The Window

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

Called to serve in new and loving ways

December 2019

CHRISTMAS EXTENDED

Following the liturgical calendar, the one that matters most in the life of an active Anglican (or in the life of a church nerd like myself), Christmas begins with the great Christmas Eve celebration and extends for the twelve days of Christmas, ending on January 5 so that the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6 can have its due.

In 2016, during the month of January, I visited Israel. Even though it was weeks after Christmas had come and gone and we were officially in the season of Epiphany, the public squares and churches were adorned with Christmas decorations. Christmas trees, nativity scenes, wreathes, and colorful lights were in full view in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, and Jericho. Christmas had come and gone on the calendar, but in the life of Israel, Christmas was alive and well. I asked around as to why and never got much more than a shrug of the shoulder for an answer. It was as if the mindset was, "Why rush it? Let us let Christmas linger as long as we can."

The 19th century pastor and activist Eberhard Arnold speaks of Jesus bringing a new message to the world, a message of both judgment and rebirth. The infusion of Jesus announces a totally different social order, one that reveals God's love to the world, a love that seeks to conquer and rule everything. Through Christ, a divided humankind is urged to sit together at one table, God's table. This is a table that has room for all. According to Arnold, God invites all people to a meal of fellowship and fetches guests "from the roadsides and skid rows." In the now and the not yet, God brings a spirit of unity and love.[1]

The birth of Jesus Christ, God's Word breaking into a world in discord, brought and brings a spirit of love and unity that is not desired just during Christmas, but is longed for in every moment and in every age. The completion of God's work in the world is not yet realized. The world is divided. The world is dark. The world is devoid of love. And yet, Christ is born again and again, bringing unity, light, and the love that seeks to conquer all. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ this year and in the years to come, let us hold on to that hope. And once Christ is born on Christmas, let us hold on to the love that comes with the birth of that most sacred child.

I am not a proponent of extending seasons beyond their set time, but I am an advocate of extending the holy goodness that emanates from each season. For Epiphany it is the manifestation of light. For Lent it is the repentance that turns us towards God. For Easter it is the belief in the Resurrection. For Pentecost it is the celebration of the Spirit. For Advent it is the anticipation and waiting. And finally, for Christmas, it is the birth of love and unity into a darkened world made sacred by the Word of God. And this Good News is not for just a season but is for time everlasting.

May your Advent be filled with the holy waiting and anticipation of the love and unity that will be born into our world.

Lori+

1.Arnold, Eberhard, Essay: "The Spirit of the Early Church" excerpted from *The Early Christians, In Their Own Words*, Plough Publishing House, 1997

Celebrating 39 Years of 6 am Bible Study

The 6 am Bible study group began one Wednesday morning in September 1980 out of a spiritual need felt by nine men and women. The original group: Don and Genore Schaaf, Boyd and Barbara Lyon, Margaret Broun, Lori Hedvall, Marnie Hartmann, Margaret Rainey and John Wrinkle) decided to meet for one hour once a week for three months. We have since voted seasonally and annually to decide whether or not to reconvene. The group is now celebrating 39 years! It is the longest on-going ministry of St James'

Over the years, more than 50 family members, parishioners, friends and neighbors have joined the discussions. We have lost 18 members, and several others have moved away. Three clergy joined us briefly.

Since that first meeting, the group, averaging 10 folks, has met an approximate and astonishing 1,216 times! And consumed more than 12,160 cups of coffee, tea or hot water!

We have enjoyed continental breakfasts - that miraculously appeared with no signup sheets. Our gracious hostess for over 34 of these years was Genore Schaaf. One member even came in her pajamas! And it was a big decision, duly voted on, to change the meeting time to 7 a.m.

We have followed the Episcopal Church Liturgy using over 10 different versions of the Bible from King James to Peterson. Proper 28 of the Episcopal Eucharistic Lectionary became "our" collect to "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" the lessons each week.

We have had three separate month-long studies of the Lord's Prayer. Each hour concluded with individual prayers and the Lord's Prayer.

We tried three different Bible study methods and settled on the familiar three year cycle of study. Weekly vignettes of the lives of the saints widened and enriched us.

Our card ministry signed and sent over 1,000 cards to mark births, deaths, illness, birthdays, baptisms, weddings, old and new vestries, thank you's and other note worthy events.

