The Window

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

Called to serve in new and loving ways

November 2020

The Gift of Music

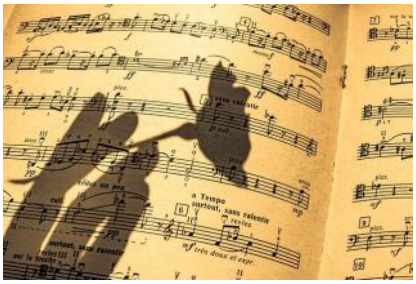
In college, I heard that when people come to a church for the first time, 60% of the people who return the following Sunday return because they liked the music. I don't know if this is true - perhaps this is something that we were told to scare us into being good church musicians. But I have always taken this to heart, and try to produce a high quality church music program at each of the churches I have served.

During this time of COVID, putting together a quality music program has still been doable, although not in a way that I ever imagined. But, thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of St. James', I have been able to keep the quality of music continuing through our virtual services.

I have contracted, and St. James' has employed a quartet of singers who have recorded hymns and anthems that are used during our weekly Sunday services. Lately, for hymns, the quartet has been recording their voice parts remotely from their homes, and I have been putting all of their voices, plus the organ parts together, through an app called GarageBand. I then send the finished hymns to Mike Scrutton, who puts a slideshow with the hymns, and then Marcus Pun adds the text to the hymns. It is a process, but it works in the end, thanks to everyone helping out and doing their part! I hope you have enjoyed singing the hymns during Sunday services!

I thank everyone at St. James' for doing YOUR part to keep our music program going! Without your pledges, we would have been unable to hire the quartet that has been singing hymns and anthems for our services. It is only through the generosity of the St. James' community that we have music for Sundays. Many churches have sacrificed most, if not all music and musicians in their parishes during COVID. We are extremely fortunate to have music here at St. James', and I am so grateful for your generosity.

I look forward to making and sharing music with you for many years to come!

~ Jennifer Ravera,
Music Director

Vote With Prayer

A presidential election year is always an important year in the life of a nation. It is a time that calls us to collective action, to use our rights as citizens of the United States to cast our vote for the person and policies that we believe would most benefit the United States. At our best, we are concerned not just for our individual selves, but also for the common good, the betterment of all citizens and for how our country can extend our power for good in the world.

I am a fervent believer in the separation of Church and State. The way the administration governs should not be shaped by a particular set of religious beliefs. The way the judicial system works should not be overtly influenced by doctrines of a specific denomination or religion. We are a country of varied expressions, some of which are religious and some of which are not. Our government is for the people, all the people, and nobody should be forced to live by the dogma or the defined creeds of a few.

However, separation of Church and State is not the same as separation of Religion and Politics. Jesus' religion informed his actions when interacting with the political systems of his time. His deep belief in the benevolence of God compelled him to work for justice and peace within the structures of the land. If we live our faith, integrate it into our lives and see it as a compass that guides us, we cannot separate our religion from our civic actions. Our beliefs guide us. The teachings of Jesus and the vision of the Kingdom of God invites us to use our voting power to create a society in which these teachings and characteristics are evident in our world today.

While the separation of church and state is meant to prevent the top-down enforcement of a belief system on a country's citizens, the integration of our religion with our politics compels us towards a bottom-up movement so that how we vote is informed by what we believe. This doesn't just go for the presidential election, but also for the state and local elections as well. Who best exemplifies your core beliefs? What policies most closely align with your own values? And if you are one who feels these core beliefs and values are best brought forth with less government, I would ask you to consider what social structures you are supporting or what actions you are taking to help usher in something a little more Kingdom-like. We are co-creators in the Kingdom, so we use the tools given to us.

Nobody can tell you how to vote - certainly not your church or your clergy. Even if I could, I wouldn't. That is for you and God alone to discern. I do, however, encourage you to vote. Do not be passive at this time. Be active. I do invite you to pray before you vote. God will settle your heart and clear your mind. And, I do ask you to keep praying once your vote is cast. The work won't end at the ballot box. Pray for our country. Pray for all of her citizens.

