The Window

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

Called to serve in new and loving ways

April 2018

Helping Through Maisha Bora
A Message from Anne Wanjiru, Program Manager

Through the donations from our congregation and the support of the vestry, Saint James' is now sponsoring two girls for high school in Kenya. Both girls were chosen for the program based on their high academic achievement and without the support of St. James', would not be able to further their education. For more pictures of these beautiful children and a thank you letter from Hope, check out the Maisha Bora page under "ministries" on our website. **http://saintj.com/wp/ministries/**

Hope Nanyole Achieng

Hope was born on October 1st 2003 as the first born in a family of three kids. They live in a slum area of Naivasha called Kihoto, where the mother works washing peoples, houses and other casual jobs as they arise and the father is a casual laborer on a flower farm. The total income of the family is too little to meet their basic needs and thus they live in slums and wear old clothing. Their health is also wanting, a proof that they don't get enough food. Hope had the highest marks among the 2018 applicants, having attained 401 marks out of 500. She was admitted into a good national school but the family was unable to enroll her. The mother searched unsuccessfully for help from well-wishers and politicians. In her own words, she said "I didn't know anyone to speak on my behalf so my daughter wasn't considered for a government scholarship." They received promises from politicians but who only turned their backs to them when they inquired of progress. The young girl has been at home, not knowing if she will ever enroll in high school.

On receiving a call from the Maisha Bora Manager, the mother said a prayer and hoped for better news. Hope and her mother Violet came to the office lookimg devastated and hopeless. However after hearing the news of Hope being considered for a scholarship, the two broke into tears, shocking everyone as we didn't expect it. The young Hope stood and hugged Anne crying thanking God for hearing her prayers.

Hope, just as her name implies, is now a girl full of hope. Her academic potential is very high and she aspires to pursue medicine. She says that joining school late isn't an issue. What is important is that finally she can attend the school that she qualified to join. The school is in a town called Eldoret which is 117 miles from Naivasha. It's a national school that admits the best performers countrywide.

We at Maisha Bora are very grateful for the chance to put a smile on this beautiful girl of Kenya. We can't thank St. James' Episcopal Church enough for this kindness. God bless you.

Miriam Nangila

Miriam Nangila was born in 2001 and is the second born in a family of three children. She applied for support in 2017 having completed primary school in 2016 and passed with 359 marks out of 500. She has since been at home helping her mother work on peoples' farms for a living. Her vision is to become a doctor and she knows she has the capability to achieve it. However, the financial constraints in the family are a big hindrance and she could only hope for God's intervention in her schooling.

(Continued on pg 2)

Why Regular Worship Is Important to Me

I look at regular worship as being on the top of my "To Do" list for the week. We all write or think about our priorities each week and for me, I always come back to my spiritual journey and how it all starts with St. James' and the Rector's gospel each week.

Now like many people, I sometimes have a hundred excuses on why I can't take the time to worship regularly because life will put so many things in front of it. However I believe nothing is more important than our worship community. Supporting each other impacts us so deeply and we may not even realize how our mere presence impacts each other. Just missing a Sunday is a missed opportunity to inspire each other!

I remember one time my son was visiting from out of town and I said, "Would you like to join me at St. James' this week?" He had a long pause and I said, "Doesn't God deserve an hour of your time?" After all, look at all your blessings". He joined me and was so encouraged by the sermon that week.

Regular worship deepens my love and dedication to God's will. Going to worship each week is like recharging my spiritual battery. I try to be kinder, more forgiving in this world and it deepens my relationship with him. I feel his divine presence when I attend regular worship. His blessings are overflowing, not only in the wonderful moments but in the hard times and in the sad times, he comforts me.

An hour that deepens my connection to the congregation and God, it has definitely changed my life

Kimberly Patton

(continued from pg 1)

Helping Through Maisha Bora

She attended a rural primary school where she walked long distance to and from school. Her father is sick and has been bed ridden for over five years. After consideration for admission to Maisha Bora, the mother was called and unfortunately she could not come to the office as her father (Miriam's grandfather) had passed on and the family was preparing for the burial. A home visit could not be carried out immediately in this mood and thus more information will be supplied in due course.

