The Window

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

Summer 2020

Jam-Packed Special Summer Issue!

When I sent out a notice for the Summer issue of The Window, I promised that it would be as long as it needs to be to cover the news and events of June, July, and August. Well, here we are at 30 pages long!

We hope you enjoy this issue filled with general news, Treasurer's report, thank-yous, music updates, technical updates since we've moved to online services for the duration, Vestry news, multiple opportunities to connect online, a new section: Meet A Ministry, our usual birthdays, anniversaries, prayer requests, and a recipe from Jim Cunningham.

Rev. Lori's lead article starts on page two, followed by an important notice about an opportunity to learn about racial justice and *"A Call to Action: A Conversation on Race & Faith. A place for white folks to wrestle with the complex issue of racism."* This 10-week discussion has been created by the National Church and hopes to engage Episcopalians across the United States. More information on this will follow from Rev. Lori via email.

~Janet Fischer, Editor

The Feast of St. James' and the Culture of a Church

As I write, we are approaching July 25, the feast day of our patronal saint, James. James, as in James son of Zebedee, was a prominent disciple of Jesus Christ, joining the movement from the beginning and continuing the proclamation of Jesus' teachings and Way after his death and resurrection. James was a faithful disciple, and apostle who fished for people, spreading the Good News and building the church.

Each year, we celebrate St. James. When we do, we are both celebrating the man who followed Jesus and the community we have become. A name from the past is just a name left on the dusty pages of history unless it is lived into, claimed and made meaningful. It is the flesh and bones of the gathered assembly that makes a name come alive, and for St. James the Greater, the community at the corner of Thornton and Cabrillo Terrace puts a current face on the apostle.

What face should we wear, especially in this time of anxiety and suffering? How do we want to present in the world? What actions can we take to make this world look a little more like God's Kingdom?

Let me suggest a simple, yet powerful, idea: kindness.

Kindness is so easy to demonstrate. But if you're anything like me, you spend a bit of time in your head and in your own world, forgetting to look out into the world to see where kindness is needed. Every day in every moment there are opportunities to be kind. An act of kindness need not be colossal or complicated. It can be as simple as letting someone go ahead of you in the grocery store line or offering to bring groceries to the homebound.

Being kind can also be challenging. When we are feeling angry or anxious, stressed out and worried, we tend to look inward rather than outward, forgetting that suffering is not a unique experience. If we allow the negative feelings to color our outlook, then when we do look outward, we can be more harsh than gentle, not taking the time to pause, allowing our hearts to soften before acting. There is so much in this world with ragged and hard edges, so much that hurts rather than heals. Let us, the community of St. James', act as a counterweight to the negative. Let us spread kindness.

Because we cannot celebrate our patron saint as we would normally in normal times, we embarked on a project to spread kindness through the creation and dissemination of painted rocks. Through your hands and hearts, kindness was spread throughout our neighborhoods. As we move forward into the summer and fall, may our acts of kindness increase. May our hearts and hands be extended in gentleness and mercy towards all - when it is easy and when it is more difficult.

Let's let this year's celebration of St. James' be one where kindness is the theme. Be kind to others. Be kind to each other. Let Christ's heart for mercy and love live in your own heart. Let the love of Christ help heal us and heal the world. Let the Feast of St. James' be a celebration of all that is beautiful, all that is gentle, all that is needed in the world today.

+Lori

A Call to Action

A Conversation on Race & Faith

A place for white folks to wrestle with the complex issue of racism.

Many of us white folk have been horrified and heart-broken by the recent executions of Aumad Aubury, Breanna Taylor, George Floyd and others. While such disregard for the black body is painfully not new, the filming of these deaths (much like the violence inflicted upon Dr. King and civil rights activists witnessed on the television screens to the horror of white folk around the country) is again forcing white people to stare into depths of the racial inequity this nation was built upon. We can not deny, dismiss, or minimize the insidiousness of racial inequality in every facet of our society. The delusion that racism is an individual problem done by "bad people" is also crumbling as we, if we are white, are beginning to realize how much we have benefited by living in complex and intricate systems made for white bodies. We are also learning more about how our minds work, and how even if we endeavor to be anti-racist, there is implicit racial bias in all of us.

The culture's thoughts become our own until we wake up to them.

What does this mean for white folk at St. James'?

We believe this means that together we must commit to the ongoing work of examining systemic racism and the ways it negatively impacts people of color while positively benefiting white people.

We cannot do this alone. Only collective good can overcome this evil.

We are asking those at St. James' who identify as white to join us in doing the work we need to do - our white homework using The Episcopal Church's 10 week program "Sacred Ground." Let us be a part of this important nationwide effort by our church. By doing so, we can be a part of bringing about justice and liberation for all. We can be a part of bringing about the Kingdom of God, and ultimately, we can be a part of ushering in our own freedom and healing as well.

This will not be easy work but we are confident that together we can start the life-long process of learning and growing and becoming equipped and empowered to be humble allies to our BIPOC (black, Indigenous and people of color) siblings, as well as bring some awareness and healing to the ways that we too have been harmed by white supremacy.

Gatherings will begin on August 4
Every Tuesday at 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm

Thank you for considering this important effort.

To our BIPOC siblings at St. James', we ask for your blessing, and we thank you for understanding the need for people who identify as white to do this serious work. We want to encourage you to be taking good care of yourselves...making space for whatever is needed; rest, rage, grief, a break... We hope you are able to regularly turn towards whatever is life-giving as well as participate in nourishing and healing ritual with loved ones. We also ask that you please not comfort white guilt.

To learn more about Sacred Ground and to listen to the Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, on the importance of this work, go to this SITE.

A Message from Rev. Bill Hale

We are all in the midst of a double challenge right now: the Covid-19 pandemic and the domestic turmoil over racism in our country. While both affect us—and social historians in a later generation will have worked out the complex way in which both are interrelated—the first is one of those disasters of life which occurs naturally, while the second is entirely the product of human hearts and minds. We can face the challenges of the pandemic using the tools of science and medicine, and I have no doubt that after the cost of human suffering has been paid, we will prevail. But since racism is a product of human behavior, it will require even greater effort to achieve "success" in dealing with it—that is, to create a new society which is just in dealing with race and other areas of discrimination.

Many of the characteristics we all have in our identity are things beyond our control: race and ethnicity, gender, the fortune or misfortune of where and when we were born, etc. But since racism (and other prejudices) are not innate but *taught,* we have hope, because what has to be taught us, we can unlearn as well. Small children who do not recognize color or many distinctions which our parents taught us to accept as important markers of who is part of our in-group and who constitutes the Other. Thanks be to God, because these are learned issues, Jesus' pronouncement, "The truth will make you free," (John 8:32) offers hope--provided we are willing to open ourselves to see the truth.

As a White male "boomer," I can testify that much of what had been inculcated in me about aspects of my own identity proved to be problematic as I matured—and I had to reject lessons about race, "manhood," and other things my family and culture taught me. In fact, much of my formal education and those perspectives from which I taught others in college classrooms I have now rejected with cause, finding myself to be ignorant of how such teaching affected others. I admit to being guilty of unrecognized prejudices from which I now struggle to free myself in order to follow new revelations and truer insights. It is always painful, but in order to live with integrity and to serve God by seeking to do justice, I have no alternative.

