The Window

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

Called to serve in new and loving ways

March 2017

Lent: Preparing for Renewal

The season of Lent is upon us. We may think of Lent as a somewhat dreary six weeks; plain, cheerless, and full of references to our sinfulness. While is it true that it is a penitential time, its purpose is not to make us feel bad about ourselves, but to prepare spiritually for the joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter. Understanding a bit of its history can help us to fully appreciate the value of this liturgical season.

In the early days of Christianity, new members were adult converts from paganism or Judaism, in need of baptism. The celebration of Christ's resurrection was seen as the most appropriate time for this.

Water is a dual symbol of both death and life: too little or too much can be fatal, while enough brings the flourishing of life. Early on a theology of baptism emerged that enlarged its significance beyond the ritual of cleansing from sin celebrated by John the Baptist. By being fully immersed in water and then rising out of it at the Easter Vigil, a person was mystically joined to Christ's death and resurrection, or as Paul put it, dying to the "old self" and rising up to a new life in Christ. A baptized person was joined to all the baptized as well, becoming part of the Body of Christ on earth.

Lent became the season of final preparation for baptism, with many special rites. It often took several years, and sometimes entailed a change of livelihood. The entire community was involved, as support and as models of Christian life. At the Easter Vigil, the entire assembly "renewed" their baptismal promises along those making those promises for the first time. So for the already-baptized, Lent became a 40-day retreat, in which each member thoroughly examined his or her life against those promises. As private infant baptism became the norm over time, the link between Lent and baptism faded from general understanding and the community emphasis was lost. Lent became a time of penance in which our sinfulness and was emphasized, culminating in Good Friday, where Christ's death was seen as necessary to save us all from hell.

The theology of preparation for renewal was all but lost. The liturgical renewal of the mid-20th century restored Lent's purpose: to examine where we are falling short of our baptismal promises - the Baptismal Covenant in the language of the Prayer Book - so that, with God's help, we can do better. A spirit of penitence often accompanies these insights into our shortcomings, but we also know that our God is merciful and compassionate, always ready to forgive when we ask.

Today, most Christians do not yet realize that the highpoint of the Easter observance is the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism and renewal of the Baptismal Covenant. This year, we are fortunate to have two baptisms taking place during the Vigil, allowing us to fully celebrate the resurrection of Christ as our Christian ancestors did. I hope you will fully enter into the spirit of the Lenten season, and celebrate the joy of Easter to the fullest by attending all the services of Holy Week. May your season of Lent be a fruitful time of preparation, so that you may be spiritually renewed and uplifted by your witness to Holy Baptism and your joyful responses to Baptismal Covenant.

Rev. Anna Horen

How Jesus changed my life through St. James'

I came to St James' just over three years ago, looking for a church, discouraged by religious trends in America, and almost ashamed to call myself a Christian. I had attended services that were about reaching an emotional high, whipping the faithful to praise a narrow view of God. I had visited congregations that welcomed me as long as I agreed with their doctrine and rules, with intolerance wrapped in bible quotes.

Then I visited St. James' and soon afterwards attended Reverend Lori's class for New Members, where I rediscovered what is called "the middle way" of Episcopalians. A place where all are welcome and nurtured, where diversity is celebrated and we are united by one Christ-centered liturgy and communion. We "come as we are" and Jesus accepts us. We hear the word, we praise, we pray, we experience our creeds and traditions together and apply them to our lives, wherever our life journey may be. Christ is among us.

In worship I experience Jesus …

In our Sunday News insert, reading all the ways Jesus works through the activities of St. James'.

In the words of the Gospel, brought alive and made relevant by the Sermon message.

In the little faces singing their hearts out in the children's anthem.

When I say a line of the Nicene creed and hear it as if for the first time.

When we pray "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us" and I look to God for help.

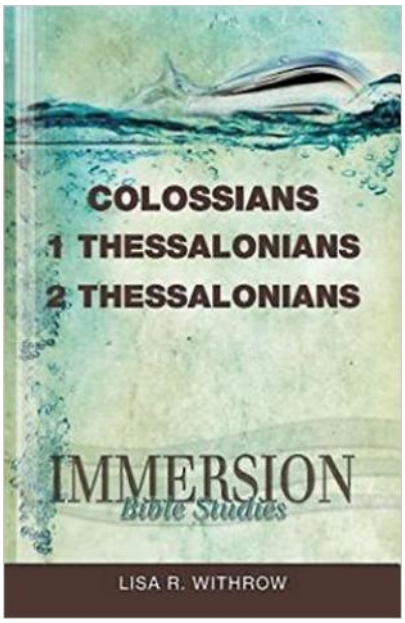
When I return to the pew after receiving the bread and wine, meditating on His presence here and now.

Jesus meets us and transforms us in many ways. What moments, people and traditions in your life at St. James' have transformed you?

John Butterfield

FAITH FORMATION PRESENTS…

Bible study!



You asked, we listened. Starting in April, we will have bible study at the 9:15 hour between services on Sundays.

We will take a chronological approach to the New Testament, starting with the books/letters that were written first. That means we will start with I & II Thessalonians, considered by most scholars to be the first known letters written. We will use the Immersion Bible Studies series. You are welcome to purchase this book (Immersion Bible Studies: *Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians,* by Lisa Withrow, available on amazon.com or your favorite bookstore), but it is not necessary. Just bring your bible!

We hope to recruit others to lead future studies. As an incentive, the Faith Formation committee will purchase your Immersion book if you agree to be one of the leaders. If you are interested, please talk to Janet Fischer.

April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 9:15 am in the Education Room.

Bring your bible and join us!

Janet Fischer

Why Offer Healing?

Why do we and many Episcopal churches offer prayer for healing at a special time and place in our services? Many of you may have wondered this. Isn't the whole service one of prayer and interaction with God and God's word to us? Yes, that is true. But having a healing station emphasizes the sacrament of prayers for the sick, much the way the fonts filled with water remind us of our baptism.

Offering a special place for prayers heightens our awareness. It calls us to search our hearts and express the needs we have to God. When someone approaches the healing station during Communion, I say, "What are you asking for today?" Often the person expresses a need for themselves or a loved one. Sometimes it is simple thanks or a more general request. This articulation engages the person in their own healing.

What do we mean by healing? Healing can involve our body, mind, or spirit. It may even be social. The verb 'heal' is related to the words 'whole' and 'hale.' So it means making whole what was once fractured or broken, and it means being made healthy. When I pray for healing, I ask for God's holistic grace and love to meet the person or people in need. I don't know what God will do, but I know God will do something and that it will be good. Laying on of hands and anointing with oil, if desired, provide tangible support and transfer of energy through the person praying. We do not cause the healing. God does. But God allows us to participate in the grace if we "show up, and get out of the way," as my mentor would say.

So this Lent, consider approaching the healing stations during our services. As Eugene O'Neill wrote, "We are born broken. We live by mending. And the grace of God is glue."

Brian Cochran

Ladies of St James' Save the Dates

September 21-24, 2017

for our annual Flatlanders Getaway to Pajaro Dunes!

We spend four days together at the beach, talking, laughing, playing cards, getting to know each other better, and reconnecting as friends. Oh yes, and eating lots of good food!

This year we have reserved two beautiful townhouses for our use. We will take signups in June, as we have to confirm the need for both houses. With full houses the cost is about $150 each plus the food – approximately $40 for eight delicious meals. Please talk to any committee member —Mary Casas, Nancy Castaneda, Dorothy Balderston, Laura Winter— to find out more.

Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday April 9

We will begin outside with a blessing of the palms, followed by the grand procession into the church, a representation of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Our service of Holy Communion will include a sermon and a children's anthem.

Maundy Thursday April 13

*A simple meal in monastic style will begin at **6:30pm**. Following the meal, we will have the liturgy rituals of foot washing and cross exchange, continuing with Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar.*

Good Friday April 14

From 12:00-2:00pm

A traditional service of solemn collects, hymns, and the Passion.

From 2:00-3:00pm

The Veneration of the Cross in the Little Church or walking the Stations of the Cross outside will be available to those who wish to extend their worship this additional hour.

At 8:00pm

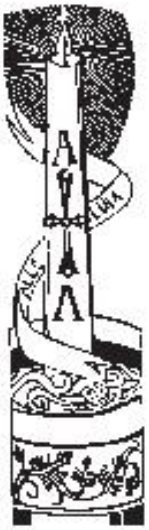
A service honoring Jesus' last hours with Taize, prayers, the Veneration of the Cross and the Passion of Jesus Christ. For those unable to make the daytime service, this is your chance to meditate on the Passion before we reach Easter.

Easter Vigil

8:00pm April 15

The Lighting of the Great Fire, Stories and Song!

Followed by Baptisms, the Proclamation of Easter and Holy Communion in the Main Church.



Easter Principal Service

10:00am April 16

A Festive Service in the Main Church with music and Holy Communion, followed by the annual Easter Egg Hunt for Children and a reception hosted by the Vestry after the service.

St.James' Makes Donation to the Diocesan Capital Campaign

An identifying mark of being an Episcopalian is being part of a larger body of Christians, geographically organized into Dioceses. Our Diocese, the Diocese of California (consisting of the Bay Area), is embarking on a major capital campaign called Expanding Horizons. This campaign seeks to raise between $20-$32 million from direct contributions and from shared campaigns with individual churches. St. James' was invited to participate in our own capital campaign, using diocesan consultant resources, with the caveat that 30% of what we raised would be contributed to the larger diocesan campaign. In October of 2016, after much discussion and prayer, the Vestry decided that this was not the opportune time for St. James' to begin a capital campaign. Rather, we felt it best to focus on strengthening and stabilizing our operating income, allowing for long-term sustainable ministry.

However, the diocesan campaign is meant to enable the diocese to make significant impacts in our churches and local/global communities. Among other things, the campaign funds will be directed towards advocacy to slow/eliminate climate change, support for the Dioceses of Haiti and Jerusalem, essential housing for the underserved and for clergy, long-term solutions for the poor through Episcopal Charities, and increased facilities and resources at our retreat centers. The campaign funds raised will also benefit the local congregations through grants for new ministry and endowment funds for new staff positions.

While the vestry did not feel the timing right for our own campaign, the value of the diocesan effort and the potential for positive impact was recognized and generated excitement and enthusiasm. In addition, we recognize the importance of being one part of the Body of Christ in the Diocese of California and want to honor that relationship and strengthen that connection. To that end, the Vestry voted in our January 2017 meeting to make a one-time donation of $10,000 to the Diocese of California Expanding Horizons Capital Campaign. This money will come from funds designated as the Schader/Streckfus line item in our special interest accounts. This line item consists of direct, undesignated donations made from Shirley Schader and Frances Streckfus.

Please join me in praying for every success for this campaign and for the ministry of our Diocese and churches. For more information on the campaign, you can check http://diocal.org/expanding-horizons.

Lori+

Fremont School Board Recognizes St. James'

Board President Ann Crosbie, Lori+, Jan Scrutton, Jan Brandt and Superintendent Morris

As a community St. James' has a history of reaching out in our community. We serve dinners and help with the kids club at Sunrise Village, we support Sacred Space, we collect school supplies and gift cards for shoes and to help families being rehomed. We want to demonstrate our faith in our community and sometimes we need to seek new ways to do that. Late in 2016 that desire and ability to help came together with a new idea as to how we might reach out to help others.

