



The Window

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

August 2016

A Transformation: The Story of the Accidental Usher

On a typical Sunday in 2015, I came to church for the 8am service. Surprisingly, the service found itself without an usher due to an unexpected absence. Not a tragic situation by any means, but a vital hole in the morning service was upon us. As I stood in the Little Church doorway about 15 minutes before the service was to start, I looked around to see if anyone who had ever ushered before was in attendance and could help out. No luck. So I grabbed the stack of bulletins and announcements, propped open the door and started to hand them out, while waiting for an experienced usher to appear.

As it would happen, no one who had ushered before was arriving. The clergy and acolyte were outside, ready to begin. I looked to Rev. Lori, shrugged my shoulders, and said, "It seems I'm our usher today!" Over time, I've witnessed countless Sunday services, watching clergy and others move through the sanctuary spaces during services. I could do this.

My guess is that no one in attendance knew I was such a rookie. I handed out bulletins. I rang the big bell outside to start the service. I stood in the back, running through the service in my head, hoping I could map it out and know what was to happen when. I settled down, and all was processing as it should.

While the service continued, I thought about what might be the lesson from this Unexpected Ushering: "someone will always step up to help, today it was me, and I'm glad I could do it."

As it turns out, there was a bigger lesson that day.

One of the tasks of an usher is to collect the offerings. At this service, I collected from pews on the right, and then the left. Once completed, I stood in the back, ready to bring them forward. The Little

Church has dark walls, a dark ceiling and floor. The bright spot is at the altar: white walls, glistening altar pieces. Standing at the back, I felt I was in a tunnel with all this brightness ahead of me. Our organist, Jennifer, began the Doxology with great gusto. Everyone stood up, faced forward and sang. The tunnel sensation increased. I was walking forward, plate held high, past the rows of my friends, carrying their offerings to the church and to God. Music and voices boomed around me. The clergy was welcoming me forward. And there I was, this regular person, bringing these gifts forward. I felt like I was walking on air. I knew I would always remember this moment.

After delivering the collection plate, I was in a daze. What was that?! Did anyone else sense that?! Is this what the ushers feel each Sunday? I can't answer those questions, but I know that on that day, bringing forward that collection plate, I was transformed.

At that very instant I became stronger in my convictions to be of help, at church and beyond. I saw with my own eyes the generosity of St. James'. I even decided to increase my pledge.

We all have time and treasure to give, and sometimes we need to step out of our comfort zones and share them. May we all find moments when we are transformed by what we find at St. James', and in the world. And then share them with others.

I wish you all a happy and healthy summer.

Meg Amouroux, Sr. Warden

July Vestry Report

We start each of our meetings at 6:30pm, sharing a meal provided by a vestry member. The business portion of the meeting began at 7:00pm with an opening prayer.

Among the topics discussed:

We began with financial reports for June. Thank you to our treasurer, Lynn Locher, for providing this information. One budget item that is underfunded is the Altar Flowers. This may be due to folks who've signed up but haven't sent in their donation, or that no one signed up to donate for flowers on particular Sundays. Meg made a suggestion that the Flowers' sign-up sheet be sent around during the annual meeting each January, to take advantage of the increased attendance there.

John Maloney has undertaken a large task to organize and collect important historical documents and items found in various places on campus, and to put them in a centralized and safe space. Funds for shelving and archival boxes and containers will come from the Memorial Donations (special interest) account.

The vestry voted to spend \$681 for an extended warranty for our termite control. Our three-year warranty from the last major treatment in 2013 is due to expire in 2016, and purchasing this 1-year extension continues that agreement. The extended warranties can be purchased annually. We are eligible for one more year at this rate before pricing will likely increase. Cost for this extended warranty will come from Buildings & Grounds' Maintenance & Repair budget line. Thank you Bruce Roberts and Dave Nelsen for the meetings with the vendor and keeping this on track.

Mary Casas has been our Accounts Payable Clerk for over 5 years and is going to step down at the end of this summer. We're grateful for her time and dedication. In light of her retirement from the position and after discussion, the vestry decided to put out a call for a new volunteer from within the parish. Should a qualified volunteer not be available, the vestry has voted to pursue the hiring of a contacted bookkeeper. This person would have the required skills and licenses and to handle Mary's tasks and some of those currently completed by our Treasurer. Our bylaws state that will must have a Treasurer and that will not change. Proper checks and balances would still be in place. Should the position need to be filled in this manner, the vestry voted to offer a rate of no more than \$50/hour for

approximately 10-12 hours per month. The hiring of an outside bookkeeper is a common practice for churches and is a cost of doing ministry. The vestry would work to see the pledges for 2017 support this new component of our church.

After some personal and shared reflections about stewardship and money, we began envisioning what the fall stewardship season might look like. The goal is to increase awareness and thoughtfulness about pledging and tithing to financially support our church. While it is still in the planning stages, the discussion shifted to focusing on those who attend our Sunday services instead of a stand-alone Saturday event to kick-off pledge season. It was noted that there was great value in the in-depth reflection each vestry member has done, and we would like to find a way to convey that to the larger parish. Sunday mornings are when most of us gather together, so a series of messages on Sundays may be how we encourage people to think deeper about their own financial giving practices. Rev. Lori and the wardens will flesh out this approach and will work with the vestry to see how this might happen.

We reviewed our "work of the vestry" for 2016, the various events and tasks we've been charged with completing this year. An Endowment-themed event may be shifted to early 2017. St. James' Day (single 10am service and picnic) is set for July 24. A new member event, an Inquirers Luncheon, is scheduled for Oct. 16. Volunteer Appreciation Sunday on June 19 went beautifully! An Ingathering coffee hour or celebration, giving thanks for pledges, is scheduled for Nov. 20. We continue to work on a new-member packet, which will include various data-gathering materials, as well as informational pieces appropriate for new members. The creation of a Visitor Packet is underway, and is moving forward.

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

Meg Amouroux, Sr. Warden

Why I Give to St. James'



I don't remember giving as a child, but then I don't have the best memory. Money was never a focal point growing up. We were not wealthy, but we were very comfortable. Then (unbelievably) I married a Catholic, and we had a duo-church household giving to both. We didn't really have a concept of tithing then (especially for my husband, a Catholic).

When we decided (okay my husband reluctantly conceded, lol) to both attend and raise our family in the Episcopal Church, we gave only to St. James', becoming involved in the community. We still didn't tithe, but we gave what we could. We taught our children to give a percentage of their allowance to the church as well. When I joined the vestry for the first time (in the 1990's) I realized just how much our pledges meant to the vitality of the church. Episcopal churches are not funded and supported as Catholic and other churches are. There are a lot of expenses that go into the operating of a church: salaries, electricity and water, building and maintenance upkeep, education...this is just to name a few.

Over the years, even when things were tight, I have done my best to maintain and increase my pledge. In order to not make it feel like a dreaded bill that I had to pay, I elect to use Bill Pay through my credit union so that it automatically comes out of my check and is sent to St. James'. It's something that I don't have to struggle with. Especially with my work schedule and not being able to attend regularly, I don't have that fear of having to pay 6 weeks of pledges at once. It's stress free, and for me more joyous.

I give in thanks for the many blessings in my life. I give for all the souls touched, not only at St. James' but for those in the community, near and far. I give not only financially, but also with time and talent as I'm allowed. I know that in times of struggle, the Lord and the St. James' community has been and is there for me, and for that I give thanks. I shine His light to the world in my own little way.

Karen Koonze



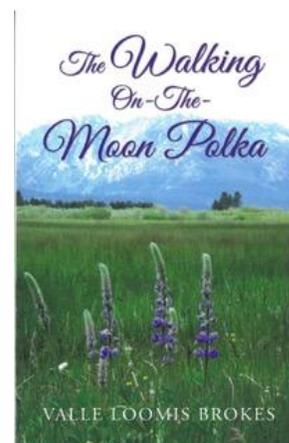
New edition to the Library:

The Walking on the Moon Polka

By Valle Loomis Brokes

Those who have been around for more than five years or so will recognize the name of this author. Valle Brokes was a member of St. James' for many years until she and her husband Al moved closer to family in Pennsylvania. Along with being a faithful parishioner, Valle was a teacher of English and journalism to high school and college students and a research editor. She is also a person of intellect, grace, and warmth. It is a delight to include her new book of poetry, *The Walking on the Moon Polka* in the St. James' Library. Be sure to check it out!

If you'd like to purchase a copy, it is available at Amazon (Smile) or at Infinity Publishing (toll free 877-Buy-Book).



Lori+

Your Chance to Make History. Book It.

Future parishioners will laud your efforts in 2016 to make history for yourself and the rest of the parish. Imagine finding the best gardening tip ever next to a recipe for the ingredient from that garden. Imagine recipes from the era of St. James' history about which you are reading!

The time of year for harvest is fast approaching. What are you going to do with the bounty from that harvest? The recipe and the garden are both subjects in the St. James' history, gardening and recipe book.



It can't be written without you, without your recipes. The history is written, compiled and adapted by John Maloney. Kudos to John!

Now comes your part, the stories, the gardening tips and photos, and the recipes that you love. Not all of the ingredients need come from your garden or any for that matter if you don't have a garden (in the ground or in pots). The story of your garden and your recipe from the veggies from the garden can make delicious reading. For one, I'm looking forward to leafing through the book, reading about former parishioners, looking on a page for a tasty treat or nutritious ingredient, and then marveling at the story behind the gardens that produced the bounty described. Do you take ingredients from elsewhere and convert them to a delicious dish? Hey! There's an idea. Like making your own butter or cheese or jam or canned fruit. What different way do you use to make everyday veggies a new, exciting taste? Let's hear about it!

Pictures by Bruce Roberts.



Or....what is your favorite pot luck dish, one you have contributed, not one you just ate? One for which you have the recipe? Send it to us or hand it to us, either way works.

I'm sure you must have questions. So contact Jim Cunningham or me with your questions. We are open to any contributions to the book.

Email is easiest, we are available at church, and our phone numbers are in the Church Directory. Thanks for reading this and responding.

Bruce Roberts brucesface386@yahoo.com

Jim Cunningham jimckayc@sbcglobal.net

Financial Summary June 2016

Fund Balances	6/30/2015	6/30/2016
Operating Fund	\$ 56,293	\$ 51,337
Building Investment	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Building Fund	\$ 38, 143	\$ 34, 755*
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	\$ 130,412	\$ 129,998
Pledges Paid	\$ 125,120	\$ 127,141
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 5,055	\$ 5,316
Other Op Income*	<u>\$ 12,793</u>	<u>\$ 12,430</u>
Total Operating Income	\$ 142,968	\$ 144,886
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 134,259</u>	<u>\$ 142,981</u>
Income less Expenses	\$ 8,708	\$ 1,905

*Includes Fund Raising

St. James' Cub Pack 163 in July 4th Parade



Pictures submitted by Robert Doherty

How Many Episcopalians.....?

Indeed. How many Episcopalians does it take to change nine light bulbs? When it involves an extension ladder extended to the maximum, it takes a crew – one brave soul to ascend the ladder and three or four to attend the ladder. That’s what happened on June 28th and July 2nd. All-in-all the crews replaced nine halogen, fluorescent, and incandescent light bulbs with LED bulbs. Those who attend services in the Little Church should notice easier reading of the Prayer Book and Hymnal.

Al Casas, ladder ascender and blub exchanger, noted that probably the next time he will need to change those bulbs he will be eighty years old. Maybe by then someone else will want to climb the twenty feet into the heights of the Little Church to replace the bulbs. At least he’s pretty certain that he would just like to watch.

Besides the long life of the LED bulbs, the replacement bulbs should be saving roughly 75% in power consumption over the older bulbs. That’s part of the reason the other bulb-changing crew wanted to help Al.

The crew:

Saturday - Bud Pearson, Don Rose, Bob Bynum, Greg Miller.

Tuesday: Don Rose, Bruce Roberts and Dave Nelsen. Al gets the High Flyer award.

Bruce Roberts



Lower level from left: Don Rose, Bud Pearson, Bob Bynum, Greg Miller
On high: Al Casas

Picture by Bruce Roberts



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, Kenny

For Those Who Need Comfort and healing:

Nonie, David, David and family, Helen, Avis, Travis and girl friend's family, Pedro, Mark, John, Glenn, Tim, Linda, Jeff, Trish, Chris

For Families Expecting Children: Marianne and Andrew

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Steve, Jeanne, Carole, Jim, Trish, Kenneth, The Rt. Rev. Edmond Lee Browning

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 September. 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: **Submission Deadline: August 15th**



August Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Ralph Locher | 20 | Brian Rodarte |
| | Timothy Young | 21 | Phyllis Williams |
| 4 | Griselda Prather | | Vivienne Paratore |
| | Adam Locher | 23 | Monique Manjarrez |
| 6 | Steven Krimmel | 26 | Paul Cudlip |
| | Shalini Singh | | Ken Trant Jr. |
| 7 | Kathleen Almond | | Rachel Whitaker |
| 8 | Brownie Nelson | 27 | Barbara Johnsen |
| 9 | Sylvia Wessel | | Roberta Tomkinson |
| | Bonnie Nelson | | Steve Vacchieri |
| 10 | Larry Hicks | 29 | Dave Nelsen |
| | Joey Carini | 30 | Anthony Prickett |
| 18 | Becky Whitaker | | |
| | Maria Rose | | |

August Anniversaries

- 6 Mike and Jan Scrutton
- 13 Bill and Bev Mosier
- 20 Robert and Maria 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



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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, Rectorlori@saintj.com
The Rev. Ken Parris, Deacon . deaconken@saintj.com
The Rev. John Trubina, Office Administrator
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Lynn Locher, Treasurer treasurer@saintj.com

VESTRY

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Meg Amouroux
Junior Warden jrwarden@saintj.com
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

The Window Staff

Ralph Locher
Katie Porter
Penny Trant
Laura Winter

Article submission.....newsletter@saintj.com