The Window

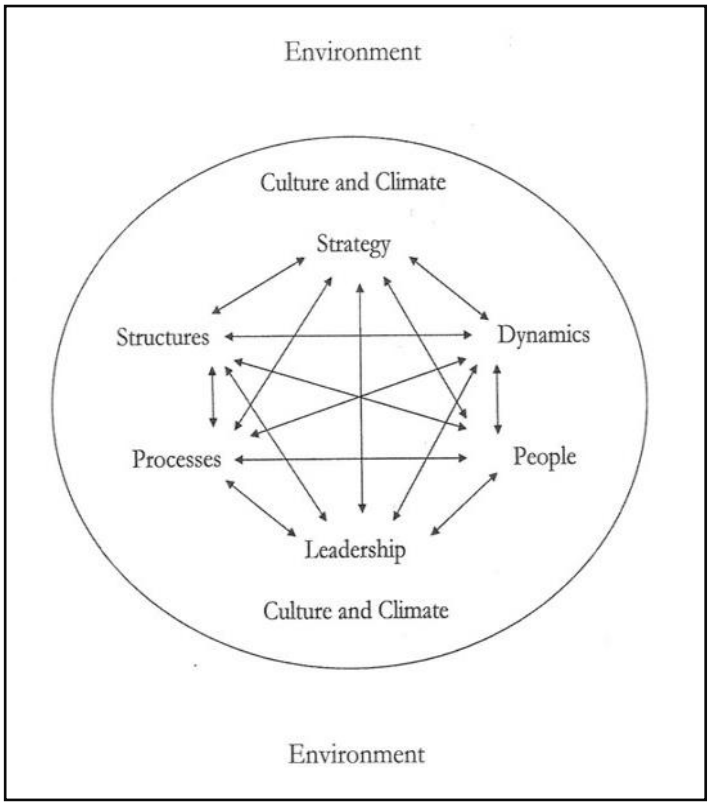
The Newsletter of St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont, CA
Called to serve in new and loving ways

November 2015

Congregational Development – What is it?

Every organization, whether it is a church, business, or social club, is a living system with many moving parts. Different elements interact with each other, thus influencing the rest of the system. No one element stands alone. So, when one element changes, the rest of the system is impacted.

For example, using the below model, if the leadership of an organization changes, the rest of the system is impacted. If the strategy of an organization is modified, the structures, processes, etcetera will naturally be impacted.



In church, managing change, communicating effectively, growing in numbers and vitality, and empowering leadership are key to creating a vibrant and sustainable community. However, rarely do these traits manifest organically. Rather, tools are implemented in order to lead the system into greater health.

Congregational development is the study of creating Christian communities to best emulate the Body of Christ for its members and the world. It leans on the tools and teachings of organizational development, along with integrating the fields of pastoral and ascetical theology, scripture, liturgy, church history, and spiritual practices. The blending of the disciplines of the church with organizational development assists in the creation of faithful, healthy and effective communities.

Last spring, I began a program with the ***Collaborative for Church Vitality***, a two-year partnership with the Diocese of California and the Diocese of Northern California to become a skilled practitioner of Congregational Development. This effort was at the invitation of the Diocese and with the support of the vestry. The training is not just for clergy, but for lay leadership as well. The vestry and I will explore the value of sending a team of parishioners next year to increase our effectiveness.

The benefits of this program are far and wide, and St. James' has already seen the fruits of the program. I am teaching the material to the staff periodically and to the vestry monthly. Together, we've learned about how we gather people into community through the "Gather-Transform-Send" model. Several times, I've used the "Gradients of Agreement" model to assess the readiness of a group to make a decision.

(*continued on page 2*)

Congregational Development cont'd.

The vestry is engaging in writing "charters" with each ministry team as a method of articulating our purpose and direction. These are just a few ways in which we've been able to apply this material in real-time to real situations.

I look forward to continuing this work as one way of leading St. James' into a bright and vibrant future.

Lori+

Financial Summary September 2015

Fund Balances	**9/30/2014**	**9/30/2015**
Operating Fund	$ 43,659.15	$ 57,396.30
Building Fund	$ 36.570.47	$ 23,566
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	$ 183,184.49	$ 195,618
Pledges Paid	$ 178,677.88	$ 186,465.46
Unpledged Contributions	$ 6,386.00	$ 7,025.00
Other Op Income*	$ 15,595.09	$ 16,074.24
Total Operating Income	$ 200,658.97	$ 209,564.70
Total Operating Expenses	$, 207,805.08	$ 199,752.78
Income less Expenses	($ 7,146.11)	$9,811.92

*Includes Fund Raising

Getting Ready for Year C
The Gospel of Luke

The Episcopal Church follows the Revised Common Lectionary, allowing the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, with John sprinkled in, to be read throughout a three-year cycle. We begin with Year A and Matthew, move to Year B and Mark, and then to Year C with Luke before we start over. Each year, the Lectionary Cycle is initiated with the 1st Sunday of Advent, the beginning of our liturgical year.

This upcoming Advent, we will be entering into Year C and the Gospel of Luke. Luke is a wonderfully full telling of the life of Jesus, beginning with the infancy narratives and ending with the Ascension. In between birth and ascending, we hear the illustrative stories of healing, miracles, relationship-building, reconciliation, and peace-making.

In preparation for Year C, we will be looking at the common themes and emphasis found in the Gospel of Luke.

Join us on two Tuesday evenings, November 10th and 17th, in the Education Room at 6:30p.m. (arrive at 6:00 if you'd like to share a potluck meal).

Lori+

Stewardship Corner

Thank You St. James' Team

"The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime."
Babe Ruth

If Babe Ruth had been in the St. James' parking lot on Saturday (October 3), I know he would have said to himself, *"Now, here's a successful team!"* Our own St. James' Manager & Coach, Rev. Lori Walton, in so many words expressed that same sentiment at our 2nd Annual "Parking Lot Get-Together" Stewardship Event (with a baseball theme). Lori brought home to us that all we do together as a team at St. James' not only demonstrates how successfully we work and play as a team, but we do so with a deep abiding sense of gratitude for the gift of this community and the gifts we have been given by God. She rooted for our St. James' team commitment and prayed for our continued team success.

It was a beautiful afternoon filled with sunshine, games, food, challenges, and plenty of warmhearted fellowship. There are many people to thank for the successful event, beginning with the Stewardship Team of Sandra Motley, Adrienne Farrell, Ruth Poole, Lauren Doherty, and George Vlastelica.

Helping set up were Bob Doherty, Tom Blalock, Greg Miller, John Amouroux, and Dave Nelsen along with the fantastic BBQ grillers Gregg Feeney and Don Rose. Memorializing the occasion were expert photographers Bruce Roberts and Jan Brandt, and leading the table games were Vestry Members Meg Amouroux, Nancy Castaneda, Karen Koonze, Elaine Miller, Dave Nelsen, and Vivienne Paratore. Jennifer Carini led us in our own "I'll Meet You There at the Parking Lot" song, and the Scrutton Team (Jan, Mike, and Tom) supervised the enormously popular Bounce House for the young and the not-so-young.

Many people helped take down and clean up, put away tables and chairs, and Katie Cunningham spent a lot of time washing dishes in the kitchen. It was truly a team effort. Thank you, everyone!

The always popular Chili Challenge attracted eleven entries this year, and the winners were: 1st Place/Pat Spencer's "Kitchen Sink" chili; 2nd Place/Lauren Doherty's "Memorial Garden" chili; and 3rd Place/ Julie & Frank Guzior's "Family" chili. Honorable mentions for more delicious chili go to Chris Perry, Caylyn Ramsamy (Sunday School chili), Lissett Hermandez & Jeremy, Mary Thomas (Jennifer Carini's Mom), Elaine Vallecillo-Miller, Bob Doherty (Cub Scout Pack 163 chili), Sandra Motley, and Gail Blalock (Stewardship chili).

New this year was the Pie Eating Contest, and winners were Dyllon Walter and Olivia Nabukeera. The "hit the ball the farthest" contest was won by Jill Buono in the adult category and Luke Scheuffele for the children. Congratulations!

Thank you to everyone who came, loaned pop-up shelters, participated in the contests, ate hot dogs, put away tables and chairs, sang, and most of all, shared the love of God with each other. At St. James', no one sits on the bench – everyone plays. That was certainly true on Saturday.

You are what makes things happen at St. James'!

Gail Blalock
Stewardship Chair

2nd Annual Parking Lot Get-Together Stewardship Event

A Pilgrimage to Where it Began

"Faith is not the clinging to a shrine but an endless pilgrimage of the heart." — Abraham Joshua Heschel

From the 4th century on, pilgrimages to the Holy Land have been woven into the fabric of religious life. Early Christians were encouraged to make a journey to the landscape that served as a backdrop to the life of Jesus Christ; such pilgrimages continue to this day. Visiting Israel allows one to touch and see the physical manifestations of one's faith, not just for Christians, but for Muslims and Jews as well.

Every cleric imagines making such a pilgrimage. Studying, preaching and teaching about Jesus are made richer and more tangible through the sacred pilgrimage to the physical land of his life, death and resurrection. Additionally, the physical act of movement towards the Holy Land brings with it a sense of returning home, of journeying towards the place that gives a priest's life meaning and shape.

I have the opportunity to make such a pilgrimage this January. Through Grace Cathedral and with the support of the vestry, I will travel with a small group to Israel in order to visit the birthplace of our faith. The actual trip is for two weeks. However, in order to adequately prepare and process, I have asked the vestry to support me being absent for a week before and a week after the trip. In order to afford this and to ensure the parish is cared for, I will use one out of my five sabbatical months. As is common for Episcopal clergy, my agreement with St. James' is that I have a five month sabbatical after five years of service. While a month away is not technically a "sabbatical" (a sabbatical is at least two months and up to twelve months in length), using a portion of my sabbatical time will allow us to have adequate clergy coverage and to use funds set aside for such coverage. The only impact to the church will be a new (but consistent) face on Sunday morning for the weeks I am away. The benefit to the church will be a well-cared-for priest with an expanded pallet of experience and story to share.

My intention is to take a fuller sabbatical in 2017. This future sabbatical will be a time for both the community and me to self-reflect and seek renewal, thus strengthening our common life together. In the meantime, this January I will bring you in my heart to the land of our religion, and I will pray for you at the sites made sacred by the physical presence of Christ. I know I will be held in your prayers as you worship at our own site made sacred by the spiritual and always evident presence of Christ.

Lori+

Deck the Halls at Patterson House

The historic Patterson House on the grounds at Ardenwood is decorated for Christmas every year. I'm currently on the advisory committee for the house, and knowing out talents for creativity and having a lot of fun, offered up St James' to decorate the dining room this year! It is a great opportunity for an enjoyable afternoon participating in a community event and getting to know each other better. The house has plenty of decorations, all we have to do is show up and place them as we wish. We even get to select the china from the collections we want displayed on the table.

We will decorate on Sunday, November 22nd at 1pm. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet in the Parish Hall, or contact me at laura.winter@comcast.net. There is a possibility we may be able to help in another room if there is enough interest.

Then bring your friends and family to one of the public house tours December 12-13, or 19-20 and show them what we've done! St James' will be credited with the room design during the tours.

Laura Winter

Annual Blessing of the Animals and Celebration of Saint Francis

The Annual Blessing of the Animals and Celebration of St. Francis took place at St. James' on October 4th.

What Would You Like in the St. James' Gardening Cookbook?

All it would take would be a quick email to Jim or me.

Do you have a favorite cooking or gardening story (and even better, a recipe) that you would like to share?

What St. James' history would you like to share? Huh? St. James' history? Sure, people history, building history, gardening history, worship history, and others you may think of. Wouldn't it be a fun surprise to be reading along and discover something you did not know about St. James'?

Too tired to contribute? Not enough time in your daily schedule?

My Mom liked to surprise my dad and my brother and sisters and me. One of her favorite surprises was Ice Cream with Chocolate Sauce, home made chocolate sauce. Imagine our glee when she declared ice cream with chocolate sauce for dessert. It reminds me of Joan's Grace: Thank you for the food we eat, For those who share or serve it. And if there be a good dessert, Grace us to deserve it.

I don't know that we kids ever deserved this dessert, but we sure loved it. Such a simple recipe…and so delicious spooned over vanilla ice cream. Believe me our taste buds did dances at the thought of Mom's Chocolate Sauce. Just unsweetened chocolate, butter, water and sugar. So simple and so mouth-watering. I had forgotten the recipe recently and could not find it. Luckily my sister has the recipe. She sent it to me. A recipe must have the ingredients and portions and the method, so you may read it in the St. James' gardening cookbook.

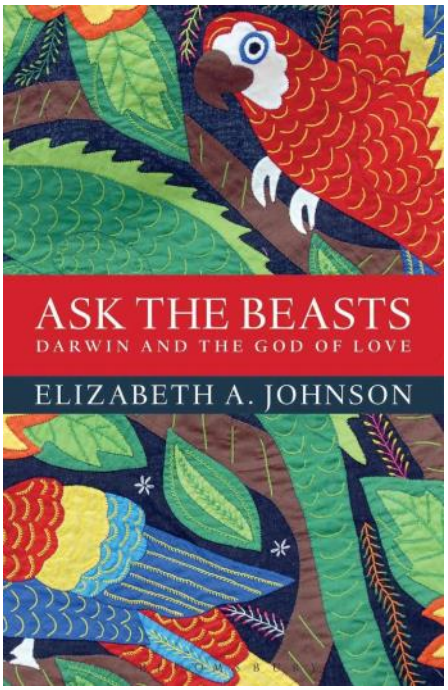
You may have read my fictional gardening/ cooking stories in the last two issues of the Window. The above one actually happened. And your stories and recipes may appear in the upcoming book, but, kind of like the lottery where one must buy a ticket to win, one's recipe or story will only appear if one submits it. So, are you waiting for your garden to grow next winter? You want to tell your story, but no one will believe it? Give it a try. Remember BBQ season will seem like a long-lost memory this rainy winter. You will need a luscious recipe story to stave off the winter blahs.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 824, Prayer 29; For Agriculture. *Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful…that we may share all the fruits of the earth…*

Bruce Roberts brucesface386@yahoo.com
Jim Cunningham jimckayc@sbcglobal.net

Bruce Roberts
Jim Cunningham

Faith Formation presents…



"Ask the Beasts": The Moral Status of Animals

Facilitated by: Janet Fischer
Where: Education Room
When: December 1st, 8th, 15th
Potluck @ 6pm, Class @ 6:30p.m.

Issues surrounding animal rights are much in the news lately. Attitudes range from, "We can do anything we want with animals," to "Animals should have the same rights as people," and everything in between. During Advent, we will "Ask the Beasts."

In "Ask the Beasts" we will examine the issues of animal care and animal rights that are currently in the news and debated in law. Then we will examine what our scriptures have to say about animals and human responsibility for them, what the Christian tradition and Christian leaders have taught about them, and how we have arrived at our own beliefs and actions regarding animals. Much discussion is encouraged!

Don't worry; nobody will try to turn you into a vegan or even a vegetarian! That's not what this is about. But our religious tradition is rich with wisdom regarding our relationship with animals that is either unknown or has been mostly ignored. "Ask the Beasts" comes from the title of Elizabeth A. Johnson's book, *Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love.* She takes the title for her book, written in honor of the 150th anniversary of Darwin's Origin of Species, from the book of Job where Job responds to his accusers with, "Ask the beasts and they will teach you, ask the birds, and they will tell you." (Job 12:7)

Although the book is recommended, purchasing it is NOT required for the class. It can be obtained from your favorite bookseller in both e-book and paperback for under $20:

Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love by Elizabeth A. Johnson (Bloomsbury Continuum, 2014).

Janet Fischer

THE BOOKWORM WIGGLES

The St. James' library is now open for your reading and DVDing pleasure. Browse the new library catalogue.

MAN-UP: FLEX YOUR SPIRITUAL MUSCLES

Each of the books listed below is a new and available addition to the St. James' library. The library is divided into sections: SPIR for spirituality, INSP for inspiration, etc. and the position on the shelves by numbers. So catalog number SPIR-39.2 would indicate that the book is in the spirituality on location 39.2 on the shelves.

Here are some books that may strengthen your spiritual muscles:

SPIR-39.2: Rohr, Richard, *Adam's Return: The Five Promises of Male Initiation* (2004). Rohr articulates the problem with finding a strong male identity in the modern world. The book is a biblical analysis of the five promises God gave Adam when he left the Garden of Eden and then follows with promises from the New Testament.

SPIR-39.3: Rohr, Richard, *From Wild Man to Wise Man: Reflections on Male Spirituality* (2005)

SPIR-39.4: Rohr, Richard, *On the Threshold of Transformation: Daily Meditations for Men* (2010). Rohr states: "We need to fail, to fall, to jump into the central mystery of our own existence, or we'll have no way of finding our true path. Some form of suffering or letting go is essential to achieving wholeness, holiness and happiness."

SPIR-39.5: Rohr, Richard, *Soul Brothers: Men in the Bible Speak to Men Today* (2004). The book begins with twelve paintings, each of an Old or New Testament biblical character. In twelve short chapters, Rohr reflects on each character in an insightful and instructive manner.

SPIR-3.1: Lane, Beldin C., Backpacking with the Saints: Wilderness Hiking as Spiritual Practice (2014). Including in his gear spiritual writings (Celtic, Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist, Hindu, and Sufi Muslim), Lane presents an inspiring exploration of how solitude, simplicity, and mindfulness are illuminated and encouraged by the discipline of backcountry wandering, and of how the wilderness itself becomes a way of knowing an ecology of the soul.

SPIR-19.1: Fox, Matthew, *The Hidden Spirituality of Men: Ten Metaphors to awaken the sacred Masculine.*

SPIR-10: Dittes, James E., *Men at Work: Life Beyond the Office (1996)*

INSP-5: Boyd, Stephen, *The Men We Long to Be: Beyond Domination to a New Christian Understanding of Manhood (1995)*

SPIR-41.1: Rosenthal, Peggy, *Knit One, Purl a Prayer: A Spirituality of Knitting (2011)*

A future issue of *The Window* will include a "Sadie Hawkins" list.

John Maloney
Librarian

October Vestry Minutes

The vestry most recently met on Thursday, October 8, 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.

Among the topics discussed:

- Due to treasurer Lynn Locher being away, the September financial reports will be included along with October reports, in the November meeting report packet.
- A review of the status of AEMCH (An Episcopal Ministry to Convalescent Hospitals)
- We reviewed the Employee Benefit Cost Sharing program, and updated the 2016 medical benefits package for eligible employees of St. James'.
- Discussions followed about the transition to next year's vestry, and what to look for in possible new vestry members.
- Along with the scheduling of the 2016 Annual Meeting (Sunday Jan. 31 after a single 10am Service) and Vestry Retreat (Saturday, Feb. 6), we talked about Rev. Lori reaching her 5-year Anniversary at St. James' on October 1, 2015, which (per her agreement with St. James') allows her 5-months of sabbatical. She has asked the vestry to review her request to schedule a one-month pilgrimage during the month of January 2016, using one month of her sabbatical time allotted. With thoughtful discussion and sharing, the vestry is happy to give her our blessings for this period of pilgrimage, rest and reflection. Rev. Lori shares more about this in a separate article in this month's Window.

Our final discussion of the evening was an educational teaching session, about how well we invite guests to join us, and how we integrate newcomers to our parish, and where we need to improve.

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

Meg Amouroux
Junior Warden

Ingathering of Pledges
Sunday, November 22

Pledge cards for 2016 will be mailed out the second week of November. While they may be returned at anytime, on November 22, at both services, our Pledges will be offered as an act of worship and in response to all that God has provided.

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, Matthew

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction:
Scott, Gloria, Bruce, Crystal, Ryan

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing:

Man Yee, Nonie, Rolando, Liam, June, Sarah, Larry, Laura P, Debbie, Kathy, Jean, Marion, Tom, Alonso, Becky, Sydney

For Those Who are Expecting Children:
Chrissie, Jennifer and Chris

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Bill, Kim, Melinda, Kathy, Nailah, Charlotte, Anoush, Darlene, Beulah

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

November Birthdays

1 Ami Locher
4 Ken Parris
7 Nathaniel Bryant
10 Yvonne Archer
11 Eric Caron
17 Travis Koonze
18 John Maloney
19 Gail Blalock
22 Andrew Paratore
25 John Paratore
27 Pamela Young
Andrea Ramsamy
29 Judy Peeler
Don Rose
Rick Spalding
Raelene Ramsamy
30 Nancy Svenson
Rebeccah Fuller

November Anniversaries

1 Donald Razzolini and Michael Aquino
3 Marco and Raelene Ramsamy
24 Ralph and Lynn Locher

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in December. 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: **December Issue Deadline: November 15th**

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WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY SERVICES: 8:00AM & 10:30AM
CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES: SUNDAY 9:30-10:00AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00AM

OFFICE HOURS

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

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Ashley Francis
Charlie Hall
Barry Hedgpeth
Karen Koonze
Ralph Locher
Vivienne Paratore
Alison Saichek
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller

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
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