



The Window

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

March 2011

A Look Ahead: What We Take On, What We Give Up

The traditional Lenten discipline of church folk is to give up something during Lent, something that we find difficult to give up on a day-to-day basis such as chocolate, soda or alcohol. Sometimes Lent involves taking something on that one might not otherwise take on, a volunteer project or a commitment to pray the offices each day. The choice is individual and unique. The discipline is what most speaks to the person in terms of growing edges and desired personal change.

As a community, we go through the same examination. What do we need to let go of? What should we be taking on? For the past four months as I have only just begun to know you, I have prayed for awareness of where we might move towards together. At our annual meeting, I presented to you the areas that I observed needing strengthening – things we take on. All three of these areas involve relationship, of course; ultimately anchored in the relationship we have with God.

The first area I've thought about is in the realm of visitors and new members to our church. People show up at church for many reasons, but almost always, it is due to a stirring or curiosity within. We stand ready to provide a place for that stirring, and to provide an opportunity to explore that curiosity. It is our privilege, and our gift I might add, to be welcoming and warm. We're pretty good at this. One new parishioner recently told me that St. James' was the friendliest church she'd been to. I encourage all of us to continue engaging new faces in conversation *and* in inviting them into the greater life of our community. Along these lines, a stronger system of follow-up is needed, as is a more systematic way of integrating people into the life of our church beyond Sunday morning. As we move forward, I plan to call a group to assist me in sketching out a new program for welcoming and integrating people in a more focused way.

The second and third areas for us to look at are our ministry to children and youth. Like many congregations, we are aging, and if we want to be healthy and thriving in 15-20 years, we have to attend to our teenagers and children. The development of a child's faith is some of the most important work that the church does - and if we do not breathe life into this area, then we're failing down on our most basic call as Christians.

As I mentioned at the annual meeting, I know of no person more ready to embrace the Gospel of Jesus than a child who knows that love is a real and life-giving thing. And, I know of no person who needs to hear the Truth of God's Love in a difficult world more than a teenager does. We have as much to learn from our children as they do from us.

We have already begun to develop new experiences for our younger members, and we plan on developing more. You don't have to have a child to be involved and you don't have to be young to connect with youth. I hope that you will not just support these efforts towards our children and youth, but that you will also engage in them as well. A few of us cannot do it alone, and the multitude of blessings we will receive in return is not for a few of us to gather. So, I invite you to engage in this renewed effort, with your prayers, with your ideas, with your talents, and with your love.

So then, as a body, what will we give up? I leave this for you to answer, but as you pray about it, reflect on the areas of our community that is less than life giving. Where do you feel like we are not our best at reflecting Christ? What areas of our common life need healing? How can you, as part of the body, do something different, something that strengthens up rather than weakens?

The season of Lent is a Holy Time, and we have an amazing ability to accomplish many things. With common prayer and common worship, let us examine together how we are the Body of Christ to each other, to the communities that surround us, and to the global community. Using the words of the Prayer for St. James':

Most holy God, source of our vision, guide us to embrace the potential of this community to serve you in new and loving ways. Direct us in our efforts as we work together with love for our neighbors. Help us to welcome and accept all people. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

- Lori

***“Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.”
(Matthew 6:21 & Luke 12:34)***

I've used this verse a lot during the past several months (maybe even *overused*). It seemed to sum up the message we were trying to get across during our fall pledge campaign. I like the words because they are simple and direct; it is short and concise, and it appears in both Matthew and Luke, so it must have some deeply profound meaning!

God creates all, and we receive it as stewards. As stewards, we are given responsibility to care for all that belongs to God, and in doing so, we discover God's abundance and are invited to practice gratitude and generosity. So it seems only natural that what we love and care for is where we will put our treasure. But is that really so? Just take a look at your monthly check register. Does it accurately reflect what you love and care for? I've looked at mine, and I can truly say yes, it does. But that doesn't mean there aren't some changes I could make (there's always room for improvement).

I recently read an article that said many people seem to hear what Jesus said backwards. They think Jesus said, "Where your heart is, that's where your treasure will end up." There have been sermons on this--about how people spend their money on things they truly care about. If you look back over your check register, will you see what is most important to you? Will it show how you are using your time, talent, and treasure?

There is a close connection between generous giving and spiritual devotion. What we do with our money affects us spiritually. It affects how deeply and how purely we love God. When we give more generously of our money, we become more spiritually mature people. This is one reason that it is more blessed to give than to receive; generous giving is the pathway to a deeper, more meaningful spiritual life.

Where you put your treasure is where your heart will go. It is a promise, and it is good news!

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

2011 Annual Meeting Highlights

The Rev. Lori opened the St. James' Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 13th, following a nice slide show of parishioners participating in the life of the church. Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting were approved. Voting opened for four new vestry members as well as for four Deanery representatives plus one alternate. (See below for election results and Lori's article on pg.1 for her remarks.)

Retiring Sr. Warden Jan Scrutton acknowledged that 2010 had been a challenging year but very rewarding culminating the calling of The Rev. Lori Walton as our new rector, the first female rector in St. James' history. New stained glass doors now grace the Narthex entry way and she thanked Mary Casas for organizing the project. She thanked John Maloney for his many years of leading the Faith Formation team and announced that Bruce Roberts will succeed him. She urged us to become more involved in our church's activities and a good place to find an inviting area of participation is in the [Annual Report](#) posted on the web.

Dave Nelsen, who heads the Endowment Board had the happy experience of giving checks of:

- \$837 to Mary Casas for the General Fund;
- \$733 to Maggie Shalar for the Memorial Garden;
- \$523 to Lori Walton for the Little Church.

Since the budgets had been discussed in the previous week, treasurer Jan Brandt quickly summarized the past and present budgets as follows:

1. St. James's ended 2010 \$14,584 in the black and pledges paid exceeded pledges made by 0.2%;
2. 2011 budget has a \$1,806 gap.

Mary Casas closed the meeting after thanking and donating gifts of appreciation to retiring Vestry Members Jan Scrutton, Scott Kennedy, Charlie Paratore and Penny Trant.

Ralph Locher, co-editor

Election Results

Elected to the Vestry for 3-year terms are Valle Brokes, Janet Fischer, Gary Gearheart and Donald Razzolini.

New Deanery representatives are Alice Johnson and Scott Whitaker for a 2-year term, Barbara Dabney and Jim McConnell for a 1-year term and Tim Young as the alternate.

Marked by Ashes

by Walter Brueggemann (b. 1933)

Ruler of the Night, Guarantor of the day . . .

This day — a gift from you.

This day — like none other you have ever given, or we have ever received.

This Wednesday dazzles us with gift and newness and possibility.

This Wednesday burdens us with the tasks of the day, for we are already halfway home

halfway back to committees and memos,

halfway back to calls and appointments,

halfway on to next Sunday,

halfway back, half frazzled, half expectant,

half turned toward you, half rather not.

This Wednesday is a long way from Ash Wednesday,

but all our Wednesdays are marked by ashes —

we begin this day with that taste of ash in our mouth:

of failed hope and broken promises,

of forgotten children and frightened women,

we ourselves are ashes to ashes, dust to dust;

we can taste our mortality as we roll the ash around on our tongues.

We are able to ponder our ashness

with some confidence,

only because our every Wednesday of ashes

anticipates your Easter victory over that dry, flaky taste of death.

On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way to you
you Easter parade of newness.

Before the sun sets, take our Wednesday and
Easter us,

Easter us to joy and energy and courage and
freedom;

Easter us that we may be fearless for your truth.

Come here and Easter our Wednesday with
mercy and justice and peace and generosity.

We pray as we wait for the Risen One who comes soon.



The Imposition of Ashes March 9th

The Season of Lent begins with this most somber service where we are invited into a time of penitence, fasting and self-examination.

Join us at one of the two services offered on this day: 7:00am and 12:00 pm in the Little Church and 7:00 pm in the Main Church.

Lori

Imposition of Ashes for Children *Tuesday, March 8 at 7:00pm* *in the Little Church*

Ash Wednesday Services are often too 'adult' for children to get a full experience of the ritual. Following the Shrove Tuesday celebration, we are offering a child-oriented service where we will introduce the concepts of Lent and offer ashes to the children. Though youth and parents are welcome to participate as well, note that this service is specifically for children and not meant to replace the traditional Ash Wednesday services taking place the following day.

Examination of the Table *Saturday, March 5 at 9:00am* *In the Main Church*

This event is for all youth (5th grade and above unless you speak with me first), and is particularly important for acolytes or those who are thinking about becoming acolytes. We will gather to examine through fun and instruction the Liturgy of the Table, its meaning and the particular role of youth. And, I promise doughnuts!

Email Lori (lori@saintj.com) by Monday, February 28, to let me know you're coming!

Our Sincerest and Heartfelt Thanks

It was more than thirty years ago that I came to St. James' for the first time and found my church home. Through good years and some not so good, there was always support, comfort, and love.

On Saturday, January 22nd my partner of fifteen years and I stood at Trinity Cathedral in San Jose before God, family and friends to swear our commitment and abiding love. Our hearts were so filled with pride by the support and efforts of so many of our St. James' family who came to bear witness on our behalf. Thank you, for your presence at the ceremony, and your gifts of food that made the reception a resounding success.

It was our intention to send individual notes of thanks and Margaret Broun who along with Marnie Hartmann coordinated that effort had provided us with a list of those contributions. But try as we have, the time seems to elude us to accomplish that intention individual.

So please accept our sincerest and heartfelt thanks in this open letter for the wonderful reception you made possible. Each and every contribution was appreciated and a very important part of our special day. While we are now counted present on Sundays at Trinity Cathedral, our hearts and love will always abide at St. James', Fremont.

With Love,

Richard Reynolds and Robert Sigmon

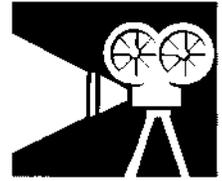
Easter Visit to Hillside Senior Care

Some things bear repeating! Say small flowering plants for residents at Hillside. A suggestion was made last year to take plants to the residents in place of Easter baskets and the plants were a big hit !

We will have a delivery date before Palm Sunday. Look for that information and other details in the Sunday Announcement Sheet

Sandra Motley (510) 656-4224

The Saint James' Film Series is off to a good start!



On the second Friday of each month we are showing movies in EB1 that raise interesting questions regarding faith and our lives. Each movie is followed by a discussion. Friends are welcome and bring snacks if you like.

We begin promptly at 7pm and should be finished by 9:30 each evening. Please keep in mind these movies are not geared for children. In February eighteen people came to watch and discuss the 1944 film, *Between Two Worlds*.

In March, on Friday, the 11th we are showing *Strange Cargo*. This movie, made in 1940, stars Clark Gable and Joan Crawford and at the surface is about a group of convicts trying to escape through the swamps of Devil's Island. But one of the convicts is an enigmatic man who may or may not be Jesus.

Andy MacRae



Calendar Highlights

- March 5:** Youth Activity—Examination of the Table Saturday, March 5 at 9:00am in the Main Church
- March 8:** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper starting at 6pm; Imposition of Ashes for Children at 7:00pm
- March 9:** The Imposition of Ashes at 7am and 12pm in the Little Church and 7pm in the Main Church;
- March 11:** Movie night at 7pm in EB1 showing *Strange Cargo*;
- March 13:** Faith Formation presents the first of two classes that explore Spirituality Through Poetry. Led by Barbara Lyon and Andy MacRae in EB 1;
- March 15, 22, 29 & April 5 & 12:** Evening Lenten Program, 6:00pm;
- March 26 & April 2 -** Holy Communion Class for Children, 10-11:30am.
- March 27:** Faith Formation presents the second of two classes exploring Spirituality Through Poetry. Led by Barbara Lyon and Andy MacRae in EB1.

You are Invited to Write or Revise Your Will.

Create or modify your will by making an appointment with an attorney at an upcoming Will Writing Session. Volunteer attorneys ask only \$75 per person to help cover clerical expenses. To make an appointment call Shari Gonzales at (415) 869-7813 or email sharig@diocal.org. Up-coming Will Writing Sessions will be:

Saturday March 26, 2011

St. Mark's Palo Alto

600 Colorado Ave

Palo Alto, CA 94306

Tel: 650-326-3800

Individual appointments are for 45 minutes. Attorneys will be available from 9:00 am until noon.

For the latest schedule and related information, check <http://EpiscopalGift.org> or phone (415) 869-7813.

Chancel and Children's Choirs

Lent and Easter Season is upon us. THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR CHOIR in time to sing for Lent and Easter. The Chancel Choir is working on a special TENEBRAE Service on Good Friday at 8:00 pm. It is similar to a Taize prayer service but with readings focusing on the Passion of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm and sings at the 10:30 am Sunday service.

The CHILDREN'S CHOIR will sing on the following Sundays: February 27, April 24, (Easter) May 8, (Mother's Day) and June 5. The Children's Choir practices each week after the 10:30 service in the Little Church.

I would like to thank the faithful choir participants that do such a great job each week. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Sincerely Yours,
Katherine LaRose
Director of Music

Staff

The Rev. Lori Walton Lori@saintj.com
Office Administrator admin@saintj.com
Music Director music@saintj.com
Treasurer treasurer@saintj.com
Newsletter submission [window@saintj.com](mailto>window@saintj.com)

The Vestry

Senior Warden srwarden@saintj.com
Junior Warden jrwarden@saintj.com

Vestry Clusters

Worship/Christian Formation Cluster worship-christianformation@saintj.com
Social Ministries/Congregational Care Cluster socialministries-congcare@saintj.com
Communications/Evangelism Cluster communications-evangelism@saintj.com
Parish Life Cluster parishlife@saintj.com
Facilities Cluster facilities@saintj.com
Deanery representatives deanery@saintj.com

Lenten Discipline, the Arts and Your Sunday Mornings

Examine the Arts and their relationship to your spiritual life during Lent this year. For five consecutive weeks Faith Formation presents for your spiritual pleasure and enlightenment ways to use the arts to enrich your spiritual life.

The Schedule:

- March 13** Poetry and Faith
- March 20** Object Art and Faith
- March 27** Poetry and Faith
- April 3** Object Art and Faith
- April 10:** Music and Faith

The Buzz:

Spirituality through Poetry

This poetry workshop is designed to explore the intersection of poetry and spirituality. On both **March 13** and **March 27**, **Barbara Lyon and Andy MacRae** will lead the workshops. Meet in EB-1 at 9:15 AM.

Participants will hear, read, discuss and write, yes, write poems. Do you want to get a head start? It's perfectly all right to start your own creative juices flowing in advance. What spiritual image or emotion do you want to create? Practice reading your creation if you like; is it the spirituality you feel? Remember this is a workshop to write, revise, and listen. Participate and enjoy. Bring your own journal or papers if you like. Writing materials will be available for those who need them.

Art and Spirituality

How does art and creativity inspire and inform our spiritual journeys? Explore these topics with us in two sessions meeting in EB-1 at 9:15 AM.

Nancy Svenson will be our first presenter on **March 20**. She is a creative artist, writer and poet in her own right and promises us an exiting morning. She is keeping her silence and holding us in suspense on her presentation!

Linda Nelsen will host our second session two weeks after on **April 3**. We are inviting you to **bring your own objects of art** and be willing to **speak** for a moment or two about how this piece of art inspires your own spirituality or informs your faith. The art can be your own creation or that of another. (i.e. painting, piece of sculpture, icon, etc.) These pieces should be able to be displayed on a table-top.

Music and Faith

Folk, Classical, Sacred, Pop, Jazz, Rock, Country, Blue Grass, Hip Hop

Music has been a part of our lives since the beginning of human life on this Earth. It is associated with most everything we do. It soothes, excites, inspires. It makes us sad or joyful, restful or sleepy, or anything in between.

On Sunday, **April 10**, 2011, the St James' Adult Faith Formation committee will facilitate a discussion on Faith and Music.

“What Music Lifts Your Faith or Spirituality?”

Four members of the St James' Chancel Choir will share with us the music that is most associated, for them, with their spirituality.

Please join us in a lively conversation of music and conversation.

When: Sunday, April 10, 2011

Time: 9.15 – 10.00 A. M. (45 minutes)

Where: EB 1

The Commitment:

Have you planned your Lenten Discipline? These classes/presentations can be a helpful start.

Bruce Roberts
Faith Formation Chair

St. James' & Abode Services settles new family.

Thanks to help of our parishioners and Abode Services, St. James' was able to sponsor the Lori and Steve family and get them moved into their new apartment on Friday, February 4th. I was told this family had been living in/out of motels for the past 4-5 years. It must of been tough on them especially having a 14 year old daughter and 17 year old son. The son and daughter helped us move them in and were glad to have their own place to stay.

The St James' community came thru with donations of cash, beds, bedding, pots and pans, dishes, flatware, beverage glasses, toaster ovens, mixer, mixing bowls, blender, towels for kitchen and bathroom, kitchen table w/ 4 chairs along with a couple of gift cards valued at \$150.00. One of our members gave them pens, paper, stamps, scissors, and scotch tape as part of their home warming package.

The Abode Services Home Warming - Rapid Rehousing Program is in full swing. There are 12 churches committed to sponsoring 1 or 2 families. St James' was number 6 on the list so there are 6 more churches that are waiting to sponsor their first family. Once that is done, then we start the rotation all over again.

We will keep you informed via postings on the St James' Yahoo Groups email, thru our bulletin board at the parish hall and via announcements at the 8:00am and 10:30am service. If anyone has any questions, then contact me at 510-795-1870 or email: dgfeeney@comcast.net.

Thanks, Gregg Feeney

Many Thanks

I would like to take a moment and thank our four retiring vestry members, Jan Scrutton, Scott Kennedy, Penny Trant and Charlie Paratore. These amazing parishioners have worked hard the past three years and have accomplished a tremendous amount for the sake of St. James'. I hope they take some well deserved time and relax! I would also like to give thanks to one of our unsung heroines. Our vestry clerk, Elizabeth Hart, who has worked faithfully taking the minutes not only for our monthly vestry meetings but also for the annual meeting and vestry retreat every year. Thank you Elizabeth! We appreciate the time and talent you give to St. James'.

Faithfully yours,
Mary Casas, Sr. Warden

Evening Lenten Program

Eat, Pray, Grow.

Explore the connections between food, faith and justice.

*Tuesday Nights in Lent,
Beginning on March 15 at 6:00pm*

Join us as we explore how we as people of faith use food and how we can be more faithful with food in an agro-industrial world.

Eat, Pray, Think is a multi-media and multi-sensory curriculum that will guide us in considering the ways in which our experience of food shapes our lives and steps we might take to more fully recognize food as a gift from God.

Each evening will begin with a meal and will have a presentation and discussion. We will look at what food means in our faith community, the history of food, food in Scripture, food in our local community, and more!

Sign-ups and more information coming soon.

-Lori

Cursillo Corner

Annual Spring Ultreya and Spaghetti Dinner

Date: Saturday, March 5th

Time: 4:00 to 7:30 PM

Place: First Christian Church of Alameda, 2441
San Jose Ave., Alameda

The East Bay Anglican Cursillo Community welcomes everyone, Cursillista or not, to the annual Ultreya and Spaghetti Dinner.

If interested in the Ultreya, would like to know more about Cursillo or would like to experience one, feel free to contact us (510 793-6427) or check out the following website <http://www.cursilloca.org/>.

Bob and Debbie Czerwinski



St. James' Prayer List

Heavenly Father, we pray...

