



The Window

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

February 2020

Seeing Beyond the Tumbleweeds

In the southeast portion of Washington state, along highway 260, traffic came to a standstill for 10 hours on New Year's Eve. It wasn't snow, it wasn't rain, it wasn't a big accident that caused the standstill. Instead, what forced miles of cars to stop driving were hundreds and hundreds of tumbleweeds. Tumbleweeds like in the western movies we grew up with. Tumbleweeds are the last stage of the life cycle of plants commonly known as Russian thistle. They spread by breaking off and bounding away, flinging seeds wherever the wind carries them.

This portion of the highway in Washington state is not foreign to tumbleweeds, but so many of these break-away skeletal plant spheres bouncing onto the highway at once was an odd occurrence. According to the story by Jessica Leigh Hester, writing for Atlas Obscura, "The drivers braked, but the tumbleweeds kept coming, and they quickly blanketed the road and piled up between the cars. Within 30 minutes, vehicles were "completely encased," ... The tumbleweeds gathered along a strip of road roughly the length of three football fields, and some heaps reached 20 feet high, Thorson says, tall enough to swallow an 18-wheel semi truck." As cars were covered, paint was scraped off their bodies and drivers were trapped inside their vehicles. Even if they could open their doors to get out, they could not navigate the tumbleweeds without risking grave injury from the thorny and sharp weeds. Eventually, snow plows arrived and workers cleared the highway of these pesky weeds, and everyone went along their way.

I read this story a few weeks ago and the image of hundreds of tumbleweeds covering occupied vehicles, making it impossible for drivers to exit their cars or to even see beyond the weeds, has stuck with me. These days, I often feel as if I am sitting alone in the midst of limited vision due to chaos outside, tumbleweeds bouncing around in the wind. Along the road, a tumbleweed passes

by and it might be a curious sight, but these days, it is as if these tumbleweeds just keep coming, one after another, until they've piled up and I am at a standstill. Have you ever felt this way? Like the world is offering one dead weed after another? Like you're sitting alone in a car unable to exit and unable to see the drivers in the other cars? It could just be me, but whether you've felt this way or not, I think we can agree that there are an awful lot of tumbleweeds in our world, empty and useless circles of nothing clogging things up.

While tumbleweeds blocked the highway, remember all of the nourishment and sustenance given to us, countering these distractions: living water, manna from heaven, the bread of life, loaves and fishes, wine from water, I could go on. We need not get stuck in the distractions of what does not feed us. We are gifted with a tradition and a religion that allows us to connect deeply to our sacred stories, stories that will create community and bring us to the other side of isolation. Stories that will feed our souls. Stories that will open wide our eyes so that we might see beyond the tumbleweeds.

Personally, I need these images of LIFE in my world. I need to be reminded of the deep wells of nourishment within my reach, as close as my bible or my prayer to God. Maybe you need to be reminded as well. May your road be clear of tumbleweeds and filled with the life-giving and life-altering presence of the Living God, found in water, manna, bread.

Lori+



Stewardship Corner

Why I Chose St. James'



A sense of community that welcomed Lauren and me with open arms is what drew us to Saint James'.

It did take some adjustment on our part as we were both raised Roman Catholics, as were our children. But when we became "empty nesters" we drifted away from the regular church attendance and we became what I call "roaming Catholics". Maybe it was the late "Baby Boomer" generation rebellion, but the Roman Catholic Church was going through several challenges that we were not comfortable with (i.e. women's status and rights, gay marriage, pedophilia scandals, etc.). So, we stopped attending church services.

Then on Christmas Eve 2007, we decided to give church a try again. But where? We decided to check

out St. James'. That night Charlie Nethercott was the greeter and made us feel like we were long lost friends. He introduced us to many of the people that evening, including Rev. Bob Honeychurch. When we shared the Peace Blessing during Mass, it was like nothing we had experienced before. Everyone was open and welcoming that we decided to come to regular Sunday services, and we have been here ever since.

For us St. James' is a community where we can feel closer to God, where we can share our joy and fellowship during the happy times, and where we can count on solace and support in sad times.

We made it through the Catholic guilt phase and are now very Episcopalian and happy being part of the St. James' community.

