The Window

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

Called to serve in new and loving ways

May 2016

Equipping the Beloved Community: The Sacrament of Time

Several times a year, the Diocese of California offers a day of workshops and worship meant to equip Episcopalians in the Bay Area with education and tools to more fully be an active part of the Body of Christ. This spring, the day will be on **May 14th** that St. Paul's in Burlingame. There are many fabulous workshops being offered. Take time to learn about **cultivating generosity** or **weaving faith into your family life**. Or learn about **communion bread and the Christian story of wheat** or how to cultivate **small group ministry.** You might consider hearing Bishop Marc Andrus present on **Stations of the Cosmic Christ** or drop in on guest speaker Suzanne Guthrie talk about **taking time for sacred time**. There are many opportunities. The cost is $25 and includes lunch, but we can offer generous scholarships if need be. Childcare is available with advance notice (email revtskillings@gmail.com to reserve it). We already have a small team going, and we would love for you to join us.

To register, go to: http://diocal.org/equipping-beloved-community or simply go to diocal.org and search for "equipping the beloved community".

I was compelled to share this offering from the Diocese because I was caught by the title chosen for the day – The Sacrament of Time. Chances are, if you are like me, your first reaction when invited to do something "extra" is "I don't have time" or "I'm too busy." In fact, for me, the answer "I'm busy" has become the answer to too many questions. Can you come to my event? I'm busy. Did you read the article I sent? I'm busy. How are you? I'm busy. I don't think I'm alone in this. When did being busy grow from being a choice to being an identity? I read an essay recently where the author said that when he asked how someone was doing, he didn't want to hear they were busy. He wanted to hear how they were doing – how did they feel, what significant was going on for them, what was good, what wasn't so good.

This essay, combined with a general weariness of running from one thing to another and not stopping to remember that time is sacred, has compelled me to re-examine the choices I make each day and ask myself, what fills my soul and where do I find God. I know that for most of us, we cannot spend all of our hours contemplating the wonders of creation or relaxing by a running stream. I know that responsibilities and commitments have to be met. I also know that we all have the same number of hours in a day and I wonder if we can make choices that allow us to simply see time as sacred and not a commodity to burn through. Today, I will choose to walk through the Memorial Garden, a place where time slows and gently rests. In doing this, I will remember that I am not too busy to say a prayer while I breathe in the holiness of that place. I will remember that God dwells everywhere, and when I am not too busy to notice, I notice. May it be so for you as well.

Lori+

Street Outreach Chaplaincy in the Tri-Cities Area

Submitted by: The Rev. Ken Parris, Deacon

Following the moving second annual memorial service in memory of the homeless men and women who perished on the streets of the tri-cities area, Pastor Greg Roth of Centerville Presbyterian Church was moved to take affirmative steps to reach out to this frequently unseen and often ignored population. Pastor Greg came to Fremont from a church in the Greater Los Angeles area that had a ministry to the homeless. Unsure if he was called to Centerville Presbyterian Church, he visited the church on a Sunday morning in the guise of a homeless man. Greg was taken by the warmth and hospitality he experienced from the members of Centerville Presbyterian Church and knew in his heart that this was the place he was called to be pastor.

Centerville Presbyterian Church maintains a thriving outreach ministry of which ministry to the homeless is no small part of that work. The church is directly involved in feeding, clothing and providing other social services to this most needy of populations. Visiting the church campus one Tuesday evening, I noticed a line of homeless waiting to charge their cell phones at the wall chargers on the outside of the church. Someone brought a power strip to facilitate more phones being charged at one time.

While his church lives into its ministry to the homeless, Pastor Greg felt there was more that needed to be done. Approaching Abode management and its board of directors, Pastor Greg suggested the need for an active chaplaincy to the homeless of the Tri-Cities area. Initially hesitant, Abode agreed to partner with Pastor Greg and his church to provide a street outreach chaplaincy at no cost to Abode.

Pastor Greg began the work of assembling a team of experienced chaplains and others who have engaged in social outreach ministry. Providing some additional training and background screening (that Abode agreed to pay for) to the volunteers, the ministry was launched in January of this year. Since the launch, the chaplaincy has had documented interaction with nearly 100 separate individuals whose lives are touched by homelessness.

Chaplains have a great breadth and depth of experience and range from being ordained ministers with decades of ministry experience to lay ministers who have specific skills and experiences that enable them to effectively minister to the homeless. Regardless of the experience and background, the chaplains meet together on a monthly basis to hold each other accountable, to "check-in" about the contacts we've made, and to do a bit of "self-care" essential to maintain a thriving ministry.

As part of my work in this ministry I met with an individual, whom I will call "Sally" (not her real name) who became homeless due to an accident that impacted her memory. The memory loss caused her to lose a good paying job and the custody of her children. Without an income she was unable to pay her rent and, not wanting to adversely impact her credit rating, she moved out of her home before being evicted. She has lived in her car on the streets of Fremont for the last three months before she could get transitional housing and other services provided by Abode. She feels a strong attachment to her faith community but was unable to attend services while homeless because she was embarrassed and unable make herself "presentable" to the community. The simple tasks like bathing and making up our hair are impossible for most people who are homeless.

"Sally's" story is just one of many different and unique stories the Street Outreach Chaplains have heard from the men and women impacted by the Bay Area's chronic problem of unaffordable housing and homelessness. From my experience I've noted there are some immediate needs a faith community could provide to assist the Street Outreach Chaplains with their work.

We have found it is helpful to have something tangible to offer a homeless person when you approach them out on the street and in homeless encampments. This "gift" provides the chaplain an inroad to talk with the homeless person and also

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(Street Outreach ~ continued from page 2)

sets the homeless person at ease when speaking with a stranger . What the Chaplains would like to do is have a store of "care packages" that are easy to carry and can be given out whenever we encounter a homeless person in our ministry activities. It is recommended that the care packages contain the following items in a one (1) gallon zip lock plastic bag. Other small (travel size) items can also be included:

Pair of warm dark colored socks
Face cloth
Toothbrush (sealed in original wrapping)
Travel size tube of toothpaste
Travel size deodorant
Travel size shampoo
Travel size hand sanitizer
Travel size bar of soap
Energy bar or granola bar
A treat! (a pack of gum, prayer card, personal note of encouragement, etc.)

While a treat in the care package is nice, it is not essential. However, it helps remind the homeless person that they are loved and are entitled to have some of the simple pleasures of life.

It would be wonderful if a group of St. James' parishioners felt moved to take on this ministry, raising the money, purchasing the necessary items and preparing the care packages. The need for this ministry support is 24/7, 365 days of the year. If you feel called to lead this ministry, please contact Deacon Ken.

Also, if you are moved to serve as a Street Outreach Chaplain and have the special skills and abilities needed for this important and challenging ministry, please contact Deacon Ken who will put you in touch with Pastor Greg to begin the screening process. We are always looking for more chaplains to join us in the "trenches."

Deacon Ken may be contacted at his email address, deaconken@saintj.com, or at any time you encounter him at church or in the community.

Kids Outreach Project

This spring Sunday school took on a seed planting project and arranged a plant stall. This was the final outreach project for the year and was to enable us to raise funds for Episcopal Relief and Development projects. Thank you to everyone who took part, donated or purchased plants or made donations.

As I write this the kids have created a shopping list of 'gifts for life' from Episcopalrelief.org that they would like to support and are just $77 short in their fundraising. Rather than adjust the list they have decided they want to raise the additional money and purchase the whole list.

Look out for their efforts in the weeks to come.

Jan Scrutton

Photos courtesy of:
Penny Trant

Women's Day Retreat

May 7th, 10am - 3pm. Free!

Please sign up in the Parish Hall for a wonderful day of refreshment and exploration. Lunch will be provided.

Your Facilitators,
Lori+, Anna Horen, Janet Fischer

Abode Services Home Warming Rapid Re-Housing update

Many thanks to all the parishioners who continue to support the program with cash donations, gift cards, and personal affects. St. James' along with 15 other churches in the area partner up and help move veterans, individuals, and families into permanent housing.

The challenge gets harder each year due to the explosive growth in rents around the Bay Area. It is taking more resources to help these folks find housing. Instead of one or two churches pooling their resources to house someone, it takes three or four churches due to the expensive 1st month's rent and deposits.