Patricia Page used us as a resource for her PhD studies of small groups. She was interested in the dynamics of our group and interviewed several members about what kept this one going! We noted we had no leaders, no rules and no bylaws and lots of voting.

We were together when the towers in New York City came down on 9-11.

We learned to listen. We shared deeply.

Our final group is still Margaret Broun as well as Bob Bell, Roberta Tomkinson, Rob Sigmon, Richard Reynolds, Scott Whitaker, Alice Johnson and our current host Bruce Roberts.

Margaret noted recently that she never would have signed up if she knew this would last 39 years!!

Submitted in Thanksgiving: Alice Johnson and Margaret Broun

7am Bible Study Group, May, 2015

ADVENT SERIES

Please join us for our Advent series, **"Beyond the Christmas Card: what the Bible says about Jesus' birth,"** Tuesday evenings 7-8:30pm, December 3, 10 17. Led by the Rev. Dr. Bill Hale.

In three sessions, we will look at the New Testament record of Jesus' birth, including looking into why discussion of his early life is lacking in Mark, Paul, or other canonical writings. We will read carefully the accounts in the first chapters of Matthew and Luke, and discuss the meaning of the first chapter of John in our third session. Examination of each of the strands presented by these writers should give us a better understanding of each Evangelist, as well as a fuller theology of what Jesus' birth means for our understanding of our faith.

Contact Janet Fischer with any questions at jfischer@saintj.com

Financial Summary October 2019			
Fund Balances	**10/31/2018**		**10/31/2019**
Operating Fund	91,778.95		45,140.00
Building Fund	32,278.01		61,503.82
Pledges Budgeted	270,970.00		279,500.83
Pledges Paid	292,977.82		255,348.42
Unpledged Contributions	9,647.50		13,476.10
			15,960.16
Other Op Income*	16,609.78		16,609.78
Total Operating Income	**319,235.10**		**284,784.68**
Total Operating Expenses	**277,047.67**		**289,236.20**
Income less Expenses	**42,187.43**		**(4,451.52)**

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Church Greening
December 22

Christmas Eve
December 24

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

Christmas Service with Holy Communion

We begin at 8:30pm to sing our favorite carols followed by a festive service with full choir and Holy Eucharist at 9:00pm 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 10:00am.

Lesson's and Carols
December 29

End the year right.! Join us in song and scripture with a Service of Lessons and Catrols at both the 8:00am and

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.

Candlelight Vigil at St. James'

It was a clear and cool night for the seventh consecutive Vigil to remember *The Forgotten People*. Each year the number of attendees increases and I would estimate that about 200 attendees came to the ceremony.

The Reverend Lori Walton was the Emcee and welcomed the dignitaries, which included Louis Chicoine, CEO of Abode Services, Lily Mei Fremont mayor and Meli Harmon, also of Abode Services.

After Interfaith Prayers and Blessings, attendees filed outside to remember The Forgotten People. Candles were lit with assistance by Cub Scout Pack 163. Music was provided by James Logan High School Chamber choir.

Ralph Locher

Blessing Bags

As a follow-up to the now retired Sacred Space ministry, we are making available "Blessing Bags" for you to hand out to those in need. There is a basket in the Parish Hall with these bags. Please take a few to hand out to the unhoused and those in need. The bags contain a washcloth, a pair of socks, toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, shampoo, hand sanitizer, and a comb. Please contact Janet Fischer with any questions, at jfischer@saintj.com.

We could also use donations of these specific items. Target has packs of 6 washcloths for $3. Heavy crew socks are preferable. Travel-size for the other items is needed. Thank you!

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

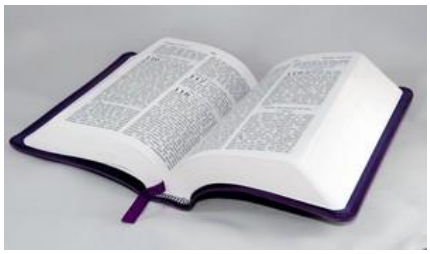
Sitting Meditation or Silent Prayer

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

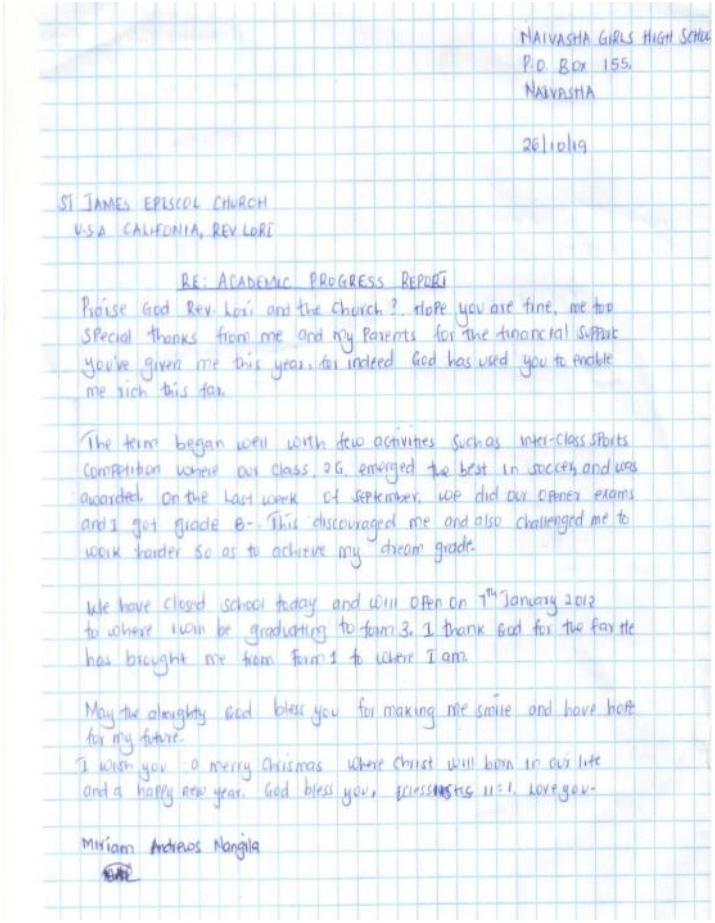
Monday morning Bible Study continues into the fall. Our guide is Brian McLaren's book, "We Make the Road By Walking," supplemented by other material. Meet us in the Education Room from **11:00-12:00 each Monday**. If you have any questions, ask Rev. Lori by emailing her at lori@saintj.com.

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

Letters from Miriam and Hope



NAIVASHA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
P.O Box 155
NAIVASHA

26/10/19

ST JAMES EPISCOL CHURCH
U.S.A CALIFONIA, REV LORI

RE: ACADEMIC PROGRESS REPORT

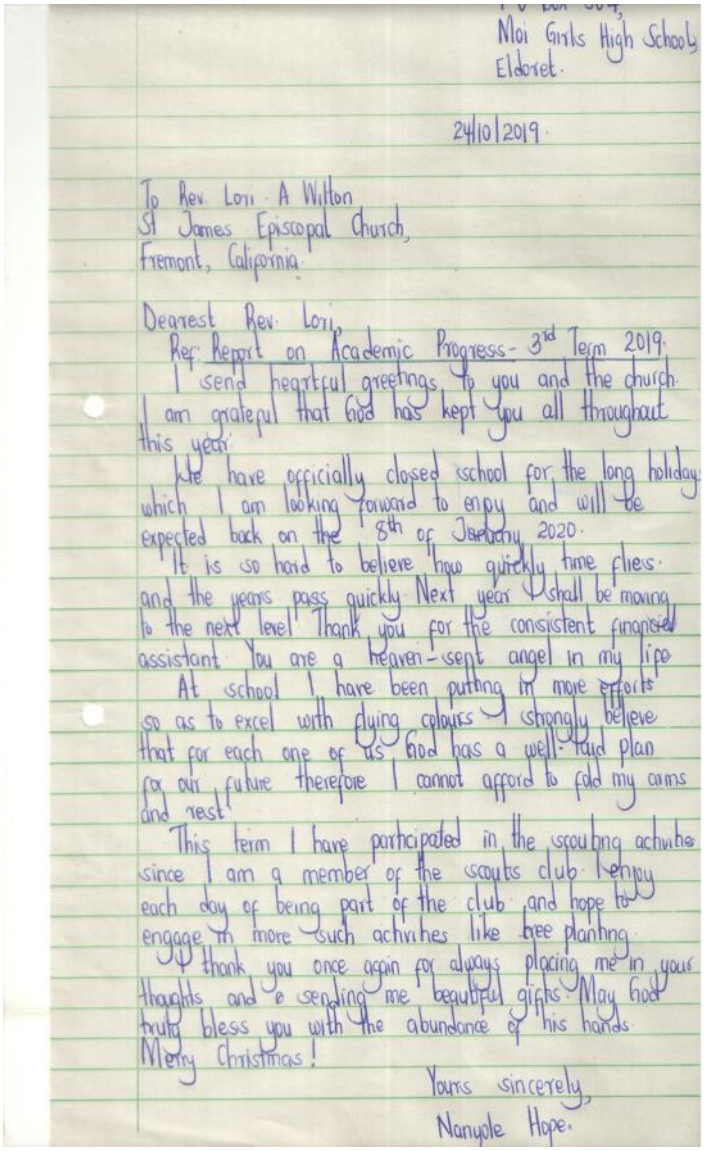
Praise God Rev Lori and the Church ? Hope you are fine, me too Special thanks from me and my Parents for the financial support you've given me this year. for indeed God has used you to enable me rich this far.

The term began well with few activities such as inter-class sports competition where our class, 2G, emerged the best in soccer and was awarded. On the last week of September, we did our opener exams and I got grade B- This discouraged me and also challenged me to work harder so as to achieve my dream grade.

We have closed school today and will open on 7th January 2012 to where I will be graduating to form 3. I thank God for the far He has brought me from form 1 to where I am.

May the almighty God bless you for making me smile and have hope for my future.
I wish you a merry Christmas where Christ will born in our life and a happy new year. God bless you, ~~Jesus~~ I love you.

Miriam Andrews Nangila



Moi Girls High School
Eldoret.

24/10/2019.

To Rev. Lori A Wilton
St James Episcopal Church,
Fremont, California

Dearest Rev. Lori,

Ref: Report on Academic Progress- 3rd Term 2019.

I send heartful greetings to you and the church. I am grateful that God has kept you all throughout this year.

We have officially closed school for the long holiday which I am looking forward to enjoy and will be expected back on the 8th of January 2020.

It is so hard to believe how quickly time flies. and the years pass quickly Next year I shall be moving to the next level. Thank you for the consistent financial assistant You are a heaven-sent angel in my life.

At school I have been putting in more efforts so as to excel with flying colours I strongly believe that for each one of us God has a well laid plan for our future therefore I cannot afford to fold my arms and rest.

This term I have participated in the scouting activities since I am a member of the scouts club. I enjoy each day of being part of the club and hope to engage in more such activities like tree planting.

I thank you once again for always placing me in your thoughts and e sending me beautiful gifts. May God truly bless you with the abundance of his hands.
Merry Christmas!

Yours sincerely,
Nanyole Hope.

A Brief History of 'The Window'

I do not know when St. James' started to publish our newsletter but it predated 1987, which was when Lynn and I moved to Fremont and became church members. Back then, desk top computers were very expensive so text and articles, etc. were manually typed, and illustrations, pictures etc. were cropped and manually pasted onto the pages and the newsletter was printed by a print shop. They could print it on different colored paper stock but only fairly recently has it become fairly easy to print colored pictures. And needless to say, recruiting editors was difficult and still is.

By circumstance, former parishioner Adina Reynolds and I had started to use Adobe Publisher at work and so we decided we could edit the newsletter on our computers, although we still had to have it printed professionally. Now it is all done in house. Another chore was preparing the newsletter to be mailed, which became more expensive as well more time consuming to make sure we bound the copies to meet their postal standards for bulk mailings. So the vestry decreed that we post the issues on line and only mail copies to those parishioners that are home bound.

I want to thank the following parishioners who have edited the newsletter; Jackie Whitehouse, Michael Aquino, Keri Morgret, Connie Rux, Marilyn Rose, Katie Porter, Penny Trant and Janet Fischer. And special thanks to eagle eye Laura Winter, who has proof read the copy for about as many years as I have edited the newsletter.

So I thank them all for their help and wish the present staff the best of luck. I will be stepping down as an editor of "The Window" effective 12/31/09.

Ralph Locher

Paying Your Pledge Made Easy

There are many reasons people do not pay their pledge but most often it is not because they do not have the money. Let me list the reasons: they forgot their checkbook; they were not at church due to work obligations, vacations, business travel, important events and conferences or due to illness.

The best way to prevent the nonpayment of your pledge is to pay it using the bill pay feature on your bank's web site. This allows you to set up weekly or monthly payments to the church that do not cost you or the church any money. Your bank will write the checks and mail them to the church. You just need to put in the name and address of the recipient:

St James' Episcopal Church
PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94537-0457

And in the memo space, enter your pledge number. Please use the PO Box since we have had theft from our rural mail box. Most banks will e-mail you when the check will be sent so you can mark it down in your check book.

The second best alternative is to set up your payments on PayPal. Just remember that PayPal keeps 2.35% to 3% of your payment depending on the size of your payment. For example, a donation of $200 pays the church $195.30.

Our retired parishioners can avoid paying income tax on the income from their IRA by using that income directly from the investment firm to St. James' to pay their pledge. Anyone with appreciated stock can have it transferred to St. James' and it will be sold to pay your pledge. You will not have to pay any capital gains on the donated stock. Contact treasurer@saintj.com for how to make the transfer.

Lynn Locher, Treasurer

LIVE IN CONCERT

World-Renowned, Grammy-Nominated

Folk Singer/Songwriter

John McCutcheon

With Special Guest Red Tail Ring

Monday, January 20, 2020, 7:30 P.M.

For more on John McCutcheon,
go to www.folkmusic.com

For more on Red Tail Ring, go to www.redtailring.com

One Night Only

St. James' Episcopal Church
(37051 Cabrillo Terrace at Thornton Ave., Fremont)

Suggested Donation:
$30 Adult, $15 Child (12 & under)
Children under age 5 admitted free
MasterCard, Visa, Cash or Check

For tickets: 510-797-1492, ext. 203, or
events@saintj.com

A portion of the proceeds from this concert will be donated to Abode Services working to end homelessness

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

St. James'

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, Rob, Hiroko, Ron R., Jason, Cameron, Ellison, Nathan, Bob, Buddy, Richard, Joan, George & Family, Erik, Marcia, Genore

For Those Who Have Passed Away:
Kathy, Mary, Brianne Roddey & family

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) is not listed or the information is incorrect, please email the appropriate information to admin@saintj.com

December Birthdays

12/01 Sue Lambert
Cassandra Locher
12/02 John Kimber
12/04 Rose Hoffman
Alex Locher
12/05 Rebeca Herrera
12/08 Genore Schaaf
12/11 Mary Frances Leopold
12/15 Melissa Mallory
12/17 Malorie Guzior
12/18 John Butterfield
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller
12/19 Donald Razzolini
12/20 Sylvia Ma
12/21 Jill Buono
Frank Hoffman
12/22 Karen Koonze
Bud Spalding Jr.
12/25 Elijah Nance
12/26 Michel Salim
12/30 Andrea Arsene
12/31 Denise Nguyen
Philippa Spencer

December Anniversaries

12/04 Ken and Penny Trant, Jr.
12/31 Jim and Katie Cunningham

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in 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
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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
TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY: 9:00AM TO 12:00PM

STAFF
The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector ..... lori@saintj.com
Jan Scrutton, Children and Youth Minister….. . ..... jan@saintj.com
Jennifer Ravera, Music Director.....music@saintj.com
Lynn Locher, Treasurer ..... treasurer@saintj.com

VESTRY

Senior Warden .....srwarden@saintj.com
Monique Manjarrez

Junior Warden .....jrwarden@saintj.com
Katie Porter

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

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

***The Window* Staff**
Ralph Locher
Penny Trant
Janet Fischer
Laura Winter
Katie Porter

Article submission:
newsletter@saintj.com

Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:
George Siegmann
Eucharistic Visitors: TBD
Altar Guild: Katie Cunningham
Ushers: Burtin Hart
Facilities: facilities@saintj.com

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

Alternates to Convention
Penny Trant
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller