The Window

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

October 2016

The Manifestation of the Spirit for the Common Good

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good . . . (1 Corinthians 12.4-7)

There are so many reasons to be part of the faith community called St. James'. Through our common life together, we receive countless blessings. Through our growing relationship with Jesus Christ, we become more and more aware of God's grace, love, and mercy in our lives and in the lives of others. A world without our church would be a world less bright and less warm.

We are at the time of year when we examine the finances of St. James' in order to plan for the upcoming year. It is important to note that almost 100% of our income is generated from your generosity. Your giving, your pledge, your contribution to St. James' is what allows our community to exist. It is through your effort that the common good is supported, and with an anticipated operating expense of close to $300,000, every contribution is important!

In the coming weeks, you will be hearing more about the need to and the privilege of supporting your spiritual home. Keep an open mind and an open heart as you examine your own part in our lives together. Allow the Spirit to move through your imagination as you dream about the potential of our church. Pay close attention to the feeling of gratitude in your heart as you reflect on the gifts you and your family have received from being a member of our community. Let your offering be an act of faith that all that God gives far surpasses what we can contribute in return. Let your offering be a manifestation of the Spirit in your life.

Lori+

Why I Give to St. James'

I come from a very humble devoted Catholic family. I attended private Catholic school from Kindergarten to high school thanks to a generous scholarship. Every Sunday my parents would put it a few dollars in the basket. We were not required to pledge an annual amount and to practice tithing.

As I grew up and went to college, I learned about my sexuality and realized that I am lesbian. I struggled with my Catholic faith for over five years because being gay is not accepted in the Catholic church. I became the "special occasion" Catholic. Time went on, and I learned to adapt and I joined a Christian/ Catholic LGBT support group which helped me to deal with my troubled faith.

In the meantime, I got involved in a meaningful and loving relationship with my wife Griselda. We have been together for almost 17 years.

In 2008, there was plenty of political controversy about legalizing gay marriage. The Catholic church was strongly supporting Prop. 8. Griselda and I felt very hurt and rejected by our own local church. How can we be ourselves and live a secret life, when we know that God loves us unconditionally?

Then we decided to explore other local churches that were at least gay friendly and that we could be ourselves without hiding the fact that we were a married couple.

St. James' opened their arms and support from the beginning. The St. James' community had shown through the years plenty of non-judgmental love, support, wonderful friendships and importantly , respect. Griselda and I feel that we are "home" at the altar of God.

We are grateful for all the generous donations to all our fundraiser events, breast cancer, leukemia, etc. We are also very grateful for the prayers we received when Griselda's parents were ill and later passed. In fact, when my father-in-law was close to death, and we were desperately looking for a Catholic priest to perform the Last Rites in the middle of the night, we could not find anyone. We suggested Lori's name, and the family accepted to call her. She arrived just in time around 2:30am, and performed the sacrament. God's presence was there through Lori.

I was also very touched for the support of our St. James' community when Lori presided the prayers of peace a few months ago for the Florida's LGBT victims of violence.

For all these above reasons, I give my annual pledge to St. James'.

Recently I became a Vestry member, and I learned about so many expenses behind the church scenes that I was not aware of before. Now I realize I should increase my stewardship because I am definitively grateful of God's goodness for me and my family.

Submitted by: Evelyn Prather

The following is a blog post by Scott Gunn, editor with Forward Movement. The original blog may be found here http://myemail.constantcontact.com/Forward-Today--Back-to-School--for-Everyone.html?soid=1101062454179&aid=-J2SqxKs7-g . Posted with permission of the author.

Dear friends in Christ,

This week, my Facebook feed is full of families with kids headed back to school. Just about every store I've been in for a couple of weeks has specials for "back to school season." Even in churches, lots of places that ended classes over the summer are starting back up again. But back to school isn't just for kids and their parents.

The Rite I service often starts out with the Summary of the Law. "Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

> **Did you catch that? "All thy mind." Too many people check out of learning about their faith. We don't take courses, we don't read books, and we don't wrestle with ideas that might push us to change or grow. And, yet, how can we love God with our minds if we don't use our minds?**

If your church offers adult education courses, take a look! Sign up! If not, maybe a nearby church (even another denomination) offers something that can feed your mind. If courses aren't your thing, how about reading a book about faith? There are loads of them. Your local bookstore has plenty of books on faith, and so does your public library. Ask a friend or your priest for suggestions...

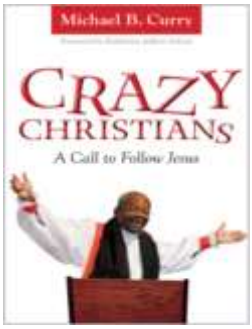
Whatever you do, I urge you to find a way to recommit to learning and to growth in this back to school season.

Submitted by Janet Fischer

Faith Formation Presents…….

Book Discussion, Sunday mornings at 9:15am to 10:15am in EB1

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.



Join us for lively discussion, video presentations from Bishop Curry, and even some sing-alongs! Sign up in the Parish Hall so we know how many handouts to prepare.

Dates: Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, & 20. Facilitated by Bruce Roberts & Janet Fischer.

Vestry Meeting Minutes September 8, 2016

We met at 6:30pm to share dinner, also shared "God Moments" with the meeting starting about 7:00pm.

- Meg Amouroux led the meeting. She began by posting a list of norms for the meeting.
- Vivienne Paratore gave a report on the Stewardship kick-off Event on October 8th.
- Meg talked about the Stewardship Reflections and Moments for the stewardship campaign. We picked which dates and times we would give our reflections. .
- John Butterfield showed us a model for the life of the church. It starts with gathering which includes inviting, greeting, orienting, and incorporating. Then it moves onto showing transformation which revolves around prayer and worship and also includes studying, learning, life in the community and action.
- Meg passed out a survey about the meeting.

We closed the meeting with compline led by Evelyn Prather.

Vivienne Paratore
Jr. Warden

New(ish) Member Inquirer's Lunch

Ever wonder about the history of the Episcopal Church? Interested in what Episcopalians believe? Curious about the different ways that St. James' makes a difference in the community and in the lives of others?

Join us for a short presentation, lunch, and a discussion on **October 16th** immediately following the **10:30 am service** in the **Education Room.** Lunch will be for all ages, and a children's activity will be available with advance notice (so please let us know if you are bringing children)**.**

If you have arrived at St. James' in the last year, you've already received an E-vite for this event. Please RSVP as soon as possible. If you've arrived in the last three years or so, you and your family are also welcome!

Please RSVP by emailing the Parish Office at admin@saintj.com no later than **October 10th.**

Rev. Lori Walton

THE BOOKWORM WIGGLES

WHILE YOU LAZED AWAY THE SUMMER MONTHS (LOUNGING BESIDE THE POOL AND DRINKING MINT JULEPS), THE ST. JAMES' LIBRARY KEPT REPRODUCING ITSELF

We now have 44 more books added to our awesome collection. They are not yet in our awesome catalog, but they are on our awesome shelves.

Listed below are 9 of the new books and next month. The awesome catalog number precedes the awesome title of each awesome book.

POET-4.1.2 Valle Brokes, The Walking On-The-Moon Polka (2016). This book of poems, written by a former St. James' parishioner, celebrates loving family life as well as adventures in Nature, Music, and Art. (Donated by the Rev. Lori Walton)

BIBLE-22.1 The Interpreter's Bible. This series of six volumes contains commentary on 19 of the New Testament books. (Donated by Alice Johnson)

DVD-K The Great Vigil of Easter: March 26, 2016. This video captures the Easter Vigil liturgy at St. James'. (Donated by Nancy Svenson)

SOC-2.1 Hart, Drew Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism (2016). Theologian Hart discusses police brutality, mass incarceration, anti-black stereotypes, poverty, and everyday acts of racism and offers concrete practices for churches that seek solidarity with the oppressed and are committed to racial justice. (Donated by Janet Fischer)

PILG-1.1 Codd, Kevin A. To the Field of Stars: A Pilgrim's Journey to Santiago De Compostella (2008). Father Codd tells of the experiences of his spiritual and physical journey on foot across Spain to Santiago de Compostella in July 2003. (Donated by Alison Saichek)

INSP-1.1 Armstrong, Karen Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life (2010). Armstrong shares concrete methods to help the reader cultivate and expand one's capacity for compassion. (Donated by the Rev. Ken Parris)

FICT-11.1 Karon, Jan Light from Heaven (2005). This is the final volume in the Mitfored Years series. Father Timothy Kavanagh is charged with the revival of Holy Trinity, a mountain church that's been closed for forty years. (Donated by: Your Name Could Have Been Here)

Pray-22.1 Rupp, Joyce May I Have This Dance? (1997). Rupp explores twelve major themes, showing the reader that prayer is a dance with the Divine, a joyous and hope-filled experience.

WR-10.1 Noss, John B. Man's Religions (1974). Presents details related to various religions. (Donated by Bob Bell)

Children's Books on Loss/Grief

Recently I asked a question to a group of colleagues to solicit ideas for building a collection of books for children that address grief and loss. I have gone ahead and purchased 8 titles which are available to read in the Sunday School classroom. These books are appropriate for 3 years old and up, and many have something to offer the adults reading them too. Only two refer to heaven and none of them offer definitive answers but they do help start conversations either after a loss or just as a normal part of life. If you are interested in checking them out come and visit the classroom. If you have any ideas of your own to add to our collection I'd love to hear them.

Tear Soup (Schwiebert & DeKlyen) 8 years +.
A picture book about the process of grief. Don't be deceived by the pictures, this story is for ages 8 and up (and up!) It reflects on how we all deal with grief differently. It isn't clear who Grandy has lost, making the story of broader appeal. Younger children may need help understanding the story.

What's Heaven? (Shriver) 5 years +.
Through the process of a mother answering the questions her daughter has after the death of a great grandparent this story brings up death and heaven, the soul and funerals. It offers broad answers and reassurance with space for conversation.

Badger's Parting Gifts (Varley) 4 years +.
Badger is old and knows he will die, his concern is for his friends not himself. After his death a cold winter begins and as the spring arrives the animals reflect on all they learnt from Badger. A great starter for conversations about memories and things you won't forget about someone.

Annie and the Old One (Miles) 6 years +.
Annie would like to slow time so it would allow her to keep her grandmother with her but learns to accept that while sadness is OK loss cannot be prevented. Simple illustrations and descriptions of the Navajo world.

The Memory String (Bunting) 4 years +.
Laura is still dealing with the loss of her mother along with the remarriage of her father. Perhaps a literal reading might be a little clumsy but as a prompt to create a memory project this is nice.

Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs (Bunting) 4 years +.
A simply told story of the relationship between a boy and his great grandmother. We hear more about their friendship than about the subsequent loss, a gentle story.

The Invisible String (Karst) 3 years +.
This story explains how we are all connected to those we love by an invisible string, regardless of distance. This can be applied not only to death but to physical separation, either short or long term, as well as to address separation anxiety.

And God cried too (Gellman) 7 years +.
Written after 9/11 this little chapter book addresses "the things that make us sad and the things that make us happy again". Each chapter tells us a little more about Big Angel Gabe teaching Little Angel Mikey and the reflections at the end of the chapters apply the stories to life.

Jan Scrutton
Children's Minister

Ladies' Flatlanders 2016

This year the Ladies' Flatlanders weekend (September 8th thru 11th) found us at Pajaro Dunes for our fifth year. We shared a townhouse on the beach, and had a wonderful time, filled with relaxation, walks on the beach, great conversations, games, and lots and lots of food! We treasure the time together, giving us an opportunity to share our stories and get to know each other better.

We saw a lovely sunset Thursday evening, then the overcast came in, and the sun did not reappear until Sunday afternoon as we drove back home. Though we missed the blue skies and starlight, it did not slow us from the enjoyment of togetherness. A few people went to the Monterey Bay Aquarium one afternoon, while the rest hung out at "home." Sunday morning we shared Morning Prayer together, led by Laura, Lynn and Marnie.

Our group consisted of Nancy, Dorothy, Mary, Jay, Jan P., Julie, Linda, Lettie, Jay, Marilyn, Lynn, Cassandra, Joan, Cathy, Marnie, and Laura. Meg and Jan B. drove down for the day on Saturday, and we were also joined by Mary's daughter Stephanie and Linda's friend Julie. It was a nice mix: ladies who come every year, a couple who were able to attend this year after a few years absence, and some first-year attendees.

We are already looking into next year's weekend, and may rent two homes if there is enough interest. Traditionally we have gone the weekend after Labor Day, but next year we will likely move it a couple weekends later in September as the resort expands their "Summer Season" further into the month. The cost will rise if we keep the same weekend. Look for more information in the coming months.

Flatlanders is open to any women 21 years of age and older. New and returning ladies are always welcome. If you are interested or want more information on Ladies' Flatlanders, talk to any of the committee members – Nancy, Mary, Dorothy or Laura – or chat with anyone who has gone before. We are all happy to share our experiences!

Submitted by: Laura Winter

Photos courtesy of: Laura Winter

Abode Services Rapid Re-Housing Program Begins Again in October

Abode Services Rapid Re-Housing program gets into high gear again with meetings beginning in October. The need for affordable housing continues to haunt the Bay Area. We now have over sixteen churches from Fremont, Newark and Union City participating.

Our storage unit is full with many items from our parishioners and I hope to have it thinned out within the next few months to make room for more donations.

All the churches are pooling their monies to help cut the costs of re-housing the clients that we sponsor. It use to take 2 churches working together, but with the ever increasing rents in our area, it's taking 3-5 churches to make up the deposit and first months rent. Thanks for helping with this valuable service to the community.

Affordable housing is in short supply and Abode Services is always looking for land to develop. Currently, they are working on a project just up from the Hub and it's on Fremont Blvd and a summary is posted below.

Allied Housing is a nonprofit housing developer that builds affordable housing in the Bay Area. Allied Housing (an affiliate of Abode Services) is working on developing Fremont Boulevard Supportive Housing, which will be a vibrant residential community on Fremont Boulevard just north of Mowry Avenue. It is currently used as a parking lot.

The project developer has retained an architectural team to design the building and surrounding site. A preliminary project review was submitted to the City of Fremont in July 2016. The development plan is for a four story building containing 60 units of affordable housing with a commercial storefront appearance at the street level along Fremont Boulevard. The project will not require changes in zoning or the general plan.

If all the approval process and funding fall into place, could open up in 2018. Let's keep praying that everything works out and that we can have more affordable housing for the citizens in the tri-city area.

Feel free to contact me regarding any questions, concerns or donations. I can be reached at dgfeeney@comcast.net or call 510-795-1870.

Thank you,
Gregg Feeney

THANK YOU !!!!

The Faith Formation committee extends a huge "Thank you!" to EJ Hilliard, who has donated 10 conference tables to be used in the Education Room. These are narrow tables which will allow everyone to face the front of the room rather than having to turn around their chairs from the larger tables, and still provide space for plates, books, and notes. These tables will seat up to 30 people, so we'll have plenty of room for you to attend Faith Formation and other events in the Education Room.

Thank you, EJ! This is a great addition to our facility.

Janet Fischer
Faith Formation Committee Chair

Men's Group Annual Trip 2016

The Men's Trip was held again in Twain Harte, CA and we stayed at the Button Willow and a new place, Tutto Bene. The two houses were only about 500′ from each other and made it easy on all of us. A total of 14 guys came and they started out with an evening meal and beverages at the local tavern, "The Rock," followed by a birthday celebration for Charlie Dickinson back at the house with nice pies and ice cream.

On Friday the golfers headed out to the local course and not sure of the scores. The heat had become a factor this year. The rest of the crew headed into historic Columbia and toured the blacksmith shop, jail, hotel and horse stables. The following day, a group headed to Sonora for a walking tour of the old Courthouse, Catholic Church, and the military museum.

They stopped by St. James' Episcopal Church but it was closed. The rest of the day was spent touring Indigeny Reserve, described as an organic apple ranch, ciderworks, and distillery – pure paradise. The group had a great tour of processing plant and fermentation tanks. They topped it off with a trip to the tasting room and purchased some find hard ciders.

As usual, we ate quite well and Al Casas' breakfast burritos were what the golfers needed to get their game into high gear. The rest of us enjoyed a leisure meal while they hacked away. Dinners included steak and the final night was with Joan Kimber's secret sauce for the spaghetti. The treat of the night was Bob Bynum's fudge he brought with him. Our clean up crew did a bang up job and no complaints from anyone.

Most of us left on Sunday and a few stayed behind for hiking/ camping for the next couple of days. On the way out of town, Bruce Roberts had a chance to visit the local St. James' – Sonora after the 10am service and had the opportunity to tour the place and meet with the pastor.

We will be back next year to both houses and guys, mark your calendar for Aug 17th - 20th, 2017.

Submitted by: Gregg Feeney

Photos courtesy of :

Bruce Roberts and Bob Bynum

THE ST. JAMES' GUEST REVIEWER FOR OCTOBER: MARNIE HARTMANN

BOOK: The Unquiet Monk: Thomas Merton's Questing Faith

AUTHOR: Michael Higgins

ST. JAMES' LIBRARY CATALOG #: MERT-1.1
"A wonderful picture of the spiritual journey of an activist monk in today's world. Thoughtful reading."

YOU TOO CAN BE A REVIEWER – JUST TAKE A "BOOK/DVD" FORM FROM THE LIBRARY. PLACE IT IN THE DESIGNATED BOX. (We pay $0.00 per word..) Here's your chance to out your inner editor!

Do You Smile When You Shop?

If like me you're a regular shopper at Amazon.com, you can nominate St. James' to receive a portion of your spending. Amazon will donate a percentage of your spending to St. James' if you checkout via Amazon Smile using our special webpage. Visit saintj.com/amazon to register, and use this link whenever you make a purchase for us to benefit.

St. James' will receive 0.5% of spending on eligible products, as long as you're checking out via their smile.amazon.com website and have nominated St. James' as your charity. Using the saintj.com/amazon link will set this up for you, and make sure you're at the right site. If you use the Amazon app on your smartphone or tablet, you can use it in the normal way to add purchases to your cart – be sure to check-out using your web browser at saintj.com/amazon to enable us to receive your support.

With the holidays coming up, now is a great time to bookmark saintj.com/amazon and use it when you're shopping. St. James' has already started receiving payouts from Amazon – Smile when you shop and help us raise funds in this easy way.

Submitted by: Mike Scrutton

The next issue of ***The Window*** is November

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

mail your submission to
newsletter@saintj.com

November Submission Deadline: October 15th

November Election! 17 State Ballot Measures!

The League of Women Voters of Fremont , Newark and Union City is holding a public meeting at St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont on Monday October 24th at 7:00 pm.

Come and hear the pros and cons on the 17 proposed state ballot measures. *There's much to think about!*

You can also visit the League of Women Voters website www.lwvfnuc.org for additional information on public meetings the League is also holding on local and county measures.

St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God we pray 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

Safe Travel: Bobbie and Louise

Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: David, Jeanne

Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Nonie, Mary, Debra, Kerrans, David, Warren, Ron, Cherie, Kym, Debbie, Bruce, Bobbie, Ralph, Louise, Donna, Ellison, Peter, Susan, Marilyn. Razzolini family, Fr. Fuller, Michelle

Families Expecting Children: Evan and Kirsten

Those Who Have Passed Away: Nailah, Frances, Glenn, Clara

October Birthdays

3 Dana Muse
6 Lynn Locher
7 Mary Casas
8 Keith Westra
9 Margaret Rainey
Cathy Knotts
Beth Scrutton
10 Bobbie Naidoo
11 Larry Parks
Jessica Stair
12 Melissa Ferguson
13 Judy Colby
14 Richard Kostick
18 Victoria Krimmel
19 Bud Pearson
Sherea Westra
22 Alyssa Koonze
23 Marilyn Rose
Lauren Zarovy
25 Glory Bryant
29 Kyler Westra
Joan Kimber

October Anniversaries

15 Dave and Linda Nelsen
20 John and Meg Amouroux

Prayer List

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 birthday, anniversary or other celebration is in this month and your name(s) is not listed or the information is not correct, 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