Why this imperative to change? Because all the aspects of racism and prejudice *enslave us.* What Paul says about sin generally applies to the sin of racism particularly:

> *But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (Romans 6:17-18)*

Recognizing that both *righteousness* and *justice* are English translations for Paul's same Greek concept and term, if we are called to righteousness and freedom from sin through our faith in Christ, we are also called to embrace justice and to put away anything which continues our bondage to prejudice or the idolatry of racial superiority. To do so will be hard, because it means self-examination, acknowledging our hidden feelings and emotional entrapments, learning to discredit some of the history we have been taught, and learning to love others with the same love Christ gives us (John 13:34).

The time is now—despite the pandemic, the work of dismantling the enslavement of racism and tearing down the edifice of institutional racism is long overdue. Let all of us who are the people in who the undergrowth of racial injustice has its root work to clear a space where all God's beloved children can enter without fear or distrust. Let us together do the work which God's grace has called us to.

+Bill

The St. James' Regathering Taskforce has been hard at work examining the diocesan and county guidelines for regathering. To help answer some of these questions, we put together this FAQ document. We hope it is helpful.

Frequently Asked Questions - Regathering for Worship
St. James' Episcopal Church, Fremont
Updated: June 20, 2020
The Diocese of California and the County of Alameda have issued guidelines for regathering for worship. The answers to most of these questions are based on those guidelines.

When will we be gathering in person for worship?
Because the infection rate in Alameda County is increasing rather than flattening or declining, we are being very cautious. We understand the need to provide meaningful worship and opportunities for community, but paramount to that is the safety of our parishioners. We will continue offering virtual worship as our primary service and are exploring limited in-person gatherings. These gatherings will be in the form of small groups gathered for prayer. We hope to roll out these gatherings in the near future. More information will be forthcoming.

When we are able to return, how many people can worship at once?
Gatherings of 25% of facility capacity or a maximum of 100 people are allowed if the venue is indoors and provided the 6'+ social distancing mandate is followed. Outdoors, the suggested maximum is 25 people. However, the County of Alameda strongly suggests that no gathering, indoor or outdoor, exceed 25 people. Children will stay with their families.

Will there be regular programs for the children and youth?
Due to the direction that children and youth remain with their families, Sunday School and youth gatherings will not be available at this time. Our nursery space and playground will not be open for play. Recorded Sunday school lessons will continue being available to watch at home online.

Will we have both the 8:00 and 10:30 services?
We will continue with online virtual worship which can be viewed from your home at a time convenient for you. The number of in-person gatherings and meeting times are still being discussed. One variable will be the number of people interested in coming to church for inperson gatherings.

Will we be able to worship in the Little Church?
Due to the smallness of the Little Church, physical distancing is not possible. Therefore, we will not be using the Little Church for the foreseeable future.

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Will we be gathering outside or inside?
Because studies show that the safest spaces are outdoor spaces, any in-person gatherings will likely take place on the front lawn. In order to also allow people to worship from home, we will continue offering our primary virtual service that will be recorded in the Big Church with a small worship team.

If the attendance number is capped, how will it be determined who can attend the prayer groups?
We are still considering the best method. It may be a reservation system or some other selection based on last name or random lottery. Depending on interest, we may ask people to gather in-person every other week instead of weekly.
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I am over 65 and/or have at-risk health conditions. Can I still attend?
The bishop is encouraging anyone over 65 and those with high-risk medical conditions to consider their health and not participate in in-person gatherings at this time.

What will be the individual requirements for gathering at church?
All participants will be required to wear a mask (over the age of 2), maintain a 6'+ distance from others not in their household, have their temperature checked and use hand sanitizer before entering the worship space.

Will we be able to celebrate Holy Communion?
There will be no distribution of consecrated bread and wine.

What else will be temporarily prohibited?
Any physical items such as collection plates, prayer books, hymnals, other worship materials will not be used. Congregational hymns singing, humming, praying in unison, and passing the peace will not be allowed. Coffee hours and post-service gatherings will be suspended for now.

Will we still have Ushers, Greeters, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Acolytes?
We will be using as few people as possible for the worship team. This will likely include lectors and ushers only for our in-person prayer groups. The online, virtual worship will have a slightly different composition of servers but will still be minimal.

With everything we cannot have, what can we expect?
Any in-person gathering will be spirit-filled and for the purpose of community and prayer. It will contain lessons, homily and discussion, prayers. Our virtual service that you can enjoy from your home will continue to be our primary service and will contain lessons, sermon, solo singing and instrumental music, recorded music, and prayer.

What if I choose to not physically go to church? Will services still be offered online?
We will offer a weekly service so that you can still enjoy worship from home.

Will I be able to watch the service online at any time?
The service will be available for you to watch at your convenience. However, we encourage you to watch during your normal church times (8:00 or 10:30) so that we continue to worship as a community.

What about other gatherings such as bible study and the Wednesday service?
For now, those gatherings will remain virtual.

Will the front office be open anytime soon?
Because it is impossible to maintain social distancing in the office, we will continue our practice of limited office hours by appointment only on Wednesdays from 10-1. We ask that in person visits be limited to urgent matters only and that our parish administrator be contacted in advance of any potential visit.

CONFIRMATIONS & RECEPTIONS: NOV. 1, 2020

Bishop Marc visits St. James' on Nov. 1 (still on the calendar as of this writing) and will conduct confirmations and receptions into the Episcopal Church. Rev. Bill will hold an Inquirers' Class beginning later this summer. Obviously, we may have to meet on Zoom, but we hope the discussions will be lively and informative. Even if you are already a confirmed member, the Inquirers' Class welcomes anyone who wants to discuss what it means to them to be part of the Church or to offer any questions for discussion by the group. Please contact him with any questions or to indicate your interest.

Contact Rev. Bill at bhale@saintj.com or on his cell at 313-424-9145.

Embolden: to give (someone) the courage or confidence to do something or to behave in a certain way.

Emboldened by Faith by Janet Fischer (June)

Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it?" (Genesis 18:23-24)

Arguing with God must be one of the bravest things a person can do. What do you do when societal or even religious rules violate your own conscience?

As a teenager, I was taught that everyone had a "God-shaped hole" in their heart that could only be filled by asking Jesus into your life. Fifty years later… I now believe that God is always in everyone's heart, that God is present everywhere (including our heart), and that there is no place where God is not (including our heart). The discomfort we feel when we feel like something is missing isn't because God isn't in our heart, it's from the walls we build that prevent God from shining through. The work of faith is to remove those walls, not to beg God to be "more" in our life. God can't get any "more" into our life than God already is.

Being emboldened by faith allows me to believe this and discard the bad theology of the past. I used to think that I had to believe a large number of doctrinal statements to qualify as a Christian, yet, still somehow God seemed so very small. I now am emboldened to believe one or two basic doctrinal statements, and I leave the rest up to God. The result? God has become HUGE, without boundaries.

It is scary to discard old teachings and beliefs. Those old fears and voices in our head can be very persuasive, even when they lead away from God. If we are held back by bad theology, fear of the "other," or walls we build up thinking they will protect us, Be Bold. I encourage us all to step out, ask questions – especially of God – I think God loves that! – and act out of love rather than fear. The author and blogger Chris Kratzer ends every post with: "Grace is Brave. Be Brave." Be brave.

Emboldened by Faith by Bob Bynum (July)

As I write this article, I have been struggling with exactly what to write about. Do I write an article that is related to all of the turmoil going on in our country right now or do I write about my own personal experiences? If I choose my own personal experiences, do I choose a topic where I have done something or do I relate it to faith in general or St. James' in particular? The topic I am choosing is the first time I became active with St. James'.

