The Window

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

Called to serve in new and loving ways

April 2016

In the Name of God

In the name of God, for those who worship a monotheistic God, for those who worship many Gods, for those who pray to no God, for the many people who have just as many expressions of spirituality, holiness, or even simply good-heartedness, we pray. For those who damage others, for those who are blind to the common good, for those who seek to serve only themselves, we pray.

In March, it was a great honor to welcome Moina Shaq to share her experience of being Muslim, her knowledge of Islam, and her lived faith as a woman, mother, wife, and community leader. Her generosity and genuine desire for communication profoundly struck me. It was only a slight coincidence that Moina's visit followed my own sharing of my experience of the Israel and Palestinian conflict. While in Jerusalem and the Galilee, as pilgrims, we listened to the many stories of what it is like to live, shoulder to shoulder, with those who believe differently and with those who are in a position to oppress. I found Moina's dismay towards discrimination to be parallel with the dismay heard in Israel. In the United States, discrimination is nothing new. However, it seems as if it has reached a new height with the elevation of rhetoric in the public square. The loudest voice gets the most attention, and when that voice makes a practice of disparaging entire bodies of people, that poison filters down and infects the well.

Someone recently asked me what people of faith, and in our case, what Christians who believe in an all-loving, all-inclusive God, could do. It's a complicated question with no easy answers. I believe, however, that our power lies in our actions. Our baptismal covenant gives us the road map. The signposts of our faith are found in the promises we make. The road that we pave is found in the lives that we live stemming from these promises. It is not enough to simply believe the promises of our baptism. We must also live the promises of our baptism.

What are those promises? We promise to share Holy Communion with one another, to pray and to be in relationship as a way of letting the holy sink in and expand out. We promise to persevere in resisting evil, repenting and returning to the Lord, which includes standing on principle and having the courage to speak out. We promise to proclaim the Good News, making sure that every person we encounter knows that they are beloved by God. We promise to serve Christ in others and to love our neighbors, even if and especially when they are different. We promise to strive for justice and peace, naming a wrong and rejecting verbal, physical, systematic, emotional, sexual, or any violence. And finally, we promise to respect the dignity of every human being. Every. Human. Being.

I offer you a poem from one of my favorite poets, David Whyte, which speaks of courage, conviction, and love.

(*continued on page 2*)

(*continued from page 1*)

"SELF PORTRAIT

It doesn't interest me if there is one God
or many gods.
I want to know if you belong or feel
abandoned.
If you know despair or can see it in others.
I want to know
if you are prepared to live in the world
with its harsh need
to change you. If you can look back
with firm eyes
saying this is where I stand. I want to know
if you know
how to melt into that fierce heat of living
falling toward
the center of your longing. I want to know
if you are willing
to live, day by day, with the consequence of love
and the bitter
unwanted passion of your sure defeat.

I have been told, in that fierce embrace, even
the gods speak of God."

~ David Whyte, from Fire In the Earth

In the steps of our Savior, may we each have the courage to live, day by day, with the consequence of love.

Lori+

Sing! Sing! Sing!
HYMN SING
APRIL 23

The Rev. Lori Walton invites you to her house on April 23 at 7 PM until 8:30 PM for a Hymn Sing using the Hymnal 1982. Due to space limitations only 20 can sign up for this evening of song. Those of you who long to sing a 2nd verse solo may do so. The Choir will supply the keyboard and Music Director Jennifer Carini will fill the air with music from its keys. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

Sign up in the Parish Hall for a fun evening of song and fellowship.

Submitted by Bruce Roberts

Financial Summary February 2016

Fund Balances	**2/28/2015**	**2/29/2016**
Operating Fund	$ 52,893.67	$ 51,834.31
Building Fund	$ 34,852.65	$ 36,897.85
Pledges Budgeted	$ 43,470.82	$ 43,332.00
Pledges Paid	$ 45,800.00	$ 43,034.64
Unpledged Contributions	$ 2,485.00	$ 2,885.00
Other Op Income*	$ 4,629.24	$ 4,553.69
Total Operating Income	$ 52,914.24	$ 50,473.33
Total Operating Expenses	$ 47,604.95	$ 48,070.84
Income less Expenses	$ 5,309.29	$2,402.49

*Includes Fund Raising

Note: the Building Fund contains $28,042.85 for building, the balance is funds from the sale of stock that will be transferred to Operating as income.

Why I Give to St. James'

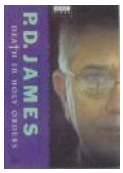
Each month a vestry member shares their experience of their spiritual home and their motivation for supporting our community. This month's submission is from our Junior Warden, Vivienne Paratore.

St. James' has been my family's church home for eighteen years. During that time we have been pledging members for seventeen of them. We give to St. James' because it is our responsibility to do so. We see it in the same light as providing our children a home, paying our taxes and supporting those who are not as fortunate as ourselves. Simply put, it is our duty as responsible Christian people. We have been through very difficult times, including losing our house and jobs but it never occurred to us to cut out pledging, just as it never occurred to us not to find a place for our family to live and feed our children. It is not the amount that is important but the principle of giving back to God.

When we go to St. James' on Sundays we see many familiar faces and friends. I feel at home and know that I can bring our happiest and saddest moments there. St. James' is a place of peace yet invigoration, where God's people care for everyone. Knowing that the Episcopal church is not financially supported by anyone other than the members of each congregation, it is the responsibility of those members to provide the finances necessary to run the church. If we do not take on that responsibility, who will? There is a great satisfaction in knowing that we have met our obligations and done our part to the best of our ability. Giving is an act of joy and a way of giving thanks to God for the abundance of our lives.

THE BOOKWORM WIGGLES

NEW BOOK IN LIBRARY HIST-20.1 Lewis, Harold T. Yet With A Steady Beat: The African American Struggle for Recognition in the Episcopal Church (1996). Dr. Lewis has written a comprehensive study of black Episcopalians and their efforts to find a spiritual home within the Episcopal Church. "…we shall attempt a theological history of black Episcopalians from 1623, the date of the baptism of the first slaves at Jamestown, Virginia," through the late 20th century



NEW DVD IN LIBRARY DVD 27 Death in Holy Orders (2003; 180 minutes). Based on P.D. James's novel, this story is set in St. Anselm's, an Anglican theological college on a desolate stretch of the British coastline. Commander Dalgliesh of Scotland Yard investigates the suspicious death of one of the students and another death that occurs during his weekend stay.

Submitted by John Maloney,
Librarian

March Vestry Summary

On March 10th the Vestry met at 6:30 for dinner and to share God moments.

We convened the meeting officially at 7:00 p.m. with an opening prayer.

Lori added approval of the vestry retreat minutes and then gave an update about Bud Spalding. We approved minutes from the previous vestry meeting, the annual meeting and the vestry retreat. Then Lynn gave the financial report which indicates that the pledges are almost on target and all expenses are as expected. The financial reports were accepted.

We discussed the need for a new thermostat for the education building and voted to approve that purchase. Meg reported that we received the insurance claim for the water main credit from the insurance company and we also received a credit of $100 from the water company. The Memorial Garden committee request to spend $600 from the garden account on sprinkler system repair and replacement was approved. Meg read the request from the children's minister to install a notice board near the playground to advertise events to community members who use the playground. The vestry approved this >$300 expense.

Lori explained the parochial report which states that we have 134 average Sunday attendance and our membership is slowly rising. The actual number of pledging units is greater than the 91 reported because more pledges came in after the report was written. The vestry approved the report and Lori thanked Lynn for her work on it.

Meg brought a revision to the facility use agreement. A detailed discussion ensued regarding the philosophy of renting out the worship space. While there is a potential for income, concerns were voiced about the safety of the facility. The advantage of community involvement is significant. The consensus was that more investigation should be done. Lori would investigate the religious practices of the potential renters. Vestry will investigate the going rate for space rental for sanctuary space.

Lori reminded the vestry about their vestry assignments. We agreed to make plans with dates for the next vestry meeting. Lori announced Anna Horen's ordination on June 11th as a transitional deacon.

We ended with compline in the little church.

Submitted by Vivienne Paratore
Junior Warden

St. James' Altar Guild
Spring Tea
April 30, 2016

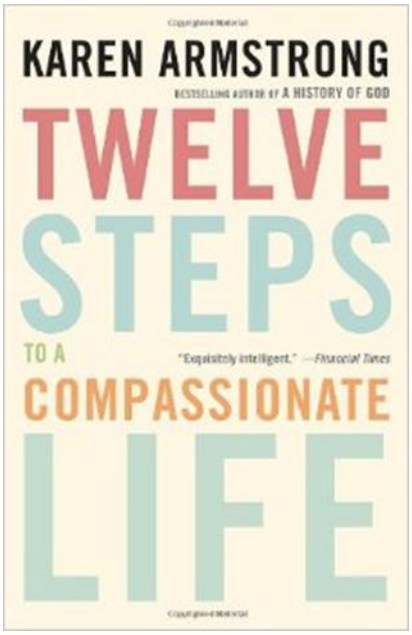
Have you ever wondered how our two church sites are transformed each week into beautiful sacred spaces for weekly service and communion?

Come meet our Altar Guild who work behind the scenes to make this happen and so much more. This valued group not only dresses the altars, but arranges items for every momentous baptism, prepares for "celebrations of life" and significant church occasions and events.

St. James' Altar Guild will be hosting a tea on Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 11:00am until 1:00pm in the Parish Hall. Everyone interested in learning more about the Altar Guild, and possibly joining and sharing in the camaraderie throughout the guild membership are welcome: moms, dads, brothers and sisters.

A sign up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall. Sign up and find out at the tea what our Altar Guild does.

Katie Cunningham, Ruth Poole and Lauren Doherty



Faith Formation Presents...

Book Study: *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*

Facilitated by: The Rev. Ken Parris and YOU!

Where: Education Room

When: Sunday mornings, 9:15-10:15, April 3 through May 15

Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life by Karen Armstrong

(Anchor; paperback reprint edition, 2011).

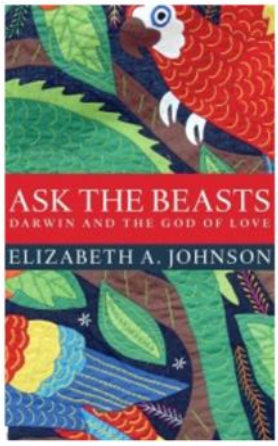
"In 2008, Karen Armstrong won the 2008 TED Prize and with it her wish to change the world. Karen sought to create a Charter for Compassion. Thousands of people contributed to the process and the Charter was unveiled around the world in November 2009 (http://www.charterforcompassion.org)." Deacon Ken wrote in February's Window: "Last year, the vestry signed the Charter for Compassion, a declaration and call to action for all people of faith to express compassion for our sisters and brother throughout the world… I am proud of the parish's leadership in recognizing the need for compassion and understanding not only within the Tri-cities area but also in our own parish."

Please join us in reading and discussing this important book. The book can be purchased from your favorite bookstore. Deacon Ken will begin the discussion on April 3 and ask for volunteers to facilitate the next week's discussion. The Twelve Steps are:

First Step: Learn About Compassion	Seventh Step: How Little We Know
Second Step: Look at Your Own World	Eighth Step: How Should We Speak to One Another?
Third Step: Compassion for Yourself	Ninth Step: Concern for Everybody
Fourth Step: Empathy	Tenth Step: Knowledge
Fifth Step: Mindfulness	Eleventh Step: Recognition
Sixth Step: Action	Twelfth Step: Love Your Enemies

Submitted by Janet Fischer

Faith Formation presents…



"Ask the Beasts": The Moral Status of Animals

Facilitated by: Janet Fischer
Where: Education Room
When: April 12th, 19th, 26th
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.

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).

Submitted by Janet Fischer

Sitting Meditation in the Zen Tradition

Wednesday evenings, 5:55-6:25 pm in the Little Church. Bell for silence sounds at 6:00. Everyone is welcome to join us for this time of silent meditation.

Please contact Janet Fischer with any questions.

A Call for Environmental Stewardship

"The earth is the Lords and the fullness thereof" – Psalm 24:1

Each year, Earth Day – April 22 – marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Celebration of Earth Day has grown from 20 million Americans who took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies in 1970 to over a billion people in more than 192 countries today. In Genesis 2:15, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." Psalm 115:16 says "the highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth He has given to man." We have been given stewardship responsibilities over the earth, to care for and protect God's handiwork, to be good stewards of the natural world. These obligations, to respect and protect the natural environment, appear throughout the Bible, often referring to just the kinds of problems we face today: destruction of wildlife and habitat, and pollution of our food, air and water.

What can we do this Earth Day? Most of us are already conserving, recycling, reusing, reducing, and repurposing on a daily basis but like a lot of things, we can always do more. My challenge to you is to learn of at least one new article you can recycle that you haven't in the past. If each of us prevents one more item from going into the landfill, think of the impact that would make times the number of parishioners at St. James'.

Last year, St. James' parishioners were asked to share conservation and recycling tips – included below are a few of the comments that were shared. They are all great ways for us to be better stewards of our environment.

Greg Miller said he has been recycling since 1968, way before it because fashionable.

Elaine Miller said she uses plastic containers from baked goods on her kitchen counter to collect coffee grounds which are then placed on roses or planters.

The **Lacy Family** uses an attractive wicker picnic basket in the kitchen to collect all non-food recyclables. They compost food scraps with yard waste and reuse the plastic newspaper bags for picking up after the dogs. They also don't buy bottled water or any over-packaged items, instead bagging their own. Old towels and bedding are taken to the animal shelter.

Joan Kimber runs her dishwasher and washing machine only with a full load. She keeps a plastic container handy to catch rinse water from vegetables and uses this to water outdoor plants. Joan "repurposes" worn out socks and t-shirts as cleaning/polishing rags and unplugs TVs, printers and transformer and turns down the water heater when away from home for a time.

John Kimber always recycles toner and ink cartridges and makes note pads out of extra printed paper sheets. John captures cold water when waiting for hot water and uses it to water plants or to flush the toilet. He uses a shredder to chop up leaves and branches for his compost bin and uses the compost to amend the vegetable garden soil.

Gregg Feeney keeps multiple recycling baskets in the house and scans articles into a file on the computer to eliminate extra paper.

Bud Spalding cuts the tops off half-gallon milk cartons and uses them to collect food scraps for the green waste bin.

Alice Johnson said they hadn't watered their lawn since October 2013 and were counting flushes to see how many times 1.66 gal. go down the drain!

Sandra Motley uses paper bags to collect junk mail and "dry" recyclables all week and then puts the bag in the recycle bin. Sandra also flattens all cans and plastic water bottles making them easier to collect and store.

Frankie McLeod has been recycling for years, long before they moved to Acacia Creek. She is thankful Acacia has a recycling system set up through the local area-wide recycling program.

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Meg and John Amouroux keep a small bin out in the open in their kitchen to collect recyclables because if it's "out in the open," its accessibility makes for easy and frequent use. When in doubt, they put it in the recycling bin because they know it will be sorted; otherwise, it'd go straight to the landfill and they might have missed an opportunity to recycle.

Bruce Roberts takes hazardous waste to the drop off center on Boyce Road and recycles ink cartridges at Staples. Bruce says his key to recycling is placing containers in the house close to where he needs them making it easier to recycle and compost.

The Earth Day movement began small in the United States and is now the largest secular holiday in the world. God has given us responsibility for stewardship of our environment. Hopefully, the Lord will look down on us and say: "Well done, thou good and fruitful servants!"

Gail Blalock
Past Stewardship Chair

Ducks for Bucks
Year Twenty-two

Last Year Was Great! Can We Do Better?

On the Big Day of April 23, at 1 PM, the starting gate (or "fireman's flush") will start the 22nd Annual Ducks for Bucks Race at Lake Elizabeth. In 2015, St. James' had 639 rubber duckies in the race. Alas, no big winners, but in 2014 we had three winners. St. James' participation in 2015 netted a check for $1894 to St. James'.

The race starts as a mass of yellow ducks pushed (or flushed) by the high-pressure water hoses of the Fremont Fire Department. Imagine a sea of yellow that ever so slowly swims its way to the finish line (or tube). The first duck through is the winner. Prizes this year include the $2000 Grand Prize, a Wellness Package, a diamond pendant, a $1000 garden package from Dale Hardware, a Living Trust package, four day-passes to Disneyland and more prizes. A Kids Carnival, food for sale and entertainment starts at 11 AM leading up to the Duck Race.

OK -- How to sponsor a Rubber Ducky? You will receive in the mail a Ducks for Bucks entry envelope. Or you can pick one up at church from Tom, Bruce, or Marlene. Or - they are available from the Adopt-a-Duck holders near the Office or in the Parish Hall. Read the directions, fill it out and turn it in to Tom Blalock, Bruce Roberts, or Marlene Benedict – or you can mail it in directly to Tri-Cities Ducks for Bucks. Be sure to get your St. James drawing tickets from one of us if you mail your entry in. Note the Great Grand Prize on the entry form, a car of your choice up to $30,000.

For every $5 sponsored duck (6 ducks for $25), St. James gets $3 back until we collectively sponsor 250 ducks. Then St. James' gets $4 back for each duck sponsored. This is a great way to help St. James' programs and possibly win a prize.

Remember - St. James' is having its own prize drawing for Duck Sponsors. Last year among the winners were E.J. Hilliard, Bob Bynum, The Rev. Lori Walton, Laura Winter and others. Everyone who sponsors a duck gets a drawing ticket for the St. James' prizes. Let's beat last year!

Quack, Quack! -- Tom Blalock, Bruce Roberts, and Marlene Benedict

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: Gloria, Bruce, Ryan, Jeanne

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Nonie, Avis,the Vallecillo-Martinson-Miller families, the De Leon-Weinstock families, Willy, Genore, Amy, Sarah, Jolly, Jeanne, Melissa, Lynne, Nancy, the Hilliard family, Jonathan, Bud, Tim, Betty , Ellison, Glenn

For Families Expecting Children: Jennifer and Kris

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Marion, Terry, Darin, Carlos, Cindy, Sheila, Sara, Marilyn

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

April Birthdays

6 Ann Jamison
John Trubina
7 Ian Fuller
8 Renee Whitehouse
10 Robert Bell
EJ Hilliard
13 Allen Krimmel
14 Tim Feeney
15 Christopher Schnurr
Maria Schnurr
Elyce Lovellette
16 John Butterfield
17 Tom Scrutton
20 Ruth Poole
23 Karl Drescher
26 Elizabeth Hart
Michael Hart
28 Marnie Hartmann
Al Casas

April Anniversaries

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

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in May 2016. 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: **April 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
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00AM

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

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Bruce Roberts
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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

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Penny Trant
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