Spring Adult Formation Series

What Makes Us the Episcopal Church?

Christianity comes in many forms and expressions. The Episcopal Church, a part of the Anglican Communion, has a particular way of living out our relationship with Christ and the world. This four-part series, exploring the distinctiveness of our traditions, will take place on the following Sundays:

April 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th,

Times: From 12:15pm - 2:00 pm.

Participants will have an opportunity to discuss, explore, and deepen their understanding of the Episcopal/Anglican faith perspective.

For those wishing to further their spiritual journey through the rites of Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation, to be celebrated with Bishop Marc at Grace Cathedral on June 2nd, an additional four meetings will be held from **12:15pm to 2:00pm** on these Sundays:

May 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th

Those preparing for Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation should attend all 8 sessions.

Sign up in the Parish Hall or **email Anna**.

Janet Fischer

Chowdown Smackdown Coming to St. James'

Your St. James' Deanery invites all parishioners to join in a fellowship afternoon on Sunday April 15th. We're participating in the 4th installment of the Chowdown Smackdown, a food & fellowship event with the parishes of the Southern Alameda Deanery. This event has been held at various parishes, and St. James' gets the honor of hosting it this time. The deanery will be holding their meeting at 2pm, with the Chowdown Smackdown to follow at about 2:30 pm.

What's a Chowdown Smackdown? A team from each parish will present their entry in this cook-off competition, with the theme for this gathering as Pasta. Think of the possibilities!

Parishes will compete to see who can win the coveted Smackdown Traveling Trophy determined by celebrity judges. All are invited to come and sample the entries and vote for their choice for the People's Choice Traveling Trophy. This is a family-friendly event and all are welcome.

Visitors are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided.

The event is free, with free-will donations accepted. Donations received will be will be given to one of our outreach ministries.

Come for a bite to eat, and visit with guests from our deanery parishes. We hope to see you there!

The Southern Alameda Deanery consists of St. James' - Fremont, St. Anne's - Fremont, All Saints - San Leandro, Holy Cross - Castro Valley, St. Bartholomew's - Livermore, and St. Clare's - Pleasanton.

Meg Amourou**x**

Sabbatical Plans

First, I want to thank you, the members of St. James' for supporting me as I embark on my first sabbatical. For clergy, sabbatical time allows one to rest from the rigors of parish life, to focus on study or travel, and to connect with God without distraction. While my agreement with St. James' is to take a five-month sabbatical every five years, the time was not the right time until now, seven years into my pastorate.

Rest, travel and study are all on order, and much of my time will be simply to spend extended and intentional time with my husband Ron. In terms of travel, Ron and I will be visiting Ron's daughter Alex in Delhi, India. Ron's daughter belongs to an organization that works to spread the Gospel to those in India who are open to hearing about Jesus Christ. From there, the organization networks with these folks to find ways to worship and live out their Christianity. A large part of my trip will be learning about how Christianity plays out as a minority religion, how the Gospel is communicated and the differences and similarities between the Evangelical movement and the Episcopal Church. Because we are also a minority religion called to proclaim the Gospel to all walks of life, this will be an exciting exploration. In June, we will travel to Minnesota for an extended stay with family. While there, I will be officiating the wedding of Ron's niece.

I will also spend time writing, reading, watching movies, and visiting the ocean. You will all be in my prayers; I ask to be in yours. I look forward to reconnecting with all of you – and hopefully new faces as well – in August.

Lori+

Newsletter Editor Recruitment

Recently one of our newsletter editors had to resign due to other commitments. So the remaining two editors, Penny Trant and myself, are asking for a volunteer (or volunteers) to step forward to help us.

While the newsletter is put together using Microsoft Publisher, the software shares many of the same commands found in Microsoft Word. Publisher's forte is in the ease of interweaving pictures and text. If you know how to use Word, you will quickly master Publisher. Of course we will supply you with the required formats. Once you get the hang of it, you will probably spend around 10-12 hours preparing the newsletter four times a year.