In 1999 I married my long-term girlfriend Gretchen Luepke. Both of us are cradle Episcopalians. We were married at St. Phillips Episcopal Church in Tucson, Arizona. Over the years we were sporadic attendees at Episcopal churches. Sometimes we attended her church in Tucson, sometimes we attended my mother's church in Auburn, Alabama (Trinity Episcopal), and sometimes we attended St. James'. We always attended church on Christmas

Emboldened by Faith

(cont. from page 7)

and Easter, but on other dates as well. We debated whether to get more active with St. James' or move to Tucson and become more active with her family's church there.

On Monday, May 10, 2010 she was diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, which is the human variant of Mad Cow disease. This illness is 100% fatal and there is no treatment. After this diagnosis, I wanted Gretchen to be visited by an Episcopal priest and subsequently have an Episcopal memorial service.

On Sunday, May 16, 2010, I took what thought would be a risk and came to the 10:30 am St. James' service. I was very tense because I didn't know what kind of reception I would receive. Would they be reluctant to help me since I was not a regular parishioner? Would I be scolded for not attending church more regularly? The first person I contacted was Penny Trant who was the greeter for that day. She was very compassionate and subsequently introduced me to Reverend Kathy Crary who was the interim priest at the time. I was very pleasantly surprised that both Penny and Kathy were welcoming and compassionate. During Gretchen's illness, Kathy provided outstanding pastoral care by visiting Gretchen at Washington Hospital, at our home, and at The Fremont Health Care Center. In August 2010 Reverend Crary presided at Gretchen's memorial service and made it a very loving occasion.

After my initial contact with St. James' I became active in many aspects of the parish. I made a whole new group of friends by attending the Wednesday service and 8:00 AM service. I also participated in the men's group retreat in Arnold and I fit right in. I have attended the men's trip every year since and it is one of the highlights of the year. Later in 2010, I was asked to run for vestry! This was a real surprise because I thought that a position on the vestry was for very experienced long-term parishioners. My father had been on the vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Syracuse, New York. Also he served as senior warden.

Here is the conclusion of this story. I felt that I was being bold by contacting St. James' and not knowing what would happen. I took a risk and it was one of the best decisions that I have ever made. I must have been emboldened by the spirit to do this.

Emboldened by Faith by Mary Frances Leopold (August)

Christian Faith in 2020 has taken on a whole new meaning for me. As a scientist, I've always been questioned about how I can reconcile biblical interpretation as it relates to scientific discoveries. Usually, I just point out that Galileo was tried for heresy in 1633 for believing (proving) that the earth was round. Or I mention that even the Church of England eventually apologized to Darwin (150 years later) and conceded that it was "over-defensive and over-emotional" in its initial response to the publication of the Origin of Species. My personal faith has always been able to joyfully combine the Seen and the Unseen.

But the last few years have changed the question from how can I be both a scientist and a Christian, to what kind of Christian am I. It has been difficult to watch the vilification of my faith by the actions of a small percent of professing Christians. Instead of the cross I wear bringing into question my scientific rigor, it more often now brands me as

(cont. on page 9)

Emboldened by Faith,

(cont. from page 8)

alt-right supremacist. So how do I approach this with faith?

First, I am trying to live my faith more openly. I speak about it more at work, with friends, on social media. St. James' is an important part of my spiritual life, too. It is a community of faith that gives me focus and discipline to grow in Christ and that gives me freedom to express my faith authentically. I hope through faith and prayer I can be a counterpoint to the hateful messages that proliferate.

Second, I think it's critical to model the phrase "everyone is welcome, no exceptions". All the people in my daily life deserve to feel welcomed and appreciated. It can be through smiles or support or service. It can be a "nod and thank you" or looking in someone's eyes to acknowledge their humanity. As hard as this is sometimes, faith in the Lord makes this easier. He reminds me to listen and empathize, and to hold each person's spirit as sacred.

And third, I need to be a social justice warrior. I was raised to believe "there but for the grace of God, go I". If I could not bear someone else's circumstances for myself, then I need to work to change the situation to make it better. This feels all-encompassing now. This is the hardest for me because it seems that one person cannot affect the changes necessary to reconstruct our society. But then I am reminded the Lord uses each of us for His purpose and that He can accomplish anything through all of us. Together we are the body of Christ and through our mutual faith, He can perform miracles.

2020 is a test for all of us. For me, I am praying now more than ever and listening to the call to faith and action that the Lord lovingly speaks to me. I will not pass through this year unchanged and I know that the Lord will be with me as I journey on. Faith can make each of us bold in our words and actions as we follow Christ.

Take Time for a Story

It is no accident that Jesus used parables, or stories, to teach his message. Stories are a powerful way, used through time to influence, teach and inspire. Stories convey history, new ideas or long held beliefs. Stories can unite a community and shed light on difficult issues. Stories take a listener or reader from a place they know into an unfamiliar territory while remaining safe and hence open to new ideas. Stories are not just for children, for school, or for bedtime.

The stories of the Old Testament, the stories of our faith, have been heavily featured in Sunday School recently as our lectionary has guided us to the stories of Abraham and Sarah and their descendants. In addition to recording Sunday School you may have seen that a few people have recorded story books to make available via saintj.com. Picture books are a powerful way to allow children, and all of us, to learn about different situations and people. We have chosen books this summer that highlight racial and social justice, differences in people, and standing up for others. I hope you will enjoy some of the stories and maybe find ways to share them with others.

Some of the titles we will be sharing this summer are:

- We Shall Overcome: The Story of a Song. Debbie Levy
- You be You. Linda Kranz
- Preaching to the Chickens. The Story of young John Lewis. Jabari Asim
- Just Ask. Sonia Sotomayor
- The Day You Begin. Jacqueline Woodson
- A Church for All. Gayle E Pitman
- I Sing a Song of the Saints of God. Lesbia Scott

If you have a favorite story book that entertains and educates, I'd love to hear about it!

~Jan Scrutton, Children & Youth Minister

Treasurer's Report to the Parish

Some parish members may have heard that St. James' received a small Paycheck Protection Program Loan in April. This loan has been a big help during the initial Shelter in Place Period. The loan has allowed the church to do the following:

- Relieve the Lead Team of worry over church finances during the initial shut down.
- Retain the staffing that we had before the shutdown.
- Hire professional singers to do three recording sessions in June and again in July. California law requires that they be on our payroll since their music allows us to meet our mission of religious worship.
- Hire a part time sexton/handyman to do some needed repairs for the month of June.
- Pay the utilities in May, June and part of July.
- Help defray the loss of income from plate donations and use of space donations.

The church will have spent the entire loan by the middle of July and will be asking for forgiveness of the loan at the end of July or beginning of August. This depends on when our bank is ready to evaluate our forgiveness documents.

The Loan **does not** do the following:

- Prevent us from laying off staff in the future.
- Cover other expenses such as Diocesan assessment, insurance, cleaning, trash pick up and landscaping.
- Reduce the need for pledge payments and other donations.

Your treasurer hopes that everyone who is able to continue their pledge payments will do so. Using your bill pay or writing a check and mailing it to PO Box 457, Fremont, CA 94537, will allow the church to continue to retain our excellent staff. You also have the option of paying on line with Vanco or PayPal but these have costs that reduces what the church receives.

The church recently had the flat part of the main church and the Education Building roof redone to the cost of $33,000. The Vestry will have the option of moving, at the end of the year, any excess income into the Building Fund account to replace part of this expense.

~Lynn Locher,
Treasurer

Financial Summary June 2020

Fund Balances	06/30/2019		06/30/2020
Operating Fund	$ 55,355.93		$ 107,679.20
Building Fund	$ 61,296.99		$ 61,296.99
Pledges Budgeted	$ 167,700.51		$ 171,531.99
Pledges Paid	$ 162,541.70		$ 197,257.24
Other Op Income	$ 10,071.70		$ 43,811.55
Total Operating Income	$ 176,209.70		$ 248,900.78
Total Operating Expenses	$ 172,482.01		$ 190,808.67
Income less Expenses	$ 3,727.69		$ 58,092.11

Correction to the Financial Summary: the June 2020 figure for the Building Fund should be: $37,438.48.

Sharing Our Worship Online

When the Coronavirus took hold in March 2020, we looked to move our worship online. We've been posting a podcast of weekly sermons on our website and iTunes since March 2011, so we are familiar with the process of capturing sound but it quickly became apparent that an audio solution wasn't going to satisfy if worship was going to be virtual for some time. If you haven't seen it yet, we offer a weekly service on our website. This service from June 21 2020 is typical.

We're used to Sunday worship being at 8am and 10:30am, and we wanted to ensure that worshipers could access it at their familiar service times. We record, edit and post the service on a Saturday by 6pm and folks watch it any time after that, though the majority watch on a Sunday morning.

An advantage of recording in advance is that we can edit the video. To enable social distancing, we record lessons once a month – the same lectors record a month of readings in one session. Similarly, our hymns are recorded in advance (as audio) and set to a video of campus footage when inserted in the recording. Thanks go to Marcus Pun for creating the captions that enable us to join in with the Hymns. In June we started including parishioners who have videoed themselves saying the prayers of the people. Sermons are often recorded during the week. On a Saturday morning a very small team consisting of Rev. Lori, Jan & Mike Scrutton (and the rest of the available Scrutton household) assembles to record the week's announcements as well as the parts of the liturgy delivered by Rev. Lori. Diocesan and County policies strictly restrict the number of people that can be present in church and require that a consistent team is used.

The weekly service is featured prominently on our website, embedded in our homepage. In addition to worship, we post a Sunday School video online weekly – hosted by Jan and edited by Beth Scrutton. Past services are also available for people to enjoy during the week or to binge watch!

While watching videos online in our homes, we're aware that we're missing out on the community worshiping experience. Starting July 5th, we started offering **"Watch Parties"** over Zoom as a way of enabling a group of parishioners to experience the service together. We'll do this immediately preceding our online Sunday fellowship times at 8:30am and 11am. Contact Jennifer (music@saintj.com) if you'd

(cont. on page 12)

Sharing Our Worship

(cont. from p. 11)

like to join any of the watch parties or coffee hours. During the week, we offer more Zoom-hosted gatherings including a small service, bible studies and social gatherings.

What's next?

We've considered a move from pre-recorded services to live-streams and have investigated and tested various solutions. As and when we're able to regather together as a worshiping community, we intend to continue making services available online for those unable to join us in person. However, we're conscious that all worshipers – whether in-person or remote – should have as close to the same experience as possible, and preferably at least as good as we've been able to offer in our pre-recorded services. To that end, we're planning to extend our equipment to enable live mixing of multiple sources, including multiple cameras and video feeds.

We don't have a target date for live-streams – we're at the mercy of the coronavirus and the availability of equipment which is on backorder. In the meantime, we hope everyone is enjoying our worship offerings at saintj.com!

~Mike Scrutton

Thursday Evening Social Hour!

During this time that church is not meeting in person, it is easy to feel like we are not able to be in community. We miss seeing our fellow parishioners and catching up with each other.

However, through the power of technology, we are still able to see one another and chat! It's not the exact same as hanging out at church before or after a service, but it is still a way to connect with others and maintain the friendships that mean so much to those of us at St. James'.

I would like to cordially invite everyone to participate in our Thursday Social Hour that I have setup, so that you can see your friends and chat it up with everyone!

We meet **every Thursday at 7pm** through the Zoom platform. If you have never used Zoom before, do not worry; we have many folks who were completely new to the program who are now using Zoom like a pro! We are happy to help you conquer your fears and join us!

Please let me know if you are ready to see your church community, and I will get you signed up for our Thursday Social Hour! Email me at music@saintj.com, or call/text me at 510-461-7478!

~Jennifer Ravera

Reflections on Life
By Brian Cochran

"No one knows the day or the hour." —Jesus

Most of us wander through life without knowing much. So many things are coming at us, loads of responsibilities, that most of the time we just keep our heads down and keep moving. This quarantine shows us how little we really do know. And the word of Jesus to us in light of this ignorance is "Wake up!" "Look up and be prepared for some radical event, some arrival, some life-altering experience."

I believe that event is when we come into awareness of our union with God, what the Buddha called the awakening to the Oneness of All. In Christian spirituality there is a path toward Union. Rarely does one all of a sudden break into that realization early in our journey. The path laid out by the teachers of the past is one of purification, illumination, and then union. This has also been described by St. John of the Cross as The Dark Night of the Soul. Purification is symbolized by baptism and confession, admitting our faults and being washed and cleansed of the errors of our ways. This obviously is not a one-time thing but a regular practice, a prayer practice. Ritual washing at the door, regular honesty in our hearts or to our guides. Then as we feel purified, we can receive glimpses of God's light, flashes of illumination like that of a candle or a star. These glimpses are motivating to continue on in the life of prayer.

And now, these days, we have more time, the gift of time, of distance, of quiet. Time to reflect, to think, to write or do other art. Of course, drinking or bingeing on Netflix are options too! Oh, and getting to know or fighting with our loved ones! Andrew Cuomo, the loquacious governor of New York for the last nine years, has rediscovered his three twenty-something daughters, spending hours talking or running with them every day, and savoring this gift. And he laments the times he canceled on his mother for afternoon tea. Now he cannot visit her at all.

We don't know what tomorrow will bring but being aware of this can be enlightening. Many people at my work with Kaiser are now open to learning and doing meditative breathing practices. The California state website is advocating centering prayer and meditation as part of their "stress reduction playbook." For us Christians, the ultimate goal is the awareness of the country of heaven here on earth, that God is indeed with us, in every time and place. With every breath we are rejuvenated, given life, just as Jesus breathed on his followers in the locked room and said, "Receive the holy spirit." The word "spirit" in Greek can also be translated "breath" and "wind." If God's Spirit is in us, then we have that indwelling presence of God, "the kingdom, the power, and the glory" right here in us. And this is always true, even if we don't recognize it. As we rest more and more in God, through active or wordless prayer, we can gradually sense that presence, that affection which has always been with us, despite our overlooking it, or even blindness to it. If we don't experience that Union in this life, and, if we can believe the saints, Union is possible to know, then we will experience it at our death, when all encumbrance is taken away.

MEET A MINISTRY:
St. James' Endowment

In 2003 a group of parishioners shared a vision of creating an Endowment to ensure St. James' would continue to be a place of worship and service to our community for many years to come. They began by first declaring their intention to include St. James' in their estate planning, then followed up by donating funds or by including St. James as a beneficiary of their wills, trusts, insurance policies, IRAs or other investments.