Bob Doherty

PANCAKE SUPPER



Please plan to join the St. James' community as we prepare for the Lenten season, sharing a traditional meal of pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage. This special event takes place on Shrove Tuesday, February 25 - the day before Ash Wednesday.

Dinner will be served between 5:30 and 7:00pm in the Parish hall. A donation of \$5 for adults / \$3 for children is suggested. Please sign up as it is very important to ensure we have adequate provisions. You can find the sign-up sheet in the parish hall.

The Pancake Supper is put on by the men of St. James'. There is a sign-up sheet in the parish hall for those willing to serve at this fun event. We need help setting up, preparing, cooking, serving and cleaning.

Call Dave Nelsen at 510-673-5042 with any questions.

Signs of Life: why church matters

Light | Water | Food | Shelter | Community



Lenten Program Signs of Life: Why Church Matters

This five-week program encourages individuals and groups to explore the riches of our worship traditions, liturgy and sacraments, and the art and architecture of our worship spaces, revealing the full meaning of these signs, deepening our experience of Christian vocation and guiding us toward ongoing conversion. Rev. Lori will spearhead teaching the class. Learn more at: <https://www.signsoflife.org/>.

The program will run **Tuesday evenings**, 7:00pm - 8:30pm on March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. It will also run after the Wednesday Morning Service on March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1. *We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate our traditional Soup Supper on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm.*

Please sign up in the Parish Hall. Contact either Rev. Lori (lori@saintj.com) or Janet Fischer (jfischer@saintj.com) with any questions. Thank you!



Women's Day of Renewal May 2, 2020

It will be held this year at the Dominican Retreat House in Fremont, with a guest speaker. More details to follow.

Recurring Events

Youth & Children's Ministry

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

Monday Morning Bible Study

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 11:00am -12:00pm each Monday. If you have any questions, email Rev. Lori at lori@saintj.com.

Tai Chi Classes

Tuesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30am; Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 7:30pm in the Parish Hall. No experience is necessary.

Tai Chi is a moving meditation that will help you reduce stress, improve your balance and coordination. You could participate sitting down or standing up.

The classes are a ministry of St. James' no fees. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, contact Sylvia Ma, 510-552-6549

Book Club @StJ

The Book Club meets the first Sunday of every other month; March 1, May 3, July 5, Sept. 6, Nov. 1, from 9:15-10:00am in the Education Room. Our book for March 1 is "Unteachable Lessons: Why Wisdom Can't Be Taught (And Why That's Okay)" by Carl McColman. Everyone is welcome to join us.



Back in the Sixth Row, Right Side John McCutcheon, Red Tail Ring Review Martin Luther King, Jr. Monday 2020

From where I sat the show surprised me. From the opening “Rank Stranger” by Ralph Stanley to the closing “Come on People” by the Youngbloods, every song felt like something new. John had fun playing on his new hammered dulcimer and showed us how it could sing. Accompanied by his new autoharp, John, and Red Tail Ring and the whole audience sang out on Bob Franke’s “The Great Storm Is Over.” How about when Laurel and John accompanied themselves on fiddle and Jew’s Harp – amazing!

What a Show! John sang a new, unrecorded song, “Hello Mother,” that touched a lot of hearts. Then there was Laurel and John’s version of “Shady Grove” played on both of their fiddles – it was just amazing! Michael told us that he wrote his song “Last Night Forever” in Norway when he had nothing to do – a beautiful love song.

Old favorites, Room at the Top of the Stairs, Happy Adoption Day (John has met so many wonderful people since he wrote that song), Featherbed (accompanied on hammered dulcimer) rang so true with the audience. “Christmas in the Trenches” told by the WWI soldier sure made us think about the terribleness of war.

This show had a richness brought on by the beautiful, three-part harmonies of John, and Red Tail Ring (Laurel Premo and Michael Beauchamp-Cohen) singing together. Laurel and Michael’s harmonies blended so well – it’s their thing – on their new “Fall Away Blues” and other songs including “Working on a Building.”

The “trio” received a standing ovation which prompted the final song “Come on People” - Smile on Your Brother. What a show from the sixth row!



Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on January 9, 2020. We enjoyed a delicious dinner from Kimberly Patton and shared God moments.

Sylvia Ma stated that tickets were still available for the John McCutcheon concert, and that there were some great raffle prizes this year.