Jan Brandt came forward with an idea to see whether schools locally had children unable to have lunch because of their inability to pay. You may have seen cases in the press where children go without lunch because their families cannot afford to pay but are above the level of income to receive free or reduced price lunches. With the help of other members of the parish who have contacts in the right places, I was able to meet with the head of Child Nutrition Services in Fremont and with the Superintendent of Schools, Dr Morris. Fremont Unified School District works hard to make sure all families who qualify for lunches receive them but they are aware of families who complete the required paperwork but, due to the levels of income set by the state fail to qualify for assistance. One case this year was a family who earned $27 more per year than the limit to receive lunches which will cost $14 a day for their 4 children! While the district does endeavour to do what it can to help many families to run into debt on their school lunch account and children are provided with a restricted meal until families are able to pay.

St. James' has a general outreach fund available for projects beyond our doors. The Vestry decided to donate $2,000 to help pay off school lunch debt in Fremont. The district initially used $681.36 to settle the debt of 179 students at 3 local schools, Cabrillo Elementary, Grimmer Elementary and Olivera Elementary. Funds will now be applied to the debt in other schools identified as in need and so will continue to help children in our district.

We were invited to attend a School board meeting in February to receive a Declaration of Thanks for our donation. You may well have seen the social media posts highlighting the donation. The declaration is hanging in the Parish Hall if you would like to read it. While it is nice to receive thanks, my greater hope for the attention we have received for this donation is that it reminds us of the impact we can have and that it shines a light for others on the ways we can all have an impact on our community.

The vestry will continue to look for ways to serve our community using our outreach fund. If you want to make an donation in addition to your pledge to be used in this type of work just put it in an envelope or write on the memo line of your check - 'Special Interest: General Outreach'.

Many thanks to all who made this project possible including the Vestry, Rev. Lori, Jan and Sherea.

Jan Scrutton

Children's Minister

Picture credit: Mike Scrutton

February Vestry Report 2017

We shared dinner and Godly Moments before opening the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Charles Hall was absent, all the newly elected vestry members were present.

Lynn reviewed the January budget which is healthy. Lori explained some of the Special Interest accounts and clergy discretionary accounts. We accepted the financial reports and the minutes from the January meeting. We recorded two vestry email votes. Lori explained the new topic for the vestry articles for The Window: How Has Jesus Changed My Life through Saint James'. Each Vestry member will write an article during the year.

Lori gave out a calendar of important events for the year. Some of the events are required for Vestry members. We agreed to change the April Vestry meeting from Maundy Thursday (April 13th) to April 6th.

We then discussed the individual vestry projects; Scott and Bruce will handle the Endowment session, Penny will organize the St James' Celebration, New Member Epiphany party will be organized by Charles and Josephine, Evelyn and Ashley will plan Volunteer Appreciation Sunday, John and Katie will handle the ingathering celebration, Kimberly and Jill will highlight Earth Day and Vivienne will work on creating a Welcome team.

The McCutcheon Concert Team requested that $1,000 of the proceeds go to Abode Services, $500 go to the Centerville Free Dining Room and $1,000 be set aside for the future purchase of wireless microphones for our parish. Bruce explained more about the Centerville Free Dining Room and also about the need for the wireless system in 2020. The Vestry approved the motions.

Jill presented about AED's (Automated External Defibrillator) on behalf of the Disaster Preparedness team. The cost is about $1,500.

Lori presented ideas about a banner: In this house we love our neighbors: all religions, beliefs, orientations, identities, genders, backgrounds and ethnicities. This was discussed in depth. Lori then presented the characteristics of success we discussed at the Vestry Retreat. Additionally, the wishes that vestry members expressed were reviewed. We will use the wishes to develop the vestry projects for this year. Vestry Members will consider this before the next meeting.

Lori read a proclamation from FUSD regarding the donation to the lunch program for unresolved student debts. We accepted the ministry and vestry reports.

We adjourned the meeting and celebrated compline together in the little church.

Vivienne Paratore, Sr. Warden

St. James' Disaster Preparedness Plan

A few years ago, the Diocese of California directed all the parishes to create a plan in case of emergency. It was to make sure the church could continue if a disaster such as an earthquake strikes. Elaine Vallecillo-Miller stepped up to lead the effort at St James', creating a group to take on the challenge. An inventory of the church's assets has begun, and essential records are copied. The fire extinguishers are up to date, and EXIT signs are in place throughout the campus.

We are now discussing how to better prepare ourselves in the event a disaster strikes. Who needs to be contacted, and how? Where will we hold services if St James' is damaged? How do we let everybody know what is going on? If an earthquake happens during service, where do we evacuate to? What can each of us do to prepare individually and as a family? We are working to answer these questions and many others. Elaine has joined the Diocesan disaster team, with Dave Nelsen and Bud Pearson stepping up to head the committee at St James' as we move forward.

We will let you know more as progress is made – including how to be better prepared at our own homes. Look for more information in the coming months.

Submitted by the St James' Disaster Preparedness Team

Introducing Our New Vestry Members

We welcome and give thanks to the vestry members elected at our 2017 Annual Meeting.

Josephine Amadi

Josephine has been part of St. James' since 2001. Her parents first brought her to church as an infant to receive the sacrament of baptism and blessing. As a teenager, she sought spiritual guidance and direction from the church, continuing that quest as a young adult. Once she became a parent, she attended church to renew her faith and hope in God, for holy words to guide her actions and to worship with other believers. Others describe Josephine as a caring, patient, resilient team player with strong listening skills.

Katie Porter

Katie has been a member of St. James' for almost three years. Her primary reason for attending church is to deepen her relationship with God. Katie is good at researching and writing. She works well with others and is well organized.

Jill Buono

Jill has been a member of St. James' since 2007. She joined the church to share her Christian spirituality with a community that is interested in welcoming all people and contributing to the community around us. Jill has strong organizational and leadership skills, able to plan and run activities and projects. She is a member of C.E.R.T. and has basic first aid and medical knowledge. She's been a teacher for over 25 years and loves working with children.

Kimberly Patton

Kimberly has been at St. James' for three years after being a member of St. Anne's since 1998. She attends church to be with St. James' parishioners in community with Jesus Christ and God, to be a part of the sacrament and learn more about the Bible as well as sing hymns. Kimberly immediately felt the love of St. James' when she entered the door. Kimberly works in marketing, giving her skills that can be transferred to church work, facilitating program growth and interest. Kimberly has also worked with the homeless and has volunteered as a counselor and

Little Church Construction Started

February 13 was a big day. Actual Repair on the Little Church started. The plan is to pull the walls of the Little Church in at the top about 2 to 4 inches depending on which buttress is involved. The cables installed inside the church will be used to accomplish that feat. (See picture A)

Protruding from the outside of the church are large bolts. As the nuts on them are turned, the cables will be tightened, pulling the walls together. Once that is done, the buttresses themselves will be strengthened by applying heavy plywood to the outsides of them. (See Picture B) Then the finishing touches of sheeting will be returned to the outside of the buttresses so they will look just like they did when the whole process started. (Picture C). See the accompanying photos.

Bruce Roberts and Jim Cunningham

Picture A

Picture B

Picture C

Picture Credits: Bruce Roberts

Financial Summary January 2017

	1/31/2016	1/31/2017
Operating Fund	$ 53,143	$55,307
Building Investment	$ 15,000	$ 15,000
Building Fund	$ 23,928	$ 28,821
Year To Date Summary Operating		
Pledges Budgeted	$ 217,354	$ 216,665
Pledges Paid	$ 201,865	$ 221,480
Unpledged Contributions	$ 7.315	$ 8,995
Other Op Income*	$ 17,827	$ 17,977
Total Operating Income	$ 227,008	$ 248,452
Total Operating Expenses	$, 224,238	$ 240,175
Income less Expenses	$ 2,769	$ 8,277

*Includes Fund Raising

Greetings!

From our Church Administrator

I want to share with you a little bit about my move to the Old Catholic Church and to give you some history to help you understand.

I was raised a Roman Catholic in Wilmington, DE. After High School, I entered the Religious Life to study for the Priesthood. I taught in our High School and after 14 years of teaching and preparing for ordination, my father passed away and I left to help my mother and be there for her.

I moved to California to work at Wells Fargo Bank in 1995 and have been here since. During my time here in San Leandro, I discovered an Episcopal Church and I spoke with the Rector and he invited me to attend church there. I attended the Easter vigil there and felt this is the right place for me right now.

I always knew I had a vocation and decided to explore the Episcopal Church as a Deacon and/or Priest. I spoke with the vocation director and within a month I was at the School for Deacons. I was ordained a Deacon on June, 2011. In the back of my mind, the priesthood was still there.

My Spiritual Director and I explored my becoming a priest. I had prayed and felt that God was still calling me to take another step and become a priest. I was ordained a priest in the Old Catholic Church on February 4, 2017.

Here are some answers to your questions:

Are you still an Episcopal Deacon? No

Are you an Episcopal Priest? No, I am an Old Catholic Church International (OCCI) Priest.

Are you still going to be our Admin? I hope so; I don't plan on going anywhere soon, I do enjoy working with everyone at St. James' Community along with the Clergy. My moving over to the Old Catholic Church does not affect my working at St. James'.

What is going to happen to Sacred Space? My moving over to the Old Catholic Church International has no affect whatsoever to Sacred space. I will still be participating in the services, but the Board of Overseers and Bishop Marc will be looking for a replacement for me. Sacred Space is going strong.

Rev. John Trubina

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 Those Who Need Guidance and Direction:

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing:
Sylvia, Marianne, Ellison, Peter, Don, Kevin, David, Betty, Dohrmann family, Loren, Patricia and family, Patty

For Families Expecting Children: Evan and Kirsten; Thanksgiving for the birth of Lenox Noel Rowe, great grand-daughter of Nancy and Paul Svenson

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Barbara,

To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please complete a pew card and place in the Sunday 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

March Birthdays

3/1 Dwarka Sankar
3/2 Penny Trant
Daniel Zarovy
3/8 Robert Lacy
Jan Scrutton
3/9 Bethany Vacchieri
3/11 Frank Guzior
Barbara Vacchieri
3/12 Wayne Krimmel
3/13 Barry Hedgpeth
3/14 Jennifer Carini
3/18 Gabby Perez
3/20 Laura Casteneda
3/21 Debra Fuller
3/24 Alice Johnson
3/25 Pat Spencer
Janet Fischer
3/26 Pat Spalding

March Anniversaries

3/25 Paul & Nancy Swenson

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in April. We welcome your **comments, essays, poems, photos, cartoons, newsworthy items of interest, art work, any group activity information and your reviews**.

Email your submission to newsletter@saintj.com by: **March 15th**

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Fremont, CA 94537-0457
WEB: http://saintj.com

WORSHIP TIMES
SUNDAY SERVICES: 8:00AM & 10:30AM
CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES: SUNDAY 9:15-10:00AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00AM

OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY: 9:00AM-1:00PM

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The Rev. Anna Horen, Priest Assoc. anna@saintj.com
Jan Scrutton, Children's Minister….. .jan@saintj.com
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VESTRY

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Bruce Roberts

Josephine Amadi
Jill Buono
John Butterfield
Ashley Francis
Charles Hall
Evelyn Martinez
Kimberly Patton
Katie Porter
Penny Trant
Scott Whitaker

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:
John Trubina

Altar Guild: Katie Cunningham

Ushers: Burtin Hart

St. J Youth Leaders: Mike & Jan Scrutton

***The Window* Staff**

Ralph Locher
Katie Porter
Penny Trant
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