The Window

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

November 2019

GOD'S GENEROUS WORLD

I have been thinking about what it means to be in God's world in contrast to being in the world of humanity and the word that keeps coming to mind is "generosity." Of course, we are always in God's world, from the moment we awaken until we lie down for sleep, in our dreaming and in our rest, in our sleepless nights and in our deep slumbers. However, I'm guessing that only the highly evolved actually recognize this reality. Instead, many, if not all of us, spend most of our hours functioning at the mundane level of not being fully alive to God's world. We awaken to our day with a list of things that need doing, chores to complete, jobs to do. We check items off the list and move on until the next thing we know, we are retiring for the night only to begin again the next day, never really being fully alive to this world.

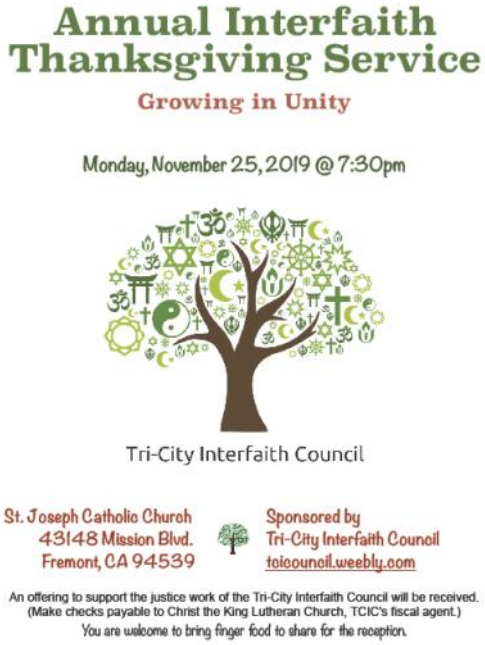
Back to "generosity". When my husband, Ron, and I were in Minnesota in October, we had the wonderful opportunity to slow down in a way that vacation allows. We also had the great blessing of being in scenery that was new and fresh and different from the Bay Area. Our eyes were opened to the brilliant colors of the changing leaves and our lungs were filled with the crisp, cool air of snow just around the corner. In the afternoons, we could smell the burning of leaves, and in the morning, we watched the squirrels and birds play just outside the kitchen window. Across the street, tens of ducks filled a small pond, swimming in circles and taking flight all at once, together, in unison. The landscape was generous - in color, in variety, in smell, in sight, in experience. We'd always been in God's world, but for this one week, we were able to know it more real than we usually do.

In the Bay Area, we don't have the blessing of changing leaves, but we have so many other blessings to take in. Spend the time recognizing God's world laid at your feet. See it in the unique landscape of your own yard, hear it in the cawing of the crow or the laughter of your children, feel it in the afternoon breeze off the Bay. In every minute of every day, God is trying to get our attention, generously presenting us with a feast made from this world - from God's world. Don't let another day go by without recognizing the gifts before you. Embrace it as God's generous offering and give thanks. Give thanks by walking gently and by loving fully. May this upcoming season be one of recognizing the full abundance of our loving Creator, the Creator of All Things.

Lori+

Save the date:
Advent Evening Celebration with St. Nicholas.

Sunday December 1st, 5-7pm
An Advent service for all
– including an activity and shared meal –
to celebrate the start of this Holy Season.
Look out for sign ups in the parish hall, and email jan@saintj.com to volunteer with set up/food.



Upcoming Events
Mark Your Calendars!

Fall & Winter Sacred Gatherings at Saint James'

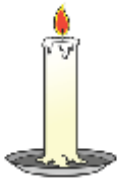
Halloween Costume Day
October 27

Wear your costume to church and participate in the short parade during the 10:30 announcements and trick-or-treating on the patio after the service.

Christ the King Pledge Gathering
November 24

Bring your pledge card to church in a gesture of gratitude towards God and our spiritual home. Join us for a special coffee hour after each service, hosted by the Vestry.

Interfaith Candlelight Vigil with Abode Services
November 18



Too many people live and die on the street, nameless and alone. Join us at **7:00 pm** to remember those who have died and raise your own awareness of this crisis. There will be a non-perishable food collection for Sunrise Village Shelter.

Thanksgiving Day
November 28

Celebrate the many things we have to be thankful for at a **10:00 am** service of Holy Communion in the Little Church.

Advent Gathering
December 1

Participate in this all-family event where we will learn about St Nicholas. We gather at **5:00 pm** in the Big Church and the evening includes dinner. Sign up in the Parish Hall.

Christmas Celebrations

Church Greening
December 22

Deck the Halls! In preparation for Christmas we "green" the church following the 10:30 service. Grab a snack in the Parish Hall and meet us back in the Big Church to decorate.

Christmas Eve
December 24

Family Service with Pageant
All Children welcome to participate in our **4:00 pm** pageant and service. Be at church by **3:45** to get your costume on and help us tell the Christmas Story.

Christmas Service with Holy Communion
We begin at **8:30 pm** to sing our favorite carols, followed by a festive service with full choir and Holy Eucharist at **9:00 pm** to shepherd in the Christ Child.

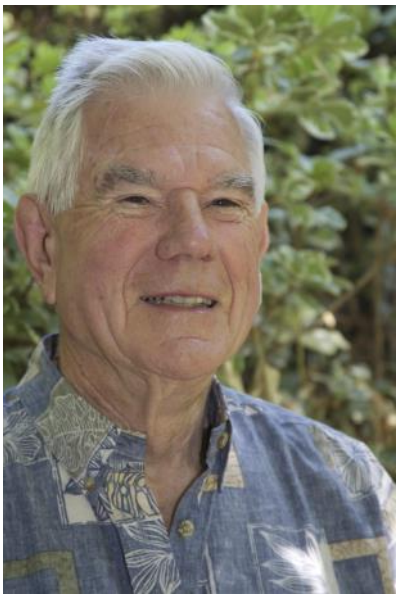
Christmas Day
December 25

It is the Lord's Day! Begin this sacred day with a service of Holy Communion in the Big Church at **10:00 am**.

Lessons and Carols
December 29

End the year right! Join us in song and scripture with a Service of Lessons and Carols at both the **8:00** and **10:30** services.

WHY I CHOOSE AND STAYED AT ST. JAMES'



To start, with my past strong relationship with All Saints' Episcopal Church in Sacramento where I grew up, St. James' in Fremont (Centerville) was the only logical choice when we moved here. However, that was not to say that it was a temporary decision. We knew it was "Our Church."

As time passed, we moved to Carmichael, California, for a short time as a service representative for Kimber Farms (a poultry breeding company). We continued our Episcopal journey at St. Michael's (?) in Carmichael. Carmichael was an interesting place. Aerojet was the major employer in the area and a repeated question while first attending services, was "what department" do you work in at Aerojet? I had to explain what I did, which was always a great "ice breaker" during coffee hour discussions.

Following our return to Fremont it was natural to again join St. James' and its familiar, welcoming, and warm atmosphere. As years passed and we moved to Livermore in 2002, we had a choice - commute over "hill and dale" to St. James', or begin anew at St. Bartholomew's (St. Bart's), just a "stone's throw" away from our new home.

It was an obvious and quick decision. St. James' was Our Church; and the commute over Pigeon Pass with its spectacular views and through beautiful Niles Canyon was simply an extension of Sunday's St. James' experience. St. James' is our "family" and we feel that we belong here. We are not able to attend every Sunday, but we do so as often as possible. Fifth Sundays, with Joan's reading and my ushering are a must; but we also come other times for the chance to refresh with the lovely liturgical service, the receiving of communion, for the eclectic mix of hymns and of course, the opportunity to visit with our "second family" after the service. As long as we are able, God willing, we will continue to be St. "James'rs."

