The Window

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

November 2011

The Mark of a Missional Church

There is a difference between a church that exists for itself and a church that exists for the world. While there is always the need to create programs and events that are specifically for the members of the church, the purpose is to lift up each person to be the hands, feet and heart of Christ in the world.

The people of St. James' have always been a church for the world. While we care about our buildings and our campus, while we love our fellowship opportunities and our classes, we understand that the presence of God extends well beyond our physical space, and that our true purpose is to share that presence through service to others.

As I write this article, many people come to mind: the group who sings Christmas Carols and delivers gifts to Hillside Convalescent Hospital, the families who have new homes because of the efforts and generosity of our members, the children with new shoes and the ill and infirm who are wrapped in prayer shawls knitted by our hands. We engage in the world in many ways and in doing so, we strengthen others and ourselves.

Our mission is to better the world and to share the blessings we know with others. Being a Christian means being a light in the world. The measure of our success will always be measured by the lives we touch, the kindness we show, and the love we extend. As we move towards the Season of Giving, let our own giving be increased. It doesn't need to be material, it simply needs to be from the heart.

There are many opportunities to participate. Our Faith Formation Hour on Sunday, November 6th at 9:15am will highlight some of them. Come and hear what we're up to. Come and learn how you can plug in. There is no greater joy than giving to others. There is no greater purpose than building the Kingdom.

In Great Thanksgiving,

Lori

Stewardship Corner

Challenges for the Coming Year

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 into practices of gratitude and generosity.

How will we give thanks for the people we love. How will we care for our fragile earth, how will we use our creativity to bless each other, how will we return thanks to God? How will we use our time, talent, and treasure to be Christian stewards in the world? These are the questions that lead to new life.

As we celebrate together I challenge you to think about what commitments you are willing to make to God and to this parish.

If it has been some time since you have been actively involved in the life of St. James' Parish, why is that?

If you have never been active or involved in at least one ongoing ministry at St. James' (in addition to Sunday worship), what holds you back?

Do you know what percentage of your income you contribute to help make possible "God's work" in the world? Are you working on ways to increase that percentage?

Does your financial commitment to St. James' represent a proportion of your total income?

Does your commitment of time represent a percentage of the total number of hours you have available for charitable activity?

Is there an element of sacrifice in what you give of your time, energy and money to St. James'? Or, do you tend to fall back on what is easy?

Have you been willing to make a pledge to St. James' Church as a tangible sign of your devotion and dedication to its ministry? Or, do you wait and assume others will do it for you?

These are challenging questions that are no easier for me than they are for you. Each of us must struggle with what they mean for us and come to a conclusion, a decision we are each comfortable with. Only when we are willing to challenge each other in constructive and healthy ways can we really say we are doing the work of God in the world.

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

Thank You from Abode Services

Abode Services Sunrise Village Emergency Shelter sends a BIG Thank You to the Congregation of St. James' Episcopal Church. Through your kind generosity, we were able to forward a total of $675 in Payless Shoe gift cards and cash to the shelter, which allowed the Sunrise Village Emergency Shelter to present the families with a total of 34 Payless Shoe gift cards.

Thank you all so much for your continued support for this most worthwhile ministry and a special Thank You to Cathy Knotts for her efforts and coordination of this project.

Again Thank You !!!

Submitted by: Brad Hoffman

The McCutcheon Team
Needs Your Help

The team that hosts the John McCutcheon Concert for St. James' Episcopal Church needs your help. Not for the big jobs we don't get paid to do, but the little jobs we get paid even less. However, there is a lot of love and comradery involved . Here are the jobs we need help and the people whom to contact.

* Ticket sellers: Sit in the Parish hall between services and sell McCutcheon Concert tickets to those who would like to buy them.
  Contact Joan Roberts

* We still have openings for those who would like to assist in the set-up and tear-down of the concert – January 15 and 16 (possibly the 18th also).
  Contact Bud Pearson.

* We are advertising for raffle prizes to be donated.
  Contact Cathy Knotts

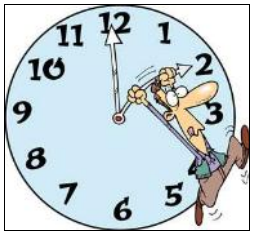
* Do you like to bake cookies? We will need cookies to sell at the Concert .
  Contact Lynn Locher

* And the most fun of all – various promotional activities, such as advertising.
  Contact Bruce Roberts

We may need additional help, but this would be a fun start. Just pick one of these delightful duties and the fun will begin.

Submitted by Bruce Roberts

Set Your Clocks Back



On Sunday, November 6th at 2:00 am, its time to "Fall Back" and turn your clocks back one hour as Daylight Savings ends.

I am Retiring….

Last month in Church I announced to the St. James' congregation that I was retiring as the Outreach Provider from St. James', a program that I started 47 years ago. It all started with a pair of sneakers I bought for a poor student at Newark High School in 1964. From there it escalated into a large program of helping anyone who needed anything to improve their lives. This included collecting food, furniture, appliances, cars, tires and over-the-counter medicines and arranging doctor visits and dental check-ups for children. None of this would have been done without the help from the wonderful people of St. James' and the surrounding community.

Over the years, St. James' has provided funding for rental housing for homeless families that I met. Also Margaret Rainey and her Child Welfare Club have provided large sums of money for housing and supplies. Her club has been a blessing.

I almost wore out two pick-up trucks just delivering supplies, but I enjoyed every single moment of it. The biggest problem was moving families into the second and third floor apartments. Lifting couches, beds and major appliances could become a painful struggle. We always got the job done but at times feeling frustrated and bruised.

I am now 79 and my main helper Dave Priego, who is 3 years older, thought that it is time to quit while we are still healthy. Dave has been a great friend and worker. We have moved at least 80 families into apartments, who otherwise would have been living in the streets or cars. The rush that you feel from this is impossible to describe. The children look up into your eyes and goose bumps break out. I will keep in contact with Abode Services but the heavy lifting work is over.

Thanks for all the help over the years. God bless.

George Vlastelica

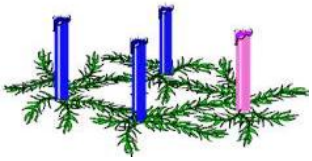
PLEASE JOIN ST. JAMES' AS WE HONOR GEORGE VLASTELICA

For 48 Years of Dedicated Community Service
Helping Families Gain a Stronger Foothold in Life.

RECEPTION

Date:	December 10, 2011
Place:	St. James' Episcopal Parish Hall
	37051 Cabrillo Terrace, Fremont
Time:	2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
RSVP To:	Dorothy Balderston
	dottieandbandit@yahoo.com
	Or Telephone: 510-793-3606
	By December 5, 2011
Dress:	Casual

George Vlastelica is stepping back and looking forward to others stepping up and continue to serve people in need.



CREATE A FAMILY ADVENT WREATH

Again this year, the Saint James' Parish Hall will be transformed into an adjunct workshop to create an Advent Wreath for your home. These lovely four candle wreaths will be decorated with fresh greens and ribbons, and will echo the large wreath present in the church during this sacred season.

Once home, use this beautiful centerpiece as a focus for prayer, meditation and calm during the busy weeks leading to the birth of Jesus. Add a single white candle to the center of your wreath beginning on Christmas Day and mark the 12 Days of Christmas. On Epiphany, some families find one last surprise among the wreath's folds from the Magi. Please join the fun on November 20th after the 8:00 and 10:30 services. Suggested donation for the materials is $10.00.

Linda, Dave and Monique

NOVEMBER and DECEMBER FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation will explore the book,
The Greatest Prayer" by John Dominic Crossan

Noted biblical scholar Crossan takes a fresh look at the Lord's Prayer, also called the Our Father and the Abba Prayer. Prayed by Christians of all denominations and doctrinal persuasions, yet mentioning none of the issues that divide them, it is certainly Christianity's official prayer and surely its greatest.

Crossan takes key words from the prayer (Father, name, kingdom, will, bread, debt, and temptation), examines their meaning in a biblical context, and concludes that it is a revolutionary manifesto proclaiming nonviolence and distributive justice. This seemingly radical exegesis will be as welcome to some as it is disconcerting to others.

The class will meet November 27, December 4 and December 11 from 9:15am to 10:15am in EB1. Books are $11, and you can reserve a copy by signing up on the Christian Formation bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Please sign up by November 13th to allow time to order for the class. The class will be led by Janet Fischer. Please join us!

Janet Fischer

Little Dresses and Shorts for Haiti / Africa

A heart felt **THANK YOU** to all the parishioners, friends and family who sewed, donated materials and time to make dresses and shorts for the Diocesan of Africa / Haiti outreach project.

This again shows the true depth and strength of our greater outreach to the world. Over 100 plus dresses and shorts were sewn by this community and this is a truly wonderful expression of our commitment to the greater world community.

Again thank you to all the sewers in our community and their commitment to this worthy ministry.

Submitted by: Brad Hoffman

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

Email your submission to **window@saintj.com**
December Deadline: November 15th

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Create A Family Advent Wreath ~ November 20th after the 8:00am and 10:30am services in the Parish Hall (see article on page 4)

Thanksgiving Day Service ~ November 24th at 10:00am Morning Prayer in the Little Church

Lessons & Carols Service ~ November 27th at 8:00am and 10:30am services

Christmas Eve Services ~ December 24th (2 services)

4:00 pm Family Service with Ad Hoc Children's Pageant
10:30 pm Carol Singing, followed by a Festive Eucharist at 11:00pm

Christmas Day Service ~ December 25th at 10:00am in the Main Church

Furry Friends Join in Worship!

In celebration of the Feast of St. Francis on October 2, many brought their beloved pets for a blessing. The service was outdoors with not a sign of rain in sight. The Children's Choir performed adding to an already wonderful and joyous celebration! Please enjoy some of the wonderful photos taken by parishioners.

A Night at the Theatre

Dorothy Cosby Atkinson, daughter of Arlinda Cosby, is directing Ohlone Community College's Fall theatre production, SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS, an up- to-the-moment take on a 250 year old comedy in the Italian farcical tradition of Commedia dell'Arte . The play will be performed in the Nummi Studio Theatre at 8:00 p.m. on November 4-5, 10-12, and 17-19.

Tickets may be purchased at online at www.SMITHCENTER.COM or call (510) 659-6031 or at the box office on campus, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. Prices are $15 general admission, $12 students and Seniors, and $10 children 12 and under. The performance on November 11th will be interpreted for the hearing impaired.

Members of St. James who would be interested in participating in a "St. James Night" at the opening night performance on Friday, November 4 (including but not limited to those who were early supporters of Dorothy's theatrical career at Newark Memorial High School and then UC Santa Cruz!) are encouraged to call Nancy Svenson at (510) 656-0302.

Submitted by: Arlinda Cosby

Celebrating A Saint in My Life

Mary Susan Lilly
1955-2008

After surviving 4 strokes in 3 years, my sister Mary Susan Lilly died on April 13, 2008 as a result of complications due to medication, given to her by an intern, for the Flu not reacting well with medications she had already been taking for her strokes. Upon arriving at the funeral parlor…entry area was nice/welcoming, until you entered the viewing room where my sister lay sleeping…still wrapped in the dirty/bloody sheets in which she had passed still lying on the hospital gurney from the ER. No special decorations, no flowers, no mementos-just a cold sterile off-white room with partitions to hide the EXIT doors on either side. Saying goodbye with her left in such a state was very hard. In order to move on and obtain some closure I agreed to create the memorial cards for distribution to family and friends. On occasion, I still awake in a cold sweat and have nightmares about what I saw but at least now have some closure. I hope this gives you comfort as needed to remember the saints in your lives as the special people they are or were to you.

Below is my goodbye poem to a wonderful special lady…my Sister-my Saint Mary

As the days drift into weeks I think of the days left behind…they came and went so quickly I hardly noticed their beauty and a new one had begun.
As I sit today I remember looking at the world through wondrous eyes of adoration, now I look through windows of changing emotion and wonder why…why you had to leave
I have memories in my pocket. They rattle among the change…My memories of you are treasures I carry wherever I go.
A memory shared, a gift of possibilities…moments in time are held forever. I will miss you but will treasure the gift of having you in my life…no more tears, just happy memories of what was and thoughts of what could have been. Sleep Well.

By Donald Razzolini

St. James Welcomes the Christmas Season with Las Posadas

A Family Holiday Celebration for All Ages

Sunday, December 4th
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Sign-up by November 27th
Space is limited to 120

In Mexico, Christmas is an important is an important holiday season with strong traditions. One of the most colorful traditions is the posada party, celebrated every evening from December 16th until the 24th. These celebrations commemorate Mary and Joseph's cold and difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of shelter. "Posada" in Spanish, simply means lodging or shelter.

Today, the posada has evolved into a religious and social celebration, paying a festive homage to Mary and Joseph's journey. Each Christmas season, a processional carrying a doll representing the Christ Child and images of Joseph and Mary riding a burro walk through the community streets. The processional stops at a previously selected home and asks for lodging for the night. The people are invited in to read scriptures and sing Christmas carols called "villancicos". Refreshments are provided by each and the happy end to each posada has always been the piñata.

St. James' takes the spirit of the traditional 9 day Posada Celebration and brings it to our campus, refashioned for our community on one special night. On Sunday, December 4th we will feature seasonal food and drink, sing-alongs, holiday carols, and much more. This year we will have 2 piñatas, with one designated especially for our youngest celebrants.

Our posada journey will proceed around various points on our campus, ending in a grand celebration in the Parish Hall. All ages, will enjoy this spiritual entrance to the Christmas season.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. Please sign-up or call the church office at 510-797-1492 by November 27th as we are limited to 120 participants. A 'free-will' donation of $5.00 per person is suggested; 9 years and under are free. If you would like to help with decorating, preparation and take-down of the Church, etc., please contact John Maloney at 510-656-6809. We will also need help in Parish Hall with food, set-up/take-down, etc. If you can lend a hand, please contact Penny Trant at just4pt@yahoo.com.

Need transportation? Please contact either Gary Gearheart at 510-894-1496 or Brad Hoffman at 510-790-3125 no later than November 27th.

We hope you can join us in what has become into a favorite St. James' tradition.

Submitted by: John Maloney

A Pre-Christmas Spiritual Reflection

In her book, Quest for the Living God, Elizabeth Johnson points out the "the struggles, sufferings, and joys of human existence are not alien to the divine, but rather the site of divine solidarity and care." She then uses the Mexican custom of Posada to reflect on her statement.

She writes:

> "Posada. This pre-Christmas ritual reenact the Bethlehem story with emphasis on the search for shelter, there being no room at the inn. Accompanied by the community, the individuals embodying Mary and Joseph walk from house to house in the neighborhood looking for hospitality. Repeatedly turned away, they keep searching for a place to stay until a (pre-designated) family finally takes them in, at which point refreshments are shared all around. This ritual procession makes vividly present the truth that the God of heaven and earth was walking with this poor couple, Indeed, the poor girl from Nazareth is now the place where the Holy One dwells in the flesh. Those who take part in the procession understand its strong resonance with the migration, homelessness, and rejection all too well known in the community. The celebration that follows affirms that Emmanuel comes to abide among those whom the world rejects, which is cause for joy."

Submitted by: John Maloney

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 Shari at sharig@diocal.org.

An up-coming Will Writing Session will be:

Saturday Nov 19, 2011
Trinity, Menlo Park
330 Ravenswood Ave
Menlo Park, CA

Individual appointments are for 45 minutes. Attorneys will be available from 9:00 am until noon. For the schedule and related information, visit the website: http://EpiscopalGift.org or call (415) 869-7813.

Dave Nelsen
Endowment Board

Financial Summary 30 September

Fund Balances	**9/30/10**	**9/30/11**
Operating Fund	29,304	47,655
Building Fund	28,332	32,244

Year To Date Summary Operating

	9/30/10	**9/30/11**
Pledges Budgeted	172,425	175,448
Pledges Paid	155,730	153,584
Unpledged Contributions	3,257	5,938
Other Op Income	14,076	13,278
Total Operating Income	173,063	172,800
Total Operating Expenses	180,940	176,909
Income less Expense	(7,877)	(4,109)

The Book Shelf *By Janet Fischer*

With: Reimagining the Way You Relate to God, by S. Jethani. T. Nelson, 2011

"Why are American Christians, who have more access to biblical teaching than any other people in history, failing to experience the freedom of the Christian life? Why are pastors, those closest to the work and ministry, burning out at an alarming rate? Why do many church members, who give large amounts of their time and wealth to Christ and his kingdom, secretly question the legitimacy of their efforts? And why are spiritual seekers dismissing the validity of the Christian message?"

To answer these questions, Jethani explores the four main ways Christians typically understand their relationship with God. Each of us has lived in each of these different understandings at one time or another, and may still.

First, Jethani explains his view of the human condition: that life is hard and uncertain, so we do things that will hopefully ease our fears. The biggest fear is of death. He believes that fear and control are the basis for all human religions. "From this common beginning the paths diverge dramatically, splinter, multiply, and finally terminate in difference places. But each one is an attempt to overcome suffering, fear, and death by exerting control over natural, and sometimes supernatural, forces." As a way to control these fears, people often believe that behaving in a certain way will enable them to exert some degree of control over their lives. There are four main ways that Christians do this.

Life Under God. "I am a sinner." We seek to win favor with God and earn a blessing for our endeavors by following the rules as we understand them. "Live according to God's righteous expectations, we are told, and he will bless you and answer your prayers." Divine Will is at the center of everything. This is the understanding we have when we don't understand how something bad can happen to us when we've done everything we were supposed to, said all the right prayers, and given all the right amounts of our time and money. It is a tacit bargain we make with our religious life. Anyone older than five knows this is not a description of reality, yet we often fall into this pattern of thinking.

Life Over God. "I am a manager." This understanding of our relationship with God tells us that God has no direct interest in our daily lives. Natural principles are at the center of everything. This follows the "watchmaker God" philosophy of the Enlightenment. God is fine, in his place, and if we can discover the laws of the universe and follow them, we can have some control over what happens to us. Proven formulas and controllable outcomes are the focus of our lives.

Life From God. "I am a consumer." God exists to supply what we want or need. This is the "prosperity gospel" and its many variations. Our desires are at the center. God loves me, so why shouldn't I have the best? We use God to bless whatever we do, or try to make sure that God will bless our endeavors without really wanting to be involved with God ourselves.

Life For God. "I am a servant." This religious posture sets us on a path of doing everything for God. We make a commitment to serve God in every way, to the exclusion of our own desires. A mission for God is at the center of everything (because, after all, God can't get along without us). This makes God's mission into an idol, and seeks to prove our value to God. Jethani calls this "missionalism."

The problem with each of these is that they present a limited image of God. Each of these things may be a part of our life, but they are not the entirety of who we are, or of who God is.

Life With God. In contrast to these other ways of relating to God, life WITH God is a completely different sort of relationship. We have nothing to prove, because we know God loves us "as is." We don't have to worry about following all the rules because we know we already live in God's blessing, come what may. We don't have to live alone, by our own rules, because we are part of something bigger than ourselves. We no longer want to use God for our own ends.

Life with God allows us to live with faith, hope, and love. We realize that control of outside events is an illusion, but a life with God makes our life one of quality and substance. It renews our sense of wonder in the world, and allows us to live freely with love and forgiveness flowing among us.

St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God, we pray for:

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

Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Rhonda

Those Who Need Comfort and Strength: Joan, Paul, Deja, Jordon, Frank, Hariet, Bobbi

Those Who Are Traveling: Craig, Jan, Bud

For Those Who Need Continued Healing: Brad, Florinne, David, William, Darby, Marge, Wayne, Darlene, Darwin, Betty, David, Jan, Leila, Annie, Dolores, Eleanor, Jimmy, Gary, June, Jody, Wyni, Adrienne, David, Ann-Helen

Those Who Have Passed Away: Kevin, Joan

November Birthdays

1 Ami Locher
4 Diem Truong Sankar
7 Nat Bryant
10 Yvonne Archer
12 Nadia Sankar
13 Bob Czerwinski
17 Travis Koonze
18 Mabel Long
John Maloney
19 Gail Blalock
20 Hailey Peterson
21 Phil Sanders
22 Andrew Paratore
Karen Watkins
24 Scott Hoffman
25 John Paratore
26 Sophie Sankar
27 Andrea Ramsamy
29 Rick Spalding
Raelene Ramsamy
Luke Kirley
Judy Peeler
Don Rose
30 Rebeccah Fuller
Nancy Svenson

Anniversaries

15 Tom and Gail Blalock
27 Ralph and Lynn Locher

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace
PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94537-0457
(510) 792-1492
WEB: http://saintj.com

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY SERVICES 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY 9:15-10:15 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15-11:15 AM
YOUTH GROUP SECOND SUNDAY 6:30 -8:30 PM
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00 AM

OFFICE HOURS

TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

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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