The Window

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

November 2016

On Power and Vulnerability

I write this article in mid-October. I state the date because the discourse of our common life as American citizens is quickly changing, day-by-day, and by the time this is read by others, who knows what the conversation might be. There is one topic, however, that I hope will remain in the public square is the intersection of responsible power and empowering vulnerability. While at a glance, power and vulnerability might be seen to be opposites. However, I believe that the true path to redemption, modeled and lived by Jesus Christ, is a path that holds both power and vulnerability together as complimentary characteristics.

Think about the life of Jesus. He began his ministry being named as the powerful one by his kin John, yet he stepped into the Jordan River to submit to baptism by that same kin. Power and vulnerability. He walked into the desert without a soul to support him, alone and at risk, encountered the devil and emerged prepared to bring the Word of God to the world. Power and vulnerability. He taught his disciples lessons of great magnitude, speaking and acting for God, and then stooped down to wash the feet of those same disciples in a humble act of love. Power and vulnerability. He rode into Jerusalem having amassed a large following, knowing that in the end, he would walk alone. Power and vulnerability. He submitted to being killed on the hard wood of the cross, and exploded all perceptions of death by rising and living again. Power and vulnerability.

We live in a country that defaults to power over vulnerability, and where power is often abused to the detriment of the vulnerable. It is only natural to think that a power-grab is more desirable than a gentle posture of vulnerability. There is a misguided belief that in order to be the winner and not the loser, one must be powerful. Yet, Jesus demonstrated in his own life, the life that we seek to model, that in order to have true power, one must allow oneself to be vulnerable.

Vulnerability should not be confused with weakness or allowing oneself to be stepped on or the toxic condition of shame. Rather, vulnerability is the mark of what author Brené Brown calls a "whole-hearted people." Like Jesus, being vulnerable is the willingness to take a risk, to sit with discomfort, to practice gratitude and joy, and to love with our whole hearts without a guarantee of receiving love in return. And what allows us to be confident in our vulnerability is the sure knowledge that we are enough, we are loved by God, and we have an inner-power granted to us through our belief in Jesus Christ.

As we move towards the Season of Advent, the season of becoming, may we each call out and reject misused power. May we each work to be whole-hearted people, following in the path of Jesus, whose vulnerability on the cross broke into the ultimate power of life everlasting.

Lori+

Why I Give to St. James'

The reason that I chose to pledge to St. James' is out of gratitude. St. James' has been a part of my entire life and I believe it is a big part of how I became the person I am today (the good parts and the bad). When our family faced difficult times and my mom was left to raise three boys, St. James' became our main source of support and comfort. The love shown to my mom and us boys gave us the realization and strength to know that we would be okay.

Becky and I are going through a slight "budget adjustment" but pledging to St. James' is not being considered for any cutback. We plan to increase our pledge – however modestly – as our income decreases and hopefully our expenses as well. When Becky retires we hope to tithe, even if the amount is less.

I was raised to believe that the reason I was placed on the earth was to make the world a better place by the time I left. Being a parishioner at St. James' provides the perfect opportunity to fulfill that goal. There are many opportunities to become involved in any number of missions at St. James', but some require financial support (apart from keeping the lights on and a roof over our heads).

I feel I am on a journey with all of you that began over 2000 years ago and part of my gratitude is given to those who took part in and contributed so that we could participate and contribute to those yet to come who will continue on this journal until God's ultimate promise to us comes true.

My last thought on sharing of my blessings and treasure comes from my favorite baseball announcer, Mike Krukow, who asked during a broadcast, "When was the last time you saw a hearse towing a U-Haul trailer?"

Scott Whitaker

October Vestry Meeting Report

As we shared dinner, provided by John Butterfield, we offered up our ' God Moments.'

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 and John said an opening prayer. After Lynn presented the financial reports, there was a discussion about the Baker grant. The Baker grant is a new one for $500, which the Rev. John Baker has donated towards a pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago.

Bruce gave a report about the Little Church buttress project, which was accepted. He also announced that there would be a town hall meeting on November 13th between the services as well as after the 10:30 church service.

We practiced our stewardship moments. Then we discussed the employee health benefit options and approved offering the Kaiser EPO High health plan option to full time employees of St. James'.

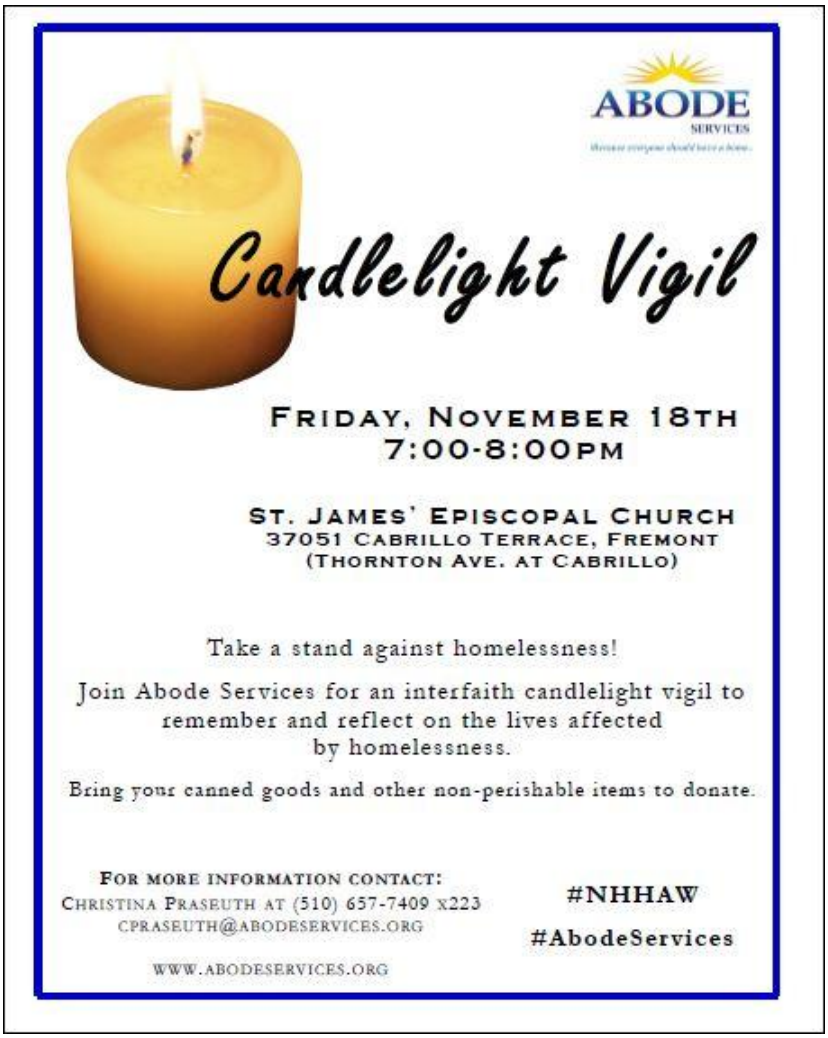
Lori shared *The Way of St. James* booklets for new members. We decided to have an Epiphany party for newcomers at Lori's house on January 7th. We also viewed the welcome magnet and talked about the other projects.

Lori announced the Homeless Awareness event on November 18th.

The vestry had attended a presentation of the Diocesan Capital. Meg announced that the vestry had voted not to participate at this time

The rector's and vestry reports were accepted and we closed with compline in the little church.

Vivienne Paratore, Jr. Warden



Visioning Team Town Hall

Parish Hall, November 13th

Have you ever wondered how the membership of St. James' reflects or differs from our local neighborhoods?

Join the Visioning Team on November 13th for a presentation and discussion of the interim report led by Mike Scrutton, where you'll hear more about this study of our St. James' Community, as well as local trends and patterns. Two meetings will be held in the parish hall, starting at 9:15am and 11:45am, to give everyone a chance to participate.

Look out for a web link to the report, which will appear in the preceding Thursday's Weekly Email and on the event page at saintj.com.

Mike Scrutton

Financial Summary September 2016

Fund Balances	**9/30/2015**	**9/30/2016**
Operating Fund	$ 57,396	$ 58,333
Building Investment	$ 15,000	$ 15,000
Building Fund	$ 23,566	$ 28,751
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	$ 195,619	$ 194,998
Pledges Paid	$ 186,465	$ 192,892
Unpledged Contributions	$ 7,025	$ 6,642
Other Op Income*	$ 16,074	$ 17,231
Total Operating Income	$ 209.564	$ 216,765
Total Operating Expenses	$, 199,753	$ 207,864
Income less Expenses	$ 9,812	$ 8,901

*Includes Fund Raising

Blessing of the Animals

Pictures by Bruce Roberts.

Advent Educational Program:

The Priesthood of All Believers: Gifts for Ministry

Who are the ministers of the Church?

The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons. BCP Catechism, Page 855

Who are the ministers and what are their roles in the life and ministry of the Church? What does it mean to be a minister of the church? What are the implications of being to be a part of the "priesthood of all believers?" How do I know what God is calling me to do and what gifts I have to offer to that ministry?

During the season of Advent you are invited to explore these questions and more with the Rev. Lori Walton and the Rev. Ken Parris as they discuss the lifelong process of discernment and how you can identify your gifts for ministry. Together we will examine the roles of lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons in the life and mission of the Church. The discussion will enrich your understanding of your present church involvement and lead you to stretch beyond what you might have considered the boundaries of that ministry.

Classes will be held on **Tuesday Evenings, November 29, December 6, and 13,** beginning with a potluck dinner at 6 pm in the St. James' Education Room.

Questions? Please contact the Rev. Lori Walton, lori@saintj.com, or the Rev. Ken Parris, deaconken@saintj.com

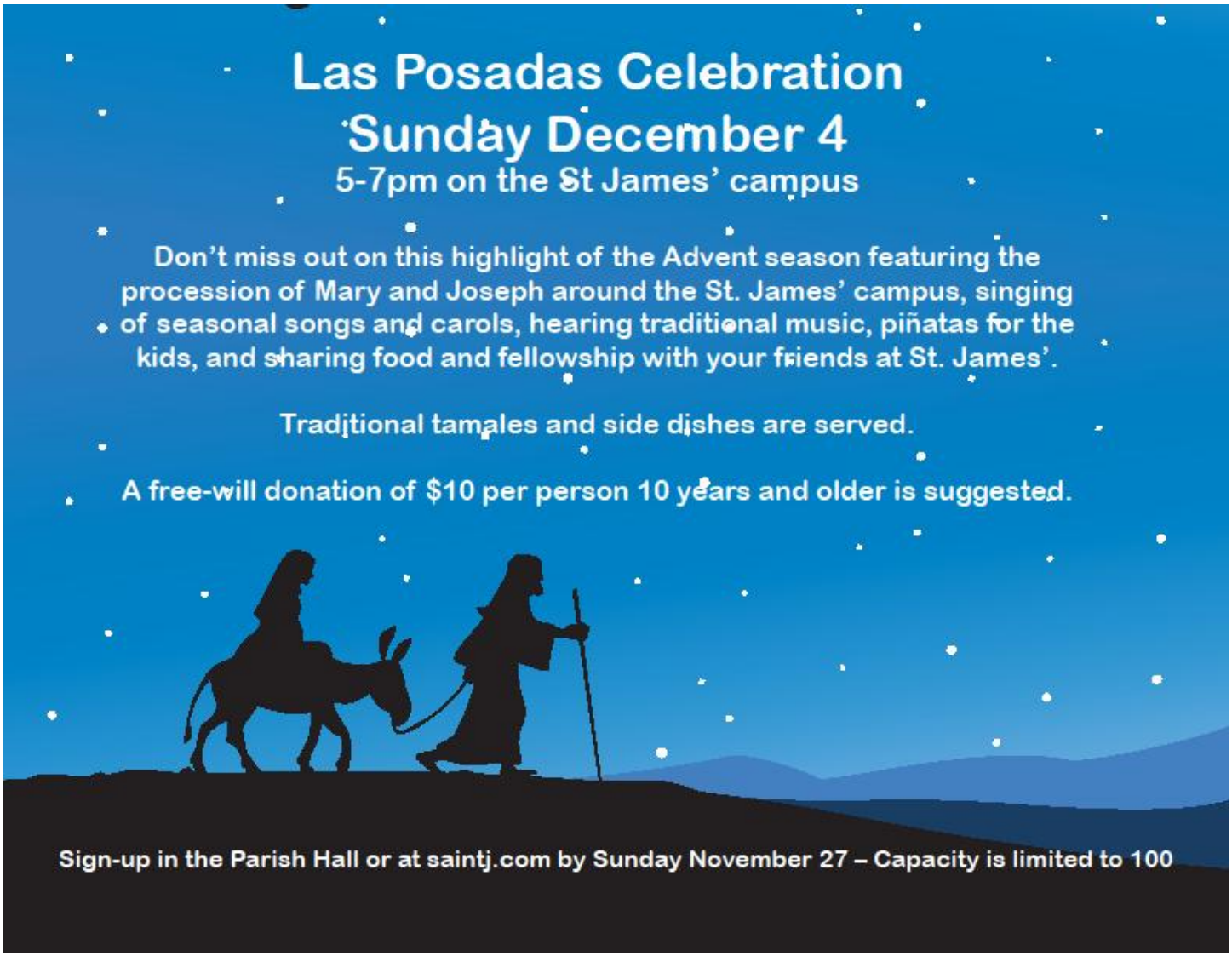
Christmas at Patterson House

It's that time of year -- we are decorating a room for Christmas at the City of Fremont Patterson House (at Ardenwood Park) again this year. Last year was lots of fun, as a group of us gathered to decorate the Dining Room at the historic Patterson House. It's a great fellowship event, and it gets our name into our community.

We will decorate on Sunday, November 20 after the 10:30 service. We don't know which room we will be assigned yet; we will make any of them beautiful. The House has many decorations for us to use, and we can bring our own. If you are interested, please sign up in the Parish Hall so we know how much lunch to provide. Any questions, let me know.

Linda decorating a mantle.

Laura Winter



Faith Formation Presents……...

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

Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus by 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. 30, Nov. 6, & 20. Facilitated by Bruce Roberts & Janet Fischer.

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

For Safety: Florida Hilliard family

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, Liz, EJ, Jay, Bill, Ellen

Those who have passed way: Jeanne

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 December.

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: **November 15th**

November Birthdays

1 Ami Martinez-Locher
Ken Parris
7 Nathaniel Bryant
11 Yvonne Archer
Eric Caron
17 Travis Koonze
18 John Maloney
19 Gail Blalock
22 Karen Watkins
Andrew Paratore
25 John Paratore
27 Pamela Young
Andrea Ramsamy
29 Judy Peeler
Don Rose
Rick Spalding
Raelene Ramsany
30 Nancy Swenson
Rebeccah Fuller

November Anniversaries

1 Donald Razzolini & Michael Aquino
3 Marco & Raelene Ramsany
24 Tom & Gail Blalock
27 Ralph & Lynn Locher

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 9:00-10:00AM
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
..... 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
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

Deanery Representatives

Alice Johnson Jim McConnell
Ken Trant Scott Whitaker

***The Window* Staff**

Ralph Locher Katie Porter
Penny Trant Laura Winter

Article submission…..newsletter@saintj.com