The Window

The Newsletter of St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont, CA
Called to serve in new and loving ways

October 2019

Pledging - It Is Not Charitable Giving

It is common, and easy, to divide one's budget into income and expenses. What money hits our bank accounts is considered income. What money goes out is considered expenses. For most, we have one kind of source income - our paychecks or our social security income. But for all, we have a variety of expenses - utility bills, rent or mortgage, groceries, entertainment, etcetera. In the mix of expenses is money we donate to organizations we believe are important, even essential, to our communities.

However, not all giving is equal. Charitable giving is important, and a worthy and ethical practice, but it is not the same as pledging to one's faith community. There are some distinctions between the two that are worth pondering.

While charitable giving is the act of giving because there is a need, pledging is done primarily as an expression of gratitude and joy, an offering made to God in response to God's grace. We often donate money towards causes because of a personal sense of anxiety over societal situations, while we give money to the church because we believe it perpetuates what is already good in the world. Often, we give to various charities after all of the other financial responsibilities are met, while we are asked to give to the church from our first fruits, not from the leftovers. It is an act of faith and trust in God that if we give to the furthering of God's Kingdom first, all else will be well and taken care of. There will be enough. We give to charitable organizations because we want the tax deduction, and while we get a tax deduction from our church donations, we give because we have made a covenant with God, and the stronger that covenant, the stronger our spiritual lives.

It is through the Church that we witness and make sense of God's impact in our lives and in the world. It is through the Church that we learn the essential language of abundance rather than scarcity. It is through the Church that our lives are shaped and transformed.

Every October we begin talking about the financial needs of the Church for the upcoming year. We invite you to play a part in this aspect of ministry, for it is through your expressions of gratitude through giving that the Church is made possible. May she continue to flourish under your love and care.

Lori+

Support for the Fremont Navigation Center

On Tuesday, September 10, the Fremont City Council unanimously voted to move forward with the building of a Navigation Center to assist our homeless neighbors. As part of the advocacy efforts, several organizations signed on to support this crucial effort, encouraging our city leaders to move forward. Saint James' was one of the supporting organizations.

FRIENDS OF THE FREMONT
NAVIGATION CENTER

Dear Mayor Mei and the Fremont City Council:

We are writing to share our **strong support for the City's plans to build a Homeless Navigation Center in Fremont**.

Thank you for acknowledging the need for providing services to support our unhoused neighbors. As a Compassionate City, we understand that the current shelter crisis is a threat to the safety and well-being of those experiencing homelessness. We applaud the City's methodical process for narrowing down potential sites, and for recognizing that the Navigation Center is an important pathway toward permanent housing. In making your final decision, we urge City Council to:

1. Strictly adhere to your self-imposed September 2019 deadline for final site selection, in order to meet the mid-2020 timeframe for opening the Navigation Center. This urgent crisis deserves immediate action--each day of delay is one day longer that homeless residents suffer on our streets without a pathway to permanent housing.

2. Choose a site that is best for residents experiencing homelessness. Either site will help alleviate the suffering experienced by our neighbors. Fear, misinformation, or discrimination against people experiencing homelessness are not relevant criteria. By moving forward with this project, you are sending a strong signal that this is not tolerated in Fremont. The Navigation Center should be part of the Fremont community to support integrating Navigation Center residents into the neighborhood.

We urge ALL members of the City Council to show true leadership to ensure that the Navigation Center becomes a reality.

Sincerely,
(Continued next page…)

Abode Services; Greenbelt Alliance; CA YIMBY; Niles Discovery Church; East Bay for Everyone; Sisters of the Holy Family; Compassionate Fremont; FUN Progressives; American Association of University Women; Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Church; Tri-Valley National Organization for Women; Southern Alameda County Progressive Democrats; Congregations Organizing For Renewal; Organizing for Action - East Bay Central; East Bay Housing Organizations; Wat Buddhanusorn; Saint James' Episcopal Church; Tri-City Interfaith Council; League of Women Voters of Fremont-Newark-Union City

SAINT JAMES' ALTAR GUILD INVITES YOU TO SET THE TABLE!

Who prepares the Church each week for Sunday services? Who sets the altar so beautifully, brings in fresh flowers and then cleans up after a service has ended? It is undertaken by ordinary parishioners engaged in extraordinary work. They are members of the St. James' Altar Guild working behind the scenes to ensure a beautiful presentation on Sundays.

We are currently seeking volunteers (of all genders and age) to join one of our (4) altar guild teams to prepare both churches for Sunday services, then assist with clean up after a service. Volunteer time is typically one hour a month on a Saturday for setup and 30 minutes a month on a Sunday, assisting with clean-up after the service you usually attend. Training is guaranteed.

Anyone interested in learning more about Altar Guild Ministry at any time is encouraged to contact:

Katie Cunningham at jimckayc@sbcglobal.net
or Ruth Poole at ruth.poole@sbcglobal.net

Back To School blessings
September 8, 2019

Photo submitted
by Jan Scrutton

WHY I CHOOSE ST. JAMES'

I was first confirmed at Saints' Episcopal Church when I was thirteen years old in West Plains, Missouri. When we are young we always look at church as a social place to have a lot of fun. I can still remember all of the potlucks and summer picnics.

Although these were very special times I think my real commitment to the church came many years later. I've lived throughout the U.S. and attended many different denominations which gave me more questions than answers. I'd always felt a deep spiritual connection with Jesus and God however I couldn't find a full connection with a church. I finally landed in California in 1998 and my search had begun.

I'll never forget entering into St. James' church for the first time. The energy was so positive, to Callie and I it felt like everyone in the congregation was saying hello. As the service started, I couldn't wait to hear Lori's sermon for the first time. Her message was so real and purposeful, filled with love and peace. The laughter really made it fun again. It truly brings a menu of emotions all ending in the passing of the peace. It feels so amazing to greet and hug so many people and feel their warmth and love.

I knew St. James' would be our new home.

When I hear Lori invite everyone to Holy Communion saying, "Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion." I feel like these are the words Jesus would say to everyone too. The entire service made me feel as one with everyone, and all the hymns are just perfect!

I remember meeting with Lori outside church and I felt she had such a beautiful spirit and I never felt judged or uncomfortable with her in fact it felt like I was sitting with a sister. I knew for me to move forward in my faith and love for Jesus she would be influential. She is the most important part of why I choose St. James'.

I started volunteering and giving more to St. James' ministries, it deepened my love for the church and congregation. Everyone is willing to help you take the next step in to deepen your spirituality. If you fall, someone at St. James' is always there to pick you up!

St. James' offers so many ways to provide service to the church and congregation which also brings so many blessings into my life. I choose St. James' because it is where you grow through service and everyone is there for you when life has challenges and also when you're laughing and praying in peace. Callie and I choose St. James' because everyone is welcome and for that I'm eternally grateful. It's our spiritual home. God always feels so present at St. James'.

Kimberly Patton

Vestry Highlights

The vestry gathered on September 12th for our monthly meeting. Our meal was provided by Sylvia Ma.

The vestry approved the minutes from the July vestry meeting (no August minutes due to special August gathering). The vestry also reviewed and approved the financial reports from July and August. Lastly, the staff and ministry reports were accepted for both July and August.

Jill Buono from the Disaster Preparedness Team gave a short presentation about trainings that they would like to offer to the congregation. After learning about the purpose and key topics of the trainings, as well as reviewing the corresponding fliers, the vestry approved to have the classes offered as presented. Elaine Miller, also from the Disaster Preparedness Team, was in attendance to present a proposal about how St. James' can offer assistance to community members in the event of a disaster. The vestry approved to have St. James' become an American Red Cross managed evacuation shelter offering a space to those in need for no more than 12-24 hours (up to 34 person capacity). The vestry also approved to have St. James' potentially serve as a feeding site for up to 100 persons after a critical mass disaster (i.e. earthquake). The persons served could be post-impact shelter residents, ARC shelter staff, or first responders.

Rev. Lori presented a Recycling & Composting addendum to be added to the Facility Use Agreement. After reviewing the addendum and discussing how St. James needs to continue to move towards being more environmentally responsible, the vestry approved to add the addendum to our current Facility Use Agreement.

The vestry approved the purchase of new albs and cinctures for the Eucharistic Ministers. The vestry also approved the purchase of two outdoor speakers to be used for outside events and services, as the ones we had were no longer working properly.

Rev. Lori shared that she is still looking at the needs of St. James' before proceeding in looking for a new Associate Rector. In the meantime, Rev. Bill Hale will join us by filling in a couple times a month.

We ended our meeting with compline in the Little Church led by Sylvia Ma. A full report of the vestry minutes for this meeting can be seen in the church office.

Monique Manjarrez
Senior Warden

Ves*try /vestre/ Noun

The vestry is the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property. The number of vestry members and the term of office varies from parish to parish. Vestry members are usually elected at the annual parish meeting...The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances.
Source: https://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary/vestry

Men's Trip 2019

The mighty twelve spent the weekend of August 15 through 18 in Arnold, CA and environs this year. Activities ranged from golf to a car show to a walk in the woods. Such a wonder, a drive off the tee of eight feet that turned into 150 yards, and it wasn't on Sunday. A giant sequoia that fell over last year, so large that cars used to drive through it, made a noise so loud when it fell that citizens of Arnold heard it some miles away. A gathering of colorful, vintage automobiles to benefit the needy was attended by many people of the area including us. Lest we forget, some of us stayed in the cabin to relax and read. We ate well, either in the town or at our cabin. Birthdays were celebrated.

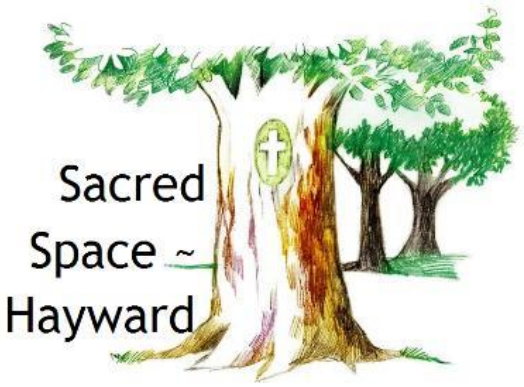
Formal portrait of the attendees on August 18. Jim McConnell and Gregg Feeney in front, second row – Ralph Locher, Mike Dearborn, Charlie Dickinson, Frank McNulty, Standing- Bruce Roberts, Dave Nelsen, Ken Trant, Bud Pearson, Greg Miller, Bob Bynum. Not pictured, Walter Wodka.

Bruce Roberts

Men's Trip 2019

Photo credits: Bob Bynum & Bruce Roberts.

In Celebration of Sacred Space



It was around 2009 when Deacon John Trubina, led by the Spirit, decided to bring church outside to those who were hungry, not only for a sandwich and chips, but for the Word of God and the touch of God's grace. Sacred Space was born behind the City Hall building in Hayward, a ministry to 10-20 people who gathered each week to worship and share lunch together. After a time, we moved to Cannery Park on B Street in Hayward. In 2017, with John's departure to the East Coast, the deanery formally took leadership of the ministry. Through the collaboration of all six deanery churches, lunch, toiletries, coats, socks, glasses, and other necessities were brought, along with the love of God through worship, to a faithful gathering.

Early this year, both the County and City of Hayward put prohibitions in place that make a weekly gathering not possible. So, as it is with many ministries, Sacred Space has run its course and will be closing down. To celebrate the good work we've done together, and to appropriately say good-bye to those who regularly worshiped, **there will be a barbeque at Cannery Park on B Street in Hayward on October 6 at 1:00**. Everyone is welcome to help us celebrate and to give thanks for the 10 year life of Sacred Space.

If you plan on attending the BBQ, please give Marion Palleson (925-577-3977) or Tracy Brown (925-216-5388) a call so we get an idea of numbers. Please bring a side dish to share. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided.

Lori+

The St. James' Adult Choir is looking for new members! We are a fun group of people that meet every Wednesday from 7pm – 8pm, and on Sundays at 10am, to sing praises to the Lord! We have a great time singing and laughing together! No previous singing or musical experience is necessary – come as you are and Jennifer will mold you into the singer you have always dreamed of being!

Speak with Jennifer or any choir member (Elaine, Melissa, Josephine, Pat, Angela, Bud, Bruce, Tim, Greg, or the retired EJ) and we'll help you get started on your way to StJ stardom!

Questions? Email Jennifer at music@saintj.com. Hope to see you in the choir stalls!

Jennifer Ravera
Music Director

HIKING WITH THE ST JAMES' COMMUNITY

Hello St. James' parishioners,

Some years back a young couple started a hiking group at St. James' and I believe they went on one hike together. Lori mentioned to me that pictures were taken and a short article was published in the newsletter. The group faded away due to the leader's job relocation to Texas. It's time to revive it and I believe there are many people within St. James' who would participate, they just need a little nudging. Over the last 5 years we have had many new members attend and join St. James'. Some of the families had small children so hiking was not of interest to them.

The SF Bay Area has many neat places to hike for all age groups. The East Regional Park District with its many parks is a great place to start as well as many state parks all within 5-35 miles of Fremont. This gives folks a better chance at getting to know members away from St. James'. Our campus is pretty busy on Sundays, so it may be too hard for some folks to mingle. Also, St. James' has members from many backgrounds and you could learn more about the local areas especially flora and fauna.

The hikes could happen maybe once a quarter depending on weather and other events at St. James' or your personal family and work commitments. If you have an interest in being a part of this group, send me an email to dgfeeney@comcast.net or call / txt me at 510-506-2303. I look forward to hearing from you and sharing ideas for hikes.

Gregg Feeny

Pinnacles National Park, CA

Financial Summary August 2019				
Fund Balances	**8/31/2018**		**8/31/2019**
Operating Fund	$73,543.25		$52,044.64
Building Fund	$49,431.73		$61,319.57
Pledges Budgeted	$216,776.00		$223,600.67
Pledges Paid	$220,322.51		$214,826.27
Unpledged Contributions	$8,777.50		$5,205.50
Other Op Income	$12,900.13		$12,274.35
Total Operating Income	$242,000.14		$232,306.12
Total Operating Expenses	$218,048.41		$229,853.00
Income less Expenses	**$23,951.73**		**$2,453.12**

The Celebration of Saint Francis and The Blessing of Animals

Join us on October 6 at 10:30 am

We will celebrate the Lord's Day by honoring Saint Francis and blessing our animals. Bring your pet/s for their annual blessing. If the pet is unable to join us, bring a picture or a symbol such as a collar, favorite toy, or blanket. Also, consider bringing your most loved stuffed animal for a blessing as well.

We will also be collecting donations for the Tri-City Animal Shelter that morning. Please consider donating dog or cat food, gently used blankets, new toys and unopened treats.

Recurring St. James' Events

Children and Youth

Check current events at:
https://saintj.com/wp/ministries/childrens-programs/ or email Jan Scrutton, jan@saintj.com

Sitting Meditation or Silent Prayer

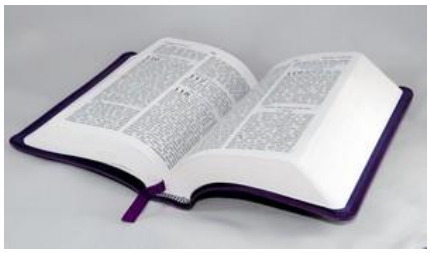
Wednesday evenings
6:00-6:25 pm
in the Little Church
Bell for silence sounds promptly at 6.
Everyone is welcome to join us for this time of silent meditation.

Contact: Janet Fischer, jfischer@saintj.com

Book Club @StJ

The Book Club meets the first Sunday of each month, 9:15-10am in the Education Room. We've been on break for the summer, and will meet again beginning October 6 to share what we've read over the summer.

Contact: Janet Fischer, jfischer@saintj.com.



Tai Chi Classes

Tuesdays 9:45 am—11:30 am in the Education Room.
Wednesdays: 6:30 pm—7:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Classes are taught by instructor Sylvia Ma.
Contact Sylvia by email:
hsiehtinghsueh@yahoo.com

Monday Morning Scripture Musings

Monday morning Bible Study continues into the fall. Our guide is Brian McLaren's book, "We Make the Road By Walking," supplemented by other material. Meet us in the Education Room from **11:00-12:00 each Monday**. If you have any questions, ask Rev. Lori by emailing lori@saintj.com.

The Parish Pantry
Recipes from Richard Reynolds

What's So Hard About Baked Potato?

I never gave it much thought. At the "Grill" course, when I was a student studying the culinary arts, you washed it, gave it a quick salt water plunge, and then put it in a 425 ° oven for an hour to ninety minutes. You took them out, put them on sheet pans and popped them into the kitchen warming oven (185 °), covered with a clean cotton kitchen towel. They were left alone there until one was needed. At that time, you brushed one with cooking oil, and tossed it back into a hot 425 oven for just five minutes more while you walked the plate to the grill station to pick up the porterhouse, and then over to the veggie station where the buttery creamed spinach joined the steak.

This knowledge served me well for forty years, until this week, when I wanted a couple of baked potatoes to accompany a perfectly braised, fat trimmed and skimmed, Swiss steak dinner. Let me explain, a properly trimmed chuck blade steak, braised in tomatoes, onions, garlic and some thyme and stock for a four-ounce meat serving is not a high fat meal. But the former mashed potatoes, graced in butter and cream, most certainly is a red flag for those with heart health issues.

I reasoned that I could bake a couple potatoes along with the braising beef, and then instead of the usual dairy garnishes, drown the baked spuds with the defatted, but flavorful gravy. Served with steamed carrots and cabbage, tossed with a mere drizzle of a flavorful extra-virgin olive oil should be a reasonable "indulgence" for my beef loving, "man-food" deprived husband. But there was a snag. Since a potato will cook in about seventy-four minutes at 425°, I incorrectly reasoned that they would certainly be cooked in a 300° oven after one-hundred and fifty minutes. But…?

When I cut into the still stubbornly hard tubers, they were unquestionably underdone. I quickly jabbed them with my instant-read thermometer and got a 185° reading. A loaf of bread is done at 190, a chicken thigh at 175 and roast beef at 145. What the heck was the cooked temperature for a stupid POTATO? It never had been an issue before.

Of course, I have a book. Off I go to rummage about the piles and piles of cooking references I have stashed under the living room- windows until I find the right reference book, Culinary Institute of America, Academy Cookbook. There is an appendix in this hefty tome that will give you metric to avoirdupois equivalents, the proper proportional ingredient measures for leavenings when increasing the quantities of batter in cake making, the detailed temperature stages necessary to properly conch chocolate and the proper cooking temperature for almost everything mankind has ever put over heat. A cooked potato, is done at 205°… Who Knew? I also reviewed the baked potato topic with the cooking wizards at ATK where they confirmed what I recalled from my school days, and the information in my CIA reference.

So, let's put this research into writing, the perfect method for cooking the perfect, baked potato. Crispy, salty skin, light, fluffy interior and a heavenly delight, even when not stuffed with butter, sour cream, and bacon. Okay, that tastes great, but give 2% Greek yogurt, chives, lots of black pepper and a mere drizzling of a very good extra virgin olive oil a try. Ever consider a fruity marinara sauce and mushrooms, or even a carefully degreased Swiss steak tomato-onion gravy will be a worthy occasional accompaniment for a noble and properly cooked potato.

Here's the drill. Wash and scrub a Russet potato. Not a Yukon Gold, not a Red-Bliss, and not a Peruvian Purple. They all lack the necessary starch for the perfect baked spud. Doubt me, check out the CIA Bible or ATK. Next, poke the tuber with a fork on top, bottom and ends. This will allow excess steam to escape while the cooking lets the necessary portion of moisture expand the starch molecules that will give the finished potato a delightful, fluffy texture. Only dry heat roasting will accomplish this, not boiling, ever had a fluffy potato-salad, and most definitely not by microwaving. The microwave will cook the spud unevenly, expanding only some of the starch, and leaving the other portions dry. Forget the foil wrap too; one of my formidable chef instructors railed at us that only Denny's and boy scouts wrapped their potatoes in foil, not the grill at The Four Seasons or The Ritz.

Now let's get these darlings into the oven. Just before putting them into the 425° hotbox, dip them in a bowl of salted room temperature water, two tablespoons of table salt dissolved in four cups H2O, and then place them on a rack over a sheet pan. Yes, you can put them on the oven's rack, but the dripping salty water will leave stains on the bottom of the oven. As the water dissolves, the salt will stick to the potato skin, giving you a perfectly seasoned exterior bite. Now roast your tubers for an hour to about ninety minutes until an instant read tells you the magic "cooked" interior temperature of 205°. If you do not have an instant read, jab the end of the spud with a skewer. It should easily pierce into the interior of the potato. If ready to serve, brush the hot potatoes with vegetable oil and pop them back into the hot oven for just five minutes… not seven, not three, and certainly not ten. Remove now and you will have a perfectly cooked potato to accompany steak, Cajon shrimp, an exotic mix of roasted mushrooms or a perfectly roasted chicken. It will be light and fluffy on the interior, and the skin will be well seasoned and crisp. Now split it open and stuff with whatever your conscience and medical condition allows.

St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God we pray :

For Those in the Military:

Jarrod, Megan, Erica, Theresa, Mark, Tim, Louis, Caitlin, Emily, Robin, Adam, Dave, Shawn, Ethan, Paul, Matthew, Johnny.

For Those Expecting Children:

Peter & Esther.

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing:

Ron, Julie, Gail, Bob, Craig, Diane, Barry, Bud, Ellison, Nathan, Butch, Peter, Bea, Bob, Omar, Juanita, Ken Trant Sr.

For Those Who Have Passed Away:
Mercedes, Jordan, Andre, Carmen, Maureen.

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

October Birthdays

10/6 Lynn Locher
10/7 Mary Casas
10/8 Keith Westra
10/9 Margaret Rainey
Beth Scrutton
10/10 Cathy Knotts
Robert Sigmon
10/19 Bud Pearson
Sherea Westra
10/22 Samir Kalitta
Alyssa Scott
10/23 Marilyn Rose
Lauren Zarovy
10/25 Gloryanne Bryant
10/28 Leticia Rodarte
10/29 Joan Kimber
Kyler Westra

October Anniversaries

10/15 Dave Nelsen & Linda Zetterholm-Nelsen
10/20 Meg & John Amouroux

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in November. 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: **October 15th**

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace
PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94537-0457
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

STAFF
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Jan Scrutton, Children and Youth Minister….. . ..... jan@saintj.com
Alice Harrison, Office Administrator ..... .admin@saintj.com
Jennifer Ravera, Music Director.....music@saintj.com
Lynn Locher, Treasurer ..... treasurer@saintj.com

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Katie Porter

Josephine Amadi
Bob Doherty
Julie Guzior
John Kimber
Sylvia Ma
Sally Morgan
Kimberly Patton
Laura Winter

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

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Eucharistic Visitors: TBD
Altar Guild: Katie Cunningham
Ushers: Burtin Hart
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stjdeanery@saintj.com
John Amouroux
Meg Amouroux
Jim McConnell
Ken Trant
Scott Whitaker

Alternates to Convention
Penny Trant
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller