The Window

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

January 2016

Painted Mural as Divine Manifestation

When my daughter was younger, perhaps around six, one of the neighborhood schools contracted to have a mural painted on side of the building that faced the street. This school happened to be on the street that my daughter and I drove daily back and forth on the way to Grandma's house, so we saw the progression of the painting of this mural. The mural was a large Native American scene dominated in the center by a Native woman holding her child. The woman was dark with braided hair, the baby swaddled tight in a fur-covered wrap. As the months went by, the mural came to life with color. However, the center of the scene, this woman and child, remained drawn but unpainted for weeks on end. While color flourished across the wall, the center remained half done. Finally, my daughter from the back seat of the car said in an exasperated voice, ***"When are they going to finish painting Mary and Jesus?!"***

I did not correct her. Maybe I should have in the name of literalism, in the name of political correctness, in the name of interfaith or ecumenical relationship. Instead, I only smiled and said not a word. Her six-year-old mind with her six-year-old experiences told her that a mother lovingly holding her baby painted on the side of a building was Mary and Jesus. And in that moment, her words told me that the sacred love between the God Bearer and God could be laid upon and lived out in all relationships. Mary and Jesus was a symbol, really, for the unconditional, holy relationship desired by our Creator. We enter the season of Epiphany with the reality – and the magnificent impact - of what the word means - *"an appearance or manifestation of a divine being"*, and more literally in the Christian Church, *"the commemoration of the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles."*

If we could only see the manifestation of the divine in all we cast our eyes upon, what would this world look like? In the midst of darkened days, we adjust our perception. If I can look at brokenness and see beauty, if I can look at suffering and seek love, then I am moving in the right direction – the direction towards the star of the Magi, pointing and drawing us towards the Christ, towards the one whose Love covers and embraces all.

As you know, I will be traveling to Jerusalem this month, a land where I imagine the manifestation of the divine is easily found. It is also a land torn by violence, pain and extreme conflict. In many ways, the early stories of Jesus' life echo in the winds of Israel today; the killing of the innocents in the midst of Christ with us, the darkened and dangerous days as the entry place of God. When there, just as here, I will seek to adjust my perception to witness the appearance of God, even (or most especially) in the torn fabric of relationship.

As we move through this new calendar year, let each of us spend our days of the Epiphany looking for the manifestation of the divine in all we encounter.

Lori+

Stewardship Corner

"Give, and it will be given to you…" *Luke 6:38*

I know you've heard and read a lot of reminders about turning in your pledge for 2016. Well, this will be one more time because pledging to St. James' is something I'm asking everyone who calls St. James' "their church" to do. We are off to a good start, but we need everyone's participation in order to know what kind of budget to approve at the Annual Meeting in January. Thank you to everyone who has already turned in their pledges. We need everyone's support to keep the lights on, pay the bills, provide Sunday morning church services, to reach out into our community and share God's love – just to name a few of the things your pledge helps St. James' do.

I pledge to St. James' because I am grateful for the gifts God has given me. I also pledge because I love St. James' Church and the St. James' Community. I love Sunday morning services, the warm and friendly people, the support in times of need, the educational programs, the outreach opportunities that make a difference in our community, the sermons, the social times, the music, the Memorial Garden, the children, the beautiful campus…I could go on and on, but I think you will agree that we are very fortunate at St. James'.

So, please, if you haven't turned in your pledge for 2016, do so soon. You may make a pledge to St. James' by completing a Pledge Form and placing it in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, by mailing it to the Church Office (the green envelopes are preaddressed), or by submitting it online via the St. James' website (www.saintj.com). Pledge Forms are available in the rack outside the Church Office, call the office (510-797-1492) to have one mailed to you or ask an usher for one on Sunday morning.

Please join me in making a pledge to St. James' for 2016 by giving prayerful consideration to what you can contribute. Stewardship is our humble acknowledgement that all good things come from God.

Happy New Year – I look forward to seeing you at St. James'!

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

Upcoming Events

January 24th - Annual Budget Meeting

Gather at 9:15am in the Education Building Classrom to go over the 2016 Church Budget, presented by our Treasurer, Lynn Locher.

January 31st - Single Service and Annual Meeting

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

February 6th and 7th - - Vestry Retreat

Our Vestry will be "retreating" on the evening of February 6th and all day on February 7th. Pray for the Vestry as they engage in leading our congregation into 2016.

Lori+

The next issue of ***The Window*** is February

We welcome your **comments, essays, cartoons, photos, newsworthy items of interest, art work, poems, group activity information and reviews**.

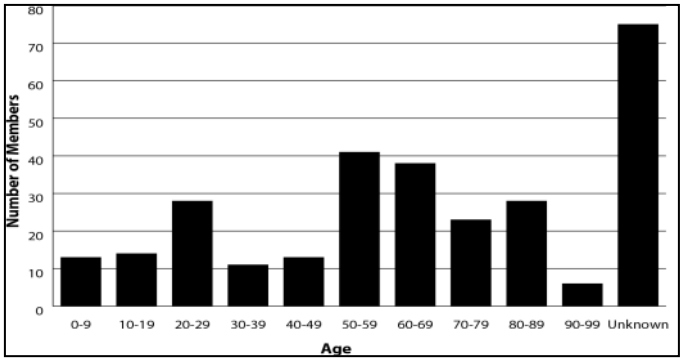
mail your submission to:
newsletter@saintj.com

February Submission Deadline: January 15th

Are We Getting Any Younger?

During last year's retreat, one of the frequently heard comments was about the age of St. James' members, and how we're not getting any younger. That got the Visioning Team thinking – what is the makeup of ages at St. James'? One of the great things about our congregation is that we have representation from all ages, from new-born through those in their 90s, but is it true that the St. James' membership is "ageing"?

We went back to our parish profile from 2009, which we wrote as part of our Rector search process that called Rev Lori, and found that at the time we reported "The average age at St. James' is 59". We then went to our database of church members that it used to compile the Parish Directory, and generate the list of Birthdays that appears in The Window every month, and from it extracted the graph below.



What was fascinating to us is that in the last 6 years, our average age has fallen to 55, whereas if our 2009 membership had remained static, we would have aged to 65! So, St. James' does appear to be getting younger.

What we also spotted was that we don't have this key piece of information for twenty-five percent of our members. As part of the Visioning Team's work to study "Who are St. James' in 2016?" we'd like to get a better understanding of our demographics so we can compare them with our wider community. In the coming weeks, we plan to provide you the opportunity to help us complete our picture.

Look out for more details in your email in-boxes, and on posters in the Parish Hall.

Mike Scrutton, Visioning Team Chair

Lent: The Journey to Freedom, Soup Supper and Holy Engagement

At the annual Ash Wednesday service, the gathered assembly is invited to the observance of a holy Lent through a process of self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, self-denial and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word (BCP p.265). While this process may sound a bit daunting, it doesn't have to be. In fact, Lent is one of the richest and most fruitful times in the life of a Christian. Through an invitation to explore and review one's life, one finds the road to true freedom from whatever is blocking a full life in Christ.

Our Lenten program will combine scriptural study, personal examination, small group discussion, and ritual, leading us along the path towards the Resurrected Christ and resurrected life.

Don't miss this excellent opportunity to tap into the sacredness of your life.

Tuesdays: February 16th & 23rd,
March 1st, 8th & 15th
6:00pm – 6:30pm: Soup Supper and Fellowship
6:30pm – 8:00pm: Program

Sign-Up in the Parish Hall or at www.saintj.com

This program is for all people, but if you are considering being baptized (adults) or confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, this course will serve as a portion of your preparation.

Lori+

Praying through the Pilgrimage

Many have asked what sites our ministry intern, Anna and I will be visiting during the pilgrimage to the Holy Land, helping me to realize that this pilgrimage is not an individual endeavor, but one that is supported and held by all of us.

As I move from site to site, I will bring your intentions with me. I will pray for those who are struggling, for those who are ill, for those who feel weighed down. I will give thanks for our common life together, for the blessings of each person, and for all that we have to be thankful. As I move from site to site, your prayers for me and for our lives together will mean a great deal. I know the same holds true for Anna as well.

Below is a summary of our itinerary. Please think of us as we travel.

