The Window

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

Called to serve in new and loving ways

December 2018

Advent Musings

If I had to define a specific moment that I fell in love with The Church, I would have to say it was when I awakened to the seasons of the calendar – of Lent, Easter, Pentecost and so on. The awareness brought into consciousness the movement from one to the next, the changing light in the sanctuary and in the sky, the elevation of a dove, the bowing down to an infant, the smudge of death on a forehead, the emptiness of a tomb that held meaning for eternity. The Church lives its life in these moments, moving from image to symbol, from action to silence and back again. It holds tight to these cycles defined not only on a calendar but in the color, music, and movement of worship. It is these seasons that give shape to our spiritual lives.

The season of Advent is one of waiting with bated breath the coming of the Christ. It is a season as rich as those of Easter or Lent or other. Yet unlike the others, it is the one in most glaring and direct conflict with the world. How does one wait in anticipation while being pushed to get it all done in time for Christmas? How does one live in the mystery of an empty manger while being bombarded with messages of filling up the shopping cart? How does one remember that this is not the Season of Giving, but it is instead the Season of Receiving – of receiving the greatest gift ever given – the gift of God made flesh in the world? How does one do it?

Intentionally. With purpose, and perhaps with a bit of rebellion. Each year we run though the same cycle – culture tells us one thing and the church tells us another and it seems that there is always a tension, a pulling back and forth. I'm not sure it is a struggle that will ever subside. There will always be "holiday" commercials, and there will always be the voice of the church telling us to slow down; an instruction that seems impossible at times.

This is the Season of Advent. It is ours to claim and live in to. We do not need permission from the world to slow down and wait. We simply need permission from ourselves. We have much to do, for our families, for our community, and yes, even for our church. But at the end of each day, the only thing left to do will be to take off our shoes. And if there is no other time that can be found to simply wait and acknowledge the coming of the Christ Child, then let this be it.

Take off your shoes, pause, and remember how Holy the ground on which you stand is, wherever you might be. Christ will be born and our lives will be blessed, and the Holy ground on which we stand will always be firm. May these Advent and Christmas days hold the wonder and beauty found in a newborn baby. May you know the gift that supercedes all.

Lori+

Sacred Space

Sacred Space is a ministry of the Southern Alameda County Deanery to the homeless population in Hayward, providing a communion service and a bag lunch every Sunday afternoon at 1pm, rain or shine. We meet at Cannery Park, corner of B and Walnut Streets, in Hayward. St. James' is responsible for one Sunday each month.

Going forward, we will be packing lunches in the Parish Hall and everyone is invited to help. Look for the Sacred Space lunch table between services.

The schedule for St. James' is on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. The dates will be posted on the signup sheet in the Parish Hall. We do the 4th Sunday of every month.

Please sign up to provide lunch items.

Contact Janet Fischer (jfischer@saintj.com) with any questions. Thank you for your participation in this important ministry!

"Is your God a God of shimmering love, of delightful joy, of deep peace, of genuine compassion, of abundant kindness, and who is truly good?" ~ Carl McColman

Janet Fischer

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:

If you use appreciated stock, you do not have to pay capital gains on the sale of the stock.

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.

Financial Summary for October 2018

Fund Balances	**10/31/2017**	**10/31/2018**
Operating Fund	$ 87,337	$ 91,779
Building Fund	$34,192	$ 32,278
Pledges Budgeted	$ 249,197	$ 270,970
Pledges Paid	$ 258,315	$ 292,978
Unpledged Contributions	$ 8,639	$ 9,648
Other Operating Income	$ 15,605	$ 16,610
Total Operating Income	$ 282,559	$ 319,235
Total Operating Expenses	$ 244,653	$ 277,048
Income less Expenses	$ 37,906	$ 42,187

Why Regular Worship Is Important to Me

This has oddly been a harder article to write for me than I expected. I mean I know all the reasons I attend regularly, but when I had to write it down, I was all tongue tied. Strange, I know for me, right?

So since I have typed and erased and over and over again, I finally decided I would share a personal text I sent Lori on November 8, the morning after the Thousand Oaks shooting and the day the wild fires started. I had just read about the Lamentation and Healing service on November 30 and thought what a wonderful and timely service that would be. I was so overwhelmed with emotion and my first thought was I need to reach out.

So, here goes:
"Lori, Thank you for offering us the Lamentation and Healing service. There has been so much violence, disregard for humanity and just overall evil for a lack of a better word happening in the past couple years……Sometimes my emotions thinking about it all, I just can't handle it and I am so thankful for my faith to help me. *St. James' is my stronghold and thank you for being its keeper."*

Without regular attendance, I would not have this bond and feel as connected as I do. It gives me a sense of security and also belonging that is very important to me. Its not just a building in which we hold services or have events, but it's a place where the presence of GOD is, where I can grow as a Christian, find fellowship and encouragement and hear the word of God.

I go back to when we attended St. James' with our very young children and they would ask why are we going to church today? They would say, I am tired or I don't want to go, I'll next week I will. I never said *you have to go* but that we *wanted them to go*. Without trying to be all philosophical with them and guilt them, I let them know how much going to church meant to us, all we learn, how it makes our lives richer and we wanted to have that same experience. I wanted them to learn the love I have for our Savior Jesus Christ, the encouragement of others in our faith and belief and a sense of belonging to something so very special and worthwhile.

I know God is everywhere and always with me, so why attend church services. Granted we all have times when we can't go, but we all try our best and do what is right for us. For me, I look forward to going to church with Ken and our granddaughter, Danika. I look forward to seeing my church family, be up close and personal so to speak. We are so very fortunate that we can share our faith openly and have a place of worship like St. James'. That cannot be said for many parts of the world.

Still people meet in groups and places where their lives are threatened or they are jailed just to be able to worship God freely, together. St. James' is my stronghold, I feel privileged and so thankful to be part of this wonderful church.

I hope your Christmas is wonderful and blessings for a Happy 2019. See you in church my friends.

HOLIDAY POINSETTIAS

St. James' Church will soon be decorated with holiday greenery and lovely Poinsettias for our Christmas service. You can provide a plant or plants in memory of, or in thanksgiving for a loved one.

A sign up sheet for the Poinsettias is posted in the Parish Hall on the bulletin board. The names of the donors and the reason for the donations will be placed in the Christmas bulletin. The cut off date for listing in the bulletin is December 19.

The suggested donation for each plant is $10.00. There are envelopes located by the sign up sheet in the Parish Hall that can be used for your donation or you may use your pledge envelopes. Please write on the front of your envelope and on the check memo line

End of term III 2018 : Report for Miriam Nangila

On Oct 27, 2018, at 4:22 AM, Anne Mwaura wanjoki74@yahoo.com wrote:

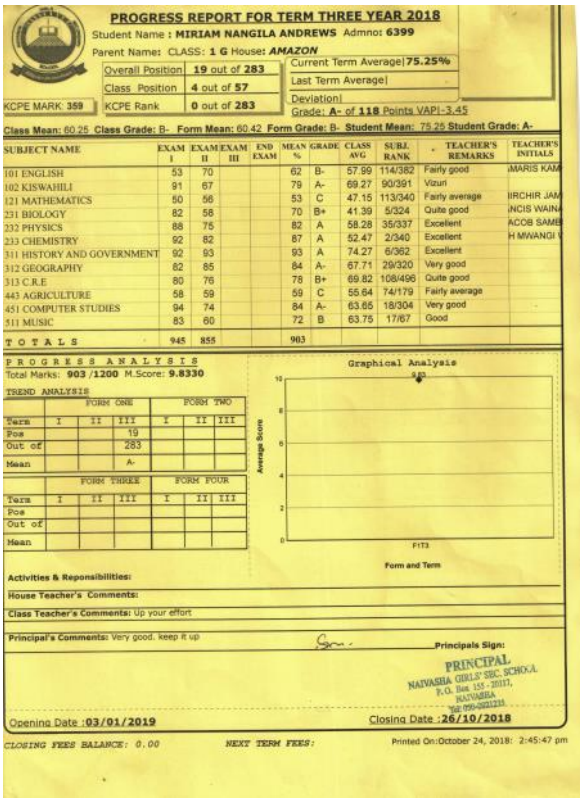
Hi All,

Hope this finds you well.

Miriam also closed school on Friday 26th and attached is her update report form and letter. Its so exciting to see how she has performed so well. I am indeed happy with he positive progress. Its also evident that she had a lovely time in school as her health and appearance has really changed for good. She looked jovial and expressed so much satisfaction about the school. Its my prayer that life wont be so hard on her during this long holiday. Unfortunately she has no phone that you can contact her while on holiday but if need be, she can come over any time in the next two months.

I want to thank you all for your support to this beautiful girl. Thanks for giving her a chance to be in school. This couldn't happen without your financial support. May God bless you for the kindness.