Lori+

The Practice of Prayer for Advent

Prayer is at the heart of our life in Christ. Prayer can be simple and unscripted or highly liturgical and formal. It can be pursued silently or aloud, alone or in the community of faith with which we identify ourselves. To be honest, I doubt that anyone feels fully "competent" at prayer, but even in the simple, direct form taught by Jesus to his disciples—what we call "The Lord's Prayer"—it places us before God and allows us to communicate with the Source of our being. Therefore, it seems natural that during our Advent time of preparation we should gather to study and practice prayer and seek thereby to grow closer to God.

Our sessions will begin **Tuesday, December 1st at 7:00 PM via Zoom** and continue for the next four weeks of Advent. We will use as our guide Margaret Guenther's *The Practice of Prayer* (New Church's Teaching Series, vol. 4, 1998. *Editor's note: There are a number of inexpensive, used copies available on amazon.com.*). This is available in paperback or on Kindle. I knew Margaret when she was on faculty at The General Theological Seminary in New York when I was a student there, and I can testify to her wisdom and her down-to-earth approach to spirituality. Let me quote from her work as an invitation to our Advent discipline:

> The practice of prayer is the work of a lifetime, touching every aspect of our life, from the search for identity to the challenge of vocation; to the acceptance of death. It takes us through the heights, the depths, and the desert—to say nothing of the occasional swamp…How we practice our prayer makes a difference in who we are and what we become.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at bhale@saintj.com. I look forward to engaging with you, regardless of where you are in your personal spiritual journey. Come, let us journey together!

WORSHIP, FORMATION, FELLOWSHIP
The Ways We Are Church Together

WORSHIP

Sunday Morning Service Live Stream!
Join our service live-stream at 8:25am on Sunday at saintj.com, or join our Zoom "watch party" (see below). The service can be joined at any time on Sunday from 8:25am, or watched during the week.

Watch Parties at 8:30am and 11:00am
Watch the Sunday Morning service with others! Log into Zoom at 8:30am or 11:00am to watch with others, and then stick around for coffee hours. Email Jennifer at music@saintj.com for the Watch Party/Coffee Hour link.

Wednesday 10:00am Service
Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with prayers and sermon discussion in real-time on Zoom. Join us! Email Rev. Lori at lori@saintj.com (odd Wednesdays) or Rev. Bill at bhale@saintj.com (even Wednesdays).

Wednesday 1:00pm Connecting with Others Bible Study
Watch a short video and have a rich conversation with other parishioners. Email Rev. Lori at lori@saintj.com if you'd like to join us.

Morning Prayer 8-8:30am. Monday-Friday
Join Rev. Bill for Morning Prayer via Zoom. Contact bhale@saintj.com for the link.

FELLOWSHIP

Coffee Hours at 9:00am and 11:30am
Our coffee hours follow our Watch Parties, and are a great way to check in and say hello to others. Email Jennifer Ravera at music@saintj.com to get the information.

Thursday 12:00pm Home Alone Group
For those who are living alone, meet us on Thursdays during lunchtime to say hello. Email Rev. Bill at bhale@saintj.com for information.

Thursday Night 7:00pm Social Hour
Grab a drink and link in to Zoom to socialize with others and see how everyone is doing. Email Jennifer Ravera at music@saintj.com for details.

Audio Sermons and Online Resources
While we have suspended in-person worship services, you can still experience Sunday's Morning Prayer and sermons. Go to our website for online worship resources, or search in iTunes for "Saint James' Fremont" and subscribe to our weekly sermon podcast. We are also building a library of links to curated resources there to enrich our life in community while apart. Go to: https://saintj.com/wp/worship/online-worship/.

Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Moves Online

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 59th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service is coming online. It will still be held on the Monday before Thanksgiving, on **November 23, at 7:30 p.m.,** only it will be held on the Zoom platform.

To register for the service – advanced registration is required – go to tinyurl.com/tcicTS2020.

The service will include prayers, readings, recorded music, and dance offered by several different faith and spiritual communities in the Tri-Cities. It will also include a brief sermon by TCIC President, the Rev. Jeffrey Spencer, which he has tentatively titled "Chairs and the Table."

Jeff is the Senior Pastor at Niles Discovery Church. The service is expected to last about one hour. You can download a flyer for the event at bit.ly/TS2020flyer.

Candlelight Vigil in National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

St. James' and Abode Services will be hosting the Candlelight Vigil again this year and it will be available for viewing online from **Monday, November 16th**. While we can't gather together at church to name and remember those who have died as a result of homelessness this year we will be gathering virtually to hear speakers, reflections from faith leaders and, most importantly, to name and remember the individuals. We are also looking forward to a musical piece by Mission Peak Chamber Singers. Look out for details as to how to join us online for this event. Watch along, and if you would like, light a candle in your own home to remember.

~Jan Scrutton

Fall & Winter Sacred Offerings at Saint James'

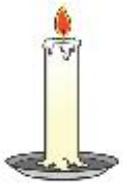
Christ the King
Pledge Gathering & Advent@Home Pickup

Saturday, November 21 from 10:00-12:00

Join us in the parking lot for a drive through! Drive from our Advent@Home Station to pickup your worship materials for Advent. Then move to our Blessing Station to receive a sprinkling of Holy Water. From there, drive to our Donut Station for your Coffee Hour Donuts. Finally, Stop at our Ingathering Station to drop off your pledge and/or notes of gratitude. All gatherings will be blessed at our Sunday service the following day.

Interfaith Candlelight Vigil with Abode Services

November 16



Too many people live and die on the street, nameless and alone. Join us at **6:00 pm** to remember those who have died and raise your own awareness of this crisis. Our gathering will be a Zoom Webinar this year. Stay tuned for connection information.

Thanksgiving Day

November 26

Celebrate the many things we have to be thankful for at **10:00 am** for a virtual service of Thanksgiving.

Advent@Home

(picked up on November 21)

Participate in the Season of Advent with materials to assist with your Advent observance and home altars.

Christmas Celebrations

Church Greening

December 20

Deck the Halls! Stop by Church from 10:00-12:00 to help decorate our Sanctuary Christmas Tree. Make an ornament for our tree, or bring one you already have. Help us make our sacred space festive.

Christmas Eve

December 24

Nativity Family Service

A child-oriented telling of the Nativity Story for the whole family, available on our website to view at your leisure.

Christmas Service with Holy Communion

An online, in your home, service to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and to mark this most sacred day.

Christmas Day

December 25

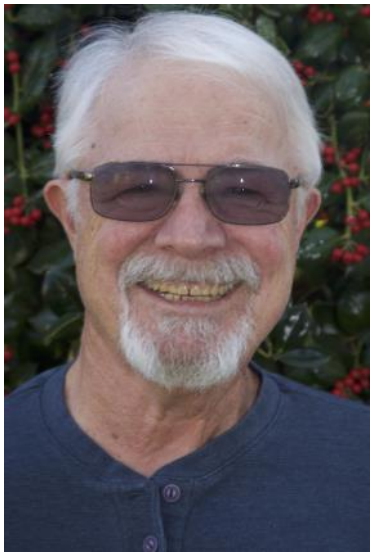
It is the Lord's Day! Begin this sacred day with a virtual, live-streamed service at **10:00 am**.

Deanery Lessons & Carols

December 27

Listen to a traditional service of Lessons & Carols, presented by the Deanery Churches

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



I've often wondered about the call of God when a major decision needs to be made. Do I listen to my head, my introverted self, the one that says NO, or do I listen to the still voice that calls to me, "Go ahead, take a chance, BE BOLD."

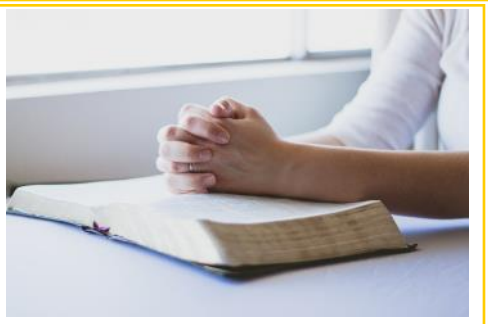
This has happened to me in very unusual places. I was once offered a temporary position at my corporate office, it would be a challenge, a long commute, being away from the family, but it also pushed me to be more than I thought I could be. I remember joining a group of my high school friends and going to a Billy Graham gathering. And the call came out, "Will you be born again?" Would I be bold and say yes? The spirit pulled me, YES!

To be truthful, I don't always listen; fear or just inertia pull me away. The call to go beyond my own comfort zone happens to me when I am fully expecting to NOT do something, not volunteer, just go with the flow. But the voice says, "Go ahead, Be Bold, you can do this," join the vestry, represent at Executive Council. It has led me to some life-altering experiences.

Sometimes the challenge is not what you expect, it may take you to places and experiences you never imagined. Be Bold, listen to God's voice, be comforted that He will be with you, no matter where it leads you.

~Jim McConnell

Morning Prayer



Bill Hale is inviting any member of the parish to join him in the service of daily Morning Prayer, Monday through Friday, at 8am. The service begins on p. 75 of *The Book of Common Prayer* and will follow the prayer book lectionary. Use of the Daily Office allows individuals to pursue a course of daily Bible reading, read through the Psalter in about six weeks, pray the collects proper to each day and season, and most important of all, to engage in prayers for the Church, the world, and those remembered by our parish.

If you are interested, please contact Bill at bhale@saintj.com.

If you want to see what a typical day's liturgy looks like, please click on this link:

https://www.missionstclare.com/english

Financial Summary September 2020			
Fund Balances	**09/30/19**		**09/30/20**
Operating Fund	65,536.88		120,785.88
Building Fund	61,328.12		31,965.44
Pledges Budgeted	251,550.75		257,297.99
Pledges Paid	239,183.42		274,757.87
Unpledged Contributions	6,915.80		12,531.53
Other Op Income*	14,412.74		60,742.87
Total Operating Income	260,511.96		348,032.47
Total Operating Expenses	244,566.60		284,910.87
Income less Expenses	**15,945.36**		**63,121.60**
** 2020 Includes $54,895 from Paycheck Protection Program Loan			

Photo taken by Rev. Lori at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. She calls it "The Holy Trinity."

John McCutcheon Returns to St. James'…Virtually

On January 16, 2021, at 4 PM John McCutcheon will virtually sing to the folks at St. James' via a program called Mandolin. Yes, although he won't appear in person he will arrive in spirit – if you buy a ticket. Instead of one ticket per person, couples and families can buy one ticket per household. What a savings!

Yes, in order to protect us all from the possibility of sickness, St. James' has decided to have John McCutcheon perform for us across the bandwidth with a super show at a super time, at 4 PM on a Saturday via computer, tablet, smart phone or smart TV. You can watch him from the coziness of your home, snacks in hand, a beverage at your side. You can sing along with John – or enjoy his singing without a family chorus. We are sorry that you will miss the hustle and bustle of the coffee and cookie break and special prize drawing. Be sure to make and enjoy your own goodies.

What we know so far regarding the buying of tickets is that the tickets will be $20 each, bought directly from John, and St. James' will have part of the ticket price returned so we can donate to Abode Services (Ending Homelessness by Putting Housing First) as we have for many years. More (and much better) information regarding tickets and viewing directions will follow next month.

We are pretty excited to have John McCutcheon return this coming January even though he will be live on your home screen.

~ The McCutcheon Team

Vestry Highlights
Submitted by Monique Manjarrez, Jr. Warden

The Vestry met on October 15th via online conferencing. During oral communications, Sylvia gave an update on the "virtual" John McCutcheon music program. Any proceeds from these ticket sales will go to Abode Services. She also updated that the new refrigerator is up and running. The freezer has also recently been repaired.

We approved the September Vestry minutes, the September financial reports, and accepted the September staff and ministry reports.

Dave Nelsen attended the meeting and shared that one of the back fences that we share with an adjoining resident needs to be repaired. He shared the quotes with the Vestry and answered clarifying questions. After a discussion, the Vestry approved to share the cost of the fence replacement.

The Vestry recorded an email vote to pay for a vocal quartet for some of our upcoming services. Sylvia reminded everyone of our email voting procedures.

The Vestry entered into Executive session to discuss employee health benefits for the church's full-time employee, having received 2021 figures from the Diocese. After coming back from Executive session, the Vestry made their decision about full-time employee health benefits.

The Vestry discussed how we will handle the Ingathering Drive-Through. Sylvia shared information about the pre-election prayer gathering that will take place the day before the election at St. James'. Laura gave the Vestry information about how stewardship will be delivering little packages to our St. James' parish members in the upcoming week.

2020 Diocesan Convention Report

The Diocese of California held its annual convention on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions on large gatherings, it was held as an online event. Despite some technical difficulties, we completed the agenda in full by 5pm. At its peak, there were 302 participants online, not including those visitors watching via the live-stream.

All resolutions passed, most with unanimous or near-unanimous approval. The 2020 resolutions included:

- Mandates Anti-Racism & Racial Reconciliation Training for the House of Deputies
- Climate Change - Carbon-Intensive Lending
- Support for the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act
- Financial Reporting Transparency
- Assessing the Church's Response to COVID-19
- Recognition and Celebration of Juneteenth as a Diocesan Feast Day
- Sabbatical Leave Policy for Clergy

The Diocese also offered additional presentations ahead of the convention. These included *"It Ain't Easy Being Native: Indigenous People, Christianity, and the Episcopal Church,"* and *"Black Voices, Truth Telling and Transformation."* Archived videos of these, and other convention reports and materials can be found at: www.diocal-virtualevent.org.

~Submitted by Meg Amouroux
on behalf of the 2020 St. James' Deanery Convention Delegates
(John Amouroux, Meg Amouroux, Jim McConnell, Ken Trant, Scott Whitaker)

MEET A MINISTRY:
Adult Faith Formation

Faith formation...sounds like work, doesn't it? I won't lie; getting some education for ourselves does require a bit of time and effort. But it can still be fun! The Adult Faith Formation committee tries to make our classes as enjoyable as possible, utilizing videos, interviews, provocative readings, and lively discussion. We do everything we can to make every education session a safe place for people to express their growth, fears, beliefs, and opinions. As a dear friend of mine once said, "In the Episcopal Church I can change my mind about something without having to change churches!"

Faith formation includes: Sunday, weekday, and evening classes on a specific topic or book or film series, bible study groups, and sessions that focus on a particular time in the church calendar—such as Advent and Lent. We've had in-person meetings for many years prior to COVID-19, and we'll have them again when it is safe to do so. Meanwhile, as our street sign says, "Church isn't cancelled!" Using Zoom, we have just finished an 11-week conversation on race and white privilege in the United States (and a report about that will be in next month's newsletter). Twenty-nine people attended this important "Sacred Ground" program, joining either a day or evening meeting. Bible studies meet on Mondays and Wednesdays (two different groups) also via Zoom. And Rev. Bill is planning a Zoom class for Advent (see page 3).

For Epiphany, we're planning a class to watch all the films in the series, "We Shall Remain, America Through Native Eyes." We watched the first film in the series as part of Sacred Ground, and there was interest in viewing all five films in the PBS series. It has been purchased for St. James'. Each episode is about 90 minutes long, and we'll have a 1/2 hour for discussion after watching via Zoom. Again, details to follow soon.