This was the beginning of the St. James' Endowment Fund. In addition to the general endowment fund, additional funds have been added, the St. James Little Church and the Memorial Garden funds.

Over these past 17 years the Endowment Fund has grown from $7,200 in 2004 to over $200,000 in 2019. The fund has a cash account at Heritage Bank and the bulk of the funds are managed by State Street Global Advisors (a part of the Episcopal Church Foundation Endowment Management Services). With favorable market conditions and request for specific projects, the Endowment Board can annually distribute part of the accrued interest back to St. James' with the principal remaining in perpetuity.

Planning ahead to get your financial affairs in order can give you and your family peace of mind. Please consider including St. James' Endowment Fund in your estate plans. A contribution can also be given at any time in thanksgiving or memory of a loved one.

The Endowment Board has five members which includes, Mary Casas, Jino Joseph, John Butterfield, Ralph Locher and Craig Genter. St. James' Treasurer Lynn Locher is an ex officio member of the Board.

For more information please contact any of the Board members.

~Mary Casas, Endowment Board Chair

New Electronic Giving Option

Thanks to the collective efforts by Lynn Locher, Mike Scrutton and Jan Brandt, and the leadership of Lori, I am happy to let you know that our new electronic giving option, using the VANCO platform, is now up and running. It can be found on St. James' website on the giving page or use this link: https://saintj.com/wp/about-us/giving/ and click the VANCO button. It is an alternative to giving via PayPal.

In the May issue of Window, Lynn Locher detailed the cumbersome accounting procedure she and Jan Brandt need to do to record and post donations through PayPal. VANCO giving is a lot easier using direct download. Another feature of VANCO giving is that the donor has the option to pay the processing fee charged to St. James'. VANCO provides donation using your checking account as well as your credit cards. If you are doing a one-time donation, you do not need to log in.

Of course, you can always mail in a check, or do bill pay from your bank (no fees charged to St. James'), to PO Box 457, Fremont CA, 94537-0457.

~Sylvia Ma, Sr. Warden

Congratulations to Matteo Bontempo!

We are glad to celebrate the graduation of Matteo Bontempo from American High School this June. Matteo attends St. James' with his parents Victor and Missy and sister Gabriella. He enjoys playing baseball and his hobbies are making music and bowling. Matteo was baptized as a young adult at St. James' and has twice been part of the team who went to Mexico with the Corazon project to build houses. Matteo's next step will be to attend Chabot College to major in Nursing and he has plans to transfer to a four year school to complete his education.

St. James' Parish Emergency Phone Tree

In the last three months, St. James' Lead Team (Rev. Lori, Senior Warden Sylvia, Junior Warden Monique, and Treasurer Lynn) has been busy with various projects. One of these was to co-ordinate with the Disaster Preparedness Team (DPT) to set up a Parish Emergency Phone Tree. Members of the DPT were able to contact many of you to introduce the phone tree concept and see if you are willing to opt in. When you were contacted, you may have been told that the process would be that someone would contact you, and you would be responsible for contacting the next person. The Lead Team looked at different models of phone tree and to streamline the process we have opted for a model where one person will call a list of others. There will be no need for you to pass the message on.

During an emergency or when there is critical information to disperse, Rev. Lori will initiate the phone tree by contacting the ten second tier callers. The second tier callers are the staff, wardens and members of the DPT. Currently, 80 family units of parishioners have agreed to be included on the phone tree, so each second tier will call seven parishioners.

If you have not done so, it is not too late to join our Phone Tree. If you are interested, please contact Sylvia by email srwarden@saintj.com or by phone at 510-552-6549.

We would like to thank you for supporting this project. We will be doing a practice run on August 4 (National Night Out). Expect a call on that day if you have opted in on the St. James' Parish Emergency Phone Tree project.

~Sylvia Ma, Senior Warden

News For June

6/2 Callie Patton
6/3 Charles Paratore
6/4 Nancy Castaneda
Kitty Reed
6/5 Ivy Sankar
6/8 Patty Lacy
6/9 Bob Doherty
6/12 Isabella Slayton
Sophia Slayton
6/14 Christopher Jones
6/16 Bruce Prickett
6/17 Safa Fortescue
6/18 Jennifer Evans-Bodenrader
6/20 CeliaMay Baldwin
Timothy Prickett
6/22 Mark Locher
6/23 Ian Kalitta
6/25 Robert Lovellette
6/26 Greg Miller
6/27 Marlene E. Benedict-Gonzalez
6/28 George Vlastelica
Pat Vlastelica
6/29 Julie Guzior
6/30 Emma Feeney

6/4 Craig & Linda Gentner
6/22 Charles & Judy Peeler
6/24 Sherea & Keith Westra
6/25 James & Frankie McLeod
6/27 John & Joan Kimber
6/30 Alberto & Marie Verdin

June was PRIDE MONTH. St. James' Celebrates

News For July

7/1 Megan Tiller
7/4 Bob Bynum
7/7 John Guzior
Marcus Pun
7/9 George Siegmann III
7/11 Craig Gentner
7/14 Diane Morninglight
7/16 Bill Mosier
7/17 Angela Casas
Judy Gough
Tina Hunt
Evan Lovellette
7/18 Anne Blalock
7/24 Jon Harrington
Barbara Kostick
7/27 Evelyn Martinez
7/28 Gregg Feeney
Bev Mosier
Jan Pearson
7/31 Leland Scheuffele

7/11 Lauren & Daniel Zarovy
7/24 Don & Marily Rose

Happy Fourth of July!

In celebration of this beautiful country, we offer you this short video of parishioners sporting their patriotism. We remember that love of our beloved nation includes both praise and calling for changes that will bring the reality of the United States closer to the Kingdom of God that Jesus professed - justice, mercy, compassion, equity. We hope you enjoy the **VIDEO**.

Kindness Rocks

In celebration of St. James' Day, paint a rock and spread some kindness! During the entire month of July, feel free to pick up a rock (and painting supplies) in the St. James' courtyard. Decorate your rock and place it within our community and surrounding areas to bring kindness and cheer to others. Send your colorful rock pictures to photos@saintj.com **by July 20th**, to be included in a special video that will air during the St. James Day service. Please click **HERE** for complete details on the #SaintJRocks project.

Let Us Hear and See You

As part of our St. James' celebration, we want to see and hear you. Take a quick video of yourself finishing one or both of these statements: 1) **The act of kindness that I will do today is...** or 2) **What I have learned from being a member of St. James' is...**

Send in your video to **photos@saintj.com** **by July 20th** and we will include it in our St. James' service on July 26th.

St. James' Day is Sunday, July 26!

News For August

8/1 Janice Daniel
8/2 Ralph Locher
8/4 Adam Locher
Griselda Prather
8/6 Shalini Singh
8/10 Joey Carini
8/18 Becky Whitaker
8/20 Ella Rodarte
8/21 Vivienne Paratore
8/23 Monique Manjarrez
8/26 Paul Cudlip
Joseph Jones
Ken Trant Jr.
Rachel Whitaker
8/27 Barbara Johnsen
Roberta Tomkinson
Steve Vacchieri
8/29 Dave Nelsen
8/30 Anthony Prickett
8/31 Getzial Wesley

8/6 Mike & Jan Scrutton
8/8 Judy Gough & Ella Lentz

Inquiring Minds Want to Know:

Do you have a computer? Do you use it?
Do you have internet or email? Do you use it?

