The Window

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

May 2010

Bridges

by Kathy✞

We have some lovely lavender roses in our backyard. When we moved into our house 15 years ago, four roses were planted in barrels in the front. Several years ago we had them moved into the backyard.

The lavender roses are picky. Never as robust as the other, the blooms on this rose are few and finicky. We tried more or less water, more or less mulch, more or less rose food, more or less ignored them.

For reasons beyond my understanding, they are blooming right now, a little early. The weather hasn't been warm and the garden has been pretty wet this year. But I looked out the window this morning and I see a few buds and one rose almost open.

I thought about this for awhile, pondering the significance, if any. Maybe there isn't any. Maybe we own a persnickety rose and that's all. Ah, but no preacher will leave an image unexamined…

What a metaphor this rose can be for the spiritual lives we lead. There are times we tend to this life and times we don't. Sometimes we work hard on pruning and nurturing and sometimes we water, more or less. Sometimes the sun shines brightly and blooms come on and then they wilt and drop. Bugs arrive, mold invades, winter comes and goes.

And then, all at once, the bush is flourishing, the leaves are bright and the roses open, all complex and fragrant and glorious. That is the tending of God in the garden of our hearts, or so it seems to me. In spite of our intentions, God sees and gracefully encourages growth at a particular moment.

For reasons beyond our understanding, sometimes the growth we experience as individuals and as a community just happens. Sometimes grace is a surprise. When you find yourself in one of those seasons - REJOICE!

Walk-a-Rock-a-thon 2010

The sixth annual Spring Walk-a-Rock-a-thon to benefit the Winter Relief Program is on May 22 at 8 AM. We are still working on the 3.5 mile route and will keep you updated. [*We are hoping to work in conjunction with St. Anne's, our sister parish in south Fremont].*

Needed:

- Walkers to walk the 3.5 mile route (still to be determined)
- Rockers to man the Rocking chairs in the St. James' Parish Hall
- Sponsors for our above athletes
- Volunteers to pass out water and encouragement

Athletes: Begin to train now!

Pick up sponsor sheets and begin to work for your sponsors now. Please be a part of this exciting event to raise funds for such items as: Bus tickets, food and retail gift cards, toiletries and more for the families in Winter Relief.

For more information contact the Social Ministries & Congregational CareVestry cluster Brad Hoffman 510-299-1635 or Andy MacRae 510-589-5003.

Stewardship Corner

Stewardship is often described as the care and use of all that we have been given by God and is frequently expressed in terms of time, talent, and treasure. At St. James', we practice *Year 'Round Stewardship* offering us the opportunity to contribute financially *(treasure),* commit time in service *(time),* and share our skills and abilities *(talent)* to the glory of God. Stewardship helps us to grow spiritually in our relationship with God through the faithful management of all that God has given us. Next month I will focus on "talent"; in the meantime, I would ask that you reflect on how you are sharing your talent at St. James' and in the community.

Gail Blalock
Stewardship Chair

Quote without Comment

"I have always thought that one of the glories of our Church is that she is broad and comprehensive enough to embrace within her fold men holding various views in theology and different shades of opinion in matters pertaining to ritual....To identify the Church with the views of any one party would be, in my humble opinion, making a sect of her."

~Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky, Bishop of Shanghai, writing in 1883.

This quote is found in his marvelous biography, "Apostle of China," by James Arthur Miller, published by Morehouse Publishing Co. in 1937. The Bishop's feast day is October 14. He died in 1906.

Submitted by Janet Fischer

Calendar Highlights

May 15: Ultrea at Holy Cross in San Leandro

May 16 - June 6: Faith Formation

May 22: Walk-a-Rock-a-Thon

Stained Glass Windows Project

I am pleased to announce the Vestry has approved moving forward on the Stained Glass Window Project. We will have the honor of again, working with Wesley Hogan, from Hogan Art Glass.

Wesley has proposed replacing the two windows adjacent to the entry doors in the big church with faceted glass windows. We will be replacing the entry doors as well. The proposal includes faceted glass inlaid in the new doors.

Drawings will be presented of possible designs for the windows and doors. We are considering a theme of our patron Saint James' and our sacrament of baptism.

Thank you to all who attended the meeting regarding this project. Your feedback was appreciated.

Mary Casas
Junior Warden

Faith Formation in May

During Faith Formation hour we will discuss *Patience With God: Faith for People Who Don't Like Religion (or Atheism)* by Frank Schaeffer. The class will be led by The Rev. Kathy and Janet Fischer, and will run May 16, 23, 30, and June 6. The book is $16.50 from amazon.com. Watch for more details in the Green Pages!

Affairs Fair

Although an event had been planned for May 16, due to a number of circumstances the team has decided we need to postpone the event until a later date.

Look for new plans in upcoming newsletter publications.

The Endowment Board

Hello to St. James' from Colorado!

I've been able to be in touch with a few of you via emails. But I would also like to reach my friends from St. James' who don't use computers much, so here goes.

It took us two days to drive to Boulder and then I spent three hours that first evening in the ER. Those of you who are in the choir will know that I've been having increasing shoulder pain and haven't been comfortable holding a hymnal for some time. To make a long story short, I have landed on my feet here with Kaiser PT and a chiropractor well-versed in meridian therapy, acupuncture, kinesthesiology and a bunch of other helpful big words! I'm doing much better and have considerably reduced my pain meds.

The next day it started rain, then sleet, then lovely large flakes of wet snow which turned into 12 inches of lovely fresh powder by morning. Craig drove in to work and I let Tigger, Bear, and Déjà Vu into the back yard where Tigger ran round and round the yard throwing puffs of snow in the air with each paw. He loved it!!! All the snow had melted away two days later, a normal occurrence out here where people expect to play golf 300 days a year. The following week, we had a day of 84 degrees followed 36 hours later by finding a crust of ice on the dogs' water bowl outside! Now THAT'S weather.

Craig spent his solo time out here in February joining groups – dog groups, people groups, hiking groups, wine tasting groups and so on. One of them is the "Grey Wolves Over 40" who do many different types of activities. The Sunday after we arrived, we showed up at St. John's in Boulder at 8:30am to ask if we could join the choir. They welcomed us with music and robe-fittings, and the regular hour of rehearsal before church which allows them to limit weekday evening rehearsals to once a month. The director puts a recording or MP3 file of upcoming music on the choir's website and people practice listening before we sing on Sunday. The choir director, Tom is not only a great tenor but also the principal organist who has a pipe organ to work with. They had incense for Easter and the acolyte got a little overenthusiastic with the censer. He was doing swings and round-the-worlds with no trouble, but then he did a move I've only seen with numchucks and the chains lost tension at the top of his swing and dumped hot coals between the flanking choir stalls. The altar party continued the recessional without a visible hitch except for the choir who had front row seats and were trying very hard to sing without laughing.

Our Fremont house had three offers by five days after going on the market – two of which were for $35K more than the asking price! The Harts can tell you why. We signed off on the final inspection reports today and we signed a contract offer for our chosen house here today as well. I have finished most of the errands that needed running as soon as we got here. In the afternoon of the same day that I was talking to someone about being a little bored, the Census Bureau people called to offer me a job. I'm scheduled for training 5/3-5/7 and will have 3-8 weeks of work, mostly with Spanish speakers

Most wonderful of all has been the ongoing feeling that I have been in the palm of God's hand and the prayers of St. James' are always here for support. The only phrases I can think of that express how I feel are in Hebrew and Arabic: Baruch attoi Adonai (blessed be the Lord God) and Allah Akbar (God is great).

Love you all,
Jodi Benson

An Open Invitation

For the last many years, a group of St. James' parishioners have been meeting at Cabrillo café (in the shopping center across the street from St. James') for breakfast between the 8 AM service and the 11 AM services. We have from 4 to 20 people on a given Sunday meet in an area reserved for us.

So we extend an invite to you to come and enjoy a good meal, 'break bread' with us and enjoy some wonderful fellowship. Questions… Catch me at the 8 AM or the 11 AM service.

Brad Hoffman

Easter Visit to Hillside Senior Care

The parishioners of St James' continued their Easter tradition of delivering gifts to the residents at HILLSIDE SENIOR CARE (new name). A group of 5 made the delivery on March 24th. This year all the residents were given flowering African violets plants in lieu of Easter Baskets. Each flower pot had a special St James' Easter sticker and a decorated plant stick, both designed by Lauren Doherty. The plants were so colorful that some residents asked if they could pick out their own!

Ruby Solórzano, Activities Director, and other staff assisted us. The Bunny Team members Margaret Broun, Alice Johnson, Sandra Motley, Ruth Poole and Maggie Shalar visited with the residents and several of the residents' family members. Alice Johnson decorated and filled two Easter Baskets for the staff to enjoy. Maggie Shalar made all the purchase arrangements at the Newark Orchard Supply. We extend our appreciation to Jodie Fernandez and Victor Jones, Manager, who rounded up the 70 special order violets.

Thank You to Everyone Who Donated Funds to Cover the Cost of the Plants!

Sandra Motley

Men's Group Third Annual Get-Away

The Men's Group at St James' needs to mark their calendar for 07/29 - 8/01for our third annual trip to Arnold. It's a fun time to spend in cabins getting to know new and old members. There is great food, great company, hiking, golf, fishing, and its just plain relaxing. Last year we had about 16 members attend and no *complaints*.

We hope you can join in this wonderful opportunity with the men of St. James'. If you have any questions, please give me a call 510-795-1870 or send an email to dgfeeney@comcast.net.

Financial Summary

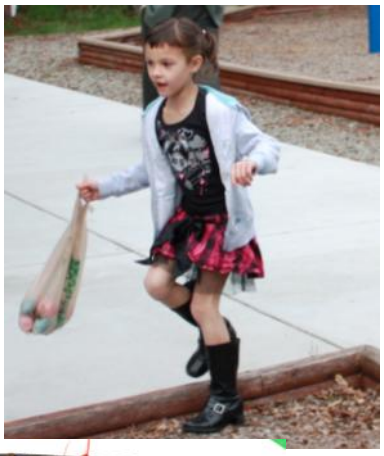
	3/31/2009	3/31/2010
Operating Fund	$ 38,491	$ 33,041
Building Fund	$ 18,432	$ 20,263

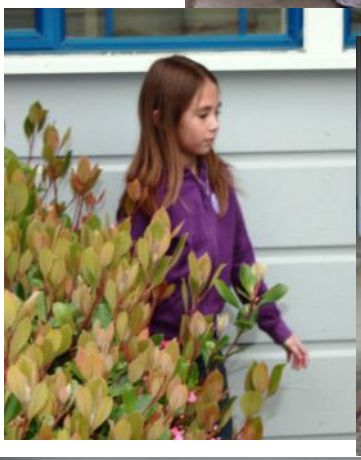
Year To Date Summary

	3/31/2009	3/31/2010
Pledges Budgeted	**$ 65,438**	**$ 57,475**
Pledges Paid	**$ 53,130**	**$ 50,794**
Unpledged Contributions	$ 3,580	$ 1,285
Other Operating Income*	$ 6,343	$ 5,422
Total Operating Income	$63,052	$ 57,501
Total Operating Expenses	$ 63,916	$ 61,639
Income less Expense	($ 864)	$ (4,239)

* Includes Fundraising

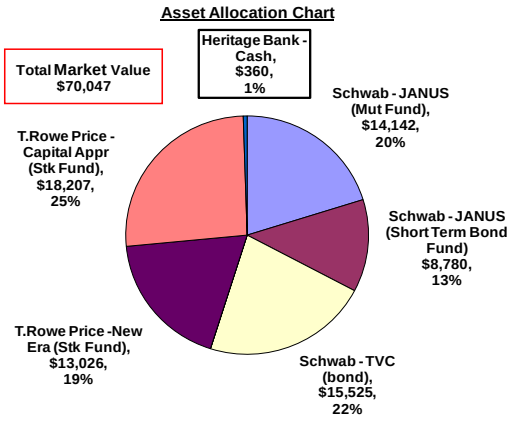
St. James' Easter Egg Hunt



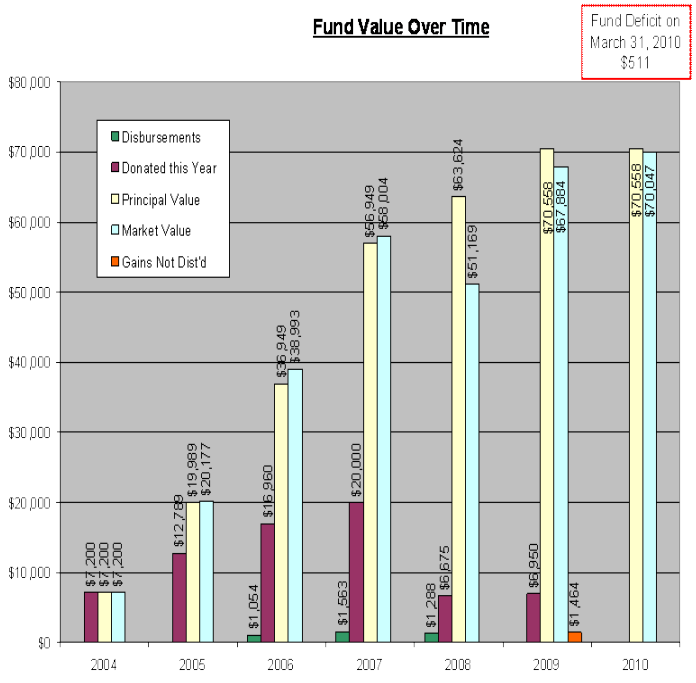


St. James' Endowment Fund

During this last quarter, the Endowment board has been researching different bonds and bond funds in which to invest. We have decided to invest in Janus short term bond fund. This is a managed group of short-term bonds which brings additional diversification to our portfolio. The chart below shows how our assets are allocated.



The chart below shows the value of the Endowment since its inception in 2003. Note the difference between principal and market value is now just over $500. In December this deficit was $2,674. Of course this reflects the recovery we are seeing in the financial markets generally and a welcome sight it is.



If you would like more information about the St. James' Endowment please contact one of the Endowment board members;:Dave Nelsen, Joan Roberts, Marnie Hartmann, Patty Lacy or Chris Lubwama.

Dave Nelsen

May 16, 2010

2 - 6 PM

All Saint's Church, San Leandro

911 Dowling Blvd.

San Leandro, CA 94577

The "Shout to the Lord" Team invites all Cursillistas to a Holy Pot Luck

Hear the new Cursillistas, reunite with old friends and make new ones.

Come enjoy food, fun and music

Please bring a dish and a beverage to share

For More Information Call:

Bob or Debbie (510) 325-2092

St. James' Prayer List

We pray for:

For Those Who Need Continued Healing: Sandra, Pat, Doris, Jerry, Sally, Egan, Joshua, Ann, Annie, Angelina, Alice, Jim, Samuel, Rose, Dick, Tammy, Sharon, Robyn, Judy, Jack, Shirley, Michael, Howie, Harold

For Those Who Need Comfort and Strength: Joan, Tom, Edna, James, Alyssa, Erica, David, Margaret, Paul & Lucinda and their new born Jamie, Alex, Cathy, Michael, the Awana family, Lisa, Margaret Rainey family and friends, Dick Aston family and friends, Sumita, Cathy Knotts family and friends, Miller family and friends, Gayle Culver family and friends, Donna, Joey, Kevin, David, Ritter family, family and friends of the miners in West Virginia

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Dean, Kenny, Lim, Harold, Michael, Randy, Ronald, Duncan, Ann, Kim, Andrew, Andrew Jr., Barbara, Shaun, Aaron, Fred, Phil, Ched and Jay, Steve, Kevin, David, Kelly, Joey, Rhonda, Paul, Deja, Jordon, Greg

For Those Suffering Economic Hardship: Dean, Greg, Jaydee, Jane, James, The NUMMI employees, Edward, Guy, Bill, Chad, Candace

For Families Who Are Expecting Children: Janice, April & Eric, Jocelyn, Kelly & Gersson, Stephen & Allison, Mandy, Ginger, Sierra

For Those Who Have Died: Marcus, Bill, Harold, Arthur, Doris Leslie

May Birthday Celebrations

5/1	Burtin Hart	5/20	Iris Noddin
	Katie Smith	5/22	Jonathan Fuller
	Claudia Allen		Kaitlin MacRae
5/2	Martha Kennedy	5/25	Amy Dickinson
	Meg Williams	5/26	Carol Day
5/3	Bianca Castro		Betty McCoy
5/4	Margaret Singh	5/31	Austin Dalmasso
5/5	Sandra Motley		Ian Kreeger
5/7	Mary Gifford		Suzanne David
5/14	Richard Reynolds		

Wedding Anniversaries

5/04	Al & Mary Casas
	Paul & Renee Lenart
	Bruce & Joan Roberts
5/19	Bob & Kitty Reed
5/24	Burtin & Elizabeth Hart
	Elsa & Lloyd Benedict
5/26	Cathy Knotts & Mitchell Pinnix
5/31	Philip & Barbara Johnsen

Please note: If your birth month or anniversary is in this month and your name(s) is not listed, please email the appropriate information to the church office.

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

The next issue of *The Window* is in June. 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.

June Deadline: May 15th

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OFFICE HOURS
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM
TUESDAY-FRIDAY
TEL: (510) 797-1492

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

Interim Rector
The Rev. Kathy Crary

Administration
Secretary: Linda LeGere
Music Director: Katherine LaRose
Sexton: Art Gallardo
Office email: office@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
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The Vestry of St. James'

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Facilities
Scott Kennedy
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Parish Life
Penny Trant
Dean Valentine

Clerk
Elizabeth Hart

Email Addresses

Staff and Coordinators

The Rev. Kathy Crary ..... Kathy@saintj.com
Church Secretary ..... office@saintj.com
Music Director ..... music@saintj.com
Treasurer ..... treasurer@saintj.com

Newsletter

Newsletter submission ..... window@saintj.com
Ralph Locher ..... relocher@comcast.net
Marilyn Rose ..... mrose93@sbcglobal.net
Penny Trant ..... just4pt@yahoo.com
Laura Winter ..... lwinter@rja-gps.com

Vestry

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