So please let us know if you are interested and we would be glad to discuss it with you.

Ralph Locher

St. James' Disaster Preparedness Team invites you to a...

PEP Class

(Personal Emergency Preparedness)

Sunday, May 6, 2018
12 noon - 3 PM
St. James' Episcopal Church

PEP is a **FREE** 3 hour class presented by the Fremont Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers. It follows the same curriculum that the FEMA program offers to CERT members and includes:

- PEP training curriculum
- Home disaster preparation
- Utility control
- Fire safety
- Hazardous material awareness
- Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) awareness

Everyone is Welcome!

*High school students can apply this class towards student community service hours for graduation.
** Children may attend this class although it is recommended for ages 12+.

Lunch will be provided.
Please **sign up** in the Parish Hall by
Sunday, April 29.

"What If"

by Barbara Lyon

What if we make an effort to discover what we really want?
What if we take responsibility to develop the skills needed to claim what we say we really want?
What if we relate to each other as loveable people?
What if we take each other both seriously and with humor?
What if we take a healthy interest to consciously and imaginatively encourage each other?
What if we make this our way of life?

SAVE THE DATE!

Women's Annual Retreat Day is Saturday, May 12. The program will be:

Nevertheless She Persisted
Hidden Figures in the Church
Part II.

Additional information to follow.

Janet Fischer

Financial Summary February 2018

	2/28/2017	2/28/2018
Operating	$ 54.261	$ 75,101
Building Fund	$ 34,014	$ 48,821
Year To Date Operating Summary		
Pledges	$ 48,839	$ 54,194
Pledges Paid	$ 52,546	$ 70,857
Unpledged	$ 1,165	$ 335
Other Operat-	$ 3,514	$ 3,682
Total Operat-	**$ 57,225**	**$ 74,875**
Total Operat-	**$ 52,396**	**$ 49,365**
Income less	**$ 4,829**	**$ 25,510**

*Includes

The Power Behind Ducks for Bucks in 2018

The money raised through Ducks for Bucks by St. James' this year will go to the Maisha Bora Initiative for the High school education of two young women. (See the article on page 1) These two young women, Hope and Miriam will receive our Ducks for Bucks money raised this year so they can go to high school in Kenya, where schooling beyond primary school is not paid for by the government. These two young women are bright. They have long range goals. They have worked very hard to get as far as they have. We can help them achieve their goals by supporting them with our Ducks for Bucks money. We have the power to help!

Here's How it works. St. James' gets three dollars back for each duck sponsored, and after we sponsor 250 ducks (as a church) we get four dollars back for each duck sponsored. Each duck sponsored by a person has a chance to win "fabulous" prizes. The prizes are listed on the Duck Entry Form. They include $2000 cash, a wellness package, a living trust package and more, even a 55-inch TV. Sponsor one duck for $5 or six ducks for $25 or multiples thereof. Get your entry forms in the Parish Hall. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, the Ducks for Bucks Race is an opportunity for many people to raise money for good works. When the Kiwanis pay their expenses for putting on the Race, the leftover money also goes to charity.

The Ducks for Bucks Race will be held on Saturday, April 28 at 1:00 PM. All are invited to attend. Watching the little, yellow ducks spread out into Lake Elizabeth on their way to the Winner's Chute propelled by fire-hose water from the Fremont Fire Department – is a sight to behold. The carnival atmosphere before the race gives a festive "air" to the race. One can even win additional valuable prizes before the race.

In 2017 St. James' raised $1878. If we raise that amount again, it will almost pay for the tuition for both Hope and Miriam for a year.

And….there is more! For each duck sponsored you will receive a ticket for the St. James' duck drawing as well. This drawing to be held on April 29th after the 10:30 Service. Check out the prizes in the Parish Hall when you sponsor your ducks.

May yours be the Lucky Ducky!

Bruce Roberts, Sr. Warden

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 1pm. 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.

Janet Fischer

"I'm so honored to have served and prepared meals for Sacred Space. It is so inspiring to share a meal and listen to the Gospel on a Sunday afternoon with people who are so grateful for a meal. As they say, you get so much more than you give. To see their faces while the lessons are read and being thankful for God and his presence is amazing. I'm so grateful we have a program like this at St. James and I recommend everyone attend at least one service or prepare a meal. This is a wonderful program. " ~Kimberly Patton

St. James' Bunny Brigade Visits Hillside Convalescent Care Center

The St James' Bunny Brigade (with additional Rabbits and Hares) made our annual visit to Hillside Convalescent Care Center on Friday, March 16, 2018.

Our primary Easter Bunny, Lauren Doherty, led our group which included Nancy and Paul Svenson, Bob Doherty, Pat and George Vlastelica, Sharon Caputo, Ruth Poole, Robert Lacy, Jan Pearson, Sandra Motley, Byron Bader, Bruce Roberts and Bob Bynum. We also welcomed Anna Horen, to her first time visit to Hillside.

Our story teller, Nancy, and her delightful and chatty rabbit puppet read the "Bunny Story Book." Our visit was enhanced by Robert Lacy and his joke telling. His very own original riddle was "What is red, white and pink all over?" Answer: "Me! after this performance!."

Byron tickled the keyboard and won fans with his rendition of "Tiny Bubbles" and "Route 66." Awesome and familiar tunes!

Bruce and Bob took a number of fun photos of our visit with the Hillside residents. We also distributed our small seasonal gifts to all the residents.

Of note: Members of our congregation have been making annual visits to Hillside since at least 1986. That year we visited on Holy Saturday as well as on Christmas Eve! Yea for all of us! We have greeted and visited with so many residents over the years noting changes in staff and clients.

Pictures taken by Bob Bynum

Thank you to all members of our congregation who participated and made donations to help with our annual visits.

Sandra Motley, Lauren Doherty and Alice Johnson

WHAT IS EARTH DAY?

Ever wondered how Earth Day started? This observance arose from an interest in gathering national support for environmental issues. In 1970, San Francisco activist John McConnell and Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson separately asked Americans to join in a grassroots demonstration. McConnell chose the spring equinox (March 21, 1970) and Nelson chose April 22. Millions of people participated, and today Earth Day continues to be widely celebrated with events on both dates. The most common practice of celebration is to plant new trees for Earth Day.

EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES AND IDEAS

Celebrate Earth Day!

- Plant wildflowers!
- Go native! Plants thrive when they're natural to your area.
- Bring nature into the garden with plants that attract butterflies
- Try an organic vegetable garden.
- Conserve water.

See the link to the Old Farmers Almanac, great tips on everything related to gardening.

The City of Fremont and Washington Hospital have teamed up to offer you**"Let's Go Green Together!"** Fremont Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 21st from 11am to 3pm in the Conrad E. Anderson, M.D. Auditorium at 2500 Mowry Avenue, Washington Hospital.

Now everyone go out and do something good for Earth Day 2018

Gregg Feeney

2018 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Pictures by Bob Bynum

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

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Robert

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Ron Carol, Midge, Mary, Mike, Jay,James, Brenda, Omar, Betty, Megan, Ellison, Peter, Don, Hevdall Family

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Carson, Sadako, Jeff, Nailah, Darlene, Ray

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

April Birthdays

6 Ann Jamison
7 Ian Fuller
10 Robert Bell
EJ Hilliard
13 Allen Krimmel
14 Tim Feeney
15 Christopher Schnurr
Marie Schnurr
Elyse Lovellette
16 John Butterfield
17 Tom Scrutton
20 Ruth Poole
21 Elvin Maina
23 Karl Drescher
26 Michael Hart
Elizabeth Hart
28 Al Casas

April Anniversaries

9 Mel & Alice Johnson
19 Bud & Jan Pearson
25 Wayne & Victoria Krimmel

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

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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: 8:30AM TO 2:30PM

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