The Window

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

September 2016

New Year

September used to be the beginning of a new year for all of us in education and for all of us who have school aged children in our lives. It was more significant than January 1st as the preparation we did and the relationships we formed would determine the course of the whole year.

Now the new school year has moved to August and I am reminded that my attitude and preparation in August can significantly affect the success of the school year for hundreds of students and about 30 adults. Therefore August is an extremely exciting time and I almost burst with anticipation; I have never dreaded the first day of school, not even as a child. It is also a new year for our Sunday school and there is a sense of new beginnings in church as people return from vacations and settle into their routines.

In September, we are reminded that there are many events for the remainder of the calendar year as we prepare for several major holidays. The Vestry looks at their progress so far this year and what is left to accomplish before the end of the calendar year. We look at the health of the Parish and we reflect on our own spiritual health. We all know that a vibrant church needs many hands to serve in many ways, as well as financial contributors to enable the practical aspects of running an organization. However, the financial contributions do not just keep the lights on, they enable the hand of God to reach into the community and touch the lives of many people. The volunteers, like the many who helped out during Vacation Bible School, are the face of God to children and adults in the community and our clergy ministers to us faithfully and with love.

As we look towards October, it is a good time to think about all of the blessings in our lives. September becomes the lull before the storm of activity that leads to Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year, in particular it is difficult to ignore the white noise leading up to the election but it is important to take time away from media to renew and prepare. Although is it a lofty goal to give a 10% tithe to the church, looking at our own giving in terms of percentages does put a new perspective on our priorities. In California, we do not feel the beginnings of fall until later in October. Nevertheless, the days will start to become shorter so I encourage you all to enjoy the outdoors. Take time to appreciate how much God has given to you and reflect on your donation of time, talent and treasure that is the backbone of the Saint James' community.

Vivienne Paratore
Junior Warden

Shine at St. James'

Our sixth year of Vacation Bible School (VBS) at St. James' saw a rainbow of banners outside church celebrating the summers of fun we have had, from trees and fish, to Christmas and camp on to a celebration of the feast and the light that Christ shines into our lives. Each year a group of volunteers, generous of heart and spirit, join together to welcome children to our campus. They learn how to laminate, glue, color, melt wax, thread, print and sing (with actions). They welcome each child, the familiar and the new, and as the week goes on they get to know the characters of each.

The children who arrive at VBS come alone or with siblings, friends and cousins. They come for the first time or return looking for familiar tunes, games and chances to try new crafts. Each person leaves at the end of the week a little more tired, with paint or glitter marks of honor and having been exposed to a few more stories of our faith.

As another year ends and we put away our shirts again (so much yellow!) ideas start to form for next summer and we imagine that we can gather the energy to do this again. I thank every volunteer who worked during the week, everyone who collected the things we needed (responding to my strange requests), every parent or grandparent who delivered children to us each day (and picked them back up again!), everyone who held us in prayer and every child who came and joined us. We all come together to form the week that is VBS at St James'. See you again next summer!

Jan Scrutton
Children's Minister

August Vestry Minutes

The Vestry met on Thursday, August 11. All were present except for Charles Hall and Nancy Castaneda. Several guests joined the vestry for the August meeting; John and Joan Kimber, Dave Nelsen, Tom and Gail Blalock, Jan Scrutton, and Janet Fischer.

We met at 6:30 for dinner and shared God moments, then at 7:00 p.m. Elaine Vallecillo-Miller opened with a prayer. We called the vestry to order and approved the minutes from the July meeting. Lynn explained the financials which were approved, the email vote for re-waxing the floor was recorded and then the vestry reports were also approved.

At 7:15 we adjourned to EB1 for a presentation by Davey Gerhard, Christina Mathis and Amanda on the diocesan Capital Campaign. Questions were asked and answered by the diocesan team.

The Vestry meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. and then Elaine led us in the celebration of compline in the little church.

Vivienne Paratore
Junior Warden

Diocesan Resolutions

Every year at Diocesan Convention, our Deanery representatives vote on pending resolutions. Once again, EJ Hilliard, who is part of the Resolutions Committee, will present these new resolutions to the parish so we can keep up with what's going on in the Di**ocese.** We will meet to learn about these on **Sept. 11, 9:15-10:15 in the Education Room.** Everyone is invited to attend; Deanery representatives should attend. The resolutions for 2016 may be found at http://diocal.org/2016-resolutions.

Janet Fischer
Faith Formation

Financial Summary July 2016			
Fund Balances	**7/31/2015**		**7/31/2016**
Operating Fund	$ 61,795.62		$ 58,253.82
Building Fund	$ 30,783.99		$ 28,750.52
Year to Date Summary Operating			
Pledges Budgeted	$152,147.91		$151,665.00
Pledges Paid	$151,781.46		$150,184.78
Unpledged Contributions	$ 5,830.00		$ 5,632.00
Other Op Income*	$ 14,051.49		$ 14,115.87
Total Operating Income	$171,662.95		$169,932.65
Total Operating Expenses	$157,451.71		$161,110.65
Income less Expenses	$ 14,211.24		$ 8,822.00
Operating expenses for 2015 and 2016 do not include last payroll payment for July.			

St. James' Day
Sunday, July 24, 2016

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

"...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

Earlier this year the Faith Formation committee conducted a brief survey of the congregation about our programs and what meets your needs. Thank you to everyone who took the time to give thoughtful answers.

We learned many things from the survey. One note of affirmation is that those who have been attending the Faith Formation Tuesday night evenings have found them beneficial, educational, and an asset to their spirituality. We also learned that a book study between the services is a good time for many to explore their spiritual growth. We did see that many people feel their lives are too busy for faith formation, and we understand that dynamic in today's world. As your schedules and priorities shift, we do hope you will consider participating in some form of Christian education offered at St. James'.

Faith Formation presents…

FALL 2016

- Book Discussion, Sunday mornings @ 9:15-10:15 in the Education Room: *Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus* by (now) Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. It is available in paper or e-book from your favorite book seller for approximately $10.
  Dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, & 20. Facilitated by Bruce Roberts & Janet Fischer.

- Evening Class: *The Priesthood of All Believers: Gifts for Ministry*. Lori+ and Ken+ will lead us in an examination of all four orders of ministry: lay person, deacon, priest, and bishop. As part of our discussion, we will look at the unique roles and our individual gifts that contribute to building up the Body of Christ. Join us on this journey of self and communal examination.
  Dates: Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13.

- Diocesan Resolutions: each year in the fall we present the current Diocesan Resolutions for discussion.
  Date: September 11 @9:15-10:15a.m. in the Education Room.

SPRING 2017:

- Lenten Soup Supper and Discussion. Tuesday evenings, Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28, Apr. 4. Topic TBD.

- Book Discussion, Sunday mornings @ 9:15-10:15 in the Education Room: *Jesus Freak: Feeding, Healing, Raising the Dead*, by Sara Miles.
  Dates: Apr. 23, 30, May. 7, 14.

Please mark your calendars and join us! More details will follow as the time gets closer. Any questions? Contact any member of the Faith Formation committee: Lori+, Ken+, Janet Fischer, Bruce Roberts, or EJ Hilliard. Thank you.

Submitted by Janet Fischer

St. James'
Annual Stewardship Event

Saturday, October 8, 2016
11:00 – 2:00
on the St. James' Campus

Enter the Chili Cook-off!
Vote on the best chili!

Eat a great salad bar lunch!

Play team games

Learn about
giving of time, talent & treasure

Sign up in the Parish Hall
or email: admin@saintj.com

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 Penny Trant.

This was a hard article for me to write. At first I thought this is a snap but when you try to put it in to words for people to read it can be a task. I wrote and rewrote, I thought my head would explode so I will speak from my heart and here it is.

My time coming to St. James' stretches back to my brother Nat and sister Glory Anne's wedding in 1971. I was still going to the church I had been since early youth, but over the next few years, after Ken and I got married in 1976, St. James' seemed to offer things I didn't realize I had been missing at the Presbyterian church, a deeper meaning of God's word and a desire to learn. Over the next 15 years Ken and I attended the family service with our kids (they loved Sunday school) and we enjoyed being part of St. James'. I was in the choir, but Ken and I were not as involved as we were not able to give much time to the church. We struggled financially but we always tried to give as we could, which was not much in those days.

For the next 10 or so years, the kids and their year-round sports activities in high school and outside events, kept us from going to church except for holidays and special occasions. This meant maybe 5 or so times a year we could go. I was one of those people who would say, I don't think to be religious it means you need to go to church, I believe in and love GOD, I know Jesus is my Savior and so that was my way to be okay with not attending church. I am being honest even though it sounds really terrible I know.

Then in the early 2000's all our kids were grown and doing their own thing, college, Navy whatever and we could now go back to church on a more regular basis or so I thought. Well, here is how it went. We would be watching Touched by an Angel and I would say to Ken, we should go to church tomorrow. He agreed and I felt really good and got excited about going back to church. Well, the tomorrows came and went.

Later that year tragedy hit and our world stopped. I wasn't sure things would ever be okay again. I felt lost and no matter how I tried, it did not get better. We had been through bad times in the past but nothing could compare with what was happening. It was during this time I knew we had to find out way back to church. You know the phrase, "you can never go home again". Well, that is not the case at St. James', the warmth and compassion our church and our parishioners gave was amazing. That Sunday, I could see some light for the first time, in a very long time. Through the love of GOD and our family at St. James' we found unconditional support and a stronger understanding of our faith.

St. James' has been there for us no matter what happens in our lives, sharing both the good and not so good times. We have felt the power of prayer and the offering of guidance. Through its many ministries, it provides care and support, both spiritually and financially not just to its parishioners, but the wider community as well. We continually grow in our faith and experience the love and joy that GOD gives us. We are very active members at St. James' now and we hope with our giving, both in time and financially, we can help in our small way that these things will continue, so that St. James' can thrive and be there for others as it is for us. I can honestly say through writing this article, I have grown a bit and take my responsibility in giving even more seriously.

I receive so much but I can always work to give more. I thank GOD for all I have in my life. My heart overflows.

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, Avis, Travis and girlfriend's family, Pedro, Mark, John, Glenn, Tim, Linda, Jeff, Trish, Chris, Alan, Deja, Jordon, Paul, Rhonda, Verna, Paula, Carrol, George, Glenn, EJ and the Foster and Hilliard Families, Genore, Ron, Rosie, Johnny, Will

For Those Who Have Passed Away:
Kenneth, The Rt. Rev. Edmond Lee Browning, Marcia

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

September Birthdays

2 Bob Reed
5 Aurora Thompson-Lynch
7 Mel Johnson
8 Ron Larson
14 Janice Brandt
18 Rod Whitehouse
20 Barbara Lyon
25 Barbara Dabney
Michael Aquino
Jill Buono
26 Connie Rux
Jeanne Morris
Mitchell Pinnix

September Anniversaries

3 Jon and Debra Fuller
11 Nathan and Gloryanne Bryant
18 Tim and Pat Spencer
21 Scott and Becky Whitaker
23 Bud and Pat Spalding
25 Frank and Rose Hoffman
26 Julie and Frank Guzior

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in October. 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: **September 15th.**

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace
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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
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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:
The Rev. Ken Parris
Altar Guild: Katie Cunningham
Ushers: Burtin Hart
St. J Youth Leaders: Mike & Jan Scrutton

Facilities:…..facilities@saintj.com

Deanery Representatives

Alice Johnson
Jim McConnell
Ken Trant
Scott Whitaker

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