The Window

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

Called to serve in new and loving ways

May 2017

EcoJustice and All of God's Creation

In Bread for the Journey, Henri Nouwen tells us that "…community is first of all a quality of the heart. It grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive not for ourselves but for one another. Community is the fruit of our capacity to make the interests of others more important than our own (see Philippians 2:4). The question, therefore, is not "How can we make community?" but "How can we develop and nurture giving hearts?"

I love this description of community as it speaks to the thrust of our work as Christians - to exist for Christ and for others, and to find ourselves in the very expression of love extended. As we evolve as human beings, we have grown to understand that our existence for others must include our existence for the "other" defined as Mother Earth and all she contains. That is to say, we are meant to be stewards of all of God's creation: other people, our waters and land, the animals that roam and fly, everything that was created and called good by God.

Never has the health of God's creation been so dependent on the human capacity for love as it is right now. It is only through our actions that we can bring forth a more sustainable ecosystem. This ecosystem which needs attending to encompasses all of God's creation and calls us to recognize the connectedness of every living thing. Marc Andrus, our bishop, recently sent me an email in which he said "I have taken to calling climate change and environmental degradation our 'container issues' in that all the other, indeed very important issues of our day, are held within the … fate of our planet."

I am heartened that our denomination and diocese take issues of the environment seriously. To that end, the Diocese of California is hosting an **EcoJustice Conference on May 19 (Grace Cathedral) and May 20 (Golden Gate Overlook)**. The first day will be a gathering centered around racial reconciliation, justice, food and the environment. The second day will be a service of Confirmation. Our Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Michael Curry will be at both events.

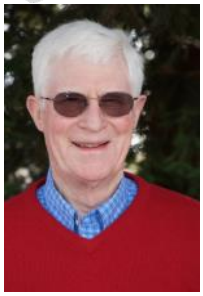
General information can be found on the flyer printed within this newsletter. (see page 3) Details and the registration page can be found online at: diocal.org/ecojustice.

Join together with your Episcopal brothers and sisters for this important conference. There is a fee for the May 19 event. Scholarships are available, just talk with me about it.

I hope to see you there!

Lori+

Stewardship Corner



How Jesus Has Changed My Life through St. James'

by Bruce Roberts

You know how they say, "The biggest part of success (or something like that) is just showing up?" They do say that, don't they? Anyway, whether they say it or not, that's the big thing. Showing up! Maybe for Church. Maybe for an event like…the Pancake Supper. Or for a special service….Maundy Thursday or Easter Vigil, something out of the norm (norm being a regular Sunday Service). But really, just every Sunday, come in, sit down, sing the Hymns, say the prayers, listen to the sermon (really listen), take Communion.

Every week life goes on, work, the news, the TV, traffic, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and much more. But making Church a part of it, sort of taking a break from all the rest, gives me a chance to breathe, sit back and get some perspective. Sort of…how important is a lot of that other stuff? Where does it really fit in my life? By our way of thinking today, the people of Jesus' time had a pretty simple life; maybe they did, or maybe their worries and troubles were just as complicated in their day as ours are today. Be that as it may, it really helps to contemplate the way Jesus lived his life here on Earth, and then to say to myself, can I live that way?

I need a dose of Jesus on a regular basis just to remember how to live that way. Because I'm not the prayerful person I'd like to be, regular attendance at St. James' helps me strive toward the goal of following Jesus' Way. And, I look at all the benefits of the St. James' Community, both incoming and outgoing, just by showing up.

Abode Services Rapid Re-Housing Home Warming update

Recently St James' and Corpus Christi sponsored the Christel family, a single Mom with 5 children, ages 3, 8, 12, 15 and 20 years.

The security deposit and 1st month's rent was $4900.00. We provided many of the household items which have been accruing in our storage unit for the last year. Many thanks to the parishioners and families who have donated beds, dressers, lamps, flatware, dishes, towels, cleaning supplies and gift cards. The 16 churches which support the Rapid Re-Housing program are very creative with funding sources and supplies.

We are sponsoring a 2nd family for April. The Josephina family, a single Mom with 3 children, ages 3 months, 9 and10 years. The needs were mainly beds and household supplies along with kitchen supplies. We are helping with the deposit along with the Sisters of the Holy Family. The deposit was $3017.00. The other churches will help with items we cannot locate or have in our possession.

As you can see the needs of the homeless families are high. With the St James' community and fellow churches are getting these families out of temporary housing into permanent housing.

Thanks for your continued support and contributions big or small, they all add up. If you have any questions, please contact me at 510-506-2303 cell or email dgfeeney@comcast.net.

Gregg Feeney

On Memorial Day, May 29th we honor and remember those women and men who gave their lives while serving in the military.

We will never forget your sacrifice.

EcoJustice
SAFEGUARDING CLIMATE, FOOD, & WATER
Friday, May 19 & Saturday, May 20
Friday, May 19 | Day of Inspiration | Grace Cathedral, San Francisco
8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
This all-day gathering is centered around racial reconciliation, justice, food, and the environment. From sacred water to sacred wheat, the plenaries and panels will lead up to two meals: lunch inspired by recipes from award-winning Afro-Vegan Chef Bryant Terry and Eucharist with The Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry.
Saturday, May 20 | Day of Action | Golden Gate Overlook, San Francisco
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
The day begins with an Eco-Confirmation at the Golden Gate Overlook in the Presidio, officiated by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, where confirmands will affirm their commitment both to the church and to the Earth. The rest of the day, everyone is invited to participate in family-friendly activities and actions across the Bay Area that put EcoJustice into action.
For more details visit: diocal.org/ecojustice
dioCA diocese of California

On June 4th, The Rev. Karin White will present "The Last Letter before You Die" and "Ethical Wills" as the personal, ethical, spiritual part of your last messages to those you love. She will introduce why and to whom one would write such documents. The "seminar" will reconvene on June 25th to answer questions and "check progress." Although no one else will read your "Last Letter…" you will have the opportunity to discuss the content and finalize the documents. The seminar will start at noon on June 4th. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.

WRITING YOUR LAST LETTER BEFORE YOU DIE:

7 Things you must not forget to say

We often think about how to pass on our material possessions when we die, but it is even more enduring to pass on our stories and our values. Stanford doctor, VJ Periyakoil founded the Stanford Friends and Family Letter project to help us banish regrets that we didn't talk about what is most important to us. Her team created a "Last Letter" template that people can use to communicate to their families and friends with 7 "Life Review Tasks".

1. Acknowledge the important people in your life.
2. Remember treasured moments from your life.
3. Apologize to those you love if you have hurt them.
4. Forgive those who love you if they have hurt you.
5. Express your gratitude for all the love and care you have received.
6. Tell your friends and family how much you love them.
7. Take a moment to say "Goodbye".

After services on June 4 and June 25, The Rev. Karin White will lead one-hour workshops to get us started on writing our last letters -- and then putting them on file at the church so that they can be shared with loved ones at the appropriate times. If you would like to get started sooner, begin to jot down your thoughts and share them with your loved ones now. You'll be glad you did.

Questions? Contact Karin by email at karinreedwhite@ gmail.com

A Beautiful Day for a Duck Race!

April 22nd was a Terrific Day at Lake Elizabeth for the annual Kiwanis Ducks for Bucks Race! Bruce Roberts brought brochures and photos of St. James through the years as well as his collection of rainbow colored St. James T-shirts. Cathy Knotts drew in people for local trivia contests and Marlene Benedict's candy prizes made a big hit - especially for the kids (and parents) who participated in the trivia. Set up and take down were a breeze. Even the "antique " card tables turned out to be fun. Project - find out what happened to those businesses from the 1950s?

Thank You to all the duck sponsors and volunteers who helped make this a successful fund raising event as well as raise awareness about St. James' 150th anniversary. We sponsored 630 ducks and earned $1,858.00 for St. James'. A special thank you to all who came out to help including Jeanne Morris, Dave and Linda Nelsen with granddaughter Talulah, Tom and Gail Blalock and their family (including great granddaughter), Jill Buono, Bob Doherty, Kim and Callie Patton, Ruth Poole, Bud and Pat Spalding, and Laura Winter. We were also visited by the Big Duck, Fremont Mayor Lily Mei, Councilman David Bonaccorsi, and many others from our local community.

We believe Bruce (see photo to right) was the only winner of a drawing prize from St. James' -- a big fluffy, plush ladybug (just what he needed :—). We have not yet heard if any of St. James' parishioners won any of the big Duck prizes. There is always hope.

Did you know that some of the losing ducks got loose after the race? Yes, and the Kiwanis sent out the Duck Wranglers who saved the day and brought them all home to the Big Duck Corral. Music, fun, drawings, fire trucks, water, rubber ducks, and multiple community booths, all contributed to a delightful late morning, early afternoon event.

Submitted by: Bruce Roberts
Cathy Knotts

Photos courtesy of: Bruce Roberts

April Vestry Minutes

After sharing a delicious meal, prepared by Jill Buono, we shared God moments. Penny Trant was unable to join us. The treasurer's report was given by Lynn Locher and we voted to renew the Building account CD and Special Interest CD for 3 year terms. We agreed to spend $1,000 from the Endowment account in support of SAVE. We accepted the financial reports and the minutes from the March meeting and accepted the rector's and ministry reports for March.

We moved onto New and Continuing Business and discussed the legality and liabilities associated with buying an AED. We also discussed the requirements and responsibilities associated with having an AED on site. Bruce gave an update about the little church buttress project which should take about 5 more weeks. Bruce also reported that a grant has been submitted to the Rotary Club for the Little Church Renovation.

Scott gave a deanery report regarding work parties in for Corazon where groups build houses for people: the next party is June 23rd and the deanery is looking for 35 people to go. We agreed that the deanery reps will communicate more with the congregation (see page 7) and that we will discuss donating to Corazon in May. We received an update on Earth Day and finally, we discussed the plans for the 150th celebration and the sign up for Vestry members to bring food to the Easter celebration.

We closed with compline in the little church led by Jill Buono.

Submitted by Vivienne Paratore

Does Anyone Have AED Training?

There are many types of disasters, earthquakes, floods, fires … to name just a few. These are the big ones that affect large numbers of people. There is a small one that only affects one person, but can cause concern for our large community. It is called myocardial infarction, or HEART ATTACK! As our community grows older, heart attacks become a larger risk.

At the last Vestry meeting, Jill Buono of the Disaster Preparedness Team presented information on a device that can literally save a heart attack victim's life. It is called an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). They are being seen in more and more public places. They are almost standard equipment on airliners.

While St James' is investigating what it will take to have one onsite, we're not going to buy one at this time. The cost is approximately $1800, and the subject needs more study. One concern is that though it is extremely simple to operate, the operator should be trained. So we reach out to the congregation: if you have been trained on this device at your work please email Bud Pearson bud@budandjan.com.

And if by any chance you just happen to have $1800 lying around looking for a good cause, what better place than to help save someone's life.

The Disaster Preparedness Team

Join us for our Women's Retreat

Nevertheless She Persisted: Hidden Figures in the Church.

Saturday, May 13th, 9:00am - 3:00pm
in the Education Room at St. James'
Lunch is provided

We will explore the lives of some lesser-known women in our church history and then spend some private time thinking about which of these women speak to us the most, and the "hidden figures" in our own lives and how they have influenced us. Please sign up in the Parish Hall.

Janet Fischer

Hands-on Ministry Opportunity… in Mexico!

It began in 1972, when a group of Orange County residents began a ministry of traveling to the outskirts of Tijuana, Mexico, to assist low-income families through donations of food and blankets. They named it "Corazon," and it soon grew into a home-building operation, all handled by volunteers. The group designed its first "one-day house builds" in 1978. Though modestly priced and small, the shelters were safer and better than what the typical family there lived in. Homes were built by volunteers with their own tools. The enthusiasm of volunteers making the trip helped the program grow. Before long, the "Corazon House" was redesigned and was larger and had significant structural and quality improvements.

The Corazon program has the support of more than 300 sponsors, including churches, civic clubs, school groups, youth groups, families, individuals, and more.

Locally, the Southern Alameda Deanery, of which St. James' is a part, has been participating in Corazon home-builds since 1993. Some churches in our deanery were doing separate home-builds before starting a combined deanery-build around 2011.

Each year, the group of volunteers carpools down on a Friday, does the home-build on Saturday, and drives back on Sunday. And you can join them!

In 2017, a team of 35-50 people will be traveling June 23rd thru 25th. Two of the dedicated local contacts are Rev. Mark Spaulding (Holy Cross, Castro Valley) and Deanery representative Jim Shiffer (St. Clare's, Pleasanton). They will be among the many from our deanery parishes carpooling on June 23rd, spending both Friday and Saturday nights at St. John's Episcopal Church in Chula Vista. Most will then carpool back on Sunday, June 25th. Those who want to attend should go to www.corazon.org and fill out a volunteer profile. Once it's approved, you can then sign up for the June 24th build.

Photo courtesy of Jim Shiffer, St. Clare's Pleasanton

This program is structured much like Habitat for Humanity. Corazon offers an international outreach opportunity; many have never seen this kind of poverty before. Additionally, Corazon also allows teenagers the opportunity to build-Habitat for Humanity does not currently allow teens and children to actually build on a site. Children entering 6th grade in the fall of 2017 through adults are welcome to join the team. Children are welcome as long as they have a parent or guardian along.

Organizers are quick to explain that no construction skills are necessary, all you need is a "willing and loving heart and a body ready to work and serve." Detailed information can be found on the Corazon website (www.corazon.org), or by contacting Rev. Mark Spaulding at Holy Cross (mark@holycrosscv.org). Cost of food on Friday/ Saturday nights, and Saturday/Sunday mornings are covered (you are responsible for your meals while on the road). You're welcome to help chip in for gas in the vehicle you're riding in. In 2011-2016, no one had to pay anything out-of-pocket!

Rev. Mark Spaulding says, "Experience is a great teacher, probably the best way to learn about this mission outreach is to use the Jesus method, 'come and see.' My prayer is that folks will come with me and try it once. Almost everyone is jumping to go again the following year!"

Along with all of our deanery's churches, St. James' is being asked to financially support this ministry. Most churches donate between $1,200 - $1,500. If you would like to support Corazon but cannot join the home build trip, we welcome your donation made out to St. James' with "Corazon" in the memo line.

Our deanery has long participated in the Corazon home-builds, and members and friends of St. James' are encouraged to consider participating.

Submitted: Meg & John Amouroux and the St. James' Deanery Representatives

St. James' Feast 2017

St. James' Feast is on Sunday, July 23rd and there are some wonderful things planned so please save the date. Everyone knows how much fun, food and fellowship this day brings. This year will be even better.

We will be having a themed potluck, this year it will be "Country Faire". Keeping with that theme, I just want to give our bakers in the church a heads up to start getting your favorite or best recipe for pie ready. We will have a Blue Ribbon Pie Baking contest. I won't give all the details now but ……. let's just say it, you won't want to miss this year's event.

I am also looking for anyone would lend us their canopy or pop-up for the event. Send an email to just4pt@yahoo.com or see Penny if you have one or more we can borrow. More details on this and other St. James' Feast information coming soon.

Thanks !!! Penny Trant

A Small Peek at Holy Week

Photos courtesy of : Bob Bynum and Bruce Roberts

St James' "Bunny Brigade" Visits Hillside Senior Care Facility on April 7th

The Hillside residents were treated to songs and story by our energetic group of parishioners, led by Easter Bunny Lauren Doherty and Story Teller Bob Doherty.

The Easter story was "Pete the Cat, Big Easter Adventure" featuring Nancy Svenson as "Pete The Cat". This story focused on the theme of doing good for others.

Baby "Chicks" and plastic Easter eggs added to the fun of the story telling. Most residents received "Easter Bonnets" to go with the favorite concluding song "In Your Easter Bonnet". Cub Scout Ian Kalitta did a great job of handing out the Happy Easter Announcements to everyone.

Byron Bader, Barbara Johnsen, Sam Katilla and his son Ian, Paul and Nancy Svenson and George and Pat Vlastelica were the St James' visitors adding to the festivities. Bruce Roberts took the photos. Ruth Poole and Sandra Motley were in charge of the set and story props.

Thanks to our clergy and church family for all the support, encouragement and contributions for making this Hillside visit a great success.

Sandra Motley, Lauren Doherty, Alice Johnson

Photos courtesy of: Bruce Roberts

A Letter from this Month's Newsletter Editor

We had some open space in this month's issue (HINT HINT) and I thought why not take this time to say a few things about being one of the editors of the St. James' *Window*, our monthly newsletter.

I am always so amazed at the wonderful, thoughtful and informative articles and submissions that come in from clergy and parishioners for each issue. Back almost 10 years ago, Ralph Locher the sole editor and keeper of our newsletter, asked if anyone would like to join him and help edit the newsletter. Well, Marilyn Rose and I showed interest and became part of this wonderful ministry. Marilyn has since moved on and the creativity of her issues were so wonderful and missed. But soon after her leave, Katie Porter took up the torch and joined our staff last year. We are whole again. We recently lost Jack Rux as a proof person as he and Connie have moved away, we miss them also. So that leaves most of our proofing to Laura Winter and Ralph. Not a fun job, but they do it so well. All in all our staff is just great!

I began to think about how long the newsletter has been a part of our St. James' culture. Looking back I can tell we've had an online presence for over 10 years and at one point it was only black and white. Wow has technology changed. We are blessed to have a thriving and active community with in St. James''. Sharing that in our newsletter is always a joy for me to see what is in each issue.

Saying that, I want to invite you, if you are a first time submitter or its been a while or for those who continue to send in great submissions and articles, to think about things that you are involved in our church or outer community. If the moment hits you send in something. We accept poems, articles, photos, just please remember this newsletter represents our church, our clergy and also you, as parishioners. So please be mindful of your submissions.

Again, it's a pleasure to serve on the newsletter staff and help produce something I take much pride in.

Penny Trant

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, Johnny

Those travelling: Evelyn and Griselda

Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Don, Paul, Seja, Jordon, Ryan, Kenny, Karl, Crystal

Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Ron, John, Linda, The Dohrman Family, Jerry, Donna, Virginia, Annie, Bill, Donald, Peter, Mike, Steven, Martain, Mark, Julian, Bruce, Bobby, Ellison, Bobby, Nancy, Holger's mom

Families Expecting Children: Jeffrey and Erica

Those Who Have Passed Away: Fran, Dick and Betty

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

MAY

1 Burtin Hart
2 Meg Amouroux
4 Jay Butterfield
Margaret Singh
Marco Ramsamy
5 Sandra Motley
18 Greg Scheuffle
22 Jon Fuller
26 Betty McCoy
31 Suzanne David
James Rose

Anniversaries….

Love is in the air

4 Al & Mary Casas
8 Gregg & Darcia Feeney
19 Bob & Kitty Reed
24 Burtin & Elizabeth Hart
26 Cathy Knotts & Mitchell Pinnix
27 Steve & Barbara Vacchieri
28 Greg Miller & Elaine Vallecillo-Miller
Ron Larson and Lori Walton

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in June. 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: **May 15th**

***The Window* Staff**

Ralph Locher
Katie Porter
Penny Trant
Laura Winter

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. Anna Horen, Priest Assoc. 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
Vivienne Paratore

Junior Warden .....jrwarden@saintj.com
Bruce Roberts

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

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:
Rev. John Trubina
Altar Guild: Katie Cunningham
Ushers: Burtin Hart
St. J Youth Leaders: Mike & Jan Scrutton

Facilities:…..facilities@saintj.com

Convention Delegates

John Amouroux
Meg Amouroux
Jim McConnell
Ken Trant
Scott Whitaker

Alternates to Convention

Jan Brandt
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller