



The Window

The Newsletter of St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont

March 2007

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays

8 AM Rite I (1867 Church)

9 AM Contemporary

11 AM Rite II

Wednesdays

10 AM (1867 Church)

CLERGY

Rev. Bob Honeychurch
Rector

Rev. Sylvia Sweeney
Associate Rector

Rev. Arlinda Cosby
Deacon



St. James' Episcopal Church

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Lent is Here! And We are the World!

By the time you receive your March newsletter, you will have hopefully had a chance to read through our Lent 2007 Lenten brochure and also to take part in at least one of our Lenten offerings. For those of you who want to use this season of Lent to strengthen your faith and spiritual development, there is no shortage of opportunities available here at St. James'.

On Sunday mornings at 10 am in the parish hall, we will have some extraordinary discussions with some of the members of St. James' who will share from their own life stories what it means to struggle with and against issues of poverty, disease, and injustice. Join members of this community as they share ways in which our lives here at St. James' touch the lives of those who live in our own back yard and also thousands of miles away from here.

Connected to this, you will notice that our Lenten liturgical spaces have been designed in a way that encourages us to celebrate the deep connectedness we of St. James' share with all of humanity. The articles used in these designs come from our own parishioners who either came to the U.S. from other parts of the world or have parents who did. By remembering and celebrating our connectedness, we hope to strengthen the bonds of love, compassion, and prayer we hold with others from around the world.

On Tuesday evenings at 6 pm, share a simple but elegant meal of soup, bread and dessert with other members of this community. You must sign up in advance for these Catering Services by Gigi dinners so that there will be enough food for everyone! Sign up sheets for dinner and for helping with set up and clean up are posted on the main bulletin board in the parish hall. Cost is \$5 per person for dinner.

At 7 pm on Tuesdays participate in discussions designed to help us strengthen our appreciation of the way Anglican (and Christian) spirituality continues to evolve and how the church's treasures of the past can help us shape the church of the future. Be a part of imagining what the Christian church may look like in 25 years, building off the essential building blocks of the church's sacramental life.

(continued on page 3)

Stewardship Corner:

Practicing Compassion Including Justice

This is the third article in a series inspired by Marcus Borg's book *The Heart of Christianity*. Marcus Borg believes that to be a Christian one must practice their faith. I have presented the practices of formation and nourishment. To these practices, Borg adds the practice of compassion, meaning both charity and justice. He presents Vida Scudder's list of three ways Christians can respond to a growing awareness of human suffering: direct philanthropy, social reform and social transformation.

- ★ Direct philanthropy means giving directly to those who are suffering.
- ★ Social reform means creating and supporting organizations for their care.
- ★ Social transformation is about justice - changing society so that the structures do not privilege some and cause suffering for others.

The first two are charity and the third is about justice. "Charity means helping the victims. Justice asks, 'Why are there so many victims?'" Most of us, as Christians, do well with the charity part as long as the charity fits into our concept of a worthy cause. We may respond to appeals from KQED, the arts and museums. We may even support worthwhile groups such as Sierra Club and National Wildlife Federation or even go beyond our borders with the World Wildlife Federation. This may include legal reform groups such as National Resources Defense Council.

Our charity may try to speak to some of the inequities by supporting Tri-City Homeless, Episcopal Charities or Episcopal Relief and Development. Again, these are worthy charities that try to meet the needs of the poor and also speak for the poor. What most of us have not done is to be involved in social transformation activities.

In 2003 the medium family income in the United States was about \$40,000 a year. That means half the families make less than \$40,000 before taxes. Two breadwinners in California working full time at the minimum wage will earn \$31,200 per year. A single parent would make half, \$15,600 a year. From that the family would need to pay rent, child care, car

payments, food, clothing and medical care. You can see why so many people in the bay area find themselves homeless. Our immigrant population, who are unskilled and lack English skills, often find themselves paid below minimum wage. Life for those on the low end of the pay scale has been well documented in Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed*. This book is very eye opening. Christ calls on us to be concerned about the poor and work to have a just society that does not reward some at the expense of others.

Other social justice issues include adequate funding for schools so that all students have an opportunity to develop their skills and become productive, self sufficient citizens. We need to support adequate health care for the poor and better yet, universal health insurance. Our mental health system, especially for the poor, is very inadequate. The poor are often destitute because they do not have access to treatment that would allow them to work. We need to be aware of how tax policy can cause inequities and contact our political leaders with our concerns. We also need to be conscious of the impact of international policies, both economic and military, and how these policies affect the poor in the world.

The responsibility to achieve social justice is a large one. We all have different abilities and different expertise to bring to this responsibility. Jesus and the Old Testament Prophets can serve as our role model for our actions. They were willing to speak up on issues of justice. We also are called to do the same.

Micah asks, "What does the Lord require of you?"

"To do justice

To love kindness

To walk humbly with your God."

Lynn Locher, Stewardship Chair



Should I Tell Someone?

“I have remembered my parish in my will. Should I tell someone?” There is a natural reticence about revealing what is in our will. There may also be compelling reasons to overcome this reluctance and share

information about our intended gift.

Our planned gift is an expression of our faith and our values or we would not be making it. Others deserve to know that we are among those who have taken such a step, not the least our priest, who oversees our spiritual well-being as well as that of the parish and its future.

Knowledge of our ultimate gift as well as those of others provides witness that there are those among us who have given thought for the future of the church and wish to make this a part of their legacy. Awareness of these gifts may prompt others to consider doing the same.

Some may wish their priest to hold this information in confidence. “Anonymous” appears on every Legacy Society roster. But to see the names listed on such a roster is to be given a reason for hope for the future of the church, as well as to be inspired by the faith of those around us. There is good reason to allow your name to be among them.

When you inform your priest about your estate plan, you may make it clear whether you are willing to be listed with others who have similarly arranged for such a planned gift, or if you wish to remain anonymous. But do let your priest know. You have placed your church on the level of family. Your priest should be aware of this.

Let your own awareness of your planned gift to the church be a reminder of your ultimate commitment to Christ and to Christ’s ministry to our world, and of your gratitude. In this way it will become a source of joy.

The Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP
Gift Planning Officer, Diocese of California
Tel: (415) 869-7812

Lent is Here *(cont. from page 1)*

Every day we hope you will find a few brief moments to read and meditate using our Lenten booklet “Essentials: Lenten Meditations On Necessity and Abundance”. This meditation booklet was produced by Episcopal Relief and Development and is a wonderful companion piece to our We Are the World theme for this year’s Lent. These booklets were given to us free of charge by ERD, and if you are inclined to make a contribution to this wonderful missionary arm of the Episcopal church, you can either put a check in the plate that identifies your gift as a gift to ERD or you can send a check directly to them.

In addition to these special offerings the Thursday evening and Tuesday morning Bible studies continue here at St. James’ (talk to Genore Schaaf or Brad Hoffman about these groups) as well as the Friday morning and 3rd Sunday meditation groups offered by Barbara Lyon. Our Godly Play children will be participating in their own Lenten meditations where their study will focus on seeing Jesus’ life through the eyes of those around him.

Join us for what looks to be an exciting and enriching Lenten season!

Tithe for Lent

Most of us think of Lent as the time to give up something that is a treat to us. It could be sweets, alcohol or meat. This year consider making the sacrifice to give 10% of your income during Lent. You may need to give up your daily latte or glass of wine or both in order to meet this goal but the discipline will benefit you and the money will benefit your church.

Stewardship Committee

Questions About Membership

A number of you have been asking recently about who is a voting member of St. James'. Those of you who have been Episcopalians for a long time may remember a time when in order to be a voting member of the community, you had to be a "Confirmed Member in Good Standing." In the last 25 plus years as we have grown more and more into the theology of our 1979 Book of Common Prayer, understanding of membership has changed. We now talk about Baptism as full initiation into the life of Christ. One becomes a member of the Body of Christ at baptism.

One becomes a voting member of a particular congregation through baptism, regular attendance in a community of faith, a desire to affiliate with that faith community, and by reaching the legal age of adulthood in the church—which is 16. "Regular attendance" has at some points in history over the last several decades been defined as attending church 3 times a year. While that is not a firm and hard legal definition anymore, it is still a sort of rule of thumb many pastors use in determining who is a regular attendee. (Which doesn't mean to say coming to church 3 times a year is enough for your spiritual growth and health!).

Confirmation, while it is first and foremost a mature affirmation of faith, can also afford those who were raised in a different part of the Christian tradition the opportunity to express their desire to affiliate with the Episcopal church. But one is not required to take this step in order to see one's self as a member or to be counted as a member. If someone expressly does not want to be counted as a member of a community, they need only let one of the priests know and their status will be duly noted in our data base.

In addition here at St. James' (as in many other Episcopal churches in the country), we try at least once a year to offer new members an opportunity to publicly profess their desire to be a part of this community. This moment of commitment is, for many, an important marker in their spiritual journey. It also gives the people of St. James' both the opportunity to get to know the newcomers in our midst and the opportunity to celebrate the ever changing faces and gifts of this community.

Bishop's Visitation and Confirmation Set for March 25

On Sunday March 25, St. James' will be hosting its first official visitation with **Bishop Marc Andrus** here at St. James'! The Bishop will be with us at 10:00 am to wrap up our "We Are the World" program and talk with the congregation about a subject very near and dear to his heart, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. That gathering will be in the parish hall.

At 11:00 am the bishop will be confirming **Caylyn Ramsamy**, and we hope that many of you who know Caylyn will be there to offer your support and prayers to her as she makes this important next step in her faith journey. (Two more of our teenagers will also be confirmed this June in the Grace Cathedral diocesan wide confirmation.)

Find Out Everything Nobody Knew About St. Patrick!



Saturday, March 10, 2007

Fremont Main Library
Located on Stevenson at Paseo
Padre Pkwy.
11:15 a.m.

On Saturday, March 10, John Maloney's drama students from the Nativity Middle School in San Jose will perform the play "**A Light-Hearted Life of St. Patrick**," written and directed by John. The performance is sponsored by the Irish League of Fremont as part of that day's St. Patrick's Day celebration. Some of John's Irish tin-whistle students, who won first place last year, will also perform.

The students would benefit greatly if they could obtain a portable PA system for future performances. If anyone could recommend any groups or organizations which might donate funds, please contact John

March Book Thoughts from Disciple Builders

How Movies Helped Me Save My Soul

By Gareth Higgins

Here we have more than a primer on how to watch movies; it's also a method for getting something more than entertainment out of them. It suggests that you do not read a movie review (horror of horrors) until after you have seen the movie. So how do you know which movies to watch? Try seeing movies by certain directors, with certain actors, word of mouth, even advertising (ads *can* disappoint you). Then read the review; do you and reviewer agree; was it a good movie; or "that critic didn't watch the same movie?" How do you tell a good movie from a bad one? Is it the dialog? Is it the beautiful cinematography? Is it the surprises in the movie? Is it your emotional response to the movie? Read the book for more insight.

Dr. Higgins tackles anti-heroes, brokenness, death, fear, God, war and other subjects using specific movies to make his points. Those movies include ones you have and haven't seen and ones you wish you would have seen. Just a few – "Minority Report" where people are convicted of murders they may commit in the future, "The Big Chill" from the 1980's showing you can't always get what you want, and "The Last Temptation of Christ" portraying Jesus as fully human. In this Martin Scorsese directed movie, is Jesus portrayed as struggling with the pain of his people, or is it showing Jesus as weak? How did you view this movie? Is this the Jesus you could believe in?

Did you see "The Apostle" with Robert Duvall? Is Sonny a saint, a sinner, or is he both? He is human; he is a sinner (big time). He believes in himself as an evangelist so he sets up churches to make a difference in peoples' lives. At first, I looked at this film as a caricature, but then after a second viewing, as a character study. Sonny is a Christian, but terribly flawed (as we all are). Could you forgive him?

This is a book that will leave you thinking things like - Did the director really mean to make us all think about the movie this way? Or, was this not intended? It's good for your soul. That's what my Mom used to say. The book is available in the St. James' Library. 256 pages.

Bruce Roberts

A Song to Sing, A Life to Live

By Emily and Don Saliers

Think of music as "the language of the soul made audible..." If you think that way, then sharing music is sharing your soul – it is a glimpse of your soul. To me that is pretty heavy stuff. Do I want to share my soul? But then when I want to share joy, singing is the way to do it. When I read this book in preparation for a Disciple Builders class, the differences between Emily and Don, between secular and sacred music appeared to diminish from what I had thought in the past. Especially from an ethical point of view, much secular music touches me spiritually and there is the rub. Can secular music be a path to sacred music? Looking at and listening to secular music in a spiritual way opens a great trove of music as "spiritual" in a way.

Emily and Don compare secular and spiritual music so many ways that the differences tend to blur at times. The secular language and spiritual language of the soul can be quite close. Read this book and enjoy the similarities of the two types of music. It's available in the St. James' Library. 197 pages plus notes.

Bruce Roberts

Easter Gifts for Hillside Care Center Residents

Again this year, St. James will provide Easter gifts for the residents of Hillside Care Center in Fremont. Beginning on Sunday, March 18, there will be baskets in both churches with plastic eggs containing resident names and designated gifts, such as Easter baskets with regular, soft or diabetic candy, or flowering plants.

Take one or two eggs home and return the name tag and appropriate gift to the church NO LATER THAN NOON ON GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 6. The gifts will be tallied that afternoon and then delivered on Holy Saturday, April 7, at 1:30 pm.

If you can be part of the Holy Saturday visit, please sign up on the list in the parish hall. For more information, call Arlinda Cosby at 792-2041.

What Can One Person Do?

The MDGs and You

At the start of the new millennium, leaders from 191 nations, including the United States, agreed on a plan to cut extreme global poverty in half by 2015.

Together, they created the eight **Millennium**

Development Goals (MDGs):

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education for Children

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Goal 8: Create a Global Partnership for Development

The Episcopal Church has also committed itself to achieving the MDGs. In two consecutive General Conventions, the Church has embraced the MDGs as a framework for action. Dioceses and churches across the nation are responding to the MDGs.

Episcopal Relief and Development along with the Episcopal Church's ONE Episcopalian Campaign and Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation have issued a joint statement about their response to the MDGs.

Engage your friends, family, co-workers, and congregation about the MDGs, and what you're doing to help eliminate extreme global poverty.

For additional information, please contact Linda Nelsen or set your web browser to:

http://www.er-d.org/programs_36756_ENG_HTM.htm?menupage=36744

Church Keys

If you have acquired the key to the parish in the past and have no longer any use for it, please return it back to the office ASAP. Thank you.

Circle of Prayer

The Circle of Prayer is a group of parishioners that collectively prays for those in need of healing. We have several participants within the group and we pray individually for each person in need. We are always eager to welcome more members into this important ministry.

As we say, one can never get enough prayers at times of sickness or at other times of need. The group always keeps confidential those individuals that we pray for. If you know anyone in need of prayers or if you in need prayers yourself, please contact the church office at 797-1492 or send an e-mail to office@saintj.com.

Sincerely,

Pamela Young, Coordinator of the group.

Tai Chi Comes to St. James'

You are invited to renew your body and mind with a weekly class of Tai Chi on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 starting on March 7th in our Parish Hall. Classes will be taught by Sylvia Ma, a certified instructor of Guang Ping style Tai Chi.

Tai Chi is a form of internal martial arts originating in China over 700 years ago. It is a physical exercise and a moving meditation that focuses the mind while conditioning the body. Because the whole body moves as one, Tai Chi cultivates the link between mind and body, enhancing balance and coordination. The Guang Ping style of Tai Chi was brought to the United States by Great Grandmaster Kuo Lien Ying in 1965.

Come and find out if practicing Tai Chi could help you learn to relax, improve your flexibility and balance, reduce stress, enhance your feeling of well being, develop a peaceful mind, and increase your spirituality. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors.

Wear comfortable, loose clothing and flat shoes with non-slippery soles. The fee will be \$40 a month, or a drop-in rate of \$12 per class. Scholarships are available from St. James' so please contact Bob Honeychurch if needed.

If you have any questions about the Tai Chi class, please contact Sylvia Ma by telephone at 510-552-6549 or email her at sylvia.ma@novartis.com.

ST. JAMES' PRAYER LIST



In our parish, we pray for our brothers and sisters:

- For those who need continued healing: Beth, Debbie, John, Andy, Steven, Pamela, Jennifer, San Juan, Stephen, Jonathan, Helen, Michael, Aaron, Mary, Keith, Melvin, Pam, Betty Jane, Mike, Denna, Jodi, Jean, Jenni, Kenzie, Pamela, Trudi, Tammy, Laura;
- For those who need comfort and strength: Carol & family, Graham, Kenny, Mari, Catherine, Marci, Robert, Nina, Kristine, Robert, Carletta, Tammy, Fred;
- For those who need guidance and direction: Deja, Jordon, Adrian, Doug, Margaret, Richard, Michael, Chinemerem, Aaron, Tammy, Fred;
- For those in the military: Jarrod, Matthew, John, Kiffen, Fred Jr., Shakar, Robert, Joseph;
- For the repose of the soul of Maralynn Jean Trant and for the comfort of her family that miss her;
- For the repose of the soul of Pam Rice and for comfort for her family;
- For those enduring the conflicts in the Middle East;
- For healthy & safe pregnancy: Fauzia;

The Window on St. James'

Next issue will be in April. We welcome your comments, pictures, essays, poems, cartoons, artwork, newsworthy items of interest, and group activity information and reviews. Please remember the deadline and e-mail your item directly to a member of the staff or to the EDITOR at <window@saintj.com> or leave it in *The Window* mailbox.

April Issue Deadline: March 15



MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 David Ramsey | 21 Debra Fuller |
| Dwarka Sankar | 22 Cody Wonycott |
| 2 Hilary Sanders | Paul Romeril |
| 3 Emily Locher | 24 Alice Johnson |
| 4 Jim Lyon | 25 Janet Fischer |
| 5 Penny Trant | Pat Spencer |
| 6 Annisa Khan | Ian Perry |
| 7 Kimberly Maxey | 26 Pat Spalding |
| 14 Abigail Willson | 27 Shaun Duncan |
| 15 Polly Nelsen | Sandy Jaekel |
| Kelly Lowe | 28 Deja Singh |
| 16 Christopher Pikul | 29 Terri Rommelfanger |
| 18 Doris Leslie | Craig Benson |
| 20 Bill Spalding | Bob Honeychurch |
| Laura Castaneda | 30 Mitchell Williamson |
| Brandon Dileanis | |
| Catherine Amadi | |

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Bob Honeychurch and Sylvia Sweeney
- 13 Jack and Connie Rux
- 20 Pat and Jennifer Larsen
- 25 Paul and Nancy Svenson
- 30 Bob and Roberta Tomkinson

Web Address

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US Postage Paid
Fremont, CA
PERMIT 15

Address Service Requested

Schedule of Services

Sundays

8 AM Rite I (1867 Church)
9 AM Contemporary
11 AM Rite II (Main Church)

Wednesdays

10 AM Rite II (1867 Church)

Rector

The Rev. Dr. Bob Honeychurch

Associate Rector

The Rev. Sylvia Sweeney

Deacon

The Rev. Arlinda Cosby

Administration

Secretary– Gigi Casino
Treasurer– Jan Brandt
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
Ombudsman– Maggie Shalar

The Window Editorial Staff

Michael Aquino
Ralph Locher
Laura Winter

The Vestry of St. James'

Barbara Dabney, Senior Warden
Greg Miller, Junior Warden

Parish Life & Facilities

Ralph Locher
Kerri Williams
Tim Young

Communications & Evangelism

Janet Fischer
Jim McConnell
Meg Williams

Social Ministries & Congregation Care

Linda Nelsen
Scott Whittaker

Christian Formation & Worship

EJ Hilliard
Sylvia Ma

Elizabeth Hart, Clerk