The Window

The Newsletter of St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont, CA
CALLED TO SERVE IN NEW AND LOVING WAYS.

August 2011

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3.1

There's an old saying, The more things change, the more they stay the same. This is often said in a derisive tone, when yet another political scandal hits the news or the state finds itself in another budget crunch or when traffic backs up on a newly widened road for no apparent reason and we find ourselves stuck in a sweltering car on a Sunday afternoon.

But there is a comfortable truth in that saying as well. In spite of the speed at which our ever-evolving world changes, in spite of the rapidness with which our young children grow up and become adults, the hustle and bustle of our twenty-four by seven activities, we can find solace and comfort in our church community and the knowledge that this will never change.

When parishioners of Saint James' are asked what they value most about being a member of our congregation, always at the top of the list is the warm sense of being part of a caring community.

Our Little Church is a wonderful place of worship. The Main Church has never looked better. The Parish Hall provides a friendly place for our coffee hours and other social gatherings. The buildings and grounds of Saint James' are well cared for and a credit to the hard working people who devote so much time, effort and skill to maintaining them. But……...

All that could go away in an instant and Saint James' would continue to exist, as it is our congregation, as individuals and as a body, from which our church derives its substance, its reality, its identity and its soul.

St. James' is poised for a season of new growth. We see it already in the increasing number of children whose presence during our Sunday services are never a distraction to be quieted but rather an affirmation to be celebrated. We see it in new faces and new voices. We see it in the success of our outreach programs and our involvement with the other Episcopal churches in our area. We see it every Sunday as we come together in worship and fellowship.

Let's enjoy this season of growing.

Andy MacRae
Junior Warden

Stewardship Corner

The Stewardship of Time & Talent

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." *1 Peter 4:10*

The vision of stewardship in this passage assumes that those who are "faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" are men and women who are grateful, merciful, and faithful, and called to pledge responsibility for all of creation. When we talk about stewardship, it is not just a dictionary definition. It is God's design for living as Christians through how we give of our time, talent, and money. Stewardship is God's way of raising people, not man's way of raising money. Christians share God's love
by serving others.

Volunteering, whether at St. James' or in the community where you live, can be a very meaningful experience. I believe that getting involved at St. James' is the best, and easiest way to become part of the St. James' Community. St. James' has a very unique spirit and sense of community. I think it is because we have many people working in many different ministries. If you are not one of the many people, I encourage you to think about becoming one. Attending church service on Sunday mornings is important, but engaging yourself in some way into the ministry and mission of the church will add a new dimension to your life. And, God expects it of you. In addition, I guarantee that you will make new friends.

If you think you don't have the time to volunteer for an ongoing ministry or program, then volunteer for a one-time job or occasional task. An easy way to begin might be to occasionally (or regularly on your own time schedule) bring in supplies for the food pantry. It may not seem like much, but you will be helping to further St. James' ministry to the poor and needy. The monthly work parties is another way to be involved without a huge commitment. You may help once a month or begin by coming every-other-month. It is a flexible way to start (but be careful, you might just get hooked). There are many "one-time" events during the year when help is needed. When the plea goes out for help to set up tables, respond with a hearty "yes"! And if you are skeptical about what talent you might have to offer a particular ministry, call someone involved with that ministry to talk about it. I know they would be happy to talk with you, and you may be surprised to learn that "no experience is required."

"Follow Me," Jesus simply but powerfully commanded of the Apostles and they did. That call is made to us as well on this day and in this time. Stewardship is the care and use of all that we have been given by God; it is sharing our talent, treasure, and time. Begin sharing your time and talent today.

Gail Blalock
Stewardship Chair

12th Annual Keep ABreast Walk
Saturday, September 24th, 2011

Many of us have someone in our lives who has been affected by breast cancer. This year the 11th Annual KEEP ABREAST 5k Walk/ 5k/10k Run is on September 24th at Quarry Lakes Regional Park in Fremont. The foundation's mission is to "empower women affected by breast cancer, support their wellbeing with post-surgical products and educational services, regardless of their financial status".

The event starts about 8am for sign-in and some warm up aerobics. The race begins at 9am with an award ceremonies will follow. During the morning there is also a Community Expo where a variety of businesses, non-profit organizations and service providers offer a variety of items, practices and tips that promote health and wellness.

Last year we had 8 parishioners walk as "St. James' Spirit". It is a wonderful experience and we would like invite you to be part of "St. James" Spirit". If you are interested, please email Penny Trant at just4pt@yahoo.com for more details and information on how to register with our team. There is a $40 entrance for adults, $20 for youth 11-17 years and you will receive a Keep Abreast t-shirt for the race.

This is a family event and we encourage those who cannot participate to be part of the cheering group. Please visit http://hersfund.org and see all the wonderful things this foundation offers to support breast cancer survivors and their families. Please join the team and walk with us to honor those who are breast cancer survivors, those who fight this fight everyday, and in memory of those we have lost to this disease. Thank you!
Penny Trant

Lady Flatlanders

The women of St. James' have a long history of gathering for several days of "camping" together, starting the Wednesday after Labor Day.

This year we will be camping September 7th-11th at Thousand Trails near Hollister. We are in the process of planning for this year's event. In order to secure the reservation we need to know how many ladies want to use tents, rent trailers, or are bringing their own trailers.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions please contact: Mary Casas, Nancy Castaneda, Dorothy Balderston or Jackie Whitehouse

Mary Casas

Heartfelt appreciation goes out to the cheerful and talented people who spent hours of their time helping to produce the new St. James' Picture Directory.

They are Jan Brandt, Janet Fischer, Aimee Garza, Art Gallardo, Marnie Hartmann, Sandy Jaekel, Lea Lucas, Johanne La Rocque, Sandra Motley, Pegeen Perry, Chris Perry, Ruth Poole, and last, but certainly not least, The Rev. Lori Walton.

We thank you sincerely,
The Vestry Communications Cluster
Valle Brokes and Greg Scheuffele

ST. JAMES' WELCOMES YOU!

Thanks to some hard working parishioners, the front of the church at St James' is visible again! The Perry family – Chris, Pegeen, Ian, as well as Pat and Tim Spencer worked for three days, pulling out the old shrubs and clearing the area. I hear they found a few old plastic Easter eggs, a softball, a couple six inch iron spikes, and assorted other bits of metal and concrete – quite a treasure hunt! They opened up the entrance, and in the process made the area much more welcoming. Possible unsafe hiding places behind the shrubs were removed as well.

Once the area was cleared, they along with Ruth Poole provided two new trees and other plants to complement the remaining rose bushes. Soon bark will be placed to finish the look. The entrance is much more visible and inviting now. Check it out if you haven't already been by, and why not bring a friend to see it!

Laura Winter

Before

After

After

St. James' Feast Celebration

On August 24th we celebrated our Patron Saint, St. James (July 25) with a theme of *Summer Dayz*. This is the third annual celebration and we were pleased to have our brothers and sister from the Philippine Independent Church be part of our service and join the day's festivities again this year.

People were asked to bring picnic type dishes to keep things more simple this year and the Philippine Church once again brought the roasted pig. The recent yard work, which cleared all the brush from the cyclone fencing and all the other ground's cleanup, made for a wonderful area to have a picnic under he array of canopies on our lawn area.

What more could you ask for, great weather, great food, and a GREAT time shared by all. We extend our thanks to the Philippine Independent Church for being part of our St. James‟ Celebration and to the wonderful parishioners of St. James' for making this a truly special day! Until next year,

Submitted by: Penny Trant

Nursery Update

The much needed renovation of the nursery have started and will continue through August. Linda and Dave Nelsen will be painting the walls, designing a mural, and replacing the window blinds. The wooden table and chairs will be painted, the carpet cleaned, and all toys disinfected. Older, more tattered toys and books will be discarded.

How you can help?

We're conducting a toy and book drive! We are looking for new toys that are appropriate for ages infants through 4 years old. We especially ask that if you have a child who uses the nursery you would consider donating a toy or book appropriate to your child's age. We are very excited about renovating this space and creating a clean, welcoming environment for the little ones in our parish.

If you have any questions or have a donation for the nursery, please contact Marlene Benedict at christianformation@saintj.com .