Sincerely, Anne Mwaura



PROGRESS REPORT FOR TERM THREE YEAR 2018

Student Name : **MIRIAM NANGILA ANDREWS** Admno: **6399**

Parent Name: CLASS: **1 G** House: ***AMAZON***

Overall Position	19 out of 283	Current Term Average	75.25%
Class Position	4 out of 57	Last Term Average	
KCPE Rank	0 out of 283	Deviation	
KCPE MARK: 359		Grade: A- of 118 Points VAPI-3.45	

Class Mean: 60.25 Class Grade: B- Form Mean: 60.42 Form Grade: B- Student Mean: 75.25 Student Grade: A-

SUBJECT NAME	EXAM I	EXAM II	EXAM III	END EXAM	MEAN %	GRADE	CLASS AVG	SUBJ RANK	TEACHER'S REMARKS	TEACHER'S INITIALS
101 ENGLISH	53	70			62	B-	57.99	114/382	Fairly good	MARIS KAM
102 KISWAHILI	91	67			79	A-	69.27	90/391	Vizuri	
121 MATHEMATICS	50	56			53	C	47.15	113/340	Fairly average	IIRCHIR JAM
231 BIOLOGY	82	58			70	B+	41.39	5/324	Quite good	NCIS WAIN
232 PHYSICS	88	75			82	A	58.28	35/337	Excellent	ACOB SAME
233 CHEMISTRY	92	82			87	A	52.47	2/340	Excellent	H MWANGI
311 HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT	92	93			93	A	74.27	6/362	Excellent	
312 GEOGRAPHY	82	85			84	A-	67.71	29/320	Very good	
313 C.R.E	80	76			78	B+	69.82	108/496	Quite good	
443 AGRICULTURE	58	59			59	C	55.64	74/179	Fairly average	
451 COMPUTER STUDIES	94	74			84	A-	63.65	18/304	Very good	
511 MUSIC	83	60			72	B	63.75	17/67	Good	
TOTALS	945	855			903					

PROGRESS ANALYSIS

Total Marks: **903 /1200** M.Score: **9.8330**

TREND ANALYSIS

	FORM ONE			FORM TWO		
Term	I	II	III	I	II	III
Pos			19			
Out of			283			
Mean			A-			

	FORM THREE			FORM FOUR		
Term	I	II	III	I	II	III
Pos						
Out of						
Mean						

Graphical Analysis

Average Score

Form and Term

Activities & Reponsibilities:

House Teacher's Comments:

Class Teacher's Comments: Up your effort

Principal's Comments: Very good. keep it up

Principals Sign:

PRINCIPAL
NAIVASHA GIRLS' SEC. SCHOOL
P. O. Box 153 - 20117,
NAIVASHA
Tel: 050-2021235

Opening Date :**03/01/2019** Closing Date :**26/10/2018**

CLOSING FEES BALANCE: 0.00 NEXT TERM FEES: Printed On:October 24, 2018: 2:45:47 pm

Miriam Nangila

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Christmas is sacred, second only to Easter on the church calendar year. The Christmas season is filled with beauty and wonder, and while Easter presents itself with great fanfare and triumph, Christmas comes in on softer feet, quiet and subtle, gentle and tender.

Our Christmas Celebrations are a time for everyone to celebrate that Christ lives in this world, in the here and now. Please consider joining us at one or all of our services.

December 24, 4:00pm Family Service

This service is perfect for families with young(er) children. While we don't have a sermon, we do have a fabulous pageant that all children can participate in. The evening will include plenty of Christmas Carols and Holy Communion. It is the perfect way for your family to usher in the holiday.

December 24, 8:30pm Christmas Caroling

Ready to sing your favorite Christmas Carols? Show up at 8:30pm to sing the great carols of the season.

December 24, 9:00pm Festive Service

With full choir, harp, and great joy, we welcome Jesus Christ, born into the world as God made flesh. This service will include the traditional format of homily, Holy Communion, and candle lighting to bring our attention to the sacredness of the night. It is a beautiful way to celebrate this holiday.

December 25, 10:00am Christmas Day Service

In the midst of the high energy of Christmas Day, pause in the morning to worship God amongst us. This service is a quiet, low-key way to celebrate the day.

December 30, 8:00am and 10:30am Lessons and Carols

The First Sunday of Christmas brings a series of lessons followed by a carol after each reading. It is a beautiful service that allows us to hear and sing about the breadth of Christ's coming to us, and a wonderful way to end the calendar year.

TheVigil for Hunger and Homelessness

This November, for the fifth year, St. James' hosted the Vigil for Hunger and Homelessness with Abode Services. Sadly this year we had 40 names to read, names of people who have died in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties as the result of homelessness and it's impacts.

This year we were joined by the 4th and 5th Grade Choir of Kitayama Elementary School with their Choir Director, our own Music Director, Jennifer Carini. They sang Candle on the Water during the lighting of the candles. Our Cub Scout Pack 163 joined us to assist in the lighting of candles.

Despite cold weather and bad air, 232 people came out to hear the speakers talking about homelessness and remembering those individuals who had died. Thank you to all those who played a part in this important event.

Jan Scrutton

Cub Scout Pack 163

The 4th and 5th Grade Choir of Kitayama Elementary School with Choir Director Jennifer

2018: A Busy Year for the TCIC

The Tri-City Interfaith Council (TCIC) is a grass-roots organization made up of people of diverse religious beliefs from Fremont, Newark, and Union City. The council's mission is to promote respect, understanding, cooperation, and appreciation for the many faith traditions and spiritual paths within our community. St. James' has long been a member, participating in the various activities sponsored and co-sponsored by the council. Rev. Anna is the current representative of St. James'.

The major events sponsored each year are: World Interfaith Harmony Day on the first Sunday in February; the Yom Ha-Shoah Holocaust Remembrance Service in April; the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on the Monday before Thanksgiving; and the monthly rallies held at Paseo Padre and Walnut in Fremont on the fourth Thursday of the month with themes keyed to various issues of local, state, and national interest. An Interfaith Choir organized by the council provides music at the Holocaust Remembrance and Thanksgiving services. The TCIC also co-sponsors events with Compassionate Fremont, such as the Compassion Games in September, and the recently formed Bay Area Stands United Against Hate. The council co-sponsored Bay Area Stands United Against Hate Week on November 11 -19, which, among other events, included the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and our own Candlelight Vigil for Homelessness and Hunger co -sponsored with Abode Services.

In response to the rising tide of hate speech and hate crimes in the US, the TCIC has held two local Bystander Intervention Training events in 2018 with the local branch of the Council for American-Islamic Relations. These trainings aim to equip bystanders witnessing harassment to act effectively and safely to support the target. The last training, which took place during United Against Hate Week, was very well attended, and included some St. James' parishioners. More events will be scheduled in 2019. As part of a large ad-hoc network of like-minded organizations, the council also publicizes other Bay Area events with the same goal of standing in solidarity with targets of hate due to race, ethnicity, religion, gender identification, or sexual orientation. The call to love another is a universal doctrine of all faiths and spiritual paths.

The TCIC is involved in a full slate of events each year to further the cause of interfaith understanding and cooperation, all of which are announced at St. James'. Anyone who has a passion for this cause is welcome to join the council; membership is not limited to clergy or representatives of faith communities. Contact Rev. Anna for more information.

Submitted by Rev. Anna

Save the Date

Annual Summer Day Camp

Save the date! Next Summer, our Annual Summer Day Camp will take place from July 29 – August 2. A great week of busy mornings for pre-K to 6th grade students and our wonderful volunteer team.

Look out for more details in the Spring.

Jan Scrutton
Children & Youth Minister

St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God we pray :

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing:

Doug, Michelle, Quentin, Florence, Sister Carlene Bob, Margaret, Kym, Kareema, Tonya, Grethe, Dale, Renee, Dominga, Anne, Sister Patricia

For Those Who Have Passed Away:

Nicolas, Jeff, Nailah, Susan, Herbert

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

December Birthdays

1 Cassandra Locher
2 John Kimber
4 Rose Hoffman
Alex Locher
5 Rebecca Herrera
6 Paul Svensen
8 Genore Schaaf
11 Mary Frances Leopold
15 Melissa Mallory
17 Malorie Guzior
18 John Butterfield
18 Elaine Vallecillo-Miller
20 Sylvia Ma
21 Jill Buono
Frank Hoffman
22 Karen Koonze
Katie Porter
Bud Spaulding Jr.
26 Olivia Almond
30 Andrea Arsene
31 Denise Nguyen

December Anniversaries

4 Ken and Penny Trant Jr.
24 Joanne and Stephen Taylor
31 Jim and Katie Cunningham

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

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

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace
PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94537-0457
WEB: http://saintj.com

WORSHIP TIMES
SUNDAY SERVICES: 8:00AM & 10:30AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00AM

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

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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
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Jennifer Carini, Music Director.....music@saintj.com
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Bruce Roberts

Junior Warden .....jrwarden@saintj.com
Kimberly Patton

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

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

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Meg Amouroux
Jim McConnell
Ken Trant
Scott Whitaker

Alternates to Convention
Jan Brandt
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller