



The Window

The Newsletter of St. James' Episcopal Church, Fremont

February 2007

In This Issue...

Page 1

Lent: Mardi Gras Party
Ash Wednesday
Sunday Mornings
Tuesday Evenings

Page 2

Education Survey

Page 3

Lent: (continued)
John McCutcheon Event
Deacon-in-Training News

Page 4

Godly Play for Adults
Brian Cochran
Will Writing
Gift Annuities

Page 5

Stewardship Corner

Page 6

Thanks from Ruth Poole
Income/Expenses 2006
Newsletter Deadline

Page 7

Prayers, Birthdays, and
Anniversaries

Page 8

Worship Times
Contact Information

Lenten Season Events, Services, Programs and Decorations

Lent begins Wednesday, February 21, and Lenten programming begins Sunday, February 25. You will be receiving more details about our Lenten programming in a separate mailing, but please save the dates of Saturday, February 17 for a Mardi Gras Party; Wednesday, February 21 for our Ash Wednesday services; Sunday mornings beginning February 25; and Tuesday evenings beginning February 27.

Mardi Gras Party

We kick off our Lenten Season with a party— what's Lent without a good party beforehand?— on Saturday, February 17. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm and the party begins around 6:30 pm. For questions, contact Kerri Williams.

Ash Wednesday Services with imposition of Ashes on February 21 at 7 am, 12 pm, and 7 pm

Sunday Mornings from 10 – 10:50 am

"We Are the World: Putting a Face on the Challenges that Face Our World Today"

In a world with only six degrees of separation, we know that the church is and must be seen in all its universal manifestations. The sufferings that touch our brothers and sisters in Darfur, in the Middle East, in the flood plains of South East Asia, in the barrios of South America touch us as well. Come hear stories from members of our own community about how their own life experiences have shown them and can show us that "We Are the World."

Tuesday Evenings from 6 – 8:30 pm

"Our Hope Chest of Faith"

Do any of you know someone who had a hope chest? In that chest, they saved up beautiful, precious, and valuable items so that they would have them for their future. The Anglican tradition is just such a hope chest that stretches back through history to the 4th century and beyond it to

--- continued on page 3

Suggestions for Adult Education

Suggestions due March 18. The Disciple Builders ministry of St. James' plans classes and discussions for 10am Sunday Adult Education as well as evening programs. Now is your opportunity to help design upcoming offerings for Fall 2007/Spring 2008 by providing suggested topics or themes. Because we all have diverse and varied interests and ideas, we encourage you to help design the classes by offering ideas for themes, topics and presenters. Be creative! Think of classes you've enjoyed in the past or something new you've always wanted to learn or explore.

Single Session Classes or Discussions

1. Topic(s): _____

2. Suggested Presenter(s) (optional): _____

(Please provide contact information if presenter is not a member of St. James')

3. Volunteer Presenter: Indicate topic(s) you would be interested in leading (optional): _____

In-Depth Course Ideas (2 - 4 week sessions)

1. Course(s): _____

2. Suggested Presenter(s) (optional): _____

(Please provide contact information if presenter is not a member of St. James')

3. Volunteer Presenter: Indicate topic(s) you would be interested in leading (optional): _____

Evening Programs

1. Course(s): _____

2. Suggested Presenter(s) (optional): _____

(Please provide contact information if presenter is not a member of St. James')

3. Volunteer Presenter: Indicate topic(s) you would be interested in leading (optional): _____

Additional suggestions or comments:

Submitted by (optional): _____ Contact information _____

Please submit this form to the parish office, place in the offering plate,
or mail to the church by March 18. Thank you!

Lenten Season (continued)

the Apostles, who proclaimed Christ's resurrection. Join us on the Tuesday evenings of Lent as we explore how some of the most precious items in our faith hope chest continue to hold meaning and inspire the church for worship and ministry in the 21st century. Learn how the ancient rites of baptism continue to shape and inform our current baptismal rites. Discuss with others how a 4th century creedal document designed to unify people from all over the mediterranean borders can still unite us as Christians in this conflict-riddled century.

We'll begin with a simple dinner at 6 pm. The program, which will be led by Bob Honeychurch and Sylvia Sweeney, will begin promptly at 7 pm and will end at 8:30 pm. Come for one or for all of these programs and learn more about how that which is ancient and precious to us can be made ever new through the workings of the Holy Spirit.

Lenten Design for Both Worship Spaces

St. James' has chosen this year's theme for Lent as, "We Are the World," placing an emphasis on the unique problems and the treasures facing the world today.

The Liturgical Design Team would like to create an area in each church that represents our ever-expanding heritage. If you were born in a country other than the USA, and would be willing to loan us some piece of your heritage to put on display, please talk to a member of the Liturgical Design Team before Ash Wednesday. Members include: Elaine and Greg Miller, Laura Winter, Mary Patrician, Barbara Dabney, Bob Honeychurch, or Sylvia Sweeney.

John McCutcheon Returns 4th Year

His first St. James' performance in early 2004 set the stage for his most recent concert appearance on Monday, January 15, 2007. The sweet smell of success was made all the sweeter as we all helped John celebrate his 6th career Grammy nomination. McCutcheon received the nomination for his recent book/CD release, "Christmas in the Trenches," (Peachtree Funding) in the "Children's Spoken Word" category. Of the honor, John said, "Of all the nominations I've received, this is the sweetest, as it's for a story that's been so close to me for many years. Hopefully, it'll go a little further in letting folks know about this extraordinary event when peace broke out in the middle of war."

People as far as Berkeley, San Francisco, and San Leandro, and as close as Mountain View and Palo Alto, came for a memorable evening of song and fellowship. Thank you to all who attended and to all who helped make this performance an evening to remember. Thank you to those who donated prizes for the drawing. Because of your donation, the money raised from the drawing (\$388) goes directly to the Operating Fund. Winners of the door prizes were: Brad Hoffman (iPod shuffle), Lynn Locher (wine/chocolate gift basket), Barbara Johnson (picnic basket goodies), Bud Pearson (photo albums), and Runa Larsen (desktop calendar).

Deacon-in-Training Drops Call

Michael Aquino, deacon-in-training at St. James' for the last two years since graduating from the School for Deacons, has decided that he will not pursue ordination. Instead, he has chosen to pursue other ways of serving the church by utilizing his gifts and experience. Michael became a Postulant for Holy Orders in March 2006. Postulancy is a period of time (typically one year) in which one seriously considers/discerns the decision to be ordained in the church. Michael has had a lengthy, faithful, and blessed journey through school and the whole preparatory process. He thanks everyone for all the support shown throughout this time, and he asks that all continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will direct him to wherever the next phase of his journey is to be.

Godly Play for Adults

The Godly Play format is a format that grows out of a great deal of research on how children and adults come to grow in faith. It provides a wonderful framework for both encountering our faith stories and learning to reflect theologically on those stories.

At 10 am on the first two Sundays of February, the adults of St. James' will have an opportunity to experience Adult Godly Play. Week #1 will be an introduction to the liturgical year, and Week #2 will be the story of the Babylonian captivity. Join us in Room 1 for this challenging, enriching program led by Linda Nelsen and Jen Dalmaso.



Support Your Parish and Yourself in 2007

Now there is a brand new way to make a gift to your parish that will also pay you life income: a gift annuity. On November 14, 2006, the Diocese received authority from the State of California to begin issuing charitable gift annuities.

A gift annuity pays a fixed income for a lifetime, and then becomes a gift to your parish or whatever ministry you name. The rate of income is especially attractive for seniors or for those who delay income. For example, an 80 year old donor may receive 8% fixed payout. Because most of this income may be received tax-free, the equivalent payout is 9.7%.

A 55 year old who delays income until age 65 may have a fixed payout of 9.9%, with an equivalent taxable payout of 12.3%— and get a big income tax deduction in the current year.

Can you see why gift annuities are so popular?

Some seniors have used a CD or appreciated stock to buy an annuity and have tripled their retirement income from what they were getting in interest or dividends. Unlike interest or dividends, annuity income will not vary but is fixed and secure for life.

To find out what your rate of income from an annuity would be, call (415) 869-7812. Or, go to www.EpiscopalGift.org, "Create Your Own Plan."

A gift annuity can be a win-win for both you and your parish. Why not allow its benefits to empower your generosity?

*The Rev. Richard L. Schaper,
CFP Gift Planning Officer, Diocese of California
www.EpiscopalGift.org (415) 869-7812
richards@diocal.org*

The Rev. Brian Cochran

Pastoral Counselor and Spiritual Director

With fifteen years of experience as pastor and chaplain, Brian brings a wealth of wisdom and skill to any counseling relationship. Brian offers groups for men and for those grieving, plus individual sessions for adults, youth, and children. Approaches include 12-Step, men's work, healing prayer, various meditation exercises, and Godly Play.

For more information or an appointment, call (510) 366-7822.

Also on the web at...

www.windowsofopportunitycounseling.com

Write a Will for \$75

If you have been postponing writing or updating a will, wait no longer. To make an appointment with a volunteer Episcopal estate planning attorney, call Adair at (415) 869-7811. Appointments will be at St. Clare's in Pleasanton, on Saturday, March 17th. For more information, see www.EpiscopalGift.org. Consider including the church in your plans, as per BCP, p. 445.

Stewardship Corner

--by Lynn Locher

A Closed Heart

This is the 3rd in a series of articles taken from Marcus Borg's book "The Heart of Christianity." I had planned to talk about "Compassion and Justice" this month but it occurred to me that February was an appropriate time to talk about matters of the "Christian heart." The "Christian heart" is an "open heart" that responds to the messages of the Bible about compassion and justice. An "open heart" does not always occur naturally.

Marcus talks about the fact that as we mature during childhood and develop a sense of self awareness that we also develop a "closed heart." We are focusing our attention on developing our sense of self and in doing so; develop a "shell" that protects us from the outside world. Should we continue to have a "closed heart" as adults, we will display a number of characteristics:

- ❖ Blindness and limited vision. We neither see nor hear what is going on around us. For example, we are not aware of hunger in our community.
- ❖ Lack of understanding and a darkened mind. We use rationalization and self-deception to explain what we do not want to deal with. For example, the Nazi holocaust did not occur.
- ❖ Lives in bondage, controlled by our personal desires.
- ❖ Lacks gratitude, we feel entitled.
- ❖ Insensitive to wonder and awe. The beauty of people, places and things escape a "closed heart."
- ❖ Forgets God. We do not remember the "one in whom we live and move and have our being."
- ❖ Self-preoccupied, turned inward, separated, disconnected, estranged. We live in exile, cut off from true communication with others.
- ❖ Lacks compassion or the ability to feel the feelings of another and then to act accordingly.
- ❖ Insensitive to injustice.

The most severe forms of a "closed heart" are associated with violence, brutality, arrogance and insatiable greed. There are milder forms that present themselves as judgmentalism, insensitivity, self-centeredness and mild greed. Within any given day, how open and closed are hearts are can vary. Marcus Borg states, "I know that my heart is closed whenever I feel grumpy or self-preoccupied, when the world looks ordinary, or when the critical voice is strong in my head, whether directed at myself or others."

What allows us to open our "closed heart?" The answer can be found in the Old Testament:

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me" (Ps.51:10)

"Get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die?"(Ezek. 18:31)

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezek. 36:26)

The Spirit of God opens our heart. For this to happen, we need to allow the sacred, the Spirit to come into our heart. Borg describes the places where the sacred can touch us as "thin places." They can be a geographical place, music, poetry, literature, dance or a person. Worship is about creating a sense of the sacred, whether through music, prayer or the Eucharist. All this and many other ways allow the Spirit to enter our hearts and open them. --- *continued on page 6*

Stewardship Corner (continued)

With an “open heart” we are able:

- ❖ To truly hear and see what is happening around us.
- ❖ To understand with an open mind what is happening in our community and in our world
- ❖ To not be controlled by personal desires
- ❖ To live in gratitude for all that we have.
- ❖ To be aware of the wonder and awe of the world.
- ❖ To be open to God and know that we live and move and have our being in God.
- ❖ To turn outward and be part of a community, to live in relationship to others.
- ❖ To have compassion.
- ❖ To have a passion for justice.

Dag Hammarskjold, late Secretary General of the UN wrote in his journal:

“Give us pure hearts, that we may see you;
Humble hearts, that we may hear you;
Hearts of love, that we may serve you;
Hearts of faith, that we may abide in you.”

When is the Next Newsletter Deadline?

Submissions for the March 2007 newsletter are due on **February 15, 2007**.

The editors request that your submissions be **print-ready** (i.e., electronic). If this is not possible, please have someone with a computer prepare your material.

For questions or for submitting material, use the newsletter e-mail address: [window@saintj.com](mailto>window@saintj.com).

A Special Thanks to the St. James' Community

I want to express my thanks to the St. James' community for the prayers, love, and support you gave to Bob and to myself during this difficult time. Your thoughts were expressed in all the beautiful cards I received and the meaningful hugs. Bob is at peace. He leaves behind many fond memories. Again, a sincere thanks to all of you for everything.

--- Ruth Poole

Summary of Income and Expenses 2006

Pledges Budgeted	\$246,957.96

Pledges Paid	\$270,572.81
Unpledged Contributions	\$11,341.00
Other Operating Income	\$30,878.22
Total Income	\$312,792.03
Total Expenses	\$312,324.12
Income over Expenses	\$467.91

---Source:

Treasurer, Accounting Summary 12/31/2006



ST. JAMES' PRAYER LIST

We pray for our brothers and sisters:

For those who need continued healing:

Aaron, Mary, Keith, Melvin, Pam, Betty Jane, Mike, Denna, Jodi, Virginia, Jean Shirley, Marilyn, Debbie, Rachael, Gretchen, Cody, Jenni, Ann, Carmel, Ruth, Cooper, Kenzie, Pamela, Trudi, Eleanor, Luke, Peter, Jodi, Don, Gerry, Madeline, George, Joan, Frank, Scott, Michael, Mr. & Mrs. Romero, Mike, Don, Colleen, Tammy

For those who need comfort and strength:

Graham, Kenny, Mari, Catherine, Marci, Robert, Nina, Kristine, The San Joachim Dissenters, Robert, Barbara, Priscilla, Jennie, Carletta, Tammy, Fred, Martie

For those who need guidance and direction:

Michael, Chinemerem, Paul, Vernam, Chris, Barbara, Shaun, Aaron, Jordon, Deja, Aldrin, Fauzia, Don, Nancy, Alan, Manju, Bryant, Tammy, Fred

For those in the military:

John, Kiffen, Fred Jr., Shakar, Robert, Joseph

For those who are traveling:

Sandy, Barbara, Bud

For a healthy and safe pregnancy for Fauzia

For those enduring the conflicts in the Middle East

For the repose of the souls of Pia, Dick, Marcelino, Marcus, Segundo, Agustin, Bob, Kay, and on the anniversary of her death- Pam Rice



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Chris Svenson | 14 Barbara Duncan |
| 3 Hazel Newcomb | Matthew Barlow |
| David Callaghan | Christopher Lucero |
| Claudia Noddin | Christian Lucero |
| 4 Jennifer Gallagher | 15 Joan Roberts |
| Bruce Roberts | Kerry Powell |
| Paul Lenart, III | 16 Kian Ng |
| Kay Buckley | 18 Margaret Broun |
| Mary Patrician | John Kennedy |
| 7 William Dickinson | Jennifer Kennedy |
| Michael Mitchell | 20 Rebecca Dunn |
| Linda Nelsen | 22 Anne Wilcoxon |
| 8 Sally Dickinson | Isaac Kazibwe |
| 10 James Rommelfanger | 25 Jeffrey Lucero |
| Angelina Miller | Nathaniel Willson |
| 11 John Phillips | 26 Scott Whitaker |
| Donna MacRae | Francis Singh |
| Darcia Feeney | Linda Harris |
| 12 David Colby | Paul Fanning |
| 13 Katie Nelsen | 27 Chris Ma |
| | 28 Mike Peterson |
| | Gregory Callaghan |

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Bob & Debbie Czerwinski
- 16 Chris & Pegeen Perry
- 18 Brian & Janet Whitaker
- 24 Charles & Vivienne Paratore
- 26 Shaun & Kasey Duncan



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Schedule of Services

Sundays

8AM Traditional, Rite I
9AM Contemporary
11AM Traditional, Rite II

Wednesdays

10AM Traditional, Rite II

OFFICE HRS 8:30–1:30, T–F

TEL 510-797-1492

FAX 510-795-4712

EMAIL

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WEB

<http://www.saintj.com>

Clergy Team

Bob Honeychurch
Sylvia Sweeney
Arlinda Cosby
Mary Ellen Gallagher

Administration

Secretary– Gigi Casino
Sexton– Cliff Lovette

Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Visitors– Anne Blalock
Altar Guild– Margaret Rainey
Acolytes– Nancy Castaneda
Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors– Janet Fischer
Ushers– Burtin Hart

The Window Editorial Staff

Michael Aquino
Ralph Locher
Laura Winter

The Vestry

Note: As of print time the Vestry consists of:

Barbara Dabney, Senior Warden
Elizabeth Hart, Clerk
Jan Brandt, Treasurer

EJ Hilliard
Ralph Locher
Greg Miller
Linda Nelsen
Scott Whitaker
Kerri Williams
Meg Williams

Additional Vestry members were elected at our Annual Meeting on January 28.

To respect an individual's privacy, parishioners' phone numbers are no longer being provided in the newsletter, unless previously authorized by the owner. Contact the church office (510) 797-1492, or refer to the St. James' Directory for contact information on any of the people mentioned above or in the newsletter.