The mission of this ministry is to "provide adults with classes and programs that educate us about our faith, our church traditions; enhance our understanding of God, ourselves and our neighbors; and deepen our spiritual life and practice." Please let us know how we can better fulfil this mission. Current members of the committee are: The Rev. Lori Walton, EJ Hilliard, Bruce Roberts, and Janet Fischer.

~Janet Fischer, Adult FF Committee Chair

Always @ St. James'

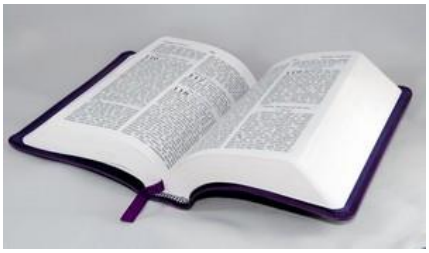
Children and Youth

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

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.



Blessing Bags for Distribution

In this time of need, let us remember those who have no shelter. Our Blessing Bags are available for you to give away. Each bag contains toiletries, food, socks, and a mask. We're using reusable cloth bags that can also serve as a backpack.

If you would like to contribute to the cost of the bags or the contents, please give a donation to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. 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 most 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.

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

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

News For November

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, Alex

For Those Expecting Children:

Megan and Josh

For Those Who Need Comfort and Strength:

The Ramacciotti Family, The Burns Family, George, Jim and Ralph

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction:

For Those Who Need Healing:

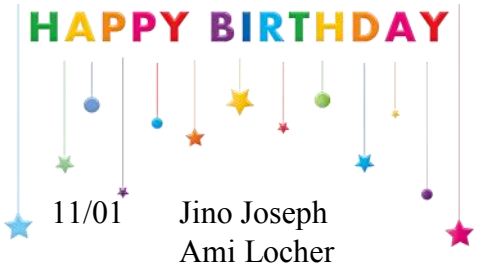
Ron, Julie, Gail, Craig, Linda, Diane, Barry, Bill, Ivy, Vickie, Adrienne, Edward , Paul, Don, Omar, Louis, Ellison, Nathan, Peter, Bryan, Maynard, Adam, David, Penny, Judy, Carolyn, Maggie, Joe, Sally, Ramesh, Amy, Katie

For Those Who Have Passed Away:

Teresa, Judy, Nicholas, Paul, Matthew, Pat

And for all of us impacted by the current pandemic.

To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please call / email the Church Office. After six weeks, names are removed from the list. Please renew your request as needed. Thank you.



11/01	Jino Joseph
	Ami Locher
11/07	Nathaniel Bryant
11/12	Eric Caron
11/13	Thomas Wiley
11/17	Travis Koonze
	Alberto Verdin
11/18	John Maloney
11/19	Gail Blalock
11/22	Andrew Paratore
	Karen Watkins
11/24	Daniel Pondurai
11/25	John Paratore
11/27	Andrea Ramsamy
	Toni Verdin
11/29	Judy Peeler
	Raelene Ramsamy
	Don Rose
	Rick Spalding
11/30	Rebeccah Fuller
	Nancy Svenson

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

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY SERVICE: LIVE-STREAM AT 8:30AM WITH RECORDED SERVICE AVAILABLE TO VIEW THEREAFTER.
HTTP://SAINTJ.COM

MORNING PRAYER 8-8:30AM
MONDAY-FRIDAY VIA ZOOM.
CONTACT bhale@saintj.com FOR THE LINK

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

OFFICE HOURS

WEDNESDAYS 10:00AM TO 1:00PM

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
Mary Francis Leopold
Jim McConnell
Sally Morgan
Laura Winter

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

***The Window* Staff**

Janet Fischer
Laura Winter
Article submission:
newsletter@saintj.com

Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:
George Siegmann
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
John Amouroux
Meg Amouroux
Jim McConnell
Ken Trant
Scott Whitaker

Alternates to Convention

Penny Trant
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller