The Window

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

Called to serve in new and loving ways

February 2018

Connection, Contempt and Covenant

February 5th will mark two years since I adopted Bianca, my cat. She's a Siamese-tabby mix who was about 10 months old when I got her from the East Bay SPCA in Dublin. Like many young Siamese she was white except for her brown "points," - which explains the name I gave her - but is now more tawny with faint tabby stripes. I began to think about getting a new pet during the two years Bob was "commuting" to his job with HP in Houston. Our dog, Audrey, a Lhasa Apso who ruled as Queen of the House for about 11 years, was in failing health, and wasn't able to provide much companionship for my weeknight and occasional weekend loneliness. I knew she would not tolerate another dog but had never had a problem with cats. We've always adopted our pets, so I started checking websites. When I finally met Bianca, it was love at first sight. She immediately began brushing up against me and nuzzling my hand. Being just the kind of affectionate cat I was looking for, I talked it over with Bob, and brought her home a few days later. She helped with my loneliness until Bob was transferred to HP's Fremont location, and was a great comfort when we had to say farewell to Audrey. While she has her rambunctious moments, she remains a sweet and affectionate kitty, with a great need for connection with us, and a cuddle with her never fails to restore my mood.

The need for connection is a universal one in creation, most obvious in humans and animals, but, I believe, not exclusive to them. God's very self - the Three-In-One mystery we call the Trinity and struggle to understand - is anchored in community and connectedness. Much of the world's well-being depends on how widely we cast our net of connection. If we cast our net freely, we will be more inclusive, more open to seeing commonality rather than differences, and less able to make anyone or anything "other." It is when we are unable to do this that we inflict our greatest tragedies on each other and creation. I need give no examples; history is chock-full of them.

We often think of hate as the opposite of love, but many have suggested it is not so. Lately, much attention has been given to the concept of contempt, and the destructive way it operates, probably in reaction to the deteriorating tone of our public discourse. While the "hot" reaction of hate implies a certain level of engagement with another, contempt is a much colder emotion. Like disgust, contempt is a refusal to engage at all, a complete rejection of any common ground and therefore any basis for connection. The object of our contempt is entirely "other," and therefore not worthy of our time, energy, and certainly unworthy of our respect and compassion. A recent study targeted contempt as the biggest predictor of divorce. Angry exchanges are normal, even healthy if both parties "fight fair," but the connection-destroying power of contempt is very difficult to repair.

By the time you read this, Lent will be very much on the horizon. As you've probably heard in many Lenten homilies, it is a time in which we give attention to the promises made at our baptism and how well we live up to them. The Baptismal

(Connect, Contempt and Covenant continued on page 2)

(Connect, Contempt and Covenant continued from page 1)

Covenant, found in the Prayerbook on pp. 304-305, is all about our connectedness with God and one another, and how to repair and maintain those all-important connections with God's help. There is no room here for contempt of any kind - all of God's creation is worthy of our respect, compassion, and care - and our baptism binds us to seek out connection rather than alienation, right relationship rather than rupture. As part of my Lenten practice this year, I will be giving particular attention to the ways in which the sin of contempt may be showing up in my life. You might say I will be trying, with God's help, to "give it up" or fast from it for Lent instead of something like chocolate or ice cream. If such a practice sounds meaningful for you, I invite you to give it a try, whether it be about contempt, or impatience, or whatever you sense your "favorite sin" to be. It will require some focused attention and will probably not be easy, but it has great potential to bring each of us back to our best selves. And we will not be doing it alone; notice that each response to the Baptismal Covenant is, "I will with God's help."

May God bless us with compassion for ourselves and one another as we enter into this holy season, and gift us with greater wholeness at its joyful Easter conclusion

Rev. Anna Horen

How Jesus Changed My Life at St. James'

Rekindled Interest

I grew up among my relatives who participated with enthusiasm in church activities. Seeing this made me want to be like them, however it seemed like there was always other activities that drew me away from this desire.

As a teenager, I joined St. Anthony's Group and the youth choir at my local catholic church for a short while before my departure to boarding school. The saying that "God works in mysterious ways" had more meaning to me in 2011. That year Reverend Lori Walton ministered to my family in a time of sorrow. Fortunately, her generosity to make herself available to my family and St. James' parishioners rekindled my interest to volunteer my time to the church. Since then, I have joined the church choir, the Disaster Preparedness Team and am serving as a vestry member.

