The Window

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

Called to serve in new and loving ways

January 2017

2017 : A Year of Celebrating Life!

The year 2017 brings with it a Grand Celebration! Can you guess? The sign on the street says "St. James' Episcopal Church, established 1867." This means our beloved church is turning 150! While I haven't done the research, I believe St. James' is either the second or third oldest congregation in the Diocese of California. Turning 150 is a big deal, a huge milestone.

So, a celebratory year it will be! To mark the birthday of our common life and to mark the birthdays of our individual lives, we will lift up those celebrating another year in a slightly different way. During Sunday announcements, those who come up to celebrate their birthday will be given a birthday candle (unlit, of course). This candle can be brought to the Parish Hall after service to be placed in a birthday cupcake and lit while those gathered sing a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday! Everyone has a birthday and everyone should be celebrated. **Let us rejoice in each other in this fun and musical way.**

To mark the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of our Church, we will have a magnificent celebration on the **Feast of All Saints', November 5**. Our combined service will include a visit from our bishop, Marc Andrus, an invitation to all past clergy, music, food, festivities and hopefully baptisms and confirmations. We are just beginning the planning for this great event – if you have ideas, please feel free to email them to me or Vivienne Paratore, or speak with either of us directly.

The year 2016 has been a challenging one, and what the year 2017 will bring is unknown. However, we do know that we have life, and life we will celebrate. We have so much to be thankful for. We belong to a faithful community of disciples, we have the opportunity to continually deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ, we get to experience the love of neighbor and friends, we are empowered to share the love of God with others, and we are blessed to be part of a tradition and history that spans the ages. In fact, we were here before Fremont was here!

Let us begin this new calendar year with joy and confidence in the movement of God in our lives.

Happy New Year, and Happy Birthday!

Lori+

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 Ashley Francis.

Giving to God's kingdom was initially brought to my attention when I was a little boy of 8yrs old and going to church with my Dad. This was back home in South Africa; my Dad never owned a car back then. It was too costly to buy one and we used to walk to most of our destinations or take public transport to places that were too far to walk. The church that we used to attend was called Church of Epiphany and it used to be part of the Anglican Church. It was about 7 miles from my home and we used to walk every Sunday morning to church and back. I also used to ask a lot of questions during our walk to church. One question was why does my father give money to the church when we don't have much for ourselves and all the money he is giving the church why doesn't he save it and buy a car so that we don't have to walk.

My dad looked at me and said if everyone thought that way we won't have a church go to, and God's house is very similar to our own home just that it is bigger and has a bigger family under its roof, and has to be maintained the same way we maintain our own home, fix the roof, paint the walls, clean the windows dust and clean the church and keep the lights on, so that everyone who comes to the house of the Lord will feel like they are home and part of his family. He also said that people come to his house not just for the spiritual food but also for solace and refuge therefore his house needs always to be well-maintained and welcoming to all people. The 10% that he gives is just a small percent of a bigger percentage that is needed every month.

The lesson I took from his answer is that as the children of God and part of the family I need to give something back to God to thank him for all that he does for me and also to support those who provide leadership to Christian communities and advance his Kingdom. I also believe that tithing is something between you and God and he knows all our circumstances that affect our lives therefore pray and ask God to guide you through this process.

Annual Budget Review Meeting
Sunday, January 22

I invite you to gather at 9:15am in the Education Building Class Room to review the 2017 and 2016 and the Operating Income and Expense Church Budgets. I will walk you through the budgets (with the help of overheads) as well as answer any questions you may have. The Special Interests and Building funds and the end of 2016 will also be presented. This meeting has a happy ending.

Lynn Locher
Treasurer

Genore Schaaf's 91st Birthday

Sacred Space Update

My Saturdays usually go like this: After rising and grabbing something to eat and my water bottle, I'm off to the barn. I'm usually there for several hours. In the course of the morning, I end up dusty or muddy (depending on the time of year), with dirt smears on my shirt from where my horse has wiped his head on me, and with a bad case of "helmet-hair." Of course, I wash my hands, brush off the dirt, and comb my hair when I'm ready to leave. After the barn, Saturdays are my day to go to the grocery and run other errands.

Last summer I was in Target on a Saturday after the barn. Clearly, I didn't look my best, but I didn't think it was so bad. A small girl was standing next to me in the aisle, and I heard her parents loudly whisper, "Come here! Get over here! Come here right now!" I could hear them whispering to her on the other side of the aisle, but didn't know what they were saying until I heard the girl in a sing-song voice: "She's dirty, she's dirty!"

I was amused, but knew immediately that if I really were homeless, that might actually hurt.
Sacred Space is a ministry of the Diocese to homeless congregations in the East Bay. St. James' supports the congregation that meets in Hayward, every Sunday afternoon at 2pm. In rotation with other parishes in the Deanery, once a month we provide a packed lunch for the members of this congregation, deliver them, and stay if we can to participate in their worship service. Clergy in the Diocese – including Lori+ – rotate giving a homily and presiding over the Eucharist. At other times throughout the year we also collect socks, hats, gloves, toiletries, and other essentials for the congregation.

The signup sheet for lunches for January-June, 2017, is on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Please consider signing up to help, and especially to deliver the lunches. This is a great way to be part of this ministry without making a huge time commitment. The members of the congregation are kind and friendly, nothing to be afraid of. And you never know; one day, that homeless person might be you.

Janet Fischer
Sacred Space Coordinator

Hillside Care Holiday Visit

Anna Horen Returns to St. James' as a Priest Associate

We are blessed to welcome back in our midst The Reverend Anna Horen. In 2015-2016, Anna spent 16 months as a ministry intern, bringing with her the gift of teaching, preaching, and pastoral care. Anna will be with us until she is able to transition to a permanent position elsewhere.

Anna was born and raised in the New York City area by two loving and devout Italian Roman Catholic parents. She felt a call to ordained priestly ministry since childhood. Since it was not possible in her denomination, she pursued other avenues. On her journey towards priesthood in the Episcopal Church she was blessed to garner professional experience and skills in education, high-tech, and lay pastoral ministry. These experiences, along with raising two sons, being in a long-term loving marriage, and surviving breast cancer have formed Anna into the minister and person she is today.

Anna has been married to Bob for 35 years and has two children, Chris and Eric. She is also blessed to have one grandson, Hunter.

Lori+

"As a newly ordained priest, I am delighted to be returning to St. James' until I am able to transition to a permanent position elsewhere. I look forward to renewing old relationships as well as getting to know the newer members."

Financial Summary November 2016

Fund Balances	11/30/15	11/30/16
Operating Fund	$ 62,715.82	$ 56,388.62
Building Investment	$ 15,000.00	$ 15,000.00
Building Fund	$ 23,928.12	$ 28,922.64

Year to Date Summary Operating

Pledges Budgeted	$239,089.58	$238,332.00
Pledges Paid	$233,339.66	$237,013.96
Unpledged Contributions	$ 7,860.00	$ 8,909.30
Other Op Income*	$ 19,360.75	$ 20,621.35
Total Operating Income	$260,560.41	$266,544.61
Total Operating Expenses	$245,228.97	$263,526.76

Calling All Jokesters – Easter Sunday Contest

It's early to be thinking about Easter, no doubt, but not too early to anticipate the joy of celebrating the Risen Christ! Most of you know that I begin each year's sermon with a joke. It has come to pass that my joke-well runneth dry. **CAN YOU HELP?**

If you know a good joke, or if you come across one between now and the end of March, send it to me. Whoever's joke gets included in the Easter Sermon wins a prize!

The guidelines are simple:
Must include either religion, Jesus or God (Jesus is preferable)
Must be sermon-appropriate (clean)
Must be more than a one-line joke (no knock-knock jokes, please)

Thanks for helping me write this year's sermon!

Lori+

The St. James' 2017 Annual Meeting
January 29

The annual meeting is an important event in the life of a parish. It is at this meeting that we hear about the past year, look towards the future, elect our vestry members and convention delegates, and much more.

Note that for 2017, we are changing the order of events. Please plan on attending the entire meeting and following service.

One Worship Service at 10:30am

8:45-9:30
Enjoy a continental breakfast with your fellow parishioners in the Parish Hall

9:30-10:15
Our business meeting will include the approval of past minutes, introduction of vestry members and new wardens, reports from the Treasurer and Endowment Chair, the Senior Warden's address, elections and more.

10:15-10:30
We will prepare for worship by singing some of our favorite hymns.

10:30-11:45
Service of Holy Communion with the Rector's address as part of the sermon and the annual picture slideshow to wrap up the day.

New Shoe Outreach Update

Thank you to everyone who contributed gift cards for Abode Services to help their local homeless clients and children to obtain new shoes to replace outgrown and worn out shoes this winter. With your generous support, we collected and delivered 60 $20 gift cards for Payless Shoes totaling $1,200 to assist our neighbors in need.

Cathy Knotts

December Vestry Report

We had a great dinner provided by Penny Trant. We shared our God Moments from the week and Penny led us in prayer. The meeting started at 7:00 with adjustments to the agenda and regrets from Charles Hall and Nancy Castaneda. Jan Scrutton joined us as a guest.

We passed the minutes from November, then Lynn explained the budget sheets, pointing out several small changes. We talked briefly about the bell plaque which will be installed this week.

Jan Scrutton presented an outreach project with Fremont Unified School District. Jan had met with Dr. Morris regarding the school lunch program debt for several children who cannot afford to pay for school lunches. The proposal is to pay the debt for three schools. The vestry voted to approve the proposal to support FUSD's child nutrition services.

We then received an update on the Little Church project which will be moving forward soon. Meg presented a proposal to buy a leaf blower for the church which was approved by the vestry.

We discussed the 2017 budget in line by line detail as Lynn explained it to us. We added a Disaster Preparedness line item to the budget. We also agreed to add an Associate Rector saving line.

We approved the clergy housing allowances. Lori explained why the time of the general meeting will be changed and the single service will be at 10:30 a.m. instead of 10:00 a.m. The vestry voted to hire a bookkeeper at the market rate.

After accepting the reports, we adjourned at 9:05 p.m. and celebrated compline together in the Little Church, led by Penny.

Vivienne Paratore
Junior Warden

Las Posadas Celebration

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, Jeanne

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Nonie, Julie, Kym, Marilyn, Susan, Archer family, Sarah, Linda, Jack, Marty, Dustin, Jerrie, John, Ellison, Peter

For Families Expecting Children: Evan and Kirsten

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Ellen, Alice, Tim, Matt

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

January Birthdays

1 Miles Archer
Barbara Kostick
Esther Maina
2 Chelsea Drescher
3 Sunita Joseph
5 Gail Culver
Laura Winter
6 Tom Blalock
10 Caylyn Ramsamy
11 Owen Zarovy
13 Katie Cunningham
15 Avis Gonzales
19 Frankie McLeod
20 Stephanie Casas
21 Jim Cunningham
Charles Hall
23 Anastacia Morkved
25 Lori Walton
26 Byron Bader
28 Maggie Shalar
29 Olivia Carini
31 Keira Westra

January Anniversaries

4 Laurence and Rebecca Herrera
14 Amos Muwonge and Harriet Nabbaale
21 Alison and Alan Saichek

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in February. 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: **January 15th**

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. Anna Horen, Priest Associate
.....anna@saintj.com
Jan Scrutton, Children's Minister….. .jan@saintj.com
The Rev. John Trubina, Office Administrator
..... .admin@saintj.com
Jennifer Carini, Music Director.....music@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:
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