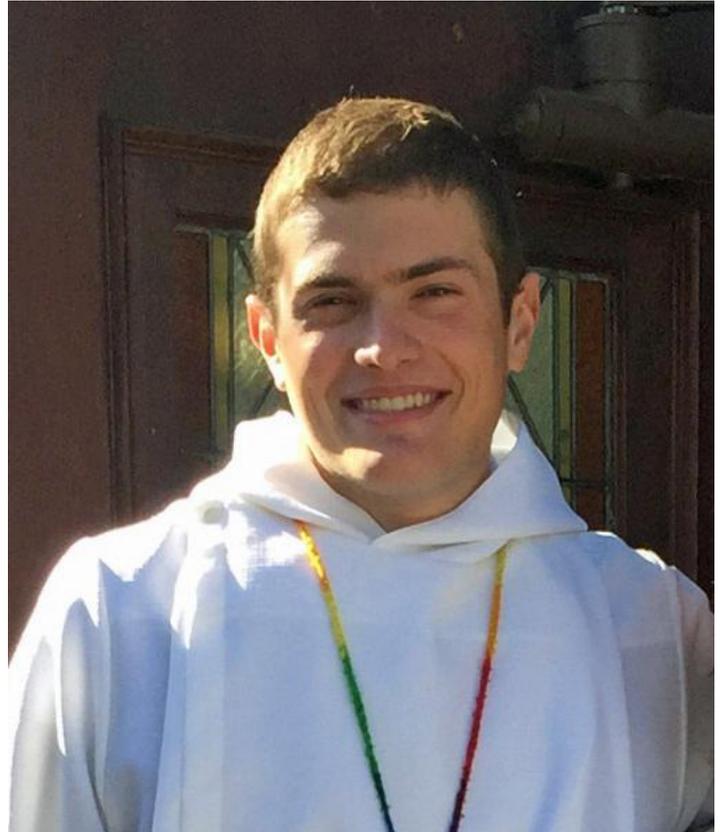
Just a gentle reminder to wear your name tag on all Sundays. Anna Horen, our Ministry Intern, is still learning everyone's name so wearing your name tag helps her and is also a welcoming gesture to our visitors.

If you do not have a name tag, you can request one from the office or on the sign-up sheet at the door to the church.

Thank you!

Janet Fischer

Retiring Acolyte.



After 12 years as an acolyte Ian Perry served for his last Sunday 8am Service on Sunday April 26th. We thank Ian for his years' service in this role and look forward to seeing him in the pew in the future!

Cub Scout Pack Presentation



With the acknowledgement of this support, the charter was presented to the Reverend Lori Walton, as the Institutional Head of St. James' Episcopal Church, signifying the right to use the Scouting program for the year ahead in a way that conforms with both the rules and regulations of St James' and those of Scouting.

The charter was presented on behalf of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America along with a pledge of support and cooperation from Scouting's Mission Peak District (which serves the Tri-City Area of Fremont, Newark and Union City) as well as the San Francisco Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Cub Scout Pack 163's first monthly Pack meeting at St James' will be at 7pm on Tuesday, May 26, 2015. Boys ages 6-10 (Grades 1-5) and their parents are invited to come to the meetings if they are interested in joining or finding out more about Cub Scouting.

At the 10:30 service on May 3rd, representatives of Cub Scout Pack 163 Committee, Adult Leadership, Chartered Organization Representative, youth members and parents all pledged their support to the Scouting program at St. James'; and the members of St. James' present at the service pledged to cooperate with the Scout leadership to support this program as a vibrant living part of the youth program and youth outreach of St. James'.

Bob Doherty
St. James' Chartered Organization
Representative to Pack 163

Shell Society Social

On the morning of May 2nd, Bishop Marc Andrus and St. Anne's hosted the legacy societies of Southern Alameda County. It was well attended by the St. James' Shell Society.

Amanda Kiernan, planned giving officer, welcomed the group. She told of her background and her thoughts on her new position. Bishop Marc talked briefly about diocesan "happenings" and future plans. He then generously responded to questions and comments. It was a pleasant and informative morning.

The St. James' Endowment Fund was established by a group of parishioners in 2004. The purpose of the Fund is to enable St. James' Parish to more completely fulfill its mission by developing ministries beyond what is possible through its annual operating funds. Additional gifts have been given often as celebrations, memorials or to honor friends



and those who serve St. James'. Others have provided for St. James' in their estate planning—a legacy gift.!

For more information, you may contact Lori or a member of the current Board: Jan Brandt chair, Jeanne Morris secretary, Tom Blalock, Bruce Roberts or Scott Whitaker.

Marnie Hartmann

RACE RESULTS

DUCKS *for* BUCKS

On Saturday, April 25th, St. James' participated in the Fremont Kiwanis Annual Duck Race on Lake Elizabeth for the eleventh year in a row! St. James' parishioners had 639 rubber duckies in the race. While none of our ducks made it to the finish line in time to win a prize this year (we had 3 winners in 2014), St. James' did receive a check in the amount of \$1,894 for its participation.

Winners in the "*for St. James' Ducks Only*" prize drawing on Sunday, April 26th, were:

- \$50 Macy's gift card – Paul Svenson
- \$50 Elephant Bar gift card – Meg Amouroux
- \$15 Subway gift card – Bob Bynum
- \$25 Starbuck's gift card – Greg Miller
- \$25 El Patio gift card & Ducky Umbrella – E.J. Hilliard
- \$25 Dickey's BBQ gift card & Applause Duck Lynn Locher
- Ducky Beach Towel – Laura Winter
- Coffee Basket with French Press – Bob Bynum
- Priceless Ducky Umbrella & \$10 Niles Ice Cream gift card – Lori Walton
- Priceless Ducky Hat and \$10 Niles Ice Cream gift card – E.J. Hilliard

The Ducks are gone for another year. The aprons and umbrellas are put away. Thank-you to all of you who sponsored ducks in the race this year and over the past 11 years. Your support has helped raise much needed funds for St. James' programs and the community. As we look forward to next year, we are looking for a volunteer or two to help us continue this fun-filled event at St. James'. Let us know if you are interested.

Tom Blalock, Marlene Benedict, Bruce Roberts



Men's Group Report

During a breakfast meeting on April 25, many gentlemen of the parish decided we should meet on a regular basis. We decided to meet on the 4th Saturday each month, alternating our focus between a social breakfast meeting and service day. Our first service project covered two Saturdays in May, the 16th and 23rd, when we began the process of painting the kitchen and parish hall. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 27 when we will meet for breakfast, conversation and planning additional service projects. Our meeting place for June 27 is not yet decided, but mark your calendars for that Saturday from 8:00 until 10:00 to join other men of the parish for a social breakfast.

Dave Nelsen, Sr. Warden

May Vestry Report

The vestry met on Thursday, May 14, for their 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.

Our Children's Minister, Jan Scrutton, addressed the vestry. She reviewed recent activities that have taken place and her forms of communicating with children and their families, including monthly activity calendars and event fliers. She also shared upcoming plans and activities. She discussed the current size of the Sunday school participants being 24 children and some of the challenges we will face as children age out of that program, in small numbers, and the need to develop meaningful programs for that age group.

Dave spoke about a grant application filed with the Niles Rotary Club. Grants range from \$500 to \$5,000. If our application is granted, the funds would go toward the Little Church Renovation project.

Meg and Elaine each shared what they had learned during a diocesan-led training event,

Equipping the Beloved Community, held on May 2nd in San Mateo. These valuable and meaningful training events are held several times a year and open to everyone. The next event will take place in August.

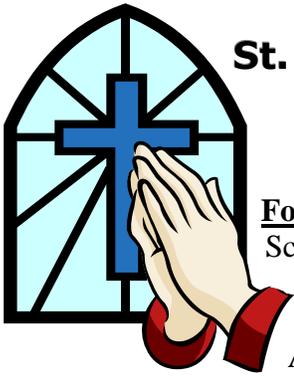
We then broke into our two groups focusing on Ministry Development and Invitation and Integration.

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

Everyone is welcome to attend the vestry meetings, which generally take place the 2nd Thursday of each month. If you have ever been interested in how our meetings are conducted please consider attending one soon. You may be surprised at the fun we have and the joy we share in doing the work of the parish. Please note these changes to our vestry meeting schedule: The June meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18. The July meeting will be held on Thursday, July 30. We will not be meeting in August.



K-6 Day Camp
Feast at St. James'
July 27-31
9am - 12 daily
All Kids Welcome
Register at www.saintj.com



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, Dinelle, June,
Bob, Claudia and Maurice, Henry, Midgene,
Olan, the Taylor family, Gary, the Newbrough
family, David, Andrea, Janet, Sheila, Gina, Judy,
Annie, Michael, Mike, Murray family, Bud, Jean,
Donald

For Those Who Have Passed Away:

Stephanie, Neal



June Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Charles Paratore4 | 22 Tim Spencer |
| Dorothy Balderston | Mark Locher |
| Kitty Reed | 25 Sylvia Clayton |
| Nancy Castaneda | 25 Robert Lovellette |
| 5 Ivy Sankar | 26 Greg Miller |
| 9 Bob Doherty | 27 Marlene Benedict |
| Benjamin Rose | 28 George Vlastelica |
| 12 Isabella Slayton | Pat Vlastelica |
| Sophia Slayton | 29 Julie Guzior |
| 16 Bruce Prickett | 30 Emma Feeney |
| 20 Timothy Prickett | |

June Anniversaries

- 21 David and Judy Colby
- 22 Charles and Judy Peeler
- 24 Keith and Sherea Westra
- 25 James and Frankie McLeod
- 27 John and Joan Kimber
- 28 Timothy and Pamela Young

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 July 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: **June 15th**



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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 FOURTH SUNDAY 9:15AM
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00AM

OFFICE HOURS

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

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The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector..... lori@saintj.com
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The Rev. John Trubina, Office Administrator
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Meg Amouroux

Al Casas
Nancy Castaneda
Ashley Francis
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: Katie Cunningham

Ushers: Burtin Hart

St. J Youth Leaders: Mike & Jan Scrutton

Facilities: facilities@saintj.com

Al Casas
Barry Hedgpeth

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