Ultimately, Jesus changed my life at St. James' through the actions of Reverend Lori Walton. Therefore, I hope she changes your life as well and gets you motivated to participate in the many activities St. James has to offer.

Josephine Amadi
Vestry member

Lenten Soup Supper and Program:
Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

Please join Faith Formation as we present this gentle program from the Society of St. John the Evangelist as we explore the meaning of God's love and the meaning of the incarnation. The themes for each week are:

God is Love (MON., Feb. 12th)
The Word Became Flesh (TUES., Feb. 20th)
Close to the Father's Heart (TUES., Feb. 27th)
I Have Called You Friends (TUES., March 6th)
Abide in Me (TUES., March 13th)
We Declare to You (TUES. March 20th)

You notice that there are SIX weeks rather than our usual five. This year, **the program will begin on MONDAY, February 12th** (the day before Shrove Tuesday) and continue on TUESDAYS, February 20th, 27th, March 6th, 13th, 20th. Each participant will receive a prayer journal that goes with the program. We hope you will use it every day during Lent.

Our traditional Soup Supper begins at 6:00pm, and the program will run 6:30pm - 8pm. Please sign up in the Parish Hall. Thank you.

Janet Fischer, Faith Formation

Wills, Trusts, Power of Attorney?

The Endowment Board would like to sponsor a seminar led by a professional for Parishioners who would like to have a will, trust and/or power of attorney drawn up for them. The seminar would be the introduction by the professional that may lead to the documents being drawn up for the parishioner(s). The seminar would be free, and the drawing-up of the documents would be charged for based on what document(s) would be needed. If you are interested, the seminar will take place after April 15th into early May.

Contact an Endowment Board Member if you are interested – Cathy Knotts, Jeanne Morris, Scott Whitaker or Jino Joseph.

Submitted by: Bruce Roberts

Happy Valentine's Day!!!!

TCIC Anti-Hate Statement

At our January 5th meeting, the Tri-City Interfaith Council unanimously approved the following "Anti-Hate Statement:"

As a grassroots collection of people from many spiritual traditions, we want to clearly state that our faith traditions call us to recognize all people as equal and sacred. We reject racism, bigotry, and hatred.

When expressions of white supremacy, Antisemitism, neo-Nazi ideology, Islamophobia, hatred against ethnic minorities, and other forms of oppression make headlines, we must stand firmly against these exhibitions of hate. The Nazi swastika, the Ku Klux Klan hood, and the Confederate flag are symbols that have no place in American society.

While we denounce violence in any form by any group, we reject suggestions of the moral equivalency of groups that promote white supremacy and hatred of all kinds with those who oppose such values and protest against them.

We praise the many groups that are working in our community and across our country to overcome division and build understanding, whether it is among people of different races, faiths, sexual orientations, gender identities, or gender expressions; between police officers and community members; or within our schools.

All our faiths are grounded in the common value of compassion. We affirm fair treatment for all and the centrality of "loving our neighbors as ourselves". Prejudice, animosity, or violence against any group of people is completely antithetical to our religious principles. We promote our national values which declare that we are one nation with "liberty and justice for all."

We call on all people of good will to work together for the common good and honor the contributions of all individuals. Rather than be divided by our differences, let us be enriched by our diversity.

We also voted to return to monthly themes for each fourth Thursday Vigil/Rally rather than a single "We Are One" theme. The themes are determined by the council in response to particular areas of social concern. January's theme was, United Against Hate," and the vigil/rally was held on Thursday, January 25th from 5:00 - 6:00pm at the corner of Walnut and Paseo Padre in Fremont.

I am honored to be the parish representative to such an active and effective group.

Rev. Anna Horen

Available for Lunch

Are you available for lunch Sunday, February 25th?

Come celebrate the Lunar New Year (Year of the Dog) with us while enjoying some delicious Chinese food at Newark Buffet on Sunday, February 25th at noon. You pay for your own meal at the event - cost is $21 per person (beverages such as tea, soda or beer additional). A sign up sheet is in the parish hall. Feel free to invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for some great food and fellowship. Lunar New Year is an annual favorite!

If you have any questions or need a ride, please contact Sylvia at 510-552-6549.

Available for Lunch Ministry
Sylvia Ma and Meg Amouroux

QUIET DAY @STJ
March 10, 2018

Would you like to take a break for just one day to step out of the busyness of life? This day in Lent offers you a chance to rest, reflect, meditate and pray. This day will include talks by Professor Joseph Neary, retired from the University of Miami School of Medicine, where he was a lecturer and researcher in the Departments of Pathology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and the Neuroscience Program. He will give two short talks on the positive effects of meditation on the brain and how this enhances our health and well-being. He has given talks at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, the Villa Maria Retreat Center, the Palo Alto Area Bar Association, and various other parishes and groups.

Between these two short talks will be times of silence, meditation, prayer, walking the labyrinth, silent hand work (such as crochet or knitting) that is meditative for you, and journaling. Beverages and snacks provided; please BRING A BAG LUNCH. See the Agenda and the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.

Janet Fischer, Faith Formation

Sacred Space Snippet

Sacred Space is a ministry of the Southern Alameda County Deanery. St. James', along with the other parishes in our Deanery, provide a short worship service and lunch to the homeless and hungry who meet in Cannery Park, Hayward, every Sunday afternoon at 1:00pm. St. James' provides lunch on the 4th Sunday of each month, rain or shine. We also contribute toiletries, socks, coats, and whatever else may be needed throughout the year. We welcome your participation. Please check the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall to see what you might provide, and we encourage you to attend a service or two. It is very rewarding, and often a lot of fun.

"Sacred Space has a special place in my heart. I look forward to the time we spend with our Sacred Space family. We worship together, share stories, have lunch and we have built good relationships with many of the people. Through donations of clothing, personal care items and food by our Parish and the community, we are able to continue this much needed work. I am very proud that St. James' continues to support this wonderful ministry."
~Penny Trant

Janet Fischer

PLEASE NOTE:

The St. James' Office will be closed in Celebration of Presidents' Day, February 19th.

Donate to the Endowment Fund?

This past year the Endowment Board received donations of $7400. That money increases the principal in the Endowment Fund. From the increase in appreciation and from interest accrued, the Endowment Board distributes money to St. James', to the Memorial Garden Fund and to the Little Church Fund if they choose to accept it. That money must be spent for projects over and above normal operating costs.

Why have people donated to the Endowment Fund? Sometimes a gift may be made to a specific fund such as the Little Church because one has worshiped there. Often donations come in as a memorial to a loved one and may be specified for a particular fund or not. One may give a special gift in recognition of someone.

What sorts of gifts can one give? Cash is good. But more creatively, did you know you can make St. James' Endowment Fund the beneficiary of a 401(K) or IRA.? Just call the number on your monthly statement and ask for a "Change of Beneficiary" form. Or… Another way would be to make the Fund the beneficiary of the Life Insurance Policy. Or…one can make a bequest to the Endowment Fund in one's will.

The great thing about the Endowment Fund is that the Fund gives back in perpetuity. Recently the economy has been strong and distributions have been strong as a result. Since we cannot touch the principal, only the appreciation and interest, in years when the economy is slow, the Board cannot give out the principal. But when the economy is strong, the Church benefits as it will this year.

Questions? Contact the Endowment Board members – Cathy Knotts, Jino Joseph, Jeanne Morris, Scott Whitaker or Bruce Roberts.

Bruce Roberts
Endowment Board

Outreach Opportunity

St. James' has two teams that provide, prepare and serve dinner to the homeless residents of Sunrise Village on Brown Road in Fremont. Sunrise Village is part of Abode Services to end homelessness.

The team that serves the third Saturday on even months is in need of more members. We meet at the shelter at 3:30 pm to prepare and cook the food while enjoying each other's company. We serve dinner to the residents at 5:45pm.

After the residents are served, our group eats together and then puts away any leftover food. We are usually done by 7:00pm. The residents clean up the dishes and pans. Each person contributes $10.00 towards the purchase of food. We take turns buying food and choosing the menu.

We welcome singles, couples and families with children 13 years or older. This is an opportunity for high school students to obtain service hours.

Please contact Lynn Locher by email at lelocher@comcast.net or 510-792-2248 if you are interested.

Lynn Locher

Pancake Supper

Please plan to join the St. James' community as we prepare for the Lenten season, sharing a traditional meal of pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage. This annual event takes place on Shrove Tuesday, February 13th - the day before Ash Wednesday.

Dinner will be served between 6:00pm and 7:30pm. A contribution of $5.00for adults and $3.00 for children is suggested. Signing up for this event is important to ensure we have adequate provisions. You can find the sign-up sheet in the parish hall.

The Pancake Supper is put on by the men of St. James'. There is a sign-up sheet in the parish hall for those willing to serve at this fun event. We need help setting up, preparing, cooking, serving and cleaning up after the event.

Please contact at Dave Nelsen at (510) 673-5042 with any questions .

Dave Nelsen

Financial Summary December 2017 Revised

Fund Balances	12/31/16		12/31/17
Operating Fund	$ 49,431.82		$ 49,591.52
Building Fund	$ 33,967.30		$ 49,283.18
Pledges Budgeted	$ 259,999.00		$ 299,036.00
Pledges Paid	$ 267,253.82		$ 315,415.33
Unpledged Contributions	$ 11,425.60		$ 14,559.30
Other Op Income	$ 22,959.91		$ 20,134.64
Total Operating Income	$ 301,639.33		$ 350,109.27
Total Operating Expenses	$ 301,639.33		$ 350,109.27
Income less Expenses	$ -		$ -

January 2018 the Vestry voted to move $7,000 of 2017 funds into the Building Fund and $10,773.16 into Special Interest Future Staff

Thank you from the McCutcheon Team

Our 15th Annual John McCutcheon Concert on Monday January15, 2018 was another great success. We had a large crowd of over 240, with 59% non-parishioners. John McCutcheon gave us another very entertaining evening. Ticket sales totaled over $6,300.00. The prize drawing, with 20 prizes donated by 15 generous parishioners, generated $672.00. The cookies from the snack bar were delicious and brought in an additional $173.00. Not all the expenses are in, but we estimate that the expenses to be around $4,400.00. Part of the proceeds from this concert will go to support ABODE services to fight homelessness.

This fundraising and community outreach event could not have happened without all your help. There were more than 50 people who contributed time, talent and treasure not only on the night of the concert but in the months preceding the event. They wrote, sent out and uploaded publicity notices/ articles/blog; bought advertisements; designed, printed and posted flyers and signs; updated, hung and took down banners; set up email address and phone message; printed tickets; took messages; donated all those fabulous prizes for the drawings; took out and put away all the prizes on Sunday mornings; sold concert and drawing tickets; bought concert and drawing tickets; invited their family, friends and neighbors to the concert; cleared the facility calendar for the event; got contracts signed; signed contracts; booked hotel rooms for John McCutcheon and his road manager; borrowed and returned the stage from Trinity Episcopal in Menlo Park and the extra chairs from Harbor Light; wrote and made verbal announcements on Sundays; wrote announcements and articles for the weekly newsletter, Sunday bulletins and for the Window; cleaned up the campus; put up lights and a canopy; directed traffic; set-up before the event and cleaned-up afterwards; baked dozens of delicious cookies; made coffee; helped with the snack bar; decorated and set up the Vestry Room for the Artist and Crew Dinner; cooked and served wonderful soups, corn bread and desserts for the crew; donated wine and water…; washed all the dishes; cleaned up the kitchen; set up and take down the dressing room; ushered; sold CDs and books for John McCutcheon; created and printed the programs; showed great hospitality; did a wonderful job as MC/announcers; took photos; waited for the sound crew (Tesser and helper) to set up the sound systems, the lights before the events and to pack everything up afterwards; volunteered to be the docent of our Little Church; those who did all the accounting and analysis ...and countless people who offered prayers and encouragements along the way.

Thank you, we appreciate all your support and ministering.

Sylvia Ma and the
McCutcheon Team

John McCutcheon's Martin Luther King, Jr. Concert, January 15, 2018

From the opening song, "A Perfect Day" from his latest CD "Ghost Light" to "Under the Double Eagle" march played on the hammer dulcimer, to "How Can I Keep from Singing?" sung acapella except for the prayer bowl accompanying him, John McCutcheon played for the Club Saint J more than twenty songs in a concert with meaning for family and our nation.

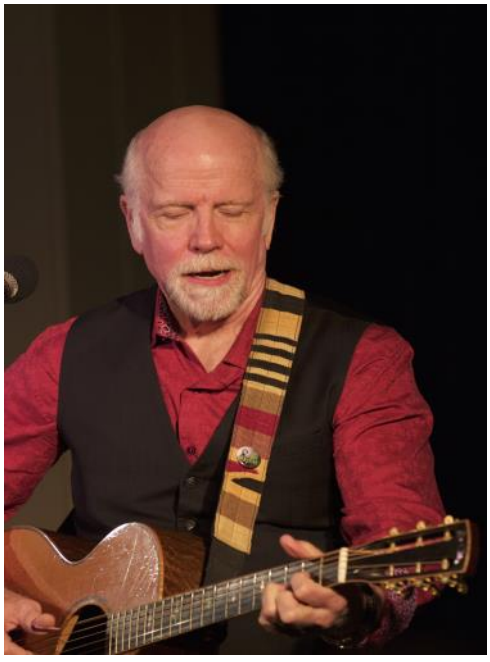
Entertaining, thoughtful, and rousing, John played songs most of us had never heard before interspersed with old favorites, especially after the intermission. Guitar, banjo, autoharp, piano and fiddle he masterfully used to accompany his songs, some very emotional like "The Streets of Sarajevo," "Story of Abe," and "Happy Adoption Day." "Alternative Facts" really poked fun at current politics. "Me and Jesus," a thoughtful song.

A special treat…John introduced Elie Mabamza from Congo who sang Tue Mani (sp.) in his native language, accompanied by his own brilliant guitar playing. Eli is a political refugee living locally.

When John sang "Kindergarten Wall" the whole audience joined him in the crowd favorite. Speaking of favorites, he performed "Soup" with rousing audience participation. "Christmas in the Trenches" brought up a bit of eye moisture as it usually does. His name was Francis Tolliver.

This concert was John McCutcheon's fifteenth at St. James', a yearly family reunion, John, Tommy, his Road Manager, and the Parish and many other friends. Next year?

Bruce Roberts



Photos courtesy of : Bruce Roberts

With Many Thanks!!

Have you been wondering why the church bulletin has been put together differently? The students of California School for the Blind has been collating the bulletins and dusting the pews as part of their work based learning experience. Each Wednesday the students look forward coming to the site.

One student said, “It was the best part of her day,” upon leaving. Another said, “We (students) work together. It is a fun job.”

Thank you to Lori and Andrea for this wonderful opportunity.

Jo Anne Tanaka
California School for the Blind

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, Johnny

Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Kenny

Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: JoAnna, Mary, Pat, Lisa, Marilyn, Miranda, Ron, Ellison, Peter, Don, Rhonda, Midge, John, Jersome, Michael, Katee

Those Who are Traveling:

Families Expecting Children: Jeffrey and Erica

Those Who Have Passed Away: Kathryn, Marnie

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

February Birthdays

3 Mike Scrutton
Claudia Noddin
4 Bruce Roberts
5 David Kem
7 Linda Zetterholm Nelsen
11 Darcia Feeney
12 David Colby
14 Danika Brown
18 Margaret Broun
25 Maresa Decena
Lauren Doherty
26 Scott Whitaker
27 Chris Ma
28 Luke Scheuffele
29 Adrienne Farrell

February Anniversaries

15 Bob and Lauren Doherty
16 Chris and Pegeen Perry
24 Charlie and Vivienne Paratore

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

Email your submission to newsletter@saintj.com by: **February15th**

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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
Bruce Roberts

Junior Warden ..... jrwarden@saintj.com
TBA

Josephine Amadi
John Butterfield
John Kimber
Monique Manjarrez
Evelyn Martinez
Sally Morgan
Kimberly Patton
Katie Porter
Penny Trant
Laura Winter

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

***The Window* Staff**

Ralph Locher
Katie Porter
Penny Trant
Laura Winter

Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:
George Siegmann

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