John Kimber

John McCutcheon Returns to St James'

Folk concert by John McCutcheon with special guest, Red Tail Wing, is coming to St. James' on **January 20, 2020.**

Opportunities for you to help in December and January:

- To sell tickets after the 8am service on Sundays, please contact Meg Amouroux.
- To sell tickets after the 1030am service on Sundays, please contact Katie Cunningham.
- To donate drawing prizes please contact Elaine Miller.
- To help distribute concert flyers around town please contact Bruce Roberts.

Tickets will be available starting December 8th in the Parish Hall. They make great holiday gifts.

Sylvia Ma

ABODE SERVICES RAPID REHOUSING UPDATE

The Fall session in school started for the families in the Tri-City area and the need for affordable housing continues to increase. St James', along with 17 other member faith-based organizations, started meeting again in September to review new members and staff changes at Abode and review goals for the year.

During the period from November, 2018, to September, 2019, St James' helped re-house 6 families. Three of the families we helped on our own, and the other three we sponsored with Holy Spirit, Christ the King Lutheran Church, and St Joseph Catholic Church.

Our immediate goal is to rehouse families that have been recently un-housed and while doing that we continue to work with Abode on families that have gone through the shelter and are ready for housing. Many of the families that come through the program do not have many things except some personal belongings. This is where the faith-based community comes in. We collect gift cards, cash donations, and a lot of gently used household items throughout the year to help families get resettled after they have found housing. Abode provides us with a family needs list and the group does extremely well in meeting their requests.

We will commit to helping a minimum of two families plus assisting other families. Harbor Light and St James' partner many times during the year to help re-house families. Our storage unit on campus provides the needed storage when parishioners downsize or upgrade their furniture or their personal effects and want to donate it. We do receive calls from care homes about items they want to donate.

The City of Fremont recently approved the Homeless Navigation Center to be located close to City Hall. The Navigation Center was initially proposed by Niles Discovery Church to have the Navigation Center right next to their church. It created a huge ruckus among Niles residents and was shelved. The whole process became really heated among Fremont residents. The best thing about the whole process is that it got many folks out of their homes to learn how important is get involved with the large homeless crisis in the Tri-City area and around the San Francisco Bay Area.

Thank you St James' for helping us get the needed care for the un-housed. If you have questions, concerns, and/or want to assist, feel free to contact me at dgfeeney@comcast.net or call / text to 510-506-2303. You can find me at either the 8am or 1030am Sunday worship service.

Gregg Feeney

ABODE SERVICES

Because everyone should have a home.

LADIES FLATLANDERS

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 states that, *"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!"*

The bible verse above sums up to me what Flatlanders is all about – fellowship – supporting our sisters as they navigate the serene and at times the mucky waters of life. Enjoying a stroll on the beach with someone you see each week in the Sunday service, but never make the time to say more than hello. Seeing how time spent together brings out creativity and unexpected joy. Sharing a meal with a fellow follower of Christ whose wisdom and kindness has been hidden from you until this weekend. Listening to the life story of a parishioner who becomes a friend as she shares that through ups and downs she has kept Jesus close to her heart, guiding her decisions, and bringing her peace. This and more is what Flatlanders means to me. I personally invite you to mark your calendar for Sept. 17th-20th, 2020 and attend next year's Flatlanders weekend at Parjaro Dunes. It is a weekend that lets me hear God's voice loud and clear. Amen.

Jay Butterfield

Back row L-R: Laura Winter, Mary Casas, Marilyn Rose, Lynn Locher, Linda Nelsen, Laura Ashley-Spencer, Sylvia Ma, Jan Pearson, Marlene Benedict, Nancy Castaneda.
Front row: Cathy Knotts, Dorothy Balderston, Jay Butterfield, Julie Locatelli, Letty Rodarte, Cassandra Martinez.

LITTLE CHURCH RESTORATION PROJECT APRIL 22 THROUGH JULY 27, 2019

If one were to define the project based on the initial goals, it would be something like this: repair the wooden floor and repair the pews and replace the carpet. So much for stated goals. As the crew, pictured in this article, started to work on the Little Church way back in late April, lots of "side projects" started to pop up. Yes, the wooden floor needed to be filled, primed and painted (multiple coats), and the pews which groaned and creaked as one sat in them needed to be strengthened and the finish restored. But what about the choir pews, they looked tired. The font looked tired and it actually had a large crack. The wood in the pulpit and lectern looked dull. With the new braces in the pews the kneelers needed to have their supports repositioned. And almost all the wood in the Little Church needed some attention, freshened up, stained, coated or all of those. The edges of the existing carpet had worn in a way that the new carpet would do better to have transition strips from the floor to the new carpet. On and on.

The folks pictured here worked Monday, Tuesday and Saturday as they were able. Some worked additional hours off campus and on campus to keep the work flowing. Creation of the braces for the middle of the pews required precise measurements and the use of a jig to manufacture the braces. The new book racks, double the size of the original racks, simply had to be built from scratch to match the original racks which were moved from the center of each pew to the wall-side, with the new racks on the aisle-side. Finishing and refinishing of the wood - pews, floor, kneelers, pulpit, lectern, altar, seemed to go on forever. Someone always had a brush in hand or a cloth impregnated with some sort of finish product lovingly coating the 150-year-old wood so it would last another long number of years. The Rededication of the Little Church on September 22 after the long months of having the 8am Sunday Service in the Big Church served as a fitting conclusion to all the work done to preserve it.

Trying to pick out photos of Before and After should have been an easy job, four, five, six or seven? After the count got to sixty or seventy, I realized justice could not be done to the project in a few photos. So, just appreciate the way it looks and functions now.

Bruce Roberts

Renovation Team Members:
(L to R)
Bruce Roberts, Jim Cunningham, Katie Cunningham, Dave Nelsen, Ruth Poole, Marcus Pun, Mary Frances Leopold, Sylvia Ma, Walter Wodka, Laura Winter, Linda Nelsen, Sally Morgan, Lauren Doherty, Bob Doherty, John Amouroux, Meg Amouroux, Tom Blalock

Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on October 10. Laura Winter provided a delicious dinner and we shared God moments. Jennifer Ravera and Bruce Roberts discussed the need for a new keyboard. The vestry approved spending up to $3,000 to replace the keyboard.

The vestry approved the September Vestry meeting minutes, the September financial reports and the Staff and Ministry reports for September.

Lori advised the vestry that she had decided it would be beneficial to have a parish financial committee. Jan Brandt, Craig Gettner, Janet Fischer, Mike Scrutton and Lynn Locher have all agreed to serve on the finance committee. The vestry approved the appointment of the finance committee.

John Kimber discussed the estimates he had received for repairing the uneven walkway surfaces along the Education building, as requested by our insurance company. Julie Guzior had some suggestions, and John and Julie will report back at a later date.

Lori discussed various ideas for a new St. James' T-shirt design. The vestry approved an expenditure of up to $550 for new St. James' T-shirts.

Katie Porter
Junior Warden

Financial Summary September 2019			
Fund Balances	**09/30/18**		**09/30/19**
Operating Fund	132,849.85		65,536.88
Building Fund	51,236.42		61,328.12
Pledges Budgeted	243,873.00		251,550.75
Pledges Paid	253,914.58		239,183.42
Unpledged Contributions	9,127.50		6,915.80
Other Op Income*	15,830.53		14,412.74
Total Operating Income	278,872.61		260,511.96
Total Operating Expenses	244,434.59		244,566.60
Income less Expenses	**34,438.02**		**15,945.36**

Francistide

How much do you know about St. Francis?

Here at St. James' we bless animals every year around October 4, the feast day of St. Francis, and many of us place his statue in our gardens to remind us that he loved all God's creatures, as should we. But there is so much more to this beloved saint. Although St. Francis lived some 800 years ago, even today he inspires people of faith to follow in his path.

Did you know, for example, there are Episcopal Franciscans who live in the world—in their own homes and professions--as lay or clergy, married or single people in the Third Order Society of St. Francis (TSSF)? And that TSSF is an international religious order embraced by Anglicans worldwide?

Members of the Third Order dedicate their lives to Christ and live by a Rule of Life patterned on the principles by which St. Francis lived.

If you feel a desire to go deeper in your life as a Christian, you might want to learn more about the Third Order of St. Francis at tssf.org. Or speak to Alison Saichek, who is a member of the Order and would love to introduce you to what she has learned about living a life dedicated to Christ in prayerfulness, study, simplicity, and care for creation—and doing so in St. Francis's singular spirit of love, joy, and humility.

What is the Third Order Society of St. Francis? Find out more at http://tssf.org

Alison Saicheck.

Blessing of the Animals, October 6

Ducks for Bucks: Nancy Wins and Duck Drama

Nancy Castaneda will remember September 28, 2019, as a special day. She won the Grand Prize in the annual Ducks for Bucks Duck Race at Lake Elizabeth in Central Park. Her winning is the first time a St. James' parishioner has won the Grand Prize. St. James' effort to raise money for the Maisha Bora initiative showed St. James' in first place in Duck Sponsorship until the last week of the contest when two other organizations sneaked past. **St. James' raised $1462 for Maisha Bora**, money that will go toward the high school education for Hope and Miriam.

Duck Drama – Quite a number of race ducks tried to break free from the race and make for freedom in Lake Elizabeth. The wind favored the ducks as they escaped from the boom guiding them to the finish line. The wranglers utilized nets and poles, and they ultimately gained control of the escaped ducks, ducks which probably did not win the race. Big Thanks to the Fremont Fire Department for helping the wind blow the Race Ducks toward the big finish line.

Winners at St. James' internal Silent Duck auction: Margaret Broun- Macy's gift card; Ralph Locher – Wine basket; Elizabeth Hart – Starbucks card; Ruth Poole – Trader Joe's card; Ivy Sankar – Baldie's Café; Penny Trant – Transformer's toy; George Siegmann – Target card.

Bruce Roberts

2019 Holiday Poinsettias

St. James' Church will once again 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 will be 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 being listed in the bulletin is Wednesday the 18th of December.**

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 "*Poinsettia Fund*".

Thank you for your continued support of our Altar Guild Flowers. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Cunningham or Ruth Poole.

Katie Cunningham

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

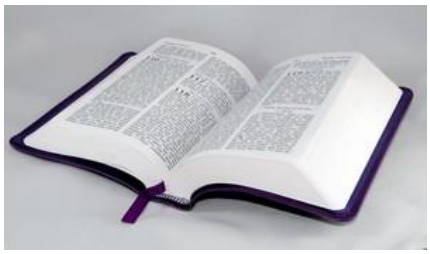
Sitting Meditation or Silent Prayer

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.
Contact: Janet Fischer, jfischer@saintj.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.

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

The Parish Pantry
Recipes from Richard Reynolds

A SPRING CHICKEN IN AUTUMN DRESS AKA CACCIATORE

Now that it finally seems like summer has passed onto fall, it is time to bring a savory platter of chicken braised with mushrooms, onions and wine to the table. This was a Sunday seasonal special we always looked forward to during our monthly trek to San Jose to enjoy family comradery, Uncle Giovanni's wine and his sister Maria's fine cooking.

Start with a 3 ½ to 4-pound chicken to serve four diners. Cut up or select precut packages to yield 2 breasts portions cut in half, 2 thighs, and 2 legs. Do not even **think** of using skinless and boneless chicken for this dish. You will need about 8 ounces of cremini and about 2 ounces of dried porcini mushrooms. If you can not find the porcini, substitute dried shitake.

Soak the dried mushrooms in 1 cup of boiling water, set aside for at least 30 minutes. Meanwhile, generously season the chicken pieces with salt, pepper, and sweet paprika. A note on the paprika: if it has been languishing in the cupboard for more than 3 months, toss it out and buy fresh. Set the chicken aside for 30 minutes. No need to refrigerate the chicken pieces if you will be cooking them within an hour, otherwise put them into the cooler.

Preheat your oven to 375° F. Place your best 12-inch skillet into the oven to also preheat. Rinse the cremini mushrooms under cold running water and spread out on a paper towel. Do not rinse them more that one hour before cooking. Slice them into 1/8th inch pieces just before using. Assemble the following additional ingredients: 14.5 oz. can of diced tomato, 1 cup flour, ½ cup olive oil, 4 oz. of unsalted butter, 1 medium peeled and diced yellow or white onion, 4 or 5 sprigs of fresh oregano, or 1 tsp dried. Finally, measure out half cup of marsala wine (dry sherry can be substituted, but the marsala is outstanding with mushroom braise). Both are produced by Gallo and can be purchased at Safeway or Lucky stores at a reasonable price.

Now let's get cooking. **Carefully** remove the preheated skillet from the oven to a burner set at medium heat. Immediately put the olive oil and butter into the pan, swirling until the butter is melted. Working quickly toss 2 chicken pieces into a plastic bag with the flour. Shake off pieces vigorously and place skin down into the hot oil/butter. Flour and pan the remaining chicken pieces, being careful not to crowd them. If you are using more than one bird to feed a larger table, you will need to prepare either two 12-inch skillets, or use a heavy roasting pan.

Brown the chicken pieces to a medium golden, then turn browning the other side. When done, remove the chicken to a platter, reduce the heat to medium-low, and add the cut creminis and diced onions to the pan. Watch carefully, stirring as needed to soften the onions and begin to color the mushrooms. When mushrooms are golden brown, add the oregano, tomato, and the drained (reserving the liquid) porcini/shitakes. Return the chicken to the skillet, placing on top of the mushrooms and onions. Avoid crowding the pieces. Add the wine and just enough of the reserved mushroom soaking liquid to bring the broth about half-way up the chicken pieces. Raise heat until pan is simmering.

Return pan to oven and braise for thirty minutes. Check chicken for doneness. Breast should be 150° and thighs 170°. Garnish with lots of parmesan cheese, lots of freshly ground pepper and chopped parsley. Serve with polenta or rice and chianti.

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, Johnathan.

For Those Expecting Children:

Peter & Esther.

For Those Who Need Comfort and Healing:

Ron, Julie, Gail, Bob, Craig, Diane, Barry, Juanita, Ken Trant Sr., Floy, Rob, Hiroki, Ron R., Jason, Cameron, Ellison, Nathan, Bob, Buddy, Richard, Kathy, Joan, George & Family.

For Those Who Have Passed Away:
Carmen, Maureen, Butch.

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

November Birthdays

11/1	Jino Joseph
	Ami Locher
11/10	Yvonne Archer
11/12	Eric Caron
11/17	Travis Koonze
	Alberto Verdin
11/18	John Maloney
11/19	Gail Blalock
11/22	Andrew Paratore
	Karen Watkins
11/24	Daniel Pondurai
11/25	John Paratore
11/27	Andrea Ramsamy
	Toni Verdin
11/29	Judy Peeler
	Raelene Ramsamy
	Don Rose
	Rick Spalding
11/30	Rebecca Fuller

November Anniversaries

11/1	Donald Razzolini & Michael Aquino
11/3	Marco & Raelene Ramsamy
11/24	Tom & Gail Blalock
11/27	Ralph & Lynn Locher

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

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

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace
PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94537-0457
http://saintj.com
Tel: (510) 797-1492

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

OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY: 9:00AM TO 2:00PM

STAFF
The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector ..... lori@saintj.com
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

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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
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Facilities: facilities@saintj.com

Convention Delegates
Email our delegates at:
stjdeanery@saintj.com
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Meg Amouroux
Jim McConnell
Ken Trant
Scott Whitaker

Alternates to Convention
Penny Trant
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller