



The Window

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

September 2011

Welcome One, Welcome All

Many years ago when I first walked into a church known as Episcopal, I had an experience of being gently folded into a community that both granted me space and softly hugged my soul. I do not think this small group of people understood exactly what they were doing, nor do I think there was a set prescription they followed. There was no “welcoming program,” no pre-defined “greeters,” and no “plan-of-action.” There was just a group of people deeply committed to their church and to their God, and full of the desire to look outward and give, that they naturally created a vessel of hospitality.

Since then, I have come to realize that creating environments of hospitality does not happen quite so automatically when the congregation is larger than a small group on a Sunday morning. Sometimes, it does take intentionality to be welcoming. Sometimes a program in place is what’s needed to set the ball in motion. Sometimes, there need to be reminders and awareness raising for us to remember that the true purpose of Christian community is to open our doors and to open our hearts.

On more Sundays than not, we have people come to our worship space for the first time, and I am always delighted by the natural tendency of our congregation to engage others in conversation and laughter. One new parishioner told me she thought St. James’ is the friendliest church she knows. That’s high praise, and well deserved. I love that we laugh easily. I love that we find joy in being together. I love that we are always looking for ways to include others.

Every year we in the church turn a corner from the long days of summer to the quickening pace of the program year. This is always a good time to re-examine and reflect on our position of hospitality and how we are intentional about creating space for others. As we move from summer to fall, I invite you to think about the following in terms of hospitality –

- When someone approaches the entry of our church (the narthex), do they find a clear path or is the space crowded with bodies in conversation and busyness? Sunday mornings begin with the gathering, and the gathering should be in the sanctuary, away from the doorways in order to create a clear path for all to enter.
- When you sit in your pew, do you move to the center so that others who come after you can easily slip in and not have to worry about stepping over you if you’re sitting on the end of the pew? Easy physical entry into a seat goes a long way in making a new person feel comfortable and unobtrusive.
- When you see someone who is juggling prayer books and hymnals with that “I’m totally lost” look on their face, do you hand them your book, turned to the correct page, so they can easily follow the service? One should not feel like they need a PhD in liturgical texts to worship God. Though many of us find it to be second nature, if you’re not familiar with the service, the books can be intimidating.

These are just a few things that help us be as open as possible to the angels we entertain. Every person is called to welcome the stranger who is just a friend waiting to happen. We are the friendliest church, and I look forward to living that out, both intentionally and naturally!

Lori

Stewardship Corner

“My times are in your hands,” announces the psalmist in Psalm 31:15. Time marches on -- where does it go? Once it's gone, it's irretrievable. It's already September and it seems like summer just arrived. School is about to, or has already started, and our thoughts are turning to fall, pumpkins, leaves turning color, football, turkeys, Christmas and a New Year! I remember as a child the time between the beginning of school and Christmas vacation seemed like an eternity. Now it seems to whiz by like a rocket ship racing into space.

Fall is the beginning of our Stewardship Program for 2012 and the Stewardship Committee is planning some events we hope you will enjoy. But first we'd like to ask everyone to mark their calendars for **Pledge Sunday**, November 20, and also for one of two **Fellowship Dinners** to be held on November 3 and November 17. More information on these events will be coming out in later weeks.

I wrote about volunteering and sharing time and talent last month. This month have I got a deal for you! If you are timid or shy about committing to a committee or ongoing job, here is an opportunity just waiting for you!! We soon will be scheduling a “brainstorming” session to plan the Fellowship Dinners and we want your input. This will be an opportunity to share your ideas and thoughts as we shape the details for the dinners. If you'd like to play a small part in the planning process, watch for further information in the weekly bulletin.

Time is a gift, the use of which we are accountable to God. We can cherish time, but we can also neglect it. We can hoard our time, but we can also share it. We can invest our time, but we can also squander it. Whatever we decide to do though, we need to know that we are accountable to God for it.

There is a time for everything. I encourage you to steward the minutes, hours and days that you have been given. Our times are in God's hands.

Gail Blalock, Stewardship Chair

Men's Outing

The Men's Group enjoyed another long weekend in the Blue Lake Springs district close to Arnold. Nestled in the pines, cedars and oak trees, our group of 18 really took advantage of being "off the grid." There were two new attendees this year, Ron Larson and Gary Gearheart and returning attendees included Bob Bell, Bob Bynum, Al Casas, Mike Dearborn, Charlie Dickinson, Gregg Feeney, Stephen Ferro, Tim Koonze, Dave Nelsen, Bud Pearson, Bruce Roberts, Ken Trant, George Vlastelica, Brian Whitaker, Scott Whitaker, and Rod Whitehouse.

Some of us played golf both Friday and Saturday while another group drove down to Murphy's for some wine tasting. On the following day, they headed up to Calaveras Big Trees State Park for a nice hike and picture taking. A few relaxed back at the cabins but also cleaned up from a visit by the resident bear, which very early had given Scott Whitaker the pleasure of being woken up he slept out on the deck. The next night bats dive bombed him.



At the end of Friday and Saturday, we had our traditional feasts and great story telling. Ron Larson said, “One thing you guys really know is how to eat well” We take eating seriously and (guys - take note) next year, it will be even more serious. The price is reasonable and the fellowship, 'priceless.'

Gregg Feeney

Pictured left-to-right at Calaveras Big Trees State Park are Ron Larson, Dave Nelsen, Rod Whitehouse, Mike Dearborn and Bob Bynum. Bruce Roberts took the picture.

McCutcheon Concert Planning Meeting

**John McCutcheon returns on
January 16th**

If you would like to learn more about the McCutcheon Concert (Jan 16, 2012) and help us plan and staff the event, please come to our first planning meeting on Tuesday, September 13th at 7pm in EB#1. For all the folks who helped last year, I hope you will help us once again.

The McCutcheon Concert is an important outreach and fundraiser for St. James'. The 2012 concert will be our ninth year sponsoring the event.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Sylvia Ma and the McCutcheon Team

Are you available for lunch on Sunday Sept. 25 at noon?

The Available for Lunch ministry invites you to join them for lunch after the 10:30am service on Sunday Sept. 25 at the Nguyen Vu Vietnamese restaurant located on Newark Blvd at Jarvis in Newark, a few doors down from the new Ross department store. Come for food and fellowship in this fall gathering. Friends and families are welcome, or you could just come by yourself. Please sign-up in the Parish Hall. We pay for our own lunch and enjoy each other's company.

If you need more information or need a ride, please call Sylvia at 510-552-6549.

Sylvia Ma and Meg Williams
The Available for Lunch ministry

St. Francis Day and the Blessing of the Animals

10:30am Service, October 2nd

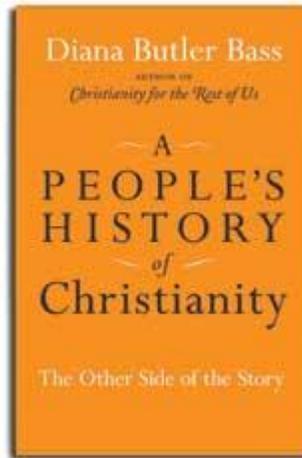
Bring your furry, scaled, winged, and stuffed friends for a blessing! Invite your human friends to join us as well.

All creatures great and small
are welcome.

The Book Shelf

A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story

by Diana Butler Bass. HarperOne, 2009.
Paper, \$14.99 (\$10.08 at amazon.com)



In this book, the popular speaker and author of *Christianity for the Rest of Us* takes us on a whirlwind tour of church history. The seed for this book came from the comment of a friend who said to her, "I don't have any trouble with Jesus. It's all the stuff that happened after Jesus that makes me mad." Seeking to find God in the history of a religion that has been and often continues to be intolerant, violent, schismatic, and hateful, Bass tells the story of how every-day people, people like you and me, interpreted their experience of the Holy One and how it changed their lives.

Bass divides the book by historical era: The Way (early Christianity), The Cathedral (medieval Christianity), The Word (Reformation Christianity), The Quest (modern Christianity), and the River (contemporary Christianity). She provides an overview of the political, social and religious setting of each era and then explores the type of devotion and ethics of each. For example, in the section on The Cathedral she explains how, among wars, plagues and illnesses, life was tenuous at best. People living then had a sense of living in-between heaven and hell. This is reflected in their architecture. It is also reflected in their ethics. The Middle Ages, while often brutal, also provided time and space for living side-by-side with Jews and Muslims (Spain), for women mystics such as Hildegard of Bingen (who would never have survived the witch hunts of the Renaissance period), and for the gentle structure and discipline of St. Benedict. "...For the most part medieval faith was a type of Christianity that blended traditions rather fluidly, a confluence of diversity and local custom. In contemporary parlance, medieval spirituality might be known – and criticized by purveyors of orderly religion – as "cafeteria Christianity."

Bass's point is that age to age, the common people, those with "boots on the ground" if you will, generally find a way to live and express their love and faith in God, regardless of what comes from the political or religious leaders. This book is a brief survey of how our forbearers in faith did just that.

~Janet Fischer

Faith Formation Sunday Classes Resume

Starting Sunday **September 4**, Faith Formation classes resume after a summer recess with discussion of The Anglican Covenant, Resolution D020, passed at the General Convention 2009. Feedback from discussions gathered from deaneries and parishes will be used by the diocesan deputation for the 2012 General Convention when the Episcopal Church will take up the question of ratifying the covenant. The California deputation to the 2009 GC concluded that the covenant “would alter Anglicanism at [its] basic level, and not for the better.” This is a serious issue and worthy of discussion at St. James’. Deanery Delegates will attend this class to hear what you have to say.

On **September 18**, Scott Whitaker and EJ Hilliard will discuss with those present the three proposed diocesan resolutions to be voted on at the October Diocesan Convention. Deanery Delegates will attend this class.

Vestry Cluster functions will be presented in the **Parish Hall on September 25** for all to participate in. So look out for a very different coffee hour on that Sunday. Engage your Vestry Members in conversation about what they do and what functions they are charged to represent. And, if you are interested in a particular function, feel free to participate.

Unless otherwise stated Faith Formation classes are held in **EB-1 at 9:15 AM** on Sundays.

Note that September 11, no classes will be held in honor of Flatlanders Weekend (women’s camping trip).

Bruce Roberts
Faith Formation Chair

Deanery Wide Healing Ministry Mini-Retreat

St. James’ is hosting the second mini-retreat for the Healing Ministries of our Deanery. We have invited anyone – priests, deacons, lay – who is currently participating in healing ministry or who is interested in healing prayer. It will be held on Sunday, September 18, 2011 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. We will have lunch in EB-1, tour our campus, and gather back in EB-1 for the rest of the program and closing prayer. The primary purpose is to have an exchange of ideas and resources, and to get to know one another better.

Lori has generously offered to take part, and we are hoping many of the rest of our community will attend also. We would like you to see what our Healing Ministry is all about. So whether you have an interest in exploring this ministry further, or if you just want to get to know our ministry better, please come. It will be informal and a pleasant way to spend the afternoon grounded in the Holy Spirit.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the parish hall, or you may contact me by phone at 510-599-6308 or by email at bbdabney@sbcglobal.net.

Barbara Dabney

Lunch with Lori

For students in 6th grade and above plus their parents.

Meet with Lori, Jan and Mike Scrutton for lunch and to discover more about the plans for St James’ Youth in 2011-2012. Discussion will also include the course of preparation for confirmation for those interested.

Sunday September 25 at St James’.

RSVP to Jan at jan@scrutton.org.uk

<u>Financial Summary 31 May 2011</u>		
Fund Balances	<u>7/31/2010</u>	<u>7/31/2011</u>
Operating Fund	22,158	51,162
Building Fund	25,365	29,668
<u>Year To Date Summary Operating</u>		
	<u>7/31/2010</u>	<u>7/31/2011</u>
Pledges Budgeted	134,108	136,459
Pledges Paid	117,788	123,669
Unpledged Contributions	3,000	4,848
Other Op Income	<u>11,506</u>	<u>11,675</u>
Total Operating In-	132,264	140,192
Total Operating Expenses	<u>147,286</u>	<u>140,794</u>
Income less Expense	(15,022)	(602)

Sunrise Village Wish List

Our friends at Abode Services have sent out a wish list in their August Newsletter. As in past years we are currently soliciting the congregation for donations for shoes for the children.

The staff at Sunrise village is looking for the additional items listed below for the children at Sunrise Village.

Per their newsletter: *School will be starting soon for many of the children in our programs - help with **school supplies and snacks** is much appreciated!*

- Backpacks and school supplies
- Juice boxes for bag lunches
- Cereal
- Snack foods

If you can help, please purchase any of these items and then take them to **Sunrise Village Emergency Shelter** at 588 Brown Road in Fremont.

Brad Hoffman
Social Ministries and Congregational Care



- Sunday, 9/18: Healing Mini-Retreat, 12 - 3pm, St. James' campus
- Sunday, 9/25: Lunch with Lori, 12pm, St. James'
- Sunday, 9/25: Available for Lunch, 12:30pm, Nguyen Vu Restaurant, Newark
- Sunday, 10/3: Blessing of the Animals, 10:30am Service
- Saturday, 10/29: *Treasures from the Attic* Show & Sale
- Saturdays, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22: Comtemplative Healing, St. James' campus

Shoes for Children at Sunrise Village

Cathy Knotts has again kindly volunteered to lead the project to collect donations of money or gift cards to purchase shoes for the children residing at the Sunrise Village Shelter on Brown Road.

We are asking for either monetary donations or gift cards of \$10, \$15 or \$20. These gift cards may be purchased at any Payless Shoe Source store or on-line at www.payless.com.

We thank you in advance for your donations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Gary Gearheart or myself @ socialministries-congcare@saintj.com.

Brad Hoffman

**TREASURES FROM THE ATTIC
SHOW & SALE**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 29TH
ST. JAMES' PARKING LOT**

**ART, ANTIQUES, BOOKS
COLLECTIBLES, AND MORE!**

~ COME TO SELL
~ COME TO SHOP

DETAILS COMING SOON

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT PEGEEN PERRY**

Comtempative Healing Training Course Offered

The Vestry has approved hosting a Contem-
plative Healing training on October 8, 15, and 22
from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. I will be leading it and
we are opening it up to the Diocese as well. Cost
is \$139 early bird registration by Sept. 24, \$149
after that and \$159 at the door.

More info: Call me at (510) 366-7822 or
email me at brian_cochran@sbcglobal.net.

Brian Cochran



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, Caitlin, Emily

For Those Suffering Economic Hardship: Rick

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction:

Rhonda, Paul, Deja, Jordon, Ben, John

For Those Who Need Comfort and Strength: The

Day Family, The Johnsen Family, The Williams Family, Betty, Carrol, Adrian, The Knoll Family, The Pearson Family, Anna

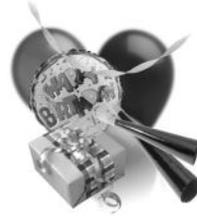
For Those Who Are Traveling: Craig, Bruce

For Those Who Need Continued Healing: Brad,

Florinne, David, William, Matthew, Verna, Michael, Larry, Bonnie, Pamela, Marilyn, Dean, Irma, Dolores, Leila, Annie, Eleanor, Jimmy, Robert, Leona, Mel, Gary, Selina, Veronica, Tarrah

For Those Who Have Passed Away: Carol, Philip,

Christine, Jack, Tubby, Glennamae, Don, Spencer, Dale, Leona



September Birthday Celebrations

- 09/02 Bob Reed
- 09/05 Aurora Thompson-Lynch
- 09/07 Mel Johnson
- 09/08 Ron Larson
- 09/10 Gary Gearheart
- 09/14 Janice Brandt
- 09/18 Rod Whitehouse
- 09/20 Barbara Lyon
Irma McLean
- 09/25 Michael Aquino
Barbara Dabney
- 09/26 Mitchell Pinnix
Connie Rux
Jeanne Morris

September Anniversaries



- 5 Terri Lynn & James Rommelfanger
- 11 Nat & Glory Bryant
- 12 George & Pat Vlastelica
- 13 Paul & Joann Dileanis
- 15 Janet & Bruce Fischer
- 17 Michael & Mary Dearborn
- 18 Tim & Pat Spencer
- 21 Scott & Becky Whitaker
- 23 Bud & Pat Spalding
Evelyn Martinez & Griselda Prather
- 25 Frank & Rosetta Hoffman (57th)

The next issue of *The Window* is in October. 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
October Deadline: September 15th

WHAT MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME

RELIGION: "You had better pray that comes up out of the carpet."

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



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

GODLY PLAY SUNDAY 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00 AM

OFFICE HOURS

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

STAFF

The Rev. Lori Waltonlori@saintj.com

The Rev. Bob Dobbin.....deacon@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)

VESTRY

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Mary Casas

Junior Warden.....jrwarden@saintj.com

Andy MacRae

Christian Formationchristianformation@saintj.com

Marlene Benedict, Stephen Ferro, Janet Fischer

Social Ministries/Congregational Caresocialministries-congcare@saintj.com

Gary Gearheart, Brad Hoffman

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Valle Brokes, Greg Scheuffele

Parish Life.....parishlife@saintj.com

Donald Razzolini, Dean Valentine

Facilities.....facilities@saintj.com

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