Day 1: 1/11 – Arrive in Tel Aviv and transfer to St. George's Guesthouse, Jerusalem
Day 2: 1/12 – A walk to Damascus Gate and a visit to the see the Dead Sea Scrolls
Day 3: 1/13 – Travel to Herodium with a walk through the Armenian quarter
Day 4: 1/14 – Visit the Western Wall, the pools of Bethesda and other sites
Day 5: 1/15 – Depart for Bethlehem and the Shepherd's Field, visit Church of the Nativity
Day 6: 1/16 – Travel to Jericho, hike the Mt. of Temptation, proceed to Nazareth
Day 7: 1/17 – Visit Sepphoris in Galilee, explore Roman/Byzantine excavations
Day 8: 1/18 – Jordan River, St. Peter's House in Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitude, other sites
Day 9: 1/19 – Travel to Burqin, visit Jacob's well and the Greek Orthodox Monastery
Day 10: 1/20 – Hike the Wadi Kelt to Herod's winter palace in Jericho and the Dead Sea
Day 11: 1/21 – Beth-phage, Garden of Gethsemane and site of Caiaphas' Palace
Day 12: 1/22 – Walking and praying the Way of the Cross, visiting Emmaus Nicopolis

Throughout this sacred walk, I know your prayers go with us. I look forward to sharing my experiences with you when I return.

Lori+

Ash Wednesday Turning to God

We begin the Season of Lent with the administration of ashes and the ritual act of turning to God in humble obedience and love. It is our invitation to lay down what blocks us from more deeply knowing and being changed by God.

The season of Lent is a rich and sacred time in the life of a Christian. Enter into it by attending one of our Ash Wednesday services on **February 10th:**

7:00am in the Little Church
12:00pm in the Little Church
7:00pm in the Big Church

Contemplative Practices

Sitting Meditation in the Zen Tradition

Beginning January 13th
Wednesday evenings
5:45pm-6:15pm
in the Little Church
Bell for silence sounds at 5:50pm.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this time of silent meditation.

Please contact Janet Fischer with any questions.

Janet Fischer

New Focus for Contemplative Practice Class

Starting January 10th, the Contemplative Practice Class will meet in the Little Church between services from 9:30am – 10:15am. We will focus on one particular practice for the rest of the school year.

Contact Brian Cochran if you have any questions. **Please join us!**

Submitted by: Brian Cochran

PANCAKE SUPPER

Please plan to join your St. James' community as we prepare for the Lenten season, sharing a traditional meal of pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage. This annual event takes place on Shrove Tuesday, February 9th - the day before Ash Wednesday.

Dinner will be served from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. A donation of $5.00 for adults and $3.00 for children is suggested. Signing up for this event is important to ensure we purchase adequate supplies. You can find the sign-up sheet in the parish hall.

The Pancake Supper is put on by the men of St. James'. There is a second sign-up sheet for those willing to serve at this fun event. We need help with setting up, preparing, cooking, serving and cleaning.

Please call Dave Nelsen at 510-673-5042 with any questions.

Dave Nelsen

From Advent to McCutcheon

You will probably read this in the midst of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Yes, the date December 25th will have passed and Epiphany will be quickly approaching. I'm writing this in the middle of Advent so John McCutcheon's Concert on January 18th seems a long way off. But that six-week interval will seem short with all the festivities of the Season. The New Year 2016 is here, unbelievable! 2015 fades in the rear-view mirror of life. So what lies ahead? The John McCutcheon Concert, of course!

For those of you fairly new to St. James' it may seem that John McCutcheon has always sung to us on Martin Luther King Monday. For the "old-timers" John's presence may seem like a recent phenomenon. But 2016 is the thirteenth year John has visited us on MLK Monday. The McCutcheon Team has worked hard to bring you another rousing concert. Will it rain this year? The forecasters say, "Yes." Will John sing about rain? Who knows? Every concert date he makes has a different list of songs, new songs, old songs, new stories.

Will you be stuck out in the weather before the concert? We'll have pop-ups for those standing in line. But remember that 1. Cookies and coffee will be available in the Parish Hall from 6:00pm until the concert starts (think warm/cozy) along with the prize drawing items. 2. Club Saint J doors open at 7:00pm sharp with the concert starting at 7:30pm. And 3. McCutcheon CDs will also be on sale in the Parish Hall.

It's no secret that John has a wide following, and with his making only three Bay Area stops this year, people are searching for places to hear him. Already his fans from nearby towns have been asking to buy tickets. If you have been holding back from buying your tickets, don't wait. They are going fast.
Why does John have this following? It's the songs, folks. He has written over 200 and he sings those written by others as well, songs such as "**Immigrant**," "**Soup**," "**Room at the Top of the Stair**," "**Leviathan**," "**Step by Step**" and "**Kindergarten Wall**." It's the stories, folks, stories to introduce songs such as "**Hope Dies Last"** (Hurricane Katrina), "**Miracle**" of the loaves and fishes) to introduce **Step by Step**, **Deportee**s, and **I Am Here** (Baseball Hall of Fame song). And during the concerts you get to sing along with John as well.

Join us at the John McCutcheon Concert, 1/18/2016, 7:30pm at the Club Saint J. Tickets $27 for adults, $15 for children, 5 and under for free, available in the Parish Hall on Sundays after services. Drawing tickets $1 each or 6 for $5 and multiples thereof. Check out the drawing prizes in the Parish Hall. For tickets and directions, go to events@saintj.com or call 510-797-1492.

Remember, a portion of the proceeds goes to Abode Services, ending homelessness in our communities.

Photos courtesy of: Bruce Roberts

St James' Kids Day Camp

25th - 29th July 2016

Light will shine out again on St. James' campus for our annual kids summer camp from July 25th-29th 2016. This week is a time for crafts, music, stories and fun and welcomes kids, from K- 6th grade. We welcome new and returning campers and volunteers for some multigenerational fun and learning. Previous years have seen us explore tents around campus, go on themed scavenger hunts and sew, paint, glue and color our way through new crafts. We have weaved our way through stories from the Old and New Testaments and reminded ourselves about Jesus in our lives today. Details will be out on saintj.com in the spring or look out for the banner outside church.

Hillside Senior Care Center: Christmas Visit

On a sunny Thursday afternoon, December 10th we gathered to visit the Hillside Senior Care Center and distributed gifts that were generously donated by St. James's parishioners. Santa, Mrs. Claus (Bob & Lauren Doherty), the St. James' Elves, Byron Bader and his keyboard, photographer, Bruce Roberts, Nancy Svenson (with 'Leonard') and members of the Fremont Harmonica group ,joined together to give the residents an hour of fun activities and music. Deacon Ken Parris and Ministry Intern, Anna Horen also joined in for the festivities

Santa read "Twas The Night Before Christmas" accompanied by an elf showing a storybook to the residents and other elves holding up cardboard "props". We all laughed, made merry, sang songs and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time.

To all the members of St James', thank you for your generous contributions to the Hillside Christmas Gift Drive and thanks to all who gave their time and spread the Christmas spirit to the seniors at Hillside.

Lauren Doherty, Alice Johnson, Ruth Poole & Sandra Motley

Photos courtesy of:
Bruce Roberts

December Vestry Minutes

The vestry met on December 10, 2015 for their monthly meeting. We began the evening with a shared meal and conversation.

This month we were pleased to welcome some guests: Music Director Jennifer Carini, Children's Minister Jan Scrutton, Deacon Ken Parris and Ministry Intern Anna Horen. We asked them to join the vestry that night to meet and greet the Rev. Karen Swanson, who will be our supply clergy while Rev. Lori is away in January.

Rev. Karen brings with her many years of clergy and pastoral experience, and will be a great help to us. She will lead worship on January 3, 10, 17, and 24, and each Wednesday 10am service during the month of January. She'll also be available for pastoral emergencies. (Please contact the church office or one of the wardens if a need arises.)

A large amount of the evening was given over to our discussion of the 2016 budget, which is well under way and will be presented ahead of the Parish Annual Meeting on January 31st.

We began going over plans for the Annual meeting, which will be held on Sunday, January 31st after a single service at 10am. The parish will be electing four new members to replace the four vestry members whose 3-year terms will have ended. We elected Scott Whitaker to fulfill the remaining two years of Barry Hedgpeth's term.

Working on the vestry is a terrific way to connect with the parish, work with and serve others, and explore your spiritual path. All members of St. James' over 18 years old are eligible to serve on the Vestry. For more information, speak to Rev. Lori or to one of the current Vestry members listed on the back page of *The Window*.

Our evening together ended with Compline in the Little Church.

Meg Amouroux, Junior Warden

Christmas Tour at Patterson House

Fremont's historic Patterson House was open for Christmas tours in December, and the Dining Room was decorated by a group from St. James'. On a Sunday afternoon in November we gathered there and had a wonderful time creating a display we were proud to put our name on. Lots of laughter, bonding of new and old friends, a bit of give-and-take; the final product sparkled and shone for all who walked through. If you weren't able to join us this year, we plan to do it again next Christmas.

St. James' and the home were significant parts of life in Fremont throughout the late 1800's and into the 20th century. The house is located on the grounds of Ardenwood Farm, and though closed for the season now, it will reopen in April with tours each weekend. The original house was built in 1857, was added onto in approximately 1889 and updated to the current size in 1915.

There is no documentation of where (or if) the Pattersons attended church, but members of the family likely came to St. James' at some time or another, perhaps for a wedding or funeral. It is very appropriate for St. James' to have a connection with the house and to share our history.

Bruce, Amy, Linda, Connie, Callie and Kim, Katie, Elaine, Laura

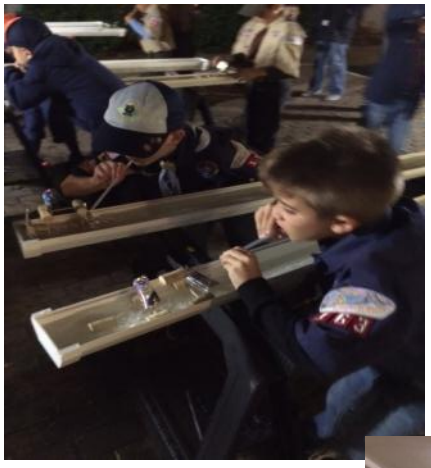
Article and Photo courtesy of Laura Winter

Cub Scouts of Pack 163

The Cub Scouts of Pack 163 at St. James' were very busy during the months of November and December 2015. They held Rain Gutter Regatta Races (inspected by the United States Coast Guard), participated in Scouting For Food and held their annual indoor Snowball contest pitting Cub Scouts and their siblings against the parents.

These boys really know how to have fun!

Bob Doherty



Photos courtesy of: Bob Doherty

You Can Still Help with the McCutcheon Concert

It is not too late to help the McCutcheon Team on our January 18, 2016 concert. We need people to bake oatmeal-raisin and chocolate chip cookies. If you can help bake, pleased bring the cookies to the church kitchen before 6:00pm on January 18th.

We also need help setting up Club Saint J after the 10:30am service on January 17th. Lunch will be provided. On Tuesday, January 19th at 6:00pm we will need help to put the sanctuary back together and ready for Sunday service.

Please spread the word to your friends, family and neighbors about this wonderful concert. We would love to have it be a sell-out. If you can't attend the concert you can still get in on the prize drawing for some wonderful prizes. Prizes are on display every Sunday morning until the concert and tickets can be purchased then also.

We appreciate your continued support.

Sylvia Ma

St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God we pray 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

Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Scott, Michael, Gloria, John, Crystal, Bruce, Kenny

Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Man Yee, Nonie, Rolando, Liam, June, Sarah, Karen, Susan, Elizabeth, Marie, Larry, the Wolf Family, Laura, Debbie, Kathy, Bobby, Patricia, Joseph, Jeanne

Those Who Have Passed Away: Archdeacon Brian, Melinda, Kathy

Those Who are Expecting Children: Chrissie

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

January Birthdays

1 Miles Archer
Barbara Kostick
Esther Maina
4 Chelsea Drescher
5 Gail Culver
Laura Winter
6 Tom Blalock
10 Caylyn Ramsamy
11 Owen Zarovy
13 Katie Cunningham
15 Avis Gonzales
20 Stephanie Casas
21 Jim Cunningham
21 Charles Hall
25 Lori Walton
26 Byron Bader
28 Maggie Shalar
29 Olivia Carini
31 Keira Westra

January Anniversaries

1 Brian & Evelyn Cochran
14 Amos Muwonge & Harriet Nabbaale
21 Alison & Brian Saichek

Please note: If your birth month or anniversary is in this month but your name(s) is not listed or the information is incorrect, please email the appropriate information to admin@saintj.com

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94537-0457
WEB: http://saintj.com
Tel: (510) 797-1492

WORSHIP TIMES

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector .....lori@saintj.com
The Rev. Ken Parris, Deacon . deaconken@saintj.com
Anna Horen, Ministry Intern .....anna@saintj.com
The Rev. John Trubina, Office Administrator.....
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Jennifer Carini, Music Director.....music@saintj.com
Jan Scrutton, Children's Minister .....jan@saintj.com
Lynn Locher, Treasurer ..... treasurer@saintj.com

VESTRY

Senior Warden .....srwarden@saintj.com
Dave Nelsen
Junior Warden.....jrwarden@saintj.com
Meg Amouroux

Al Casas
Nancy Castaneda
Ashley Francis
Charlie Hall
Karen Koonze
Ralph Locher
Vivienne Paratore
Alison Saichek
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller
Scott Whitaker

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

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