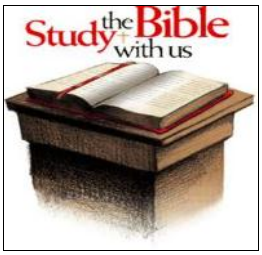
Thank you so much! - Christian Formation Cluster

Weaving God's Promises
Gearing up for Sunday School!

Only a month or so away, and we will be launching our new and revamped Children's Ministries! We are well on our way to a fabulous and very exciting program, and thanks to the commitment of some incredible people, we are also well staffed.

Many, many thanks to our 2011-2012 Leaders:

Mary Casas
Bob Doherty
Lauren Doherty
Dave Nelsen
Linda Nelsen
Beth Scrutton
Ken Trant
Penny Trant
Laura Winter



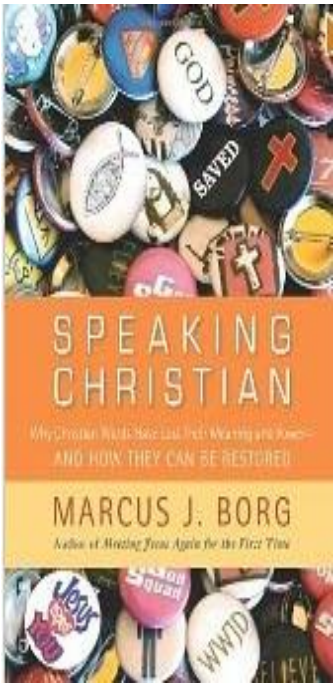
6 AM Bible Study – Year 31

On September 13th, 2011 the "6 AM Bible Study Group" will celebrate their 31st year of meetings.

The group meets Tuesday morning, at 6 AM (yes that's 6 in the morning) and studies the Lectionary lessons (http://www.lectionarypage.net/) for the coming Sunday Service. We meet September thru May and take the summer months off.

If you are interested in joining our group, please contact the office at admin@saintj.com or call 510.709.8606.

In Christ
The 6 AM Bible Study Group



The Book Shelf

Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power – And How They Can Be Restored, by Marcus Borg (HarperOne, 2011). 248 pages. Hardback, $25.99 ($14.33 from Amazon.com).

Borg begins by stating, "'Speaking Christian', by which I mean knowing and understanding Christian language, is in a state of crisis in North America. [Christians] think they are speaking the language as it has always been understood, but what they mean by the words and concepts is so different from what these things have meant historically, that they would have trouble communicating with the very authors of the past they honor."

Words in question include: salvation, God, Easter, mercy, sin, and born again, among others. He continues by explaining the difference between the modern evangelical-type understanding of these words – what he calls the "heaven and hell framework" - and what he believes are the traditional meanings as understood by the writers of scripture.

Take for example the word "mercy." This word is very familiar to Christians. Mercy, however, indicates a power differential between two parties. God is merciful to sinners. We might be merciful to someone who owes us money. A master may show mercy to a slave. It is the opposite of punishment. Borg insists however, that the proper translation of this word in scripture is frequently, "compassion." Compassion is loving or nourishing action toward another, regardless of station. For example, we don't show mercy to the victims of an earthquake; we show them compassion. (Unless you are one who believes that earthquake victims are somehow being punished by God, but that is a discussion for another day!) Borg believes a better translation of, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy," is, "Blessed are the compassionate, for they shall receive compassion." It is a small shift in one's perspective, but a powerful one.

This book may serve as a brief encyclopedia of progressive Christian theology. If you are familiar with the works of Marcus Borg, it will be a handy reference on your shelf. If you are not, this book provides an easy introduction to Borg and his writings. Whether or not you are familiar with the works of Marcus Borg, this small volume contains some big eye-openers.

~Janet Fischer

Summer BBQ Picnic

August 20, 2011

Sponsored by the Southern Alameda Deanery

At Shadow Cliffs Park & Water Slides
2500 Stanley Boulvevard
Pleasanton, CA

Beginning at 10:30 am

Join us for Holy Communion, followed by a BBQ Picnic & games with the Parishes in our Deanery. Look for more details in the weekly bulletin and our website. All are welcome and there is no cost.

Ladies Field Trip to Benicia Library, Art and Poetry Display

A few of the ladies who belong to a neighborhood book club visited the Benicia Library, Art, and Poetry Display recently.

Pictured L-R: Barbara Lyon, Linda Nelsen, Johanne LaRocque, Marnie Hartmann, Barbara Dabney

Cleanliness is next to Godliness! A Thank You from Lori and Ron!

To the many people (most of whom were anonymous!) who gave Ron and me gift cards – Thank You! We are now the proud owners of an amazing washing machine and dryer, and are happily cleaning everything in sight!

Lori & Ron

"Available for Lunch" Sunday September 25th

Available for Lunch Ministry is planning another get-together on Sunday, September 25th at noon. This is a wonderful time to socialize and enjoy some great food with fellow parishioners.

Please watch the weekly bulletin for more details.

Available for Lunch Ministry
Sylvia Ma and Meg Williams

Financial Summary 30 June 2011

Fund Balances	**6/30/2010**	**6/30/2011**
Operating Fund	29,215	52,068
Building Fund	24,512	28,028

Year To Date Summary Operating

	6/30/2010	**6/30/2011**
Pledges Budgeted	114,950	116,956
Pledges Paid	100,641	105,265
Unpledged Contributions	2,575	3,992
Other Op Income	10,479	12,285
Total Operating Income	113,695	121,542
Total Operating Expenses	121,659	121,237
Income less Expense	(7,964)	305

St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God, we pray for:

Those In The Military: Scott, Jarrod, Angelina, Ryan, Bryan, Megan, Erica, Theresa, Mark, Louis, Emily, Military Children of ACBSM, the families and Marines of Dark Horse Battalion, Darren, Tim, Caitlin, Emily,

Those Suffering Economic Hardship: Candace, Rick

Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Kenny, Heather, Beth, Rhonda, Paul, Deja, Jordon

Those Who Need Comfort and Strength: The Day Family, The Johnsen Family, The Williams Family, The Vallecillo Family, Betty, Carrol, Adrian, The Knoll Family, The Pearson Family

Those Who Are Traveling: Robin, Bruce, Marilyn & Son, Craig

Those Who Need Continued Healing: Brad, Florinne, David, William, Raymund, Bernice, Dean, Matthew, Verna, Michael, Larry, Bonnie, Pamela, Marilyn, Irma, Leona

Those Who Have Passed Away: Carol, Philip, Don, Jack, Doris, Christine, Jack, Tubby, Glennamae,

Please note: If your birthday or anniversary is in this month and your name(s) is not listed or the information is incorrect, please email the appropriate information to:
admin@saintj.com

To view the current St. James' calendar, Go to:
www.mychurchevents.com/calendar

August Birthday Celebrations

1 Thomas Wilcoxon
2 Ralph Locher
4 Griselda Prather
5 Molly Lubwama
6 Paul Svenson, Jr.
Shalini Singh
16 Valle Brokes
17 Leona Athearn
18 Becky Whitaker
20 Michael Egan
21 Vivienne Paratore
23 Marsha Reeves
Daniel Amadi
24 Harriet Nabbaale
26 Rachel Whitaker
Ken Trant, Jr.
27 Bobbie Tomkinson
Barbara Johnsen
29 David Nelsen
30 Frank McNulty

August Anniversaries

3 Bryant Hicks and Carmelia Cravatt
8 John and Florinne Becker
15 Steve and Orietta Hardy-Sayles
20 Marty and Donna Noll
24 Al and Valle Brokes
26 Scott and Martha Kennedy
30 Greig and Marsha Reeves

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in September. We welcome your **comments, essays, poems, photos, cartoons, newsworthy items of interest, art work, any group activity information and reviews**.
Email your submission to window@saintj.com
September Deadline: August, 15th

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY SERVICES 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY 9:15-10:15 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 AM*
YOUTH GROUP SECOND SUNDAY 7:00-8:30 PM*
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00 AM
(*ON VACATION UNTIL SEPTEMER 11TH)

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

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The Rev. Bob Dobbin……deacon@saintj.com
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Valle Brokes, Greg Scheuffele
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Donald Razzolini, Dean Valentine
Facilities…. .....facilities@saintj.com
Laura Winter

Other Important Coordinators

Altar Guild: Margaret Rainey
Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors: Janet Fischer
Treasurer: Jan Brandt
Ushers: Burtin Hart

The Window Staff

Ralph Locher
Marilyn Rose
Penny Trant
Laura Winter