St. James' has not housed any one certain family but contributed thru the donations of goods in our storage containers. We'll keep doing our best to help the homeless in our area.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Gregg Feeney at 510-795-1870. We appreciate all the continued support for this program.

To learn more about the program visit their website at www.abodeservices.org

Submitted by:
Gregg Feeney

2016 Men's Group Trip Aug 18 – Aug 21

Our Men's Group will again travel to Twain Harte to stay at the Button Willow house and another house close by. For the last 8 years about 15 of us travel to the Mother Lode country for a few days of hiking, fishing, golfing, wine tasting, reading, swimming and relaxing.

We cook meals together, have some great discussions and share stories. It's a good time to have more one on one time with your fellow parishioners. All the duties are divided up. Some like to cook while others prefer the clean-up duty. Our group is a collection of former members of St James' and current members.

August is a always a great to enjoy the outdoors of Stanislaus National Forest and we look forward to another wonderful time this year. Other areas of interest are Columbia Historic State Park, Jamestown, Kennedy Meadows via Sonora Pass, and the beautiful Pinecrest Lake to name a few. For more information and other areas of interest, Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce website http://www.twainhartecc.com/

The cost is $160.00 per person which includes meals and non-alcoholic beverages. There is a $50 deposit to secure our houses in Twain Harte.

If you have any questions, please contact Gregg Feeney at 510-795-1870. Please look for a sign up sheet that will be posted in the parish hall.

Gregg Feeney

Cub Scout Pack 163

A couple of weeks ago, Cub Scout Pack 163 spent a Saturday afternoon spreading bark around the St. James' campus. What a great way to give back to our community and we want to give a big THANKS to Cub Scout Pack 163 for helping to keep St. James' looking so beautiful.

Photo courtesy of : Bob Doherty

Celebrate Sunday, May 8th

Financials for March 2016

Fund Balances	3/31/2015		3/31/2016
Operating Fund	$ 60,670.36		$ 66,174.96
Building Fund	$ 34,852.47		$ 28,043.18
Pledges Budgeted	$ 65,206.24		$ 64,999.00
Pledges Paid	$ 69,455.00		$ 71,034.64
Unpledged Contributions	$ 3,315.00		$ 4,091.00
Other Op Income	$ 6,765.64		$ 6,620.90
Total Operating Income	$ 79,535.64		$ 81,746.54
Total Operating Expenses	$ 66,449.66		$ 65,003.40
Income less Expenses	$ 13,085.98		$ 16,743.14

NOTE: Operating Expenses do not include the 2nd Payroll Payment

Please Note

In observance of Memorial Day, May 30th the church office will be closed. Thank you.

Joyous Hillside Easter Visit

Thank you St. James', we had a rousing visit with the 64 Hillside residents on Wednesday, March 16th! Bruce Roberts captured it with his camera and Byron Bader provided great music on his keyboard!

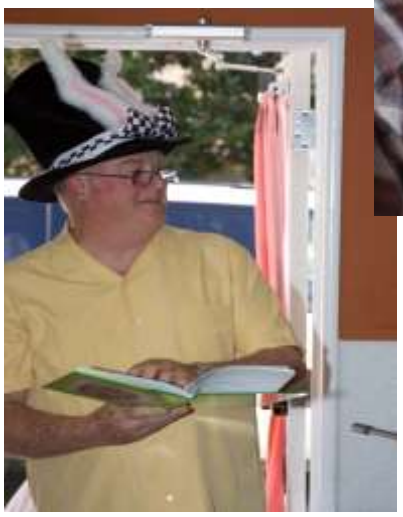
The Easter Bunny and helpers, Rev. Ken Parris, Pat and George Vlastelica, Dorothy Balderston, Barbara Lyon & Ruth Poole put the gifts in all the residents rooms. Nancy and Paul Svenson provided the stage props and interpretation for the story.

"The Giving Tree" along with Sandra Motley, The Dohertys (Lauren, Easter Bunny and Bob, "reader") also supplied props. Byron's rendition of "Route 66" & "Amen" had all the residents singing and clapping along to the music. It's just too bad the fun had to end!

With Appreciation, Lauren D., Alice J., Ruth P. and Sandra M.

Submitted by:
Sandra Motley

Photos courtesy of : Bruce Roberts



Click on the link below for more information

http://saintj.com/wp/ministries/childrens-programs/vacation-bible-school/

Each month one Vestry member will share their experience of their spiritual home and their motivation for supporting our community. This month's submission is by Elaine Vallecillo-Miller.

Why I Give…..

Tithing. What a foreign, strange concept, especially being raised as a Roman Catholic. I wonder, if there are other people who think the same.

When I was a child and later, a young adult, I never thought about giving to the (R.C) church because I and others had this idea that the Archdiocese of San Francisco dictated the budget to all its parishes. With this idea, coming from the top, from Archbishop to the parish priest, we, the parishioners, had no voice to decide on how to allocate the funds for the parish and the diocese and its programs. There was no connection, no personal investment.

However, when I started attending St. Aidan's in San Francisco in the Eighties, the word, "tithing" was introduced to me for the first time and later, expanded over time at various churches in Chicopee, MA., Mountain View, Ca. and finally, Fremont, Ca.

The Rev. Canon W. David Crockett, of Diocese of Western Massachusetts and author of "Three Sides of a Coin", explained tithing or giving as an outward action of being "grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God". He further used the analogy of a stool, whereby the three legs, being time, talent and treasure.

Greg and I have taken that lesson wholeheartedly. When times were financially tough, we would give what we could, along with offering our talents and time to specific projects/ministries. We were giving 100%. Like the "Stone Soup" story or the "Fishes & Loaves" parable, even if it's $1, $10 or higher on a weekly or monthly basis, my money will be multiply along with others to provide the upkeep of our church, staff and its ministries and outreach efforts. I feel connected and personally, spiritually connected and invested with gratitude.

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

On Sunday, June 19th we will honor the many volunteers who give their time and talent to St. James'. Ice Cream and all the toppings will be served.

Look for more details soon.

April 2016 Vestry Minutes

Submitted by: Vivienne Paratore

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. after we shared dinner, God Moments and an opening prayer. The minutes from the March 10th Vestry Meeting were approved.

Lynn gave a summary of the financial report which includes a reimbursement from the insurance company for the water line breakage. There are no other notable items, everything is as expected; the financial reports were accepted. Lori has completed the grant for a sabbatical which would fund a supply rector for the duration of her sabbatical which would mean that the funds set aside for this in the budget could be diverted to another use.

We talked about replacing the leaking freezer in the kitchen. Dave Nelsen had already done research which is included in the vestry packet. There was a discussion about capacity and commercial versus home. Vivienne was asked to research purchasing a commercial freezer through a restaurant supply store. There was a discussion about the source of the funds. This item will be on the agenda in May.

Lori reported the Cub Scout's Earth day project of spreading the bark. The Hoffman's are donating bark.

Meg recorded the email vote about the updated Facility Use Agreement on March 24th in the minutes. Lori thanked Meg for all of her work on this project.

Lori announced that Meg Amouroux, Janet Fischer and John Butterfield will be attending the Center for Church Vitality program which had been previously approved by the Vestry.

St. James' is celebrating Earth Day on April 17th. The stewardship group is donating a tree to be blessed and planted next Sunday. There was a comment about the tree getting watered weekly until the tree is established.

Scott reported from the Executive Council Meeting that the diocese is promoting a capital campaign. Lori will be talking to the diocesan representative about the capital campaign before the presentation to the Vestry. Bishop Mark will be on sabbatical in 2017 from Easter for 4 to 5 months. Diobytes has a summary of the bishop's trip to Haiti. There are workshops at St Paul's in Burlingame on May 14th which several vestry members will be attending. Lori thanked Scott and Jim McConnell for representing St James' on this Council.

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Bruce reported that the microphones will stop working in the future as the band will be eliminated by the FCC. The new equipment will be between $10,000 and $15,000. Bruce suggests waiting until more is known as there is a 39 month lag time between the announcement by the FCC and the implementation. There was a discussion about this. Lori thanked Bruce for the information and research. Lori informed the Vestry that the request to scatter ashes on the property has been withdrawn. There was a discussion about bringing St. James' into the Interfaith Council and United Religions Initiative, then the reports were accepted unanimously by the Vestry.

Vivienne reported that she has not made any progress on her project of a welcome team.

John and Meg are working on the New Member Packets which is different from a Visitor packet. They need the Charter document to finish the packet. Some of the forms need to be updated but most are OK to stay in the packet. The goal is to have it by June.

Bruce reported on the Charter Document that he has completed the packet which originally was thought to be a trifold but now needs to be a packet. Bruce cut down many of the charters. The end result is going to be short descriptions of what we do and to make it cohesive. Charles and Elaine are responsible for the Newcomer Events and decided to model this year on last years event. June 18th is the date of the first newcomer brunch. Lori commented that the welcome team work needs to be done to help identify the newcomers for the brunch.

Evelyn reported that Volunteer Appreciation Day will be advertised in the Window and the bulletin.

Penny is working on St. James' Feast on July 24th and will advertise in the Window and bulletins starting in May. She would like some kid activities and adult games. Lori will contact the Philippine Independent Church. Vestry members will be asked to help.

Scott is doing an endowment presentation at the next meeting on April 28th and will discuss about when to put on an endowment event.

Karen and Nancy want to make 2 items for visitors, a magnet for the refrigerator with the name and address on it. The other is a visitors pamphlet. They have three meetings scheduled for the pamphlet. Lori follows up with an email if the visitors sign up and goes back to see who has not come back and get their feedback as to why.

Sunday School BBQ and Classroom News

Sign up in the Sunday School classroom or with an email to jan@saintj.com to join in the fun at the Sunday School end of year BBQ, potluck complete with a bounce house. This event is scheduled for Sunday June 5th from 12:00 noon onwards.

Sunday School will continue to meet during the 10:30am service in June but will be on break in July & August.

Jan Scrutton
Children's Minister

St. James' Feast

St. James' Feast is on Sunday, July 24th and there are some wonderful things planned so please save the date. We will be having a themed potluck, kids and adult activities, prize drawings, contests and other surprises.

I am also looking for anyone would lend us their canopy or pop-up for the event. Send an email to just4pt@yahoo.com or see Penny if you have one or more we can borrow.

More details on this and other St. James' Feast information coming soon. Thanks !!!

Penny Trant

Annual Hymn Sing

On Saturday, April 23rd, the St. James' Choir hosted the Annual Hymn Sing at Rev. Lori's home. Many choir members St. James' parishioners who enjoy singing came to this fun event!

Using both the blue 1982 Hymnal and the LEVAS II Hymnal, people selected hymns that they would like to sing. A great variety of hymns were sung, from spirituals to old-time classics. In addition, many participants were featured (voluntarily) on 2nd verse solos, and we even changed the words of one hymn to reflect some of our fun humor (a fierce wild priest!).

Many thanks to Rev. Lori Walton for hosting, to Jennifer Carini for playing the keyboard, and to Bruce Roberts and Greg Miller for transporting the keyboard and hymnals to Rev. Lori's house. A great time was had by all!

Submitted by:
Jennifer Carini

The next issue of ***The Window*** is June

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

email your submission to
newsletter@saintj.com

June Submission Deadline: May 15th

St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God we pray for:

Thank you

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

Those Who are Traveling: Ken and Penny

Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Bruce, Gloria, Kenny, Jeanne

Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Avis, Willy, Genore, Amy, Sarah, Jolly, Jeanne, Melissa, Lynne, Nancy, Jonathan, Bud, Tim, Betty , Ellison, Glenn, Bobby, the Becker family, Nonie, Trish and family, Venkatesh, Holger, Mr. Rego

Those Who Have Passed Away: Sarah, Marilyn, Jack G., Jack B., Steve

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.

May Birthdays

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

May Anniversaries

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

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

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace
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
The Rev. John Trubina, Office Administrator ..... admin@saintj.com
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
Meg Amouroux
Junior Warden.....jrwarden@saintj.com
Vivienne Paratore

John Butterfield
Nancy Castaneda
Ashley Francis
Charlie Hall
Karen Koonze
Evelyn Martinez
Vivienne Paratore
Bruce Roberts
Penny Trant
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

***The Window* Staff**

Ralph Locher
Katie Porter
Penny Trant
Jack Rux
Laura Winter
Article submission…...newsletter@saintj.com