



The Window

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

October 2011

Our Sacred Space

Throughout my life, I have been prone to wander. I grew up in a time when it was commonplace to leave the home early and return when the streetlights came on, and in those hours of the day, I enjoyed wandering the hills and trails in the neighborhood, usually alone. As a teenager I took to long walks, expanding my wanderings beyond the few streets I knew as a child, and as a young adult, I found myself drifting away from the house, classroom, workplace without much of a direction in mind.

On many occasions, I would arrive at the doors of an unlocked church – the chapel on the grounds of the University of San Francisco, Old Saint Mary's in downtown, the small white church of Thomas Aquinas in Palo Alto, the incredible beauty of the Memorial Chapel at Stanford University. There has always been something both grounding and uplifting to sit in a church alone in silence. More than any other place, I have found my "home" in the midst of stained glass and wooden pews.

In a discussion on the architecture of sacred space, I heard it said that such a space doesn't enable spirituality. Rather, it is a space in which spirituality is enacted. In other words, it is the act of spiritual practice contained within that makes a space holy.

It was further said that the principles of spiritual space are the elicitation of wonder, the imperative of stillness, and the benevolent connotation of forces that nurture both gentleness and release.

Just a few days ago, a man appeared in my office doorway looking for a past clergy person, obviously surprised to see me sitting at the desk. As fate has it, it was someone I knew from a past life and it was both unexpected and delightful to see him. When I asked why he was here, he explained that he works in Fremont and sometimes walks our labyrinth during his breaks, and thought he'd stop by to say hello to the priest he thought was still here.

And just today, someone told me about a man, totally unaffiliated with the church, who wandered into the Memorial Garden to meditate. He explains that he sometimes comes to our sacred spot, finding it soothing and soul-full.

The elicitation of wonder, the imperative of stillness, and forces that nurture both gentleness and release. That is what we have here at St. James', for our own benefit, but more importantly, for the wanderer who happens by.

How blessed are we.

Lori

Celebrating the St. James' Community

"*Celebrating the St. James Community*" is the theme for our Fall Stewardship Program, and I find myself wanting to shout it from the rooftops! St. James' is an incredible place, and we have so much to celebrate. St. James' Church is truly a caring and inspiring community. We care and inspire each other and our community by committing to one another in faith, love, and hope. When we are happy, we celebrate and rejoice together. When we are sick, lonely, or grieving, we bear each other's burdens and strengthen one another. As we worship, learn, and serve together, we share ourselves with each other and with our community.

Whether serving dinners at the homeless shelter, teaching children in Sunday School, ushering on Sunday mornings, mowing the grass on Work Party Saturdays, leading Faith Formation classes, assisting a homeless family with house furnishings, setting up equipment for the McCutcheon Concert, or greeting a newcomer on Sunday morning, the people of St. James' are a most precious gift to be celebrated!

This is what gives me joy at St. James' and why I give. St. James' is a place where I may worship in a kind and caring community. It is a welcoming place where each one can find their own niche, where differences are valued, where everyone doesn't have to be the same. It is a place where the fruits of the Spirit - love, joy, and peace flourish. The words of the Recessional Hymn (We Are All One in Mission) we sang last Sunday did a good job of describing my feelings -- "our ministries are different, our purpose is the same; to touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace, so people of all nations may feel God's warm embrace."

I believe in a kind and loving God. God's plan for us isn't always known, but God is always there. This gives me comfort and strength. I give back to God by trying to set a good example, by volunteering in my community, by sharing my time and talent at St. James', and by making a pledge every year. Giving back to God has been rewarding. It is not the amount of my pledge but the feeling of joy and satisfaction in carrying out my commitment to God.

I invite you to join me this year on Pledge Sunday, November 20th, and make your pledge.

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

Fall Stewardship Program & dinners



Mark your calendar to attend one of two Stewardship Dinners this Fall and join in *Celebrating the St. James' Community*. Dinners are scheduled for *November 3* and *November 17* in the Parish Hall. Invitations will be coming out, but for now, please choose one of these dates and get it on your calendar.

Please also mark your calendar for *Pledge Sunday on November 20, 2011*, when we pray every member of our congregation will attend one of the worship services and present a completed Pledge Card out of love and gratitude to God. The Stewardship Committee will host an expanded fellowship/coffee time so we may all celebrate the St. James' Community together.

We hope everyone will be able to join us at one of the dinners and especially on Pledge Sunday. Last year we celebrated New Beginnings by welcoming Lori and the start of her ministry with us. 2011 has been a year of renewed energy and commitment at St. James'. Together we have nourished existing ministries and explored new ones. Join with us in celebrating **you**, the people of St. James' Church!

Your Stewardship Committee -- Gail Blalock, Brad Hoffman, Sandra Motley, Ruth Poole, & George Vlastelica

Contemplative Healing Training Course Offered

The Vestry has approved hosting a Contemplative Healing training on October 8, 15, and 22 from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. You will learn several meditation exercises to help you focus and ground yourself in God. Cost is \$139 early bird registration by Sept. 24, \$149 after that and \$159 at the door.

Go here for more:

<http://www.saintj.com/healing.html>

For questions or to register, call me at (510) 366-7822 or email me at brian_cochran@sbcglobal.net.

Brian Cochran

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES FOR OCTOBER 2011

At the October 9 and 16 Faith Formation sessions, Bob Dobbin will be facilitating a discussion of excerpts from *An Altar in the World*, a book by Episcopal priest Barbara Brown Taylor. In a very straightforward way, this book seeks to heighten our sensitivity to the presence of God in the ordinary activities of our daily lives, outside the context of formal worship. Copies of those excerpts will be available in the Parish Hall and at Faith Formation classes taking place before October 9, or you can obtain copies by e-mailing Bob at dobbin1982@hotmail.com.

The New Testament **Letter of James** is much-neglected by Christians. Martin Luther evaluated it as an “epistle of straw.” In contrast, the great slave abolitionist Frederick Douglass favored the Letter of James, often quoting it in his speeches. Some theologians consider James’s description of the “mature Christian” to be perfect for the 21st century Christian. Come to Room EB-1 on October 23 at 9:15 AM where John Maloney will facilitate a discussion of James’s definition of the “**perfect Christian**,” and consider its contemporary relevance.

As has been our practice in recent years past, Faith Formation is offering the opportunity for each parishioner to participate in the celebration of “**The Saints in Our Lives**” on **October 30 in EB-1 at 9:15 AM**. You may celebrate your saint(s) in the way you feel most appropriate – a display, photo(s), music, a talk, or any other way that you can imagine. Please let Alice Johnson or Bruce Roberts know what sort of set-up you need - such as a table, an easel, sound or projection equipment. This is your celebration of your Saint(s); make it as much a celebration as you would like.

Bruce Roberts

The next issue of *The Window* is in November. We welcome your **comments, pictures, essays, poems, cartoons, artwork, newsworthy items of interest, any group activity information and reviews.**

Email your submission to [window@saintj.com](mailto>window@saintj.com)
November Deadline: October 15th

Care to Take Part in a Good Murder?

This winter Saint James’ will host a mystery dinner night and we are looking for parishioners interested in taking part. The setting will be a nightclub in the 1940s with live music to help set the scene and everyone encouraged to come in period clothes or costume. There’s plenty to do and many ways to participate! If interested, please contact Andy MacRae at 510-589-5003 or amacrae@macrae.net



The Holidays are Just Around the Corner!

Mark your Calendar

Thanksgiving Day Service:
10:00am Morning Prayer in the Little Church

Lessons & Carols Service:
8:00am and 10:30am on First Advent,
November 27

Christmas Eve Services:
4:00pm Family Service with Ad Hoc Children's
Pageant

10:30pm Carol Singing, followed by a Festive
Eucharist at 11:00

Christmas Day Service:
10:00am in the Main Church





Ladies Flatlanders

Another wonderful weekend of camping, relaxing, hiking, swimming, reading and of course eating!

In attendance were: Dorothy Balderston (w/Bandit), Nancy Castaneda (w/Sassy), Cathy Knotts, Jan Pearson, Julie Gaynor, Marnie Hartmann, Linda Nelsen (w/Piper), Laura Winter, Pat Vlastelica, Jackie Whitehouse, Marlene Benedict, and Mary Casas. A heartfelt thank you goes to Laura Winter for organizing our worship service on Sunday.

This weekend allows the women of St. James' to build and strengthen their bonds with one another. I can't imagine a better group of women to spend time with than the ladies of St. James'. Mark your calendars for next years trip, Sept 5-9, 2012.

Please consider joining us for a joy filled weekend.

Mary Casas



Old Fashioned Christmas Caroling

It has been suggested/requested that we have an "Old Fasioned Christmas Carol" party this year. Is anyone interested??? The Idea is that a group of carolers would meet in the Parish Hall at a designated date/time - have a lite dinner and carpool to locations such as Sunrise Village, Abode Services, couples with new babies, and parishioners that are unable to get to Christmas service etc. and sing a few Christmas songs. If this sounds like a fun evening and you would love to participate please send an email to parishlife@saintj.com or sign-up on the sigh-up sheet on the Parish Life board in the Parish Hall so we can get a idea of whom might be interested and if this might be possible. Thank You and God Bless

Donald Razzolini

Happiness

Jane Kenyon

There's just no accounting for happiness,
or the way it turns up like a prodigal
who comes back to the dust at your feet
having squandered a fortune far away.
And how can you not forgive?
You make a feast in honor of what
was lost, and take from its place the finest
garment, which you saved for an occasion
you could not imagine, and you weep night and
day to know that you were not abandoned,
that happiness saved its most extreme form
for you alone.

No, happiness is the uncle you never
knew about, who flies a single-engine plane
onto the grassy landing strip, hitchhikes
into town, and inquires at every door
until he finds you asleep midafternoon
as you so often are during the unmerciful
hours of your despair.

It comes to the monk in his cell.
It comes to the woman sweeping the street
with a birch broom, to the child
whose mother has passed out from drink.
It comes to the lover, to the dog chewing
a sock, to the pusher, to the basket maker,
and to the clerk stacking cans of carrots
in the night.
It even comes to the boulder
in the perpetual shade of pine barrens,
to rain falling on the open sea,
to the wineglass, weary of holding wine.

Source:

Dancing With Joy edited by Roger Housden



Music at St James'

Get ready for a new rebirth and expansion in the music presented and shared during services! Jennifer Carini has arrived at St James' to lead the choirs and the congregation in new music as well as the familiar tunes we love to sing. Jennifer started working as our Music Director at the beginning of September, and is currently leading the adult choir. Rehearsals have begun with the children, who will sing for the first time October 2 for the Blessing of the Animals service, and hopefully each 4-6 weeks as the year moves along.

Before St James', Jennifer was the substitute music leader at our sister church, St Anne's. She also works full-time as the choir director at Cesar Chavez Middle School in Union City, and has just begun the Tri-City Children's Choir to provide singing opportunities for elementary aged children throughout the area.

Raised in the Seattle area (and a big Seahawks fan!), Jennifer grew up attending the Lutheran church. She started singing at a very early age, graduated from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, and has sung in many choirs of varied denominations. She has been drawn to the Episcopal church as she feels most comfortable here; it is the most welcoming to all.

Jennifer wants the choirs to be just as welcoming to everybody – if you are interested in joining the adult choir, it rehearses each Wednesday from 7:30-9pm, and Sunday mornings at 10am before the 10:30am service. The children's choir will rehearse each Sunday for about fifteen minutes after the 10:30 service. There is no limit to the number of members, and all experience levels may participate. Talk to Jennifer when you see her; either to join, or just to say hi and welcome her to St James'.

Laura Winter



Kathryn Ruth, Nursery Care Provider

Our nursery has reopened for the children aged 0-4 years old, and we have a new Nursery Care Provider, Kathryn Ruth. Let's meet her...

Kathryn grew up on the East Coast, attending the First Congregational Church in her community. She joined the Christian Education Committee as the first teenage member. Together they designed worship services and worked to involve many people. She stepped forward when the nursery needed to be staffed. She worked in a nursery school for five years prior to moving to California last year. When asked what brought her to here, her response was "the weather!" Now she is a full-time nanny to three children, four, six and ten years old.

She's currently working on her Masters in Mathematics, and would like to one day get her PhD and teach math education at the college level. We need more people to instruct others how to effectively teach math to our children. We're glad you've made St James' one of your stops along the way. Welcome!

Laura Winter



The above picture is of the newly redecorated nursery thanks to the work by Dave and Linda Nelsen.

" ... so that you may be PERFECT ... "

(Letter of James. 1:4)

Being "imperfect," I recently missed a Faith Formation committee meeting; when the minutes arrived, I discovered that I had been volunteered to lead a class devoted to the Letter of James in the New Testament. (My advice to you: never miss a committee meeting.) I have no memory of ever having read James's letter; if I ever even knew it existed, I had forgotten it. It was with a sigh of relief that I opened my bible and realized the letter was only five pages long; however, James's emphasis to his early Christian readers on the importance of being "perfect" was a challenge to me. Because I did not like the study guide I was provided with, I obtained and read a book which analyzes James's letter, A Spirituality of Perfection: Faith in Action in the Letter of James. Patrick J. Hartin (The liturgical Press, 1999).

There was no way that on my own initiative I would have read a book entitled A Spirituality of Perfection. I've been alive long enough to know "perfection" is beyond my reach, "not terribly bad," would be my-achievement. The "Only God is perfect" mantra that I use with my forty Irish tin whistle middle-school students further strengthened my wariness about a book with the word "perfection" in its title. These academically-at-risk, low economic level students are very insecure and need much encouragement to perform. As a result, rule number one during our music sessions is, "You never laugh when another student hits a sour note." This is re-enforced with, "*Only* God is perfect." (Don't be

alarmed! I am not undermining the United States constitution; the school is a parochial school.)

I have been enriched by having read Jesuit theology professor Patrick J. Hartin's book, A Spirituality of Perfection: Faith in Action in the Letter of James; and I heartily recommend parts of the book. (The book is available in the parish library after October 23.) Professor Hartin analyzes James's concept of Christian perfection and its importance for twenty-first century Christians. The much neglected Letter of James presents the theology of one of the early Christian communities, a theology which is God-centered rather than the more Christ-centered theology of the rest of the New Testament. The letter shows how the Christian must act on her beliefs: " ..faith without good deeds is useless." Most readers of Fr. Hartin's book could probably skip the more academic-oriented first three chapters; however, the reader's spirituality may be deepened by reading the remaining four chapters, especially chapter seven, "On Reading James Today," An informed reading of the Letter of James shows us that being a "perfect" Christian, properly understood, is available to all of us.

This book taught me much about the mature spirituality the twenty-first century Christian should embody. I also learned not to miss a committee meeting when Bruce Roberts is the chair; I now have "perfect" attendance.

No time to read? Consider participating in the October 23 Faith Formation class, "The Letter of James."

John Maloney

Would you like to be on the McCutcheon Team?

The planning of our next McCutcheon Concert (Jan 16, 2012) is off and running. Our first planning meeting went very well. We decided to keep the ticket price the same as last year: \$25 for adult, \$15 for children 5 to 12 and children under 5 admitted free. We will start ticket sale on Sunday Nov 27. We have team leaders for Publicity (Bruce Roberts), Tickets (Joan Roberts), Raffle (Cathy Knotts), Set-ups (Bud Pearson), Crew Dinner (Linda Nelsen), Usher (Jan Pearson), and Snack Bar (Lynn Locher). We would like to recruit helpers for each of these areas. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sylvia Ma, Bruce Roberts or Bud Pearson or events@saintj.com. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Oct. 20 at 7pm in EB#1. Hope to see you there.

Sylvia Ma and the McCutcheon Team

Abode Services Home Warming Re-housing Program

2011/2012 Program Update

The new Home Warming Program was formed last year after many years of operating as the Winter Relief Program. Abode Services with its member churches and supporters has a goal to end homeless in our Tri-City area and beyond. This program started on November 1, 2011 for the 2011/2012 season. St James' came through with great support for the program by opening our wallets, our hearts and donated many needed items, new and gently used, for the 2 families that we helped move into permanent housing. For the first family St James' covered their security deposit and almost completely furnished a 2 bedroom apartment not too far from our church. The second family we mainly delivered furniture, bedding, utensils and gift cards. South Bay Community had come through with the security deposit. Abode Services placed 16 families last year.

St James' just rented a storage unit for future families just to get us by until our donated 20' container from Matson Navigation becomes available. With the help of George Vlastelica and a few friends, we've already managed to fill up the storage unit with couches, beds, lights, TV's, microwaves, lamps, bedding and utensils.

St James', Harbor Light and South Bay Community Church have partnered up to support our future families. There are about 15 local churches partnering up with a common goal and we are making a dent. The need has grown considerably and became more prevalent due to the down turn in the economy and along with many lost homes and jobs.

The 15 families mentioned earlier are subsidized by Abode Services for the first 12 months and if needed, up to 6 more months. No new families can be sheltered until the other client families are out of the subsidy program. Some will need more time due to job cuts, reduced hours etc. In addition to this program, another program has been created to allow support for up to 5 single adult men/women that have experienced chronic homelessness. The member churches will support them with mainly household items and care packages. The outlay by participating churches will be minimum, no monies will be needed for deposits. All of the above services hosted by Abode Services includes health and wellness services along with job placement. Abode Services continues to be a well-connected service organization.

Abode Services efficient use of their resources has just been awarded a \$1,000,000 grant for Alameda County aimed at re-housing vets. It's not part of our program; however, by the need to take care of our vets has grown with the tragedy of the extended wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and beyond.

A good change for Abode and its member churches is the new moving assistance program. The member churches will not longer be required to help the families or individuals move in. A private moving company will be handling that service.

Lastly, George and I will be coming again to the St James' community for their support this 2011/2012 program year. If you have any questions, concerns, comments, then call me at 510-795-1870 or email: dgfeeney@comcast.net

Thanks
Gregg Feeney & George Vlastelica



The Treasures From The Attic Show and Sale slated for Saturday October 29th has been postponed to next year - possibly on or near the same date and time.



St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God, we pray for:

Those Who Need Continued Healing: Brad, Florinne, David, William, Dean, Irma, Dolores, Leila, Annie, Eleanor, Jimmy, Robert, Mel, Gary, Selina, Veronica, Naomi, Tarrah, Barbara, Kevin, Anna, Teddy

Those Who Need Comfort and Strength: Anna, Sylvia, Anita, Grant

Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Ben, John, Victor, Catherine, Daniel, Gloria, Barbara, Shaun, Aaron, Kenny, Candace

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, Caitlin, Emily, Robin

Those Who Are Traveling:

Those Who Have Passed Away: Jack, Tubby, Glennamae, Don, Spencer, Dale, Leona, Doris



October Birthday Celebrations

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 7 Mary Casas | 22 Alyssa Koonze |
| 8 Keith Westra | 23 Marilyn Rose |
| 9 Margaret Rainey | 24 Ruby Pike |
| Beth Scrutton | 25 Glorianne Bryant |
| Cathy Knotts | 28 Florinne Becker |
| 10 Bobbie Naidoo | 29 Joan Kimber |
| 13 Judy Colby | |
| 14 Richard Kostick | |
| 18 Victoria Krimmel | |
| 19 Bud Pearson | |
| Lynn Locher | |
| Sherea Westra | |

October Anniversaries



- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 15 | Linda and David Nelsen |
| 22 | Jack and Enid Williams |
| 27 | Deidre and Nick Laino |

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

Financial Summary 31 August 2011

Fund Balances	<u>8/31/10</u>	<u>8/31/11</u>
Operating Fund	29,644	49,678
Building Fund	27,519	30,936
Year To Date Summary Operating		
	<u>8/31/10</u>	<u>8/31/11</u>
Pledges Budgeted	153,267	155,953
Pledges Paid	140,366	139,504
Unpledged Contributions	3,227	5,356
Other Op Income	<u>13,001</u>	<u>12,292</u>
Total Operating Income	156,594	157,152
Total Operating Expenses	<u>164,130</u>	<u>159,225</u>
Income less Expense	(7,536)	(2,073)



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WORSHIP TIMES

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

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Laura Winter

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

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