Do you know a St. James' parishioner without a computer?
Do you know a St. James' parishioner without internet or email?
How do they get news from St. James'?
Do they know there is news from St. James'?!!
Do you tell them the news??

Please let Ron, our office administrator, know at admin@saintj.com so our fellow parishioners can have a printed copy of the WINDOW mailed to them.

Thank you for helping us spread the news!!

~Alice Johnson

Music Update!

During this time of uncertainty in the church, one thing has become unfortunately certain: singing and humming in a live church setting is unsafe, as germs can be spread at a much higher distance than with regular talking. Therefore, singing and playing of instruments that use breath (wind and brass instruments in particular) cannot be used at this time.

However, that does not mean that there is no music in church!

Those of you may have noticed that when you are watching our Sunday recorded YouTube services, that the hymns and occasional anthems are sung, and by some excellent singers! We have been lucky enough to be able to hire four singers to record enough hymns and anthems for the next four months, so that our weekly Sunday services are full of song! Mike Scrutton helped by setting up the Main Church with microphones in the four corners of the building, and I conducted the singers in the hymns and anthems. It took three sessions, but we now have wonderful music to last us through the end of September!

For social distancing, these photos were taken individually and put together through the magic of Photoshop.

Here is a little bit about our singers!

Kristine Berg, soprano (front left) has been singing with the St. James' Adult Choir for many Christmas Eve and Easter Morning services! She is a classically trained Soprano who performs professionally as an actress, singer and voiceover artist. Her background also includes puppetry, storytelling, dance and improvisation. Kristine performs with several interactive mystery dinner theatre companies in the Bay Area. She is also the co-owner of Avanti Theatre Company and leads workshops for team building, utilizing theatre games. Kristine was a Kindergarten and First Grade teacher for over 20 years and loves children, cats, and performing. https://www.kristineperforms.com

Joey Carini, countertenor (front right) is a member of St. James' and was a regular attendee from 2011 - 2016. He has just completed his Bachelor's of Music in Music Education from California State University Long Beach and will be beginning his teaching credential program in August. Joey is also a paid section leader at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in Long Beach, CA. He is an alumni of the Golden Gate Boys Choir and has been a frequent singer and organ substitute in the San Francisco area.

Adam Ferrer-Miller, tenor (back right) has sung with the St. James' Adult Choir on many Easter Sundays! He started his professional music career in the Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bell Ringers. There, Adam really learned and understood his passion for music and the arts. In 1997, Adam performed in Japan at the 7th International Handbell Symposium with hundreds of other handbell ringers from across the globe. Adam has sung with many choral groups over the years including San Jose State University's world famous Choraliers, Ohlone Community Chorale, Ohlone Chamber Singers which later became Mission Peak Chamber Singers as well as serving on their Board of Directors. From 2004-2006 and again in 2019 Adam performed and toured with the world-renowned handbell ensemble, Sonos.
(cont. on page 20)

Music Update! (cont.)

In 2009, Adam sang as the tenor soloist along with a 200-voice choir and orchestra for a performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah. In 2013, Adam had the distinct honor of performing with the Redwood Symphony in the musical, Sweeney Todd. Adam recently had the honor of being the tenor soloist with the Camerata Singers and orchestra performing Craig Hella Johnson's incredible work, Considering Matthew Shepard. Adam enjoys singing professionally for events, churches, and groups around the SF Bay Area.

William O'Neill, bass-baritone (back left), is a full time chorister for the SF Opera Chorus. William lives in Rohnert Park in Sonoma County. He is also the Choir Director at First Congregational UCC of Santa Rosa, and performs opera in schools for the SF Opera Guild.

In the future, be on the lookout for audio and video virtual performances from the St. James' Adult Choir, as I become more technologically advanced in my skills as a music director in the 21st Century!

~Jennifer Ravera, Music Director

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

On June 14, the Vestry of St. James' invited everyone to celebrate our amazing volunteers, and to say thank you to all the wonderful people who have dedicated their time this past year to help make St. James' the remarkable community we love. The past few months have brought special challenges and we are especially grateful for everyone who has helped keep our congregation informed and engaged.

Since we could not gather in the parish hall for our regular cake and ice cream social, members of the Vestry (Mary Frances, Sylvia, Laura and Janet, wearing gloves and masks and using tongs and trays) handed out individually wrapped treats of ice cream sandwiches and non-dairy fruit bars to parishioners driving by in their cars.

So good to see all of you in person. Thank you so much for your service to St. James'.

~Mary Frances Leopold and Sylvia Ma

How to Pay Your Pledge or Donate During Our National Emergency

I am sure you are wondering if you should continue to pay your pledge while we are not worshiping together. The church continues to need to pay salaries, PG & E, Water, Comcast, insurance premiums etc. so yes we need your pledges. We are fortunate to have a small cushion to help us through this time but we do need regular donations. Please do the following:

- Mail your check with your pledge number in the memo box to:
  St. James' Episcopal Church
  PO Box 457
  Fremont, CA 94537-0457

- An alternative is to go on line to your bank and set up paying St. James' with bill pay. Be sure to include your pledge number and use the address listed above. The bank will then mail a check to St. James' each month.

It is essential that you **do not use our street address** as we have had checks stolen from the outside mailbox.

~Lynn Locher, Treasurer

CARES Act Charitable Giving Incentives

Below are some provisions of the CARES Act that may have an impact on your charitable giving this year.

- New charitable deductions for taxpayers who do not itemize.
  - Individuals can deduct $300 in charitable contributions from their gross income even if they do not itemize their deductions.
  - Donations must be made in cash. Gifts of appreciated securities and gifts to a donor advised fund or supporting organization do not qualify.
- No cap on charitable deductions for taxpayers who itemize.
  - For 2020 the cap on donations has been lifted and donors contributing cash to charity may deduct up to 100% of their income.
  - Again this is cash (cash, check or credit card) only, not stock or gifts to a donor advised fund.
- No required minimum IRA distribution, but qualified charitable distributions are still possible.
  - This refers to retirement IRAs.
  - One can still contribute up to $100,000 directly to a charity without paying taxes on the distribution.

This information was provided by the Episcopal Church Foundation.

~Lynn Locher, Treasurer

The Window Needs You!

The Window editorial staff is *still* looking for one or two additional people to help with producing the monthly issues. Depending on how many editors we have, you would be responsible for only three or four issues per year. Familiarity with Microsoft Publisher is a plus, but we can train!

If you are interested, please contact Laura Winter, Penny Trant, or Janet Fischer and we'll do our best to answer your questions. Thank you!

~Janet Fischer

Blessing Bags Update

Instead of using slider bags, we are switching to inexpensive, reusable cloth bags with our logo! The cost for 100 bags is approximately $170. (Future orders should be less since the logo will already be in their system.) If you can contribute to this, **please give a donation to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.** The logo for the new bags was designed by Meg Amouroux, and you can see it on the right!

Please note we are not taking donations other than monetary donations. This allows us to purchase what we need and to be consistent with what we are offering. Blessing Bags are available for you to pick up on Wednesdays between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM on the patio. Make sure you wear your mask and practice social distancing when picking up and distributing the bags.

~Janet Fischer

New logo for our Blessing Bags designed by Meg Amouroux!

Record setting achievement!! 700 and counting!

St. James' own Nadine Yother of Acacia Creek has been very busy these past few pandemic-infused months! Nadine is the casual coordinator of a small group of intrepid sewers and a larger group of helper bees who have been diligently stitching away making masks.

They have managed to stitch close to 700 masks as part of their PPE response to Covid-19. (They carefully wear their own masks and observe social distancing.) Residents had a surprisingly large quantity of variously colored fabrics with delightful designs which they were happy to donate to this effort.

The group initially made about 100 and thought they were done. However requests kept coming including the Red Cross, a San Francisco hospital, a social worker who needed them for homeless young people, as well as family members of residents at Acacia Creek.

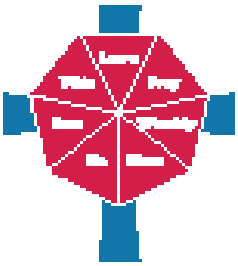
And they stitched another 50 for our own St. James' Blessing Bags!

Thank you Nadine!!

~Alice Johnson

WHAT DOES LOVE DO?

Living the Way of Love during Pandemic



In every season of life and every situation — especially in times of crisis, uncertainty, and loss — we return to Jesus and his Way of Love in order to stay centered on God and live with hope, compassion, and wisdom. The principles and practices below may help you to follow the Way of Love in the difficult days we now face.

What Does Love Do?

In John 21, Jesus comes alongside Peter and asks, "Do you love me more than these?" Peter insists, "Lord, you know that I do." Jesus then tells him what love does. Love feeds all who are hungry and tends the neighbor's pain. Love calls us to take care and take risks. Love allows us to fail and rise up with grace. Love invites us to be in love with God and to follow Jesus. Regularly ask yourself, "*What does love do?*" In every situation, how do you or could you practice Jesus's Way of Love – Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest?

Inspire All, Imperil None

Followers of Jesus seek to do that which inspires people to love God, our neighbors, ourselves, and the earth. If one path imperils you or others and the other is more life-giving (even if it is more costly), the Spirit guides us toward life.

Walk Together

Make the most of limits on public gatherings by meeting in small circles – either online or with those who share your home. The early church had it right: intentional small groups are essential as we seek to pray, study scripture, reflect, worship, love, and grow as disciples of Jesus.

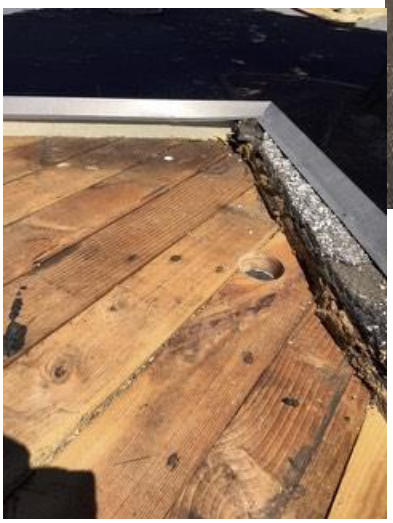
2020 St. James' Roof Repair and Re-roofing

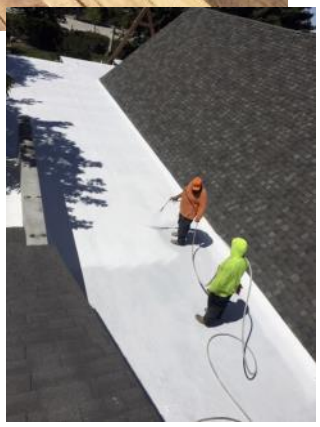
Although the repair and re-roofing of the Education Building and the flat portion of the Big Church were authorized by the Vestry months ago, delay after delay, including the Covid-19 delay, meant that the actual work did not begin until June 10th. Not too surprisingly, the workers found more damage, more extensive damage, than any of us had suspected. Because of that, the one day of repair ballooned into three days, three long days. Damage to the Education Building was confined to the eaves. The most extensive part of repair took place on the parking lot side of the Big Church eaves in the areas near the Sacristy and near the side door, even necessitating opening the roof above the Sacristy. The City of Fremont inspector needed to revisit a portion of the roof before the foam roof could be applied.

Then, when all was ready for the application of foam to the roofs, Fremont's afternoon winds failed to cooperate. The American Foam Experts roofers were forced to stop work early to avoid foam blowing where it was not wanted. The valiant workers finished the job in the late morning of Friday, June 19th.

The accompanying photos (by Dave Nelsen and Bruce Roberts) show some of the damage, the repairs and the process of applying the foam roof.

Bruce Roberts





Little Church Square Nails – How Can We Use Them?

When the builder replaced the buttresses in the Little Church starting in February of 2017, he found many antique, square nails. When the St. James' Building Crew refurbished the pews in 2019, they found a few more. Even as far back as 2013, during the Phase three of work on the building, we found square nails. Completed in 1867, the nails used in the Little Church were of the cut or square nail variety. Machine nails, the ones in use today, came into existence in the 1880s. So the nails retrieved from work on the building are as historic as the Little Church itself. Imagine the job they have done holding the historic wood of the church together all these years!

We have collected as many of the square nails together as we could, depending on each other and the builder to save them in the years of construction. We have a collection of a pound and ten ounces of the square nails, mostly about 2 ½ inches long, some pretty clean and some badly rusted, over 170 in number. A lot of heavy rust. Three thick, short nails look like they had nautical use, so heavily rusted they are. Also we collected a 1951 Roosevelt dime, a small foreign coin, a 1996 Lincoln head penny, a very small piece of colored glass, and an antique, round-head nail.

I'm sure the historians among us would like to save the nails. The question is *how* do we save them? In a box? In our St. James' Archive? Or in some visible way? Maybe a piece of art? Maybe in a meaningful object? A cross of some kind has been suggested. Individual crosses could be constructed for parishioners? I'm open to suggestions, designs…In addition, some pieces of wood (center supports from under the pews) have been saved, and maybe they could be used as well.

In any event the nails are saved, the question before us is, "What do we do with the nails?" Let me know your ideas – please.

~Bruce Roberts

Vestry Highlights
Submitted by Monique Manjarrez, Jr. Warden

Highlights from the meeting on May 21, 2020

The Vestry met again on May 21st via Zoom online conferencing. A motion was made for the Vestry to approve having our meetings online during the shelter in place ordered by our county. Meetings will continue this way until the order is lifted. We approved the April vestry meeting minutes, the April financial reports, and accepted the April staff and ministry reports.

Lori informed us that the roof repair is on hold until the roofing company is ready to start new projects. The newsletter team gave an update that during the summer months, there will be only one newsletter in mid-July that will combine the June, July, and August issues. Lori shared that "Faith At Home" bags are being given to all parishioners to help them stay connected to St. James during this time. The idea of live streaming our services will likely continue after the shelter in place is lifted.

Lynn gave an update on the PPP forgivable loan that was acquired by St. James'. Lori shared that the church received a donation that the lead team suggested to be placed in a special interest account as a reserve fund for emergency purposes. The Vestry approved a motion to go ahead with this recommendation. Sylvia gave an update on the online giving platform Vanco, that will be used to receive pledge donations from parishioners. Lori shared that there is a planned online conference between the Diocese and the church clergy, along with the wardens, to discuss how the reopening of the churches will occur and also discuss the church assessments. At 8:50, the Vestry adjourned with Compline led by Sally Morgan.

Highlights from the meeting on June 18, 2020

The Vestry met on June 18th via Zoom online conferencing. We approved the May vestry meeting minutes, the May financial reports, and accepted the May staff and ministry reports. Lynn gave an update on the PPP Loan that St. James' received and how our church is using that money for expenses. Lori shared that we will soon have our janitorial service go back to cleaning the interior of the church, however we might ask him to do some special inside work when that does begin.

Janet updated the vestry that the blessing bags we distribute will now be put into cloth drawstring bags with a St. James' logo. The vestry recorded an email vote to purchase livestreaming equipment for our church to use to broadcast our worship services virtually. Sylvia shared that the Disaster Preparedness Team has set up a phone tree to use during times of emergency situations where we might want to contact parishioners to see if they are okay and/or have any type of urgent need (i.e. earthquakes, local disaster).

Lori shared with the vestry that she is looking at having a congregational discussion on race. Vestry members shared their thoughts with Lori and there seems to support in doing this. Lori shared an FAQ document that addresses "Regathering for Worship". Vestry members offered their input.

The Vestry adjourned with Compline led by Bob Bynum.

Highlights from the meeting on July 16, 2020

The Vestry met on July 16th via online conferencing. We approved the June Vestry meeting minutes, the June financial reports, and accepted the June staff and ministry reports. In Lynn's absence, Lori gave an update on the financial report. Sylvia shared that the
(cont. on page 27)

Vestry Highlights Submitted by Monique

(cont. from page 26)

McCutcheon concert has been cancelled for the 2021 year. Some suggestions were offered by different Vestry members for alternatives in lieu of the concert.

Laura announced that the annual Flatlanders trip has also been cancelled for this year.

Sylvia shared that the roof has all been completed. The actual amount spent ended up being slightly less than what was budgeted.

Lori shared that regathering in person will continue to not happen due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Lori also shared some of the results from the gathering survey.

Sylvia updated the Vestry with details on the parish phone tree that will be used during emergency situations.

Lori said that we will have a parish wide discussion group on race (10 sessions). There will be an informational meeting at 12 noon and 7 pm on July 21st. The Vestry was encouraged to attend, as leaders of the church.

The Vestry briefly discussed the Convention Resolutions on financial transparency and audit compliance. We discussed our upcoming stewardship talks and how we might handle that this year since we won't be doing this in person.

The St. James' Day committee gave an update on the Kindness Rock project that we are doing to celebrate St. James' Day this year.

The Vestry adjourned with Compline led by Laura Winter.

Ladies' Flatlanders Update

We are sad to report that the Ladies' Flatlanders weekend has been canceled this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We believe it is not safe for us to spend a weekend together. The health and safety of everyone is our utmost concern. We will miss seeing you all.

As another idea, when it is safe to gather, we plan to have an afternoon get-together here in the area. One of our regular ladies has offered her back yard as a place we can gather outside for fun and fellowship. It's not the same as our weekend together, but it is a nice alternative. We hope many of you who cannot get away for the whole weekend will join us for an afternoon! It is still a great way to join with other women of St. James' to create bonds and strengthen our community. We will let you know when, once it is okay to safely come together.

In the meantime, we have reserved our regular townhouse at Pajaro Dunes on Monterey Bay for next year, September 16-19, 2021. Mark your calendars for a fabulous weekend!

Any questions, please talk with Nancy Castaneda, Mary Casas or Laura Winter.

~Laura Winter

Oven BBQ Pork Ribs
by Jim Cunningham

Serves 3 to 4
30 minutes prep, 4 hours cook time

Ingredients:

Cook in large deep pan like for turkey or ham
1 - 3 to 4 lb pack of pork back ribs (a full slab) (Jim says you can use beef ribs too!)
1 - 16 oz.+ bottle your favorite BBQ sauce
1 - 14.5 oz. can low sodium chicken broth
4 - T. olive oil
3 - T. brown sugar
3 - T. apple cider vinegar
3 - T. Worcestershire sauce
1 - t. cumin
½ - t. cayenne pepper
1 - lemon, juiced and sliced
salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350º
1. Pull membrane from ribs and cut into separate ribs.
2. Season the ribs with cumin, cayenne pepper, pepper and salt.
3. Preheat pan on stove top. Pour in oil and heat.
4. Brown the ribs on all sides in the pan on the stove top.
5. Pour in the chicken broth, BBQ sauce, brown sugar, vinegar , Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice and slices
6. Heat the mixture to boiling, simmer a little. Taste and adjust the flavor by adding vinegar if too sweet, sugar if too tart, then place the pan in the oven.
7. Braise for 4 hours at 350º, check and turn the ribs every 30 minutes. Add water if the sauce gets too thick. Taste test the sauce.
8. Remove from the oven and place on stove top.
9. Simmer to reduce the sauce, if needed. Serve

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, Darren

For Essential Workers:

Evelyn, Jeff, Brian, Samir, Mary Frances, Josephine, Mary, Polly, Alice, Bozena, Angela, Darcia, Melissa, Mary, Tammy, Heidi, Mana, Tessa

For Those Expecting Children:

Megan and Josh

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction:

Mrs. and Mrs. Tokins

For Those Who Need Comfort and Strength:

Alyssa, Kenny

For Those Who Need Healing:

Ron, Julie, Gail, Craig, Diane, Barry, Lori, the Edmond Family, Bill, Leslie, Ellison, Adam, Nathan, Penny, and all those affected by COVID-19.

For Those Who Have Passed Away:

Bob, Tom, Richard, Maryellen

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

Always @ St. James'

Children and Youth

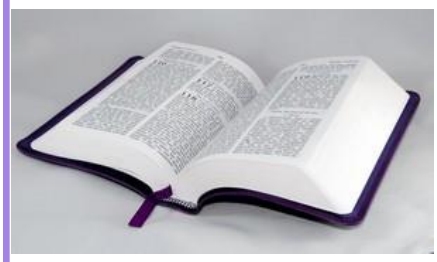
Check current events at:
https://saintj.com/wp/ministries/childrens-programs/
or email Jan Scrutton, jan@saintj.com

Blessing Bags

Blessing Bags are available in the Parish Hall for you to take to hand out to those in need. Each bag contains a pair of socks, a washcloth, toiletries, water, and something to eat. You can pick these up on the patio on Wednesdays, 10am-1pm.

Bible Studies

Monday morning Bible Study continues via zoom meetings, 11:00-12:00 each Monday. Our guide is *Our Journey With Luke: The 50 Day Bible Challenge,* by The Rev. Marek Zabriskie. Contact Rev. Lori by emailing lori@saintj.com to get the link to the Zoom meeting.



We also have a **Wednesday afternoon** Bible Study at 1:00pm, also via Zoom. Lori will send out a link to a short video and discussion questions. Email Lori to be added to this list as well.

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in **September**. 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: **August 15th**

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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http://saintj.com
Tel: (510) 797-1492

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY SERVICES: VIA YOUTUBE
CHECK THE LINK ON OUR HOME PAGE:
HTTP://SAINTJ.COM

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00AM
VIA ZOOM. CONTACT lori@saintj.com FOR THE LINK

OFFICE HOURS

WEDNESDAYS 10:00AM TO 1:00PM

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***The Window* Staff**

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Eucharistic Visitors: The Rev. Lori Walton
Altar Guild: Katie Cunningham
Ushers: Burtin Hart
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