The Window

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

Called to serve in new and loving ways

November 2017

The Work We Do in the Name of Christ

In the world of congregational development, a church can plateau, and if left in that space for too long, it can begin to decline. A community always needs to ask itself in what ways can it grow, increase its effectiveness in the world, and more clearly reflect the presence of Jesus Christ. So, during our vestry and staff retreat, held each year in early February, I challenged the participants to articulate goals for our faith community. We came up with five goals, some of which will take time to manifest. Recently, we revisited these goals to see how we've done.

Maintain and Increase Outreach Opportunities

There will always be places to reach out towards, so this work is never done. However, in the past year, St. James' has made a significant impact in our community. We continue to assist in rehousing families and veterans through Abode Services. In partnership with the deanery, we supported the home building program in Mexico through Corazon. We continue to worship and share lunch with our sister congregation in Hayward through Sacred Space. We donated funds to pay off school lunch bills for four grammar schools. We also donated to SAVE, an organization helping battered women. We've collected many items to help those in need: socks, school supplies, backpacks, batteries, toiletries, and pet supplies. We've also had a hands-on impact through our Abode Kidz program, Sunrise Village Shelter meals, and co-hosting with Abode Services a Candlelight Vigil for those who died on the street. I am sure there have been other ways that the angels of St. James' have made a difference.

Increase Membership and Strive for Every Sunday Attendance

The mark of vitality is the participation in our common worship. While we continue to meet the first part of this goal and have grown in membership each year (already, we've welcomed more than 15 new friends), our Sunday attendance remains flat and for the first time in ten years, declined in 2016. It is our hope that worship will continue to inspire and heal, and be a source of renewal and comfort for all of our parishioners. If this is the case for you, consider making a commitment to coming to church each week. We understand church to be a communal effort where every member of the Body is needed.

Strengthen Finances

Our finances increased in 2017 and pledging remains strong. It is our hope to increase our income again in 2018 so that we might continue to grow and continue to do the amazing work of being Church in the world.

Hire an Associate Rector

Directly tied to strengthened finances was the goal to hire an Associate Rector. With God's grace and Anna's willingness, we hired Anna Horen to serve our congregation 15 hours a week. This is a wonderful start, and Anna is making a significant impact with our adult faith formation and pastoral care. Ideally, this position would grow to be more than just 15 hours a week. We hope to be able to realize this goal moving forward.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from front page—"The Work We Do…")

Be a More Visible Part of the Community

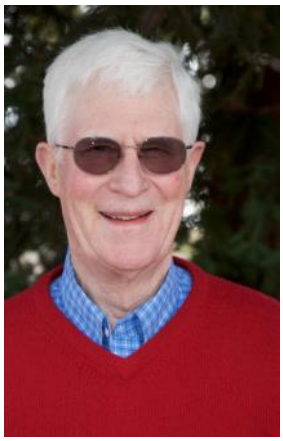
We have done much in this area. In August, we hosted our first National Night Out, and over 60 people, both parishioners and neighbors, attended. We were joined by the fire and police departments as well as city officials. It was a wonderful way to extend a warm welcome to others. We received proclamations from the City of Fremont, Alameda County, and the State of California recognizing our 150 years in the Fremont area. We proudly marched in the 4th of July parade and we have become a presence at the monthly Tri-City Interfaith Council vigils held on the corner of Paseo Padre and Walnut. In the upcoming year, we hope to participate in a Habitat for Humanity build and we will be exploring how we, St. James', can be of use to our city in the case of a disaster. We continue to seek ways to let the Tri-City area know who we are. If you have ideas, please pass them on!

So, we've done a lot to live into our call to be Christians here at church and in the world. We continue to be a place of vitality and joy, a place where all ages can come and be fed. Our children's program is thriving, evidenced by close to 40 adults and children gathering for a campus campout in September and by the consistent participation of our families. Our spiritual health is strong. At our 150th celebration, nine people will be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, and two will reaffirm their commitment to Christ. Despite all of the chaos and craziness of these times, 2017 is shaping up to be a good year for St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont, California.

Pray for those preparing for Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation, and Baptism

Please hold in prayer the following people who will celebrate these sacramental rites on November 5th, the Feast of All Saints: Letty Rodarte, Griselda Prather, Evelyn Martinez, Kimberly Patton, Peter Maina, Esther Maina, George Siegmann, Keith Westra, Sally Morgan, and Grace Zarovy (to be baptized).

Rev. Lori +



How Jesus Changed My Life at St. James' All You Need Is Love

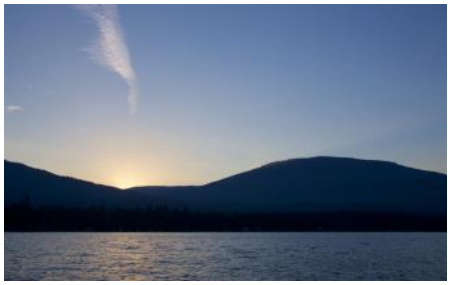
Jesus asked us to love one another. In the summer of 1967 The Beatles released the single "All You Need Is Love" written by John Lennon. Now, for some reason, this song has been caroming around in my head for a couple of days. And true *it* is, at least the refrain is true. As we approach "Stewardship Month", the refrain falls on us with deeper meaning compared to prior months, months of summer, back to school and so forth. How do we love one another?

One way to love one another is to support each other. That support can come in many forms, friendly greeting, serious conversation, even Bible Study. Support in the form of prayers for each other helps lighten the burdens we try to shoulder ourselves. Do we think of these forms of support as love? Often we "just do them" instead of thinking of them as love, but love they are. The closer we are to each other the more that love outpours. Family, church, friends – suddenly our world grows. Then we start to think of others we do not know but have sympathy for because of their situation. How do we express ourselves?

It's difficult to get beyond "me" or "us" sometimes. As in "What can I do?" in this crazy world. As tempted as I am to say, "Let me count the ways", I'll let you count the ways. St. James' helps us count the ways and express the ways we love each other. For all these ways let us support St. James'. Life Changing.

Bruce Roberts
Jr. Warden

Got Your Will Up-to-Date?



So Eddie and Jerry are having lunch at the local lunch counter. Eddie says to Jerry, "Got your will up to date?" Jerry responds, "Will? What's a Will?"

I trust (no pun intended) you are not like Jerry. But I am serious here. In view of the recent fires in northern California, your response could be anything from "Yes," to, "Yes, but I need a trust," to "Yeah, yeah, I got all that, but I need a power of attorney" – or something like that.

Your friendly Endowment Board is really concerned that you have these important papers filled out and filed in the appropriate places. Having these papers takes some time and money, yes, but anything worthwhile takes time usually and oftentimes money.

You have assets? You want to avoid protracted legal scuffles? Or you want your heirs to avoid those scuffles? You want your assets to go where you want them to go? Do the right thing. Take the time to get these things done!

By next month the Endowment Board hopes to have information regarding meetings/seminars available for St. James' people to begin to fashion wills, trusts and other financial documents. Initial meetings' purpose will be to inform us and figure out just which documents would be appropriate to individuals for their needs.

Questions can be addressed to any member of the Endowment Board: Bruce Roberts, Scott Whitaker, Cathy Knotts, Jeanne Morris and Jino Joseph.

Bruce Roberts
Endowment Board

Apocalypse Now…Or Not: Looking Toward the End-Times in Advent

Advent is an unusual liturgical season. Although it begins a new church year, marked by a new cycle of Scripture readings, it looks forward to the end of things. The season prepares us to remember and celebrate the entrance of God into human history in the birth of Jesus Christ, but it simultaneously points forward to Jesus' return.

The Sunday lectionary readings actually run backwards in time. They begin with predictions of the Second Coming, marked by trials and tribulations and the eventual fulfillment of the Kingdom of God, then take us back to the circumstances of Jesus' birth. The message is clear: Jesus' second coming will be just as surprising as the first, and, like good Boy Scouts, we need to be prepared. But what, exactly, are we preparing for?

The "End Times" has been a staple of pop culture for years now - think of the "Left Behind" series or "Doomsday Preppers" - with dire predictions of apocalypse, marked by great upheavals, suffering and death. But how much of it is truly Scriptural? And how should we interpret those Scriptures that seem to point to a final apocalypse? Should we fear the appearance of an Anti-Christ? Will some of be truly "left behind" by the Rapture? What about the resurrection of the dead?

You are invited to attend a **three-part series**, where we will explore these topics and more, beginning **Tuesday, November 28th, 6:30pm - 8:00 pm, in the Education Room, with a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm.** Please sign up on the sheet in the Parish Hall.

Rev. Anna Horen

Seven "Ingredients" for Cultivating a Truly Mystical Life

"Posted with permission from the author, Carl McColman.
The original article may be found on Carl's blog here:
http://www.patheos.com/blogs/carlmccolman/2017/09/seven-ingredients-cultivating-truly-mystical-life/"
SEPTEMBER 22, 2017 BY CARL MCCOLMAN

Last night I gave a talk at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip, here in Atlanta, on one of my favorite topics: "The Christian of the Future Will Be a Mystic."

It was this year's installment of an annual lecture series, and the organizers told me last night's audience was the largest this lecture series had ever seen. Approximately 175 people attended. I assured the organizers that the topic, not the speaker, was responsible for the turnout!

I do believe that interest in recovering and restoring the mystical heart of Christianity is greater than ever. Last night I talked a lot about Evelyn Underhill and Thomas Merton, two twentieth-century authors whose pioneering work on the recovery of contemplative spirituality is bearing fruit in our time.

Of course, I also shared the famous quote from Karl Rahner, which inspired the talk's title: "The Christian of the future will be a mystic or… will not exist." I pointed out that the "will not exist" part is already coming true, as evidenced by the number of churches that have declining membership. The institutional dimension of Christianity is indeed in crisis.

(American Catholics, incidentally, are often blind to the crisis in Christianity. But it's a false complacency. The Catholic Church maintains its numbers primarily through immigration. Take away immigration and Catholicism suddenly has declining numbers similar to most Protestant Churches.)

Still, I think Christians have a lot to be hopeful about and that's primarily because of the burgeoning interest in contemplative and mystical spirituality. So my talked ended on a fairly upbeat note, encouraging everyone in the audience to pray for his or her unique path into intimacy with God - which, after all, is the heart of mysticism.

During the Q&A segment, a woman asked me if I could recommend any "best practices" for those who want to enter into a more truly mystical spirituality. What a great question!

Here's the gist of what I said in reply:

There's really not a "one size fits all" program for cultivating the mystical heart of Christianity. We can look at specific practices like centering prayer, or the Jesus prayer, or Ignatian spirituality, and in truth each of these (and other) methods will work for some people and not for others. Mystics come in all shapes and sizes, and so we need to resist the urge to try to set up a "program" for becoming a mystic. Ultimately mysticism is about falling ever more deeply in love with God. And that is as personal as you get. Union with the Love of God will look different for every one of us.

So instead of recommending best practices, I'd like to point out seven dimensions of spirituality that I think anyone interested in the mystical life needs to make part of their lives. But how each one of does this will be unique to ourselves. Some of these concepts may be more important to one person than another. That's okay. But I think all seven need to be "part of the mix" for everyone.

So here, then, are the ingredients I believe needed for a truly mystical life: -

1. Silence -silence is the foundation of mysticism. We need meaningful amounts of attentive silence, each and every day. This probably ought to include both attentive forms of silence (like Christian meditation or centering prayer) and non-attentive silence (such as doing daily chores with no TV, internet or music on). External silence reveals to us just how noisy our internal lives are. But that's a necessary first step to finding to limitless silence that expands beyond the "noise" of our thoughts, imaginations and feelings.

2. Liturgy - we need a structured form of daily prayer. Liturgies like the Divine Office with its round of morning, noon, evening and night prayers can be essential for developing a prayerful way of

(Continued from page 4 - "Seven Ingredients…")

living. But not everyone needs a daily liturgy as complex as what you'll find in a monastery. There are other ways to become established in regular prayer. What's important is that we pray, and that we pray every day. And a daily liturgy, of some form, is an essential tool for keeping such daily prayer alive and real, especially over the long haul.

3. Embodiment -Prayer and silence can sometimes leave us stuck in our heads. The mystical life is a full-bodied life, which pays attention to labor, to rest, to health and even to appropriate ways in which we discipline ourselves (for example, exercising regularly or going on a diet). Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth is God-with-us, which shows that God does not reject or physical, material nature. Therefore, our spirituality needs to have a material as well as a psychological component.

4. Community - Christianity is not a do-it-yourself spirituality; neither is Christian mysticism. We need each other. We need to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, and we even need to work on loving our enemies. Mysticism often appeals to introverts (I'm one!), and so this is sometimes the hardest part of the spiritual life for us. But Jesus is clear: he said where *two or three* (or more) are gathered, he is present. Of course he is present with us individually, too. But his point is that we should not neglect intimacy with God found through community.

5. Justice - Again, Jesus is clear. "Blessed are the peacemakers." "Feed my sheep." "Feed the poor, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, set the prisoners free." Christianity is clear in its commitment not only to heaven-after-death, but to working for the reign of God (which is to say, the heart of love) here in the present. A commitment to silence and to prayer does not let us off the hook when it comes to acting justly (Micah 6:8); in fact, authentic prayer tends to make us hungrier than ever for living a life grounded in God's justice.

6. Interspirituality - not everyone is called to do interfaith dialogue or interspiritual work in a formal way. But we are all called to be hospitable toward others, and especially in this day and age, "others" includes those who do not share our faith. I'm not advocating for a bland "melting pot" spirituality where we mix it all together. Christians, dive deep into your Christian faith. But then relate with kindness, compassion, and hospitality toward others. Who knows? We might even learn a thing or two. And of course, some of us *are* called to more actively engaged forms of interspiritual engagement. If you find your heart tugging you in that direction, be not afraid.

7 Humility - Finally, mysticism can be a great big trap for the ego. "I experience the love of God: *aren't I special*?" Well, no you're not (and just because you've had a nifty experience doesn't mean a thing). Authentic mystical experience tends to increase humility rather than pride: the "experiencer" is often left with a profound sense of unworthiness after having encountered such vast love. Many of us, meanwhile, are called to be mystics of unknowing, where our is faith shaped not by extraordinary experience but by deep faith and lively trust. No matter what our relationship with God may look like, we are all called to walk humbly with God. Remember what C. S. Lewis said: humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less. It's down to earth. It has a sense of humor. It's no big deal. May all of our spiritual lives be that way!

-End of article-

(If you want to feed your inner mystic, join Brian Cochran on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in the Little Church for *lectio divina* and join Janet Fischer on Wednesdays at 6:00pm in the Little Church for 20 minutes of silent meditation or prayer, followed by Tai Chi with Sylvia Ma in the Parish Hall.)

Submitted by: Janet Fischer

(Photo by: Bruce Roberts)

Are You Prepared For an Emergency?

The fires in Napa and Sonoma counties last month caught everyone off-guard. 20,000 people were evacuated from their homes, many had only moments to grab their car keys and flee. Even loving pets were often left behind to fend for themselves. While we pray for those affected by this catastrophe and the thousands of first responders for their acts of kindness and heroism, let it also be a stark reminder to all of us that we may also need to evacuate our homes at a moment's notice. Are you prepared for a large earthquake? That's what may befall us who live so close to the Hayward fault.

Feeling "prepared" to evacuate your home may be different from person to person. It may include a basic list of items in a bag or a very thorough list of clothes, food and medical supplies stored in back packs or duffel bags. Here is a basic list of things we should all be prepared with in the event of emergency.

Preparation involves: Knowing how to turn off gas and water to your home. Be sure everyone in your household knows where the necessary tools are and how to use them. Plan a place for all family members to meet. Have a couple phone numbers of family or close friends outside the bay area for communications (phone or text may work outside the area while not close by due to call volumes). Use text messages rather than phone (may be more successful). Store a small back pack in each of your vehicles with emergency food bars, hand-crank radio/flashlight/generator, sweater, raincoat, first aid kit with extra prescription drugs, hat, bottled water and money (20 - 50 $1 dollar bills and a dozen quarters). Consider storing a "Bug-out-bag", similar to the one in your car, in a closet by the front door. This might include additional items like; gloves, knife, flashlight with spare batteries, dusk masks, toiletries, a change of clothes, basic tools and larger amounts of food and water.

It's not easy to think about and plan for situations we hope will never happen. However, we all manage to do just that when we pay for our car insurance, house insurance, health and life insurance. Take a moment to consider how much you spend on insurance each year. Now, consider spending $100 or $200 to outfit your family with emergency supplies which would insure a little comfort and safety in the event or an emergency.

St. James' Disaster Preparedness Team

Another Way to Pay Your Pledge

St. James' has a way to allow you to pay your pledge with stock. You benefit doubly with this transaction:

1. If you use appreciated stock, you do not have to pay capital gains on the sale of the stock.
2. You receive an income tax write off for your charitable deduction.

St. James' has an account with Charles Schwab that will accept your stock. The treasurer will then sell the stock and move the money into the Operating checking account. You will receive credit on your pledge statement for the average price on the day the stock transfers into the Schwab account. In order for the funds to be available before the end of the year, all stock transfers need to be completed by December 15th. For details on how to do the stock transfer, contact Lynn Locher at treasurer@saintj.com.

Thank you. Lynn Locher

St. James' 150th Celebration Book Sale

The *Gardening & Cooking* book, *The Historic Windows of St. James'* book and beautiful bookmarks (featuring the stained glass windows in the little church) are now on sale. Advance sales are now being taken for the history book of St. James'.

Books will be sold in the Parish Hall after the 8:00am and 10:30am service for the next few weeks. They will also be sold during the 150th celebration on Sunday, Nov. 5th.

If you are interested in purchasing any or all of these books you can contact Patty Lacy, Jim Cunningham or John Maloney directly. MasterCard, cash and checks are accepted. When paying by check, please make check payable to St. James' Episcopal Church and in the memo line of check indicate "Books".

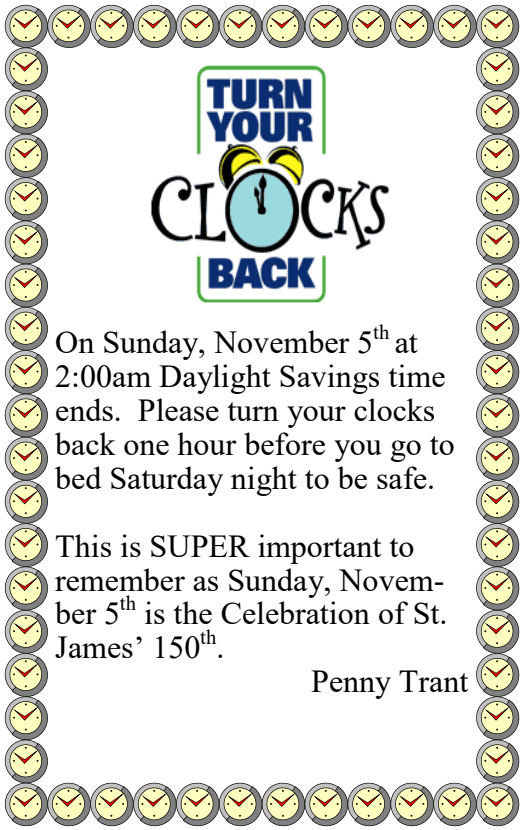
There are a limited number of books being printed and you don't want to miss out on having these 150th anniversary books and books marks, (created by St. James' parishioners for your collection. These books will make beautiful Christmas gifts or a lovely addition to your own special book collection.

St. James' 150th Celebration Committee

Financial Summary
September 2017

Fund Balances	9/30/2016	9/30/2017
Operating Fund	$58,333.21	$ 76,146.71
Building Fund	$28,751.15	$ 34,063.31
Pledges Budgeted	$194,998.00	$ 224,276.99
Pledges Paid	$192,891.90	$ 233,236.21
Unpledged Contributions	$6,642.00	$ 7,929.30
Other Op Income*	$17,231.55	$ 13,820.10
Total Operating Income	$216,765.45	$ 254,985.61
Total Operating Expenses	$207,864.06	$ 228,250.42
Income less Expenses	$8,901.39	$ 26,735.19

NOTE: The balance contains $6,000 for the Building Fund and $7,100 for Future Staff. These funds will be transferred to Building and Special Interest in December..



On Sunday, November 5th at 2:00am Daylight Savings time ends. Please turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night to be safe.

This is SUPER important to remember as Sunday, November 5th is the Celebration of St. James' 150th.

Penny Trant

Blessing of the Animals 2017

Feast of St. Francis ~ October 1sr

Photos by: Bob Bynum

Las Posadas Celebration

Sunday December 3

5-7pm on the St James' campus

Don't miss out on this highlight of the Advent season featuring the procession of Mary and Joseph around the St. James' campus, singing of seasonal songs and carols, hearing traditional music, piñatas for the kids, and sharing food and fellowship with your friends at St. James'.

Traditional tamales and side dishes are served.

A free-will donation of $10 per person 10 years and older is suggested.

Sign-up in the Parish Hall or at saintj.com by Sunday November 26 – Capacity is limited to 100

Vestry Meeting Highlights October 2017

After sharing God moments and a meal provided by Katie, the meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Bruce updated the vestry about the tenting of the little church and the installation of the no name window which has been removed to add the inscription. There is damage to the wall behind the altar which will be assessed after the tent has been removed. A buildings and grounds calendar of maintenance to be done was developed by Dave Nelson and presented by Bruce.

We practiced our stewardship presentations at announcement time during church services. Then Lori presented an Eagle project to put in sprinklers on the front lawn and replace the sod. We will contact the City of Fremont about becoming a disaster center as we already have a few ham radio operators, kitchen, sanctuary and CERT trained parishioners. Finally, after accepting the ministry, financial and rector reports, we received a deanery report from Scott.

The meeting closed and we celebrated compline.

Submitted by: Vivienne Paratore

Christmas at Patterson House

Once again we will decorate a room at the historic Patterson House at Ardenwood for Christmas. It's a lot of fun and a great way to bring out name into the wider community. We will decorate either November 19th or December 3rd after the 10:30am service. More info to follow.

Please contact Laura Winter if you are interested in joining in on the fun.

Laura Winter

Celebrating St. James' 150th

To continue St. James' 150 Year Celebration, there is a display of historical items in the Fremont Main Library. It is located in the atrium (front door area). There is also a larger display at the Museum of Local History located at 190 Anza Street, also in Fremont. It is open **Wednesdays** and **Fridays, 10:00am-400pm** and **every second week-end from 10:00am-4:00pm.**

Patty Lacy

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

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Kenny,

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Ron, Sarah, Mary Jo, Jerry Joe, Iva, Melvin, Andy, Adrienne, Eddy, Griggs family and friends, Alice, and family, Byron and family, Diane, Dorothy, Ann, Mark, Marnie

For Those Who are Traveling: Bobbie, Louise

For Families Expecting Children: Jeffrey and Erica , Taylor and Cory

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Sylvia, Nailah, Eugene, Liz, Karen

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

November Birthdays

11/01 Jino Joseph
Amy Locher
11/07 Nat Bryant
11/10 Yvonne Archer
11/12 Eric Caron
11/17 Alberto Verdin
Travis Koonze
11/18 John Maloney
11/19 Gail Blalock
11/22 Karen Watkins
Andrew Paratore
11/25 John Paratore
11/27 Marie Verdin
Andrea Ramsamy
11/29 Judy Peeler
Don Rose
Rick Spaulding
Raelene Ramsamy
11/30 Nancy Svenson
Rebecca Fuller

November Anniversaries

11/01 Donald Razzolini & Michael Aquino
11/03 Marco & Raelene Ramsamy
11/24 Tom & Gail Blalock
11/27 Ralph & Lynn Locher

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**

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: 8:30AM-12:30PM

STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector…….lori@saintj.com
The Rev. Anna Horen, Associate Rector
……..anna@saintj.com
Jan Scrutton, Children's Minister…....jan@saintj.com
Andrea Ramsamy, 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
John Butterfield
Ashley Francis
John Kimber
Evelyn Martinez
Kimberley Patton
Katie Porter
Penny Trant
Scott Whitaker

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

***The Window* Staff**

Ralph Locher
Katie Porter
Penny Trant
Laura Winter

Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:
Janet Fischer

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