The Window

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

Called to serve in new and loving ways

July 2016

A River Flows Out of Eden

In the second creation story, Genesis, chapter two, you will find the line, "a river flows from Eden." [1] This beautiful imagery brings to mind the point of God's original creation, Eden, flowing outward towards and into all of creation that is and that will come to be. All things, animals, plants, humanity, air, water, all things, are forever connected and find their source in the beginning. The abundant life that makes up the garden of Eden emanates out to create the abundant life throughout the world.

We have lived on (and used) this earth for a long, long time. Everywhere I look, I see signs of Eden. The bird sanctuary delights me with fowl in the air and water. A deer recently spent time in the Memorial Garden (a mini-version of Eden), the rugged landscape of the Pacific Coast continues to be an endless supply of awe, and my own animals for whom I care and nurture remind me that just we are meant to be stewards of creation, not dominators.

And yet, while the beauty of Eden is evident, so are the signs of human abuse. Wild animals are coming closer to domestic dwellings in search of the shrinking availability of water and food. The polar ice cap is melting and bodies of water are warming. Average temperatures throughout the world have increased and weather events such as hurricanes are becoming more extreme. Scientists point to climate change as the culprit, caused by human activity, primarily the burning of fossil fuels that pump carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

As Christians, we are called to care for creation and to do what we can to preserve its beauty and health. In our baptismal covenant, we promise to respect the dignity of every human being. Our bishop, Marc Andrus, reminds us to modify the sentence to include the earth – we promise to respect the dignity of every human being… and the dignity of the earth.

Respect starts with paying attention. One way to pay attention is to measure elements created by God. On the rooftop of the Education Building sits a weather station, donated for our use and monitored by parishioner Mario Galvez. From this weather station, we are collecting data on precipitation, temperature, and wind speed. This data is then uploaded into a global database, and with thousands of other people, we are helping to crate a picture of God's creation and the human impact on it.

This is a step in putting some action behind our sentiment that we are responsible for being stewards of the earth. This is an action that marks St. James' as a place that not only cares about the environment, but is doing something tangible and measurable to make a difference. It is our first step in joining the global **citizen science** effort through the Globe Program (go to www.globe.gov for more information). As we progress, we will be exploring other ways to be active citizen (and Christian) scientists. This effort is being spearheaded by Mario Galvez, who welcomes questions in person or at citizensciencegroup@gmail.com.

A river flows out of Eden, and through the St. James' campus. If you'd like to monitor our weather station and collected data, check out the widget on the bottom right hand side of our home page at www.saintj.com, and you will see exactly what the weather is like a the corner of the Education Building. Double-click on the widget and you'll see the detail, and along with being part of a global effort to help with climate change, you will never have to wonder what the weather is like at church again

Lori+

1. Genesis 2:10b, NRSV
See more at: http://www.livescience.com/37057-global-warming-effects.html

Vestry Report for June 9th, 2016

We met at 6:30 for dinner, provided by Ashley, and to share God moments. The whole Vestry was present along with Lori, Ken, Elizabeth and Lynn. We were joined by John Kimber.

We started the meeting at 7:00 pm and the minutes were passed as amended. Lynn then presented the financial reports. She pointed out that the Schader fund had grown because of interest from CDs. The pledged amount is less than this time last year but unpledged given amount is more. Lynn explained all line items that were different from the previous month.

John Kimber then addressed the vestry regarding Niles Rotary Foundation's involvement in donations to the Little Church Fund. Community members make requests to Niles Rotary and those are seriously considered. The Little Church Committee received $5,000 towards renovations and Niles Rotary was promised updates on how the money is spent. However, no updates have been given, to John's knowledge, to this point. John is requesting that an update be presented to Niles Rotary before July. John is recommending that St. James' reapply for more grant money but that an update should be given before that. Bruce said that he would write up the progress so far. The Little Church Committee will write an article with details for *The Window. (go to page 5 for the article).* Meg asked when the granting committee is meeting in July and John was not sure. The Vestry thanked John for coming.

Lynn spoke on behalf of the Women's Spirituality Group. Ken had written a lovely article about a new ministry of care packages for the street outreach ministry. The Women's group decided to work on this project. Lynn asked for approval of $190 to purchase toothbrushes, socks and deodorant. Lori asked that people not bring toilet paper or food items, just the requested items like shampoo, soap and other toiletries. Lori thanked the Women's Spirituality Group.

Bruce reported on the termite situation in the big Church and surrounding structures. An inspection was completed yesterday of the main buildings including the core samples from the roof over the sacristy. No rodents or termites were found anywhere. He recommended that we watch the areas that were previously treated. The door into the janitor's closet had termites and they will return to eliminate them. There were termites under the floor in the parish hall. Bruce recommended to extend the $681 warranty. Lynn said that we should put this amount in the operating budget in the future but that this year we will take it out of the building fund. Lori suggested tabling it until July.

We moved onto a conversation about stewardship where Lori presented the statistics around the pledging income of the parish. Lori pointed out that it is the Vestry's responsibility to oversee the stewardship plan of the church and financial health of the parish. Vestry members asked questions trying to absorb and process the information. The Vestry will meet to discern our own positions. We discussed the fall stewardship event as an educational as well as a celebration. Vestry decided to meet on July 10th at 4:00 p.m. at Vivienne's house for a discussion and dinner.

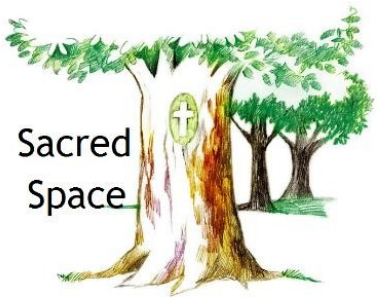
Mary Casas has asked to step down from paying the bills at the end of the summer. Lynn Locher has also asked to step down from being the treasurer at the end of 2016. As a result, Lori looked into having a bookkeeper. This would incur an extra cost in the budget. The going hourly rate for bookkeepers is $40-$50 per hour and we would need 2-3 hours per week. Assuming that we hire one at $50 per hour for 3 hours a week for 52 weeks, the total cost would be $7,800 per year. We could ask the churches in Fremont who they use to do bookkeeping and hire from there. We could start with bill paying. We will ask Mary and Lynn to submit what they do as a basis for the job description. Lynn talked about Quickbooks; the cost of the new Quickbooks was reduced to $50.00 so the new one was installed and Quicken was also updated through Lynn's license.

We then accepted the ministry and vestry reports with the correction of Elaine's name. The bylaws were then reviewed. We talked about the system for communicating with Abode.

The meeting was adjourned and we celebrated Compline led by Ashley.

Vivienne Paratore, Jr. Warden

Sacred Space



Sacred Space is a specialized mission of the Diocese of California that provides an outdoor worship service and lunch to homeless persons each Sunday afternoon. This ministry is spearheaded by The Rev. John Trubina. Currently there are two locations, Hayward and Oakland, and along with other parishes in the Southern Alameda County Deanery, St. James' participates by providing lunch one Sunday per month at the **Hayward** location. The schedule for July-December is posted in the Parish Hall, and I encourage you to sign up to help provide lunch.

In the past, I have usually been the one to deliver the lunches on a regular basis. Going forward, my availability to do that will be limited. I encourage you to also sign up to deliver the lunches and perhaps stay for the worship service as well. Many people have participated, and find it to be a rewarding and love-filled day. Let's show Sacred Space our St. James' spirit!

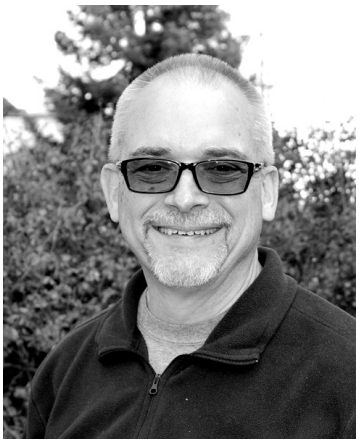
Many, many thanks to all who have provided sandwiches, bottled water, chips, granola bars, and fruit cups in the past. Don't forget to check out the signup sheet for the rest of the year!

Janet Fischer

Sacred Space Coordinator for St. James'

Why I Give to St. James'

As a child growing up in the Episcopal Church, giving was a weekly Sunday School obligation, a "tax" on my weekly allowance, which I felt would be much better spent on candy and comic books.



As an adult recently returned to the Episcopal Church, my faith creates a completely different perspective – giving is the opposite of a tax. Giving to the loving community of St. James' is an ongoing act of gratitude and joy, a gift of thanks for the miracle and mystery of God in our lives.

Giving of my resources – money, time and energy – connects me to St. James' and the amazing work of the larger Episcopal church in the world. I can see my gift come alive locally and globally in areas of education, feeding the homeless, justice in action, peacemaking, and especially important to me – a loving, inclusive evangelistic movement.

My giving has grown in recent years. I used to give in fear – I was afraid there would not be enough left for me and my family. Now I give in faith and with thanks for God's abundant love. I consider it a privilege to do my small part to advance the mission of our church -- God at work in the world.

John Butterfield

Reception Coordinator

Many thanks to Jay Butterfield for stepping up to coordinate the memorial and funeral receptions for our congregation and their families. When the need arises, I know Jay will do an excellent job, and will be supported by a wonderful team of people who assist with this hospitality effort.

And, a big thank you to Dorothy Balderston for the many years of coordination and leadership in this role. Her ministry has been a blessing to many grieving families.

The End of the School Year

As the school year comes to an end, bringing with it exams, projects (oh, the projects in my house!!), farewells and summer plans, so the Sunday School year moves on. As it our practice in previous years, we wind down a little in June and take a break in July and August. Our Summer Day Camp in July (25th-29th) keeps us all busy and the 10:30am service every Sunday still welcomes children each week in the summer (look out for our children's clipboards)

To mark the end of the year, we held the Sunday School Barbecue and potluck on June 5th, this year with the addition of a bounce house. Fifty people gathered for food and fun after the service. Thank you to everyone who came to join in the fun, it was great to see you all.

Jan Scrutton, Children's Minister

Little Church Repair Progress Report

Since the generous grant for $5000 was approved by Niles Rotary on July 24, 2015, for the repair of the buttresses on the Little Church at St. James', progress has seen fits and starts. We sent a heartfelt "Thank You" letter to Niles Rotary Club on August 24, 2015. We solidified our plans to replace the wooden buttresses with steel buttresses after first pulling in the walls with a cable system that would be removed after the buttress repair/replacement.

Of the two contractors we found that said they would like to bid on the project, neither one submitted a bid. Other contractors said they were too busy to bid the project. As of November 1, 2015, the contractors were told the bid was no longer open, partly due to the busy contractor situation and the fact that we did not want them working outside in the rainy weather.

About the same time we discovered original the plans for the moving of the church in 1955 which showed that the buttresses were to be sheeted with plywood on both sides of each buttress. Inspection showed that the sheeting was not done.

Consultation with the engineer resulted in rethinking the process from using steel buttresses to replacing the wooden buttresses and making it a more simple repair which would utilize the plywood sheeting on the wooden buttresses as specified in the 1955 plans. At the same time our engineer told us further consultation would be on *pro bono* basis. Plans were modified to reflect the changes. The revised plans were shown to the City of Fremont on June 2, 2016. It was determined that the repair would not need a permit. In addition, the repair process will now leave the building in a closer-to-original condition than the process utilizing steel buttresses.

As of June 9, 2016, two contractors indicated they would like to bid the project and have been given sets of plans. Additional contractors have been contacted. We expect that the cost estimated with the steel buttresses will be reduced and still we plan to use the generous $5,000 Niles Rotary grant towards the repair.

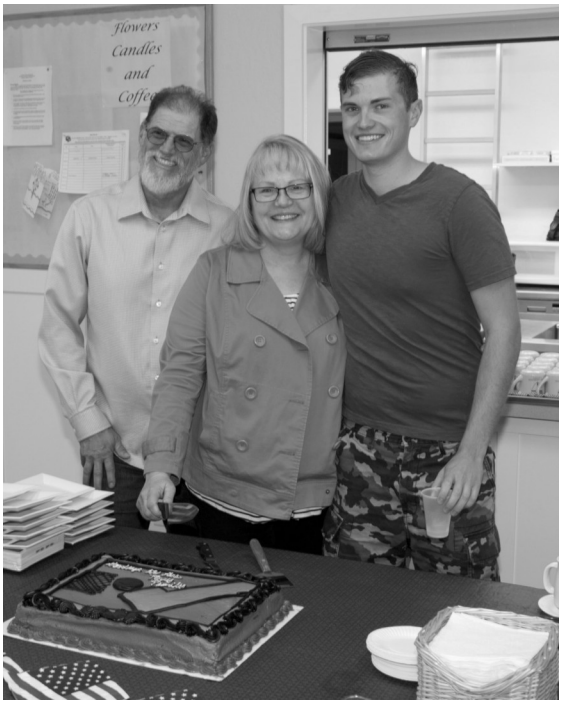
Bruce Roberts

Financial Summary May 2016

Fund Balances	**5/31/2015**	**5/31/2016**
Operating Fund	$ 59,468	$ 58,314
Building Investment	$ 15,000	$ 15,000
Building Fund	$ 38, 336	$ 27,766
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	$ 108,677	$ 108,332
Pledges Paid	$ 107,980	$ 105,967
Unpledged Contributions	$ 4,766	$ 5,045
Other Op Income*	$ 11,555	$ 11,224
Total Operating Income	$ 124,301	$ 122,236
Total Operating Expenses	$, 112,418	$ 113,354
Income less Expenses	$ 11,883	$ 8,882

*Includes Fund Raising

The Perrys Leave for Washington



St. James' also said goodbye to Jack and Connie Rux as they moved to Florida. May God's blessings follow you all.

Reflection Given by Reverend Lori at the June 17 Candlelight Vigil Following the Shootings in Orlando, Florida

Following the shooting at Sandy Hook, a few of us gathered for prayer in the big church. At that time, I was stunned into silence. I could not find the words, I leaned heavily on our Book of Common Prayer.

This time, I don't feel stunned, I feel a deep despair and a burning anger over what happened in Orlando this week, over another brutal killing.

But, the words that have been in my head all week, or at least the ones that I choose to meditate on were spoken by Lin-Manuel Miranda, creator of Broadway musical Hamilton, when he accepted the Tony award a few nights ago –

I'm sure you've heard them… he said, "Nothing here is promised, not one single day, but love is love is love is love is love is love is love. It cannot be killed or swept aside."

Love is love. It cannot be killed or swept aside.

And still, there is a world of hatred out there, and our American soil is saturated with the blood of those who have fallen victim to that hatred.

Too many times we have watched the news accounts, listened to all sides of the debate over the selling and owning of guns, too many times we have organized vigils and prayer services and lit candles in a small and meager effort to cast light on the shadow of death.

Until it changes radically, until our country is saved from its own divisions and stubbornness, in the name of love, this is what we will do – we will sing, and pray, and light a candle to remind ourselves that the glimmer of hope comes from our fervent belief that love cannot be killed or swept aside.

The tragedy in Orlando has reminded us of many things. It has reminded us once again that the more than 300 million guns in the United States too easily find their way into the hateful hands of deranged minds. It has reminded us that we have not done nearly enough to mitigate our violent culture, and maybe most heart-breaking, Orlando has reminded us that for some people, and in some places, it is still dangerous to be yourself.

The strides taken in the past few years towards LGBTQ rights by the LGBTQ community are monumental and historical, but those strides alone do not guarantee safety, do not promise that hatred will be eradicated, do not bring about a world where each person is free to be exactly who they are.

And so, for some, it is dangerous to be yourself, and I think about all of the brave and courageous LGTBQ people that I know, and I want to say to them – "Don't stop." Don't stop being exactly who God made you to be. Don't stop your public demonstrations of love. Don't stop fighting for what is rightfully yours – to be seen as an average human being, capable of both good and bad, imperfect and blessed.

Don't stop because you have been showing the rest of us how to stand up to darkness in spite of fear and danger.

Don't stop because you have been showing the rest of us how to walk a path that is true, and honest, and sacred.

Don't stop because when you secure your rights, it becomes easier for other marginalized groups to secure their rights.

I think about all those moms and dads who are raising LGBTQ children to love themselves, to honor who they are, to embrace their uniqueness, to stand tall and proud. And of the moms and dads who are raising their children who are not LGBTQ to love, embrace, respect, and see as normal those who are different from them.

I think about all of those gay, lesbian, transgender, bi-sexual, non-conforming people who have been rejected by Christianity and I want to tell them – the story of rejecting your God-given beauty – that is <u>not</u> the story of Jesus Christ. That is <u>not</u> the way of following Christ. The teachings of Jesus have nothing to do with hate.

The story of our faith is that all of God's creation is beloved, that Jesus came to show us a way of transformation from our human sin, and while that sin comes in many forms, it is NOT who you love or how you express love, and finally, Jesus came to show us that, through his death and resurrection, we know that love cannot be killed or swept aside.

Even today, in 2016, I am still hearing the statement in the media and in interviews, that we need to be more tolerant. Hearing that statement really pushes a button for me. And to that I say, we don't need to tolerate.

We need to celebrate – celebrate every person seeking to be authentic, celebrate every relationship that is anchored in love.

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Reflection on Orlando

A colleague related something he observed at a vigil in Oakland earlier this week. A black woman said something like, "African Americans are killed in church. Gays are killed in clubs." I don't know what she meant by this statement, whether she meant it to be hurtful or derogatory. I wasn't there.

But the important part is this. In response, a man said to her, "Sanctuary is Sanctuary."

Sanctuary – a place of refuge and protection, a place where one is held safe, where one finds others who are the same, where one is free to let all of those false and inauthentic identities fall away, letting one's true self immerge.

Sanctuary is sanctuary. It comes in various forms, and, there are not enough. We need to create more sanctuaries until there are more places of safety than places of danger.

And so, on this night, let us pray for those whose sanctuary was violated, or the dead and for their loved ones.

Let us pray that all people, especially LGBTQ people, will be seen as being made in God's holy image, beautiful and loving,

Let us pray that we will have confidence in the promise given to us in the Gospel of John, that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it."

And let each one of us have the courage demonstrated by the LGBTQ community – to speak against discrimination and oppression and to speak for equality and rights.

As Christians, let us stop using the bible as a sorry excuse for our own homophobic darkness, let us speak out against any religious person or leader who uses our sacred texts to spew hatred towards others, towards gays, towards Muslims, towards so many.

Let us be the light that shows that our God is one who was humble enough to be born in a trough, courageous enough to speak against evil forces, compassionate enough to reach his hand to the voiceless and marginalized, and was self-giving enough to endure death to show us that Love is love, it cannot be killed or swept aside.

And let us follow THAT way – the way of humility, courage, compassion, and giving.

Amen.

Come See - Come Be Conference

Ecclesia Ministries, a street ministry with affiliates in over 80 cities in the US, UK, and Brazil, is holding their Come See - Come Be conference at Mercy Center in October. Our own diocesan ministry, Sacred Space, is hosting the conference.

Come explore the roots of our street ministries and how our dependence on God's faithfulness and love of every human being undergirds our journey with those who live on or near our streets. The conference includes a session on Thursday with Sara Miles, author of "Jesus Freak: Feeding, Healing, Raising the Dead," sessions on Friday and Saturday including Abode Services and an address from Bishop Marc, and optional field trips to the St. Gregory of Nyssa Food Pantry and the San Francisco Night Ministry Program.

Location: Mercy Center, Burlingame

Dates: October 21-23, 2016 (Fri-Sunday) with an additional optional session on Thursday, Oct. 20 with Sara Miles.

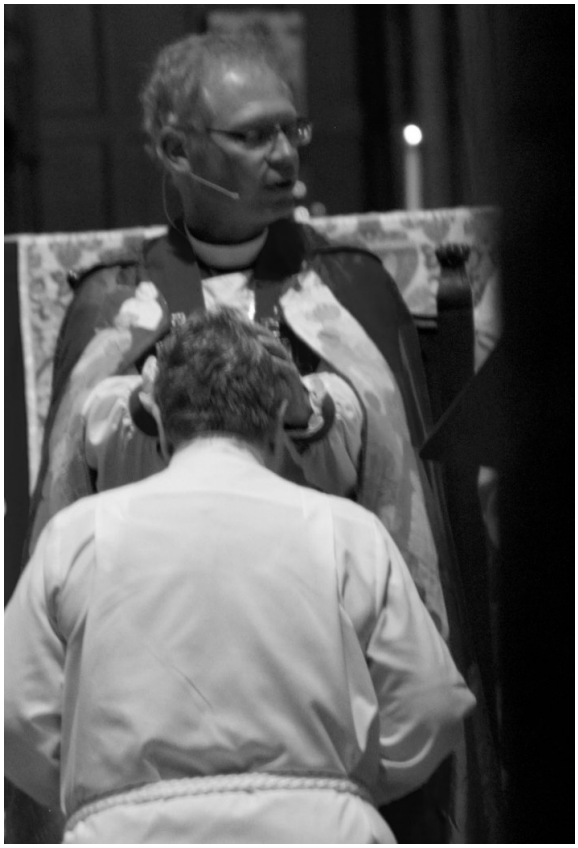
Cost: $200 for Friday-Sunday includes meals and lodging; $125 for commuters (meals, no lodging), and $120 for the additional Thursday session. Scholarships are available; please see the Ecclesia website or speak with +Lori.

More details at: http://www.ecclesiaministriesmission.org/ or contact John Trubina in the church office or at jtrubina@comcast.net.

Janet Fischer

The Rev. Anna Horen's Ordination

Bishop Marc, Scott Whitaker, Jim McConnell, Ken Trant



Below: Anna and Ken Parris

Anna and her husband Bob

Pictures by Bruce Roberts.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Senate

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

St. James' Episcopal Church

Thank You for your dedication to volunteering at Abode Services and for enriching the lives of many people in our Community.

Presented on April 4th, 2016

Bill Quirk

Bill Quirk
Assemblymember, District 20

Robert A. Wieckowski

Bob Wieckowski
State Senator, District 10

Kansen Chu

Kansen Chu
Assemblymember, District 25

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

School Supplies Drive

It may be only July but school supplies are appearing in the stores and so we are starting our 2016 School Supplies Drive. Many of you are very familiar with the school supply lists handed out to parents of kids from kindergarten to 12th grade. That list that can include paper, binders, pencils, coloring pencils, hand sanitizer, calculator, scissors, glue sticks and more – and that is before you think about the backpack. For the last 2 years St. James' has collected supplies and backpacks to support families who cannot afford to supply the things on the lists for their children. We recognize the importance of every child feeling prepared for the new school year and not being without the supplies they need.

This year we will work with Abode Services and Tri City Volunteers and will collect from July 3 to August 14 2016. We will then deliver our supplies to them by mid August to enable them to be with the children in time for the return to school. A complete list of the supplies needed (divided into grade levels) can be found on the Sunday School notice board and via the link on our website:

http://saintj.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2016-2017-SCHOOL-SUPPLY-LIST.pdf

Donations of supplies can be dropped off at church on a Sunday or to the office during the week. For more information contact Jan Scrutton, Children's Minister at jan@saintj.com

St. James' Prayer List

. *Most Holy God we pray for:*

For Those in the Military: Scott, Jarrod, Megan, Erica, Theresa, Mark, Tim, Louis, Military Children of ACBSM, the families and Marines of Dark Horse Battalion, Caitlin, Emily, Robin, Adam, Dave, Shawn, Ethan, Paul, Darren, Matthew

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: David, Barbara, Shawn, Auror

For Those Who Need Comfort and healing: Nonie, Nancy, Laura, David, Canon Stefani, Eva, David and Family, Matthew

For Families Expecting Children: Marianne and Andrew

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Steve, , Jeanne, Carole, Jim, Trish

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

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in August. . 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: **Date Issue Deadline: July 15th**

July Birthdays

1 Megan Tiller
Marie Robinson
3 Johanne LaRocque
4 Bob Bynum
7 John Guzior
14 Diane Morninglight
15 Bill Mosier
17 Angela Casas
19 Jack Rux
21 Jackie Whitehouse
22 Jack Merrell
24 William Rose
27 Evelyn Martinez
28 Bev Mosier
Jan Pearson
Gregg Feeney

July Anniversaries

11 Lauren and Daniel Zarovy
19 Jessica Stair and Charles Hall
23 Robert and Denise Lovellette
24 Don and Marilyn Rose

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

Thank You For Care Package Items

The Women's Spirituality Group wants to thank the parish for all their donations for the Hygiene Care Packages. We now have enough for at least the next 6 months. We have filled 11 Care Packages to be distributed and will be filling more when our order of socks and deodorant arrives. At this time the only item we need are bottles of water. We will put out the call for more items as needed.

The above article replaces the request for travel toiletries in the weekly Sunday bulletin.

Lynn Locher

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 9:00-10:00AM
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
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Jennifer Carini, Music Director.....music@saintj.com
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Vivienne Paratore

John Butterfield
Nancy Castaneda
Ashley Francis
Charles Hall
Karen Koonze
Evelyn Martinez
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 & Acolytes:
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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