For Those Who Need Continued Healing:

Joy, Brad, Geri, Emily, Phil, Patricia, Karen, Annie, Margaret, Bithika, Florinne, Gina, Del, Samantha, Ginger, Robert, Gina, Shelley, Tom, Jan, Billie Jo, Clarence, Jaime, Jewel

For Those In The Military:

Scott, Jarrod, Ryan, Bryan, Megan, Angelina, Military Children of ACBSM, Erica, Theresa, Mark, Mitch, Tim, families and Marines of Dark Horse Battalion, Louis

For Those Suffering Economic Hardship:

Tim, Candace

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction:

Kenny, Shaun, Aaron, Barbara

For Those Who Need Comfort and Strength:

Pam, Linda



March Birthday Celebrations

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 David Ramsey | 22 Cody Wonycott |
| Dwarka Sankar | 21 Debbie Fuller |
| 2 Hilary Sanders | 24 Alice Johnson |
| Penny Trant | 25 Janet Fischer |
| 3 Emily Locher | Pat Spencer |
| 4 Jim Lyon | Ian Perry |
| 7 Kimberley Maxey | 26 Pat Spalding |
| 8 Jan Scrutton | 27 Shaun Duncan |
| 15 Polly Neslen | Sandy Jaekel |
| Kelly Lowe | 28 Deja Singh |
| 16 Christopher Pikul | 29 Terri Rommelfanger |
| 20 Bill Spalding | 30 Mitch Williamson |
| Laura Castaneda | |
| Brandon Dileanis | |
| Catherine Amadi | |

March Anniversaries



- | |
|------------------------------|
| 13 Jack and Connie Rux |
| 25 Paul and Nancy Svenson |
| 30 Bob and Roberta Tomkinson |

SUNDAY SERVICES AT

8:00 AM & 10:30AM

FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY 9:15-10:15AM

SECOND SUNDAY SERVICE AT 6:00 PM

GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10-11AM

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 AM

YOUTH GROUP SECOND SUNDAY

AT 7:00-8:30PM

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



For the most recent St. James' calendar, Go to Saintj.com/calendar



SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OFFICE HOURS
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
MONDAY-FRIDAY
TEL: (510) 797-1492

Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace
PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94537-0457
www.saintj.com

Rector

The Rev. Lori Walton

Administration

Office Administrator: Aimee Garza
Music Director: Katherine LaRose
Sexton: Art Gallardo
Office email: admin@saintj.com

Other Important Coordinators

Altar Guild: Margaret Rainey
Acolytes: Nancy Castaneda
Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:
Janet Fischer
Footprints: Katherine LaRose
Treasurer: Jan Brandt
Ushers: Burtin Hart

The Window Editorial Staff

Ralph Locher
Marilyn Rose
Penny Trant
Laura Winter

The Vestry of St. James'

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Mary Casas

Junior Warden

Andy MacRae

Christian Formation

Stephen Ferro
Molly Lubwama
Janet Fischer

Communications & Evangelism

Valle Brokes
Greg Scheuffele

Social Ministries & Congregational Care

Brad Hoffman
Gary Gearheart

Facilities

Laura Winter

Parish Life

Dean Valentine
Donald Razzolini

Clerk

Elizabeth Hart

Staff and Coordinators

The Rev. Lori Walton.....Lori@saintj.com
Office Administrator.....admin@saintj.com
Music Director..... music@saintj.com
Treasurer.....treasurer@saintj.com
Newsletter submission..... [window@saintj.com](mailto>window@saintj.com)

The Vestry

Senior Warden srwarden@saintj.com
Junior Warden jrwarden@saintj.com

Vestry Clusters

Worship/Christian Formation Cluster christianformation@saintj.com
Social Ministries/Congregational Care Cluster socialministries-congcare@saintj.com
Communications/Evangelism Cluster communications-evangelism@saintj.com
Parish Life Cluster..... parishlife@saintj.com
Facilities Cluster..... facilities@saintj.com
Deanery representatives deanery@saintj.com