The vestry approved the December vestry meeting minutes, the special vestry meeting minutes, the December financial reports, and the December staff and ministry reports.

The vestry discussed and approved the funding for our Maisha Bora students for the coming academic year.

We discussed possible vestry candidates to replace those vestry members whose terms end at the Annual Meeting (Josephine Amadi, John Kimber, Kimberly Patton, Katie Porter) .

John Kimber presented several bids to replace the damaged, flat portion of the roof on the Big Church. The vestry discussed them and will decide in the coming months.

The vestry decided to change the vestry meeting days from the second Thursday of the month to the third Thursday of the month.

Katie Porter

December Financials

Fund Balances	<u>12/31/2018</u>	<u>12/31/2019</u>
Operating Fund	\$49,591.52	\$70,251.56
Building Fund	61,001.56	59,741.46
Pledges Budgeted	325,164.00	335,401.00
Pledges Paid	345,183.81	324,429.24
Unpledged Contributions	12,309.98	17,656.10
Other Op Income*	20,530.27	20,084.90
Total Operating Income	378,024.06	362,170.24
Total Operating Expenses	378,024.06	351,652.43
Income less Expenses	-	10,517.81

An Updated List of Gifts Given to the Little Church

At the September 22, 2019 dedication and celebration of the Little Church, Lori, with the help of Bruce Roberts and John Maloney, put together a list of gifts given to the Little Church over the years. With the help of Mary Casas and Jan Brandt, an update list was put together. If you have any further updates or corrections of the listing, please notify Sylvia Ma.

Baptismal Font, 1868, given by the Guild.

Window in memory of their son, given by H.E. Mosher and wife.

Window in memory of their daughter, 1897, given by H.E. Mosher and wife.

Chancel window, 1900 (about), given by J.A. Bunting.

Window, 1909, given by Mrs. M. Mowry and Miss Julia Emerson.

Window in memory of Camerons, 1909, given by Mrs. H. Turnor and sister.

Missal Stand in memory of O.H. Allen, 1909, Widow M.C.A. Allen.

Window in memory of Clark Chandler, 1908 (est.), given by Mr. & Mrs. Ino Chandler.

Window in memory Howard Overacker, 1911, given by Mrs. H. Overacker.

Brass Altar Vases, 1911, given by Miss Julia Emerson.

Brass Altar Cross in memory of John Thomas Stevenson, 1909, given by Mrs. Carrie Emerson.

Plain Hymn Board (not installed), 1904, made by R.E. Braden.

Mowry Window, 1921, given by Emily Mowry.

Bishop's Chair in memory of Miss Eberly, 1927, given by Mrs. Kelly.

Priest's Chair in memory of Miss M.C. Benson, 1936, given by Mr. and Mrs. Bergstrom.

Chancel Light in memory of Col. & Mrs. George & Medora Kelly, 1937, given by Mrs. Alice Bergstrom.

Processional Cross in memory of Hannah Adams, 1939, given by Mr. & Mrs. Jos. Adams.

Altar Candlesticks in memory of Elizabeth Leachman 1939, given by the Rev. Charles Leachman & daughter Sheila.

Choir Pews in memory of Seymour Waterhouse, 1950, given by Dorothy W. Hill, daughter.

Loosmore Window in memory of Bert Loosmoore, 1985, given by his Wife and Friends.

Stations of the Cross, Mid 1980's, given by Joe Gorman and the parish.

Early 1990's, Altar frontals in memory of Richard H. Gifford, Robert H. Athearn, Mary J. Sacra, and Theodore Balderston, given by their families.

Missal Stand in memory of Laurie and Marti Davis, 2007, given by the Davis/Rodriguez family.

Candlesticks in memory of Sally and Les Brandt, 2007, given by Janice Brandt.

Vases, 2008, given by Kitty and Bob Reed and Mary and Al Casas.

Church Organ in memory of Gretchen Estelle Locher, 2011, given by Lynn and Ralph Locher.

Chalice and Paten in memory of Allana Devries, given by Family and Friends.

Holy Water Font in memory of Phillip Johnsen, 2011, given by Barbara Johnsen.

Ambry in memory of Brad Hoffman, 2015, given by Frank and Rose Hoffman.

Window dedicated to all who worship in the Little Church (past, present and future), 2017, Patti Lacy, Sylvia Ma, Roberta Tomkinson and Laura Winter.

Lenox vase and blown glass vases in memory of Mary Auguardo & Louise Sigmon, 2019, by Richard Reynolds & Robert Sigmon

There is no date or information for the Madonna of the Goldfinch painting.



St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God we pray for:



FEBRUARY

Those In The Military: Jarrod, Megan, Erica, Theresa, Mark, Tim, Louis, Caitlin, Emily, Robin, Adam, Dave, Shawn, Ethan, Paul, Matthew, Johnny.

Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Kenny, Chrystal, Rhonda, Paul, Deja, Jordan

Those Who Need Comfort and Healing: Ron, Julie, Gail, Bob, Craig, Diane, Barry, David, Poleda, Milla, Nathan, Ellison, Peter, Michael, Veronica, Ruth, Dp, Omar, Marcia, Ivy, Jackie

Those Who are Expecting Children: Travis and Lucia

Those Who Have Passed Away: Charlotte, Joe, Scott

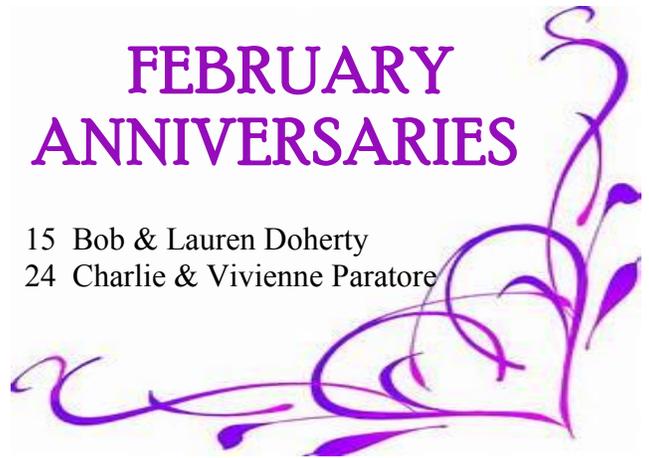
- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Crystal Jones | 18 Margaret Broun |
| Isaiah Nance | 20 Rebecca Dunn |
| 03 Mike Scrutton | 25 Maresa Decena |
| 04 Bruce Roberts | 26 Lauren Doherty |
| 05 Kem David | Charles Peeler |
| 07 Paxton Zavory | Francis Singh |
| Linda Zetterholm- | Scott Whitaker III |
| Nelsen | 27 Christopher Ma |
| 08 Linda Gentner | 28 Luke Scheuffele |
| 11 Darcia Feeny | 29 Adrienne Farrell |
| 14 Danika Brown | |
| Barbara Duncan | |

To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please complete a pew card and place it in the 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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Bob & Lauren Doherty
- 24 Charlie & Vivienne Paratore



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

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

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



SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

WORSHIP TIMES

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

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY: 10:00AM - 2:00PM

STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector.....lori@saintj.com
The Rev. Dr. Bill Hale, Associate Priest
.....bhale@saintj.com
Jan Scrutton, Children and Youth Minister.....
.....jan@saintj.com
Ron Cook, Office Administrator.. admin@saintj.com
Jennifer Ravera, Music Director.....music@saintj.com
Lynn Locher, Treasurer.....treasurer@saintj.com

VESTRY

Senior Warden.....srwarden@saintj.com

Sylvia Ma

Junior Warden.....jrwarden@saintj.com

Monique Manjarrez

Bob Bynum

Bob Doherty

Janet Fischer

Tim Fortescue

Julie Guzior

Mary Francis Leopold

Jim McConnell

Sally Morgan

Laura Winter

The Window Staff

Janet Fischer

Penny Trant

Laura Winter

Article submission: newsletter@saintj.com

Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors

George Siegmann

Eucharistic Visitors: TBA

Altar Guild: Katie Cunningham

Ushers: Burtin Hart

Facilities:.....facilities@saintj.com

Convention Delegates

John Amouroux

Meg Amouroux

Jim McConnell

Ken Trant

Scott Whitaker

Alternates to Convention

Penny Trant

Elaine Vallecillo-Miller