



The Window

The Newsletter of St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont

May 2007

Evening Bible Study at St. James

Evening Bible study is now available

at St. James'

Last year in several direct conversations and many group conversations I heard parishioners comment that there should be more Bible Study opportunities @ St. James. I listened to these conversations and felt a call to serve.

I first sent out the information about Bible Study in November of last year and received some feed back. After consulting with our Rectors we choose the "Synthesis CE: A Lectionary Guide in the Episcopal Tradition". I started the classes in January of this year and we had two or three parishioners attend in January and the 1st Thursday in February. I have been here for February 22nd, March 8th & 22nd and April 12th and no one has attended.

So I ask you as a fellow parishioner:

- Do you want an evening Bible Study class?
- Would a different day or time work better?

Please let me know your feelings on these questions. I have made a commitment and will continue to be available at St James' on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays for the next 4 months (until September) and will then reevaluate if I have had no response.

The "Synthesis CE: A Lectionary Guide in the Episcopal Tradition" is a very good program which studies the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday. Come on down and give it a chance. If you would like to see an example of the course study, just ask me. Due to copyright limitations I cannot send the info by email, only by hand or pickup.

For more info, please contact me, **Brad Hoffman** via email at "FBHOFF @ Yahoo.com" or at church.

Vestry Sets Goals for 2007

The Vestry has many projects "in the works." The clusters are calling upon many of you to help. We want to thank those of you who have stepped forward, and ask those of you yet to be called upon for your support of our community, by doing what you can to help. We have a lot of work to do this year and are depending upon many of you to help us move forward. We have developed 8 Vestry goals for the coming year. These are team goals for the entire Vestry, which all the clusters will work on together in addition to their on-going work.

We started with a list of 37 goals and through much discussion and prayer came up with the following:

- ◆ New member welcoming
- ◆ New music program
- ◆ Social ministries coordination
- ◆ All-church service on a regular basis
- ◆ Renovate Big church bathrooms
- ◆ Broader fundraising base
- ◆ Building a stronger base for communal discernment
- ◆ Increase leadership opportunities for people of color

As you can see, these are hefty goals and will require many hours of work. We still have to prioritize and look at our finances, but if you see a goal that you are passionate about and could help us with, please talk to any Vestry member or the clergy and we will point you in the right direction. Some of the goals are more easily accomplished than others, and some are already "in the works."

Barbara Dabney
Senior Warden

Stewardship Corner

Are We Truly Generous People?

I have been pondering this question lately. My thoughts on the issue of generosity were first stimulated by Bishop Andres' talk on the Millennium Goals. He requested Episcopalians to give .07% of their income to non-government organizations such as the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund or UNICEF that support the Millennium Goals. Ralph and I have taken this request very seriously and have increased our giving to ERD to meet this goal.

The Harvard Mental Health Letter published a summary of a study that appeared in the June 23, 2006 issue of *Science*. The study was conducted in 15 cultures all over the world. More than 1,700 people were given three psychological experiments, "games," to test their level of altruism or willingness to share. The results of the study were summarized this way: "When people live in small groups, natural selection can lead to the development of altruism through reciprocity. But reciprocity is effective mainly when people have repeated encounters or everyone knows everyone else, and it is easy to gain a reputation for good or bad behavior. These experiments suggest that the willingness of individuals to share, even when there is no immediate penalty for selfishness, increases along with the understanding that, in many situations, other members of their society will act against their own immediate interest to impose a penalty. The voice of conscience influences us even when no one is watching, but it has evolved under the watchful eye of society." The researchers discovered that in cultures where generosity was the norm, a member of a group of 3 people would be willing to give up part of a gift of money in order to punish another member who was unwilling to share a portion of his gift of money.

This study makes me wonder if as Episcopalians we expect too little generosity from our members. We know that tithing churches, e.g. our neighbors Harbor Lights, Assembly of God, and the Mormon Church, expect all their members to give 10% of their income no matter how rich or poor. These churches make the tithe the base level of giving. Members are expected to give beyond this for special needs within and outside their church community. This last year the National Episcopal Church made the tithe the goal for all who are members of the Episcopal Church. We are yet brave enough to say the tithe is required for membership.

Society's expectations may influence our generosity but as rational or irrational beings we often put up our own barriers to generosity. I am repeatedly reminded of the impact that advertising has on making us a very materialistic society. Not only are we bombarded with TV and radio advertisement, but also buried in catalogs with all types of beautiful clothes and gadgets that we must have to be happy. It takes willpower, the type that builds character, to turn a blind eye to these demands on your money. I am learning more how each year to just say NO!

Another barrier to generosity is the fear that we will not have enough money for the future. I find that the same self discipline that allows me to be generous also allowed me to save for the future when I was working and now allows me to not overspend what I have saved.

The final barrier is our lack of understanding of the role of generosity in our lives. As Christians we believe that God has given us all that we have. We get to keep 90% of what we have and are asked to give back only 10%. The more generous we are the more we become disciples of Jesus.

I hope that some day the people of this nation and the world will talk about Episcopalians as "those generous people." Why not be a leader to make this happen?

Lynn Locher, Stewardship Chair

Making a Difference

May 20, 2007

10 am Coffee Hour

Do you make a difference? How do you make a difference?

Do you know someone else who makes a difference?

How did you decide what to do?

Do you visit shut-ins, walk dogs for your neighbor, advocate for low-income housing, clean up litter in our parks or freeways, bicycle for AIDS, or walk for breast cancer?

Disciples Builders will be presenting a panel of volunteers on May 20 at the 10am coffee hour. They will explain how they are making a difference - either through their St James activities or with other groups or organizations in our tri-city area.

Each participant will have an opportunity to focus on their activity or organization, explaining how they got involved and how that activity makes a difference in their own lives and the lives of others.

If you would like to highlight the way (small or big) you make a difference or highlight a community group with which you are involved, especially in areas of social concerns or health, please call Alice Johnson 510-792-4169 or John Maloney 510-656-6809.

Alice Johnson
Disciple Builders

Attention All Graduates

If you are graduating or have a family member who will be graduating from High School or College, please give this information to either Brad Hoffman (email: fbhoff@yahoo.com) or send it to the church office (see last page for email address and telephone number).



What the BCP Says About Wills

Next month—June—is the month in which one counsel in the *Book of Common Prayer* is more observed than in other months. Not a counsel to marry! Rather, a counsel to have a will.

There is a counsel in the *Book of Common Prayer* to have a will? Yes, that is right. Page 445 speaks of “the duty...of all persons to make wills.” “The Minister of the Congregation” is here directed “to instruct the people, from time to time about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families.” And also: “of the duty of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods.”

There is one further counsel here. This is, that persons making wills or trusts or other instruments of estate planning are not to neglect, if they are able, “to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.” Having a will or other estate plan is so important a part of Christian faith and stewardship that it is explicitly addressed in our book of worship. For an adult Christian, having a valid will and estate plan is essential.

Unfortunately, 50% of Americans die without a valid will and allow the state courts to distribute their assets however the state thinks best. This abdicates an important area of choice. We can choose to whom we wish to pass the “temporal goods” with which God has blessed us.

In choosing our heirs, we naturally think first of our families. This is as it should be. But we need not stop here. There is also our spiritual family, the Church. There are also other charitable organizations carrying on important work in the world. Our “Last Will and Testament” can actually be a “testament”—an expression of our personal faith and our values. This is an important aspect of our Christian stewardship.

Why do you suppose that more people seem to write wills in June than in other months? Attorneys tell me that it is because people who are planning travel during the summer perceive extra risk in international travel and take steps to have their affairs in order.

This is a good time to make your will into a testament of your faith and values. For further information or attorney referrals, contact the gift planning office of the diocese or see www.EpiscopalGift.org, “Write A Will.” And the next time you have the *Book of Common Prayer* in your hands, look up page 445. It’s a helpful reminder for all of us.

The Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP®
Gift Planning Officer, Diocese of California
(415) 869-7812 or RichardS@diocal.org

Write or Update Your Will at St. James’

On Saturday morning, June 9th, there will be a Will Writing Session at St. James’. This is an opportunity to make a simple will, update an existing will, or receive consultation regarding a more complex estate. You will also be able to discuss such life planning issues as guardians for loved ones, advanced health care directives, and power of attorney for finances.

Attorneys from the Episcopal Church have volunteered their time to assist our parishioners in this important opportunity to exercise stewardship of accumulated resources. There is a modest fee of \$75 per person to cover clerical expenses in preparing a simple will. More complex estates will require more time than this program can accommodate, and it may be necessary to retain the services of the consulting attorney or seek another estate planner or attorney.

Regardless of your age or family situation, it is important for the well being of our loved ones that we plan for the future. Five out of ten people die without a will, and in those cases the state decides how assets will be distributed, and who the executor will be. This is a chance for you to be sure your estate is disposed of exactly as you want.

You will need to make an appointment to participate in this program. For more information or to schedule an appointment with an attorney, please contact the Administrator for Planned Giving & Stewardship at (415) 869-7811.

Easter Visit to the Hillside Care Center



Thanks to everyone who helped us celebrate Easter with the residents of Hillside Care Center on Holy Saturday: to those who donated gifts, to **Bobbi Phillips**, who helped me tally and pack up the gifts on Good Friday, to the drivers who helped transport the gifts from St. James on Saturday (**Sandra Motley, Betty McCoy and Maggie Shalar**), to the musicians who accompanied our singing (**Patty Lacy and Bob Czerwinski**), and to the other volunteers who distributed gifts and sang lustfully: **Avis Gonsales, Barbara Johnsen, Cathy Knotts, Bill and Margaret Rainey, Jack and Connie Rux, Tammy, Fred and Eva (the dog) Schlag, and Pat and George Vlastelica.**

Arlinda Cosby

Summer Camp

Check the bulletin board in the parish hall for summer camp opportunities at the Bishop's Ranch. Dates and details are posted on the poster we were sent by the diocese

The Ed Abram Memorial Garden at St. James'

*It is a quiet space.
It is a peaceful place.*

The Ed Abram Memorial Garden is a sacred space located on the St. James' campus next to our historical 1867 church. This space is the final resting place for our loved ones and also a place that allows us to memorialize others who have touched our lives.

The Memorial Garden committee wants to take this opportunity to let the congregation know about rate changes for the "Ed Abram Memorial Garden & Columbarium" interment. As of 04/15/07, the new rates are:

Columbarium interment:	\$ 750.00
Memorial Garden interment:	\$ 1000.00
Memorial Garden memorial: (Head Stone)	\$ 300.00

If you have any questions, please contact the St. James' office and request a note to be left in the Memorial Garden & Columbarium mailbox and one of the committee members will contact you at their earliest opportunity.

Thank you.

The Ed Abram Memorial Garden &
Columbarium Committee

Annual Summer Camping Trip

Save These Dates

This year's church camp-out will take place at the beautiful Emerald Bay State Park on Lake Tahoe from Thursday, August 16, through Monday, August 20. We have reserved four sites, 1 for 4 nights, 1 for 3 nights, and 2 for 2 nights. Trip cost and food will be worked out as we get closer to the trip date.

Stay tuned for further details to follow.

This Fragile Earth, Our Island Home



The “Faith and Science Series” for 2007 has gotten off to a good start with its two offerings in April. Two more sessions are scheduled for May, which are:

May 1: Future, Scientific and Biblical (Presented by: Dr. Sjoerd Bonting) Scientific prediction is somber, both long term (cosmic degradation) and short term (global warming). Biblical prediction is hopeful. Why this contrast? Global warming: cause, effects, can anything be done about this?

May 8: Our Future Environment: What can be done to protect the environment’s future? Representatives from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will show us what is being done to restore the South Bay Salt Pond, which is part of the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge. The second part of the program will a Sierra Club PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Smart energy Solutions' narrated by Lynn Locher.

Both sessions will take place at on Tuesday evenings, May 1 and May 8 from 7-9 pm at St. James’.

6 am Bible Study

The last meeting of this group before they take a summer break is Tuesday, 22 May. This Bible Study will resume next fall on Tuesday, 11 September at 6am (of course) at Genore Schaaf's residence.

Have You Written Your Will?

Harvey loved life. He will be missed by all who knew him. He will be missed by his friends at church, local charities where he volunteered and his company who relied upon him for wisdom and leadership. Most of all, he will be missed by his family who adored him and counted on him as the financial provider. He leaves his wife, Clara and two young children.

Harvey died without a will, made no wishes known regarding his memorial service, and made no provisions financially for family members left behind. Harvey handled all financial and legal affairs, while Clara was a full time homemaker. Consequently, when he died she had no idea where to find tax returns, checking account balances, investment information, legal paperwork, the deed to their home or even the titles to their automobiles.

Someone handed Clara a book Catherine Marshall wrote shortly after her husband, Peter Marshall, U.S. Senate Chaplain, had passed away. The title of the book was To Live Again. In it Catherine shares a similar story, “I adored and leaned on my husband. Like many women who married young, I had never once figured out an income tax form, had a car inspected, consulted a lawyer, or tried to read an insurance policy. My household checking account rarely balanced. Now I was faced with all of these practical matters, plus many, many more. The adjustments that faced me, therefore, posed a challenge in every way in which a woman can be challenged.”

Clara, too, faced many challenges ... many of which could have been avoided. With a will, Harvey could have provided for his family. Don’t make Harvey’s mistake. Leave your family with a will, your directions in writing that give clear instructions and distributes your assets in the most economical way to benefit your loved ones.

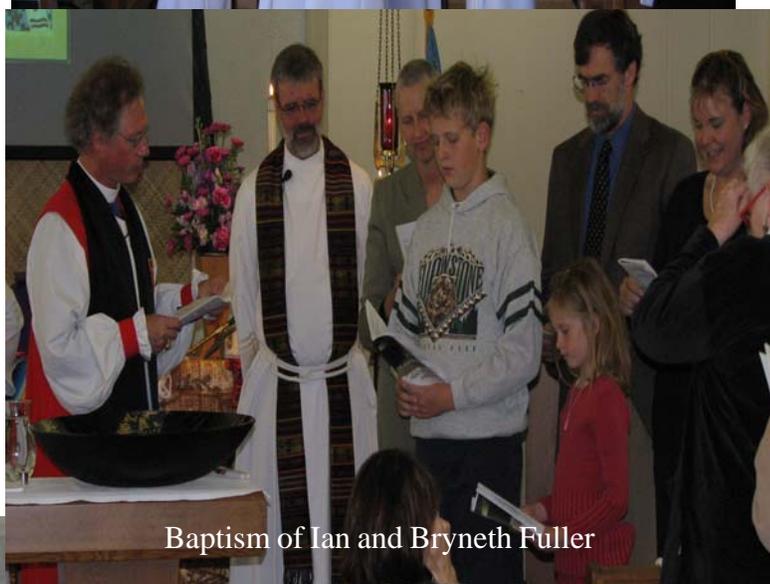
This story is repeated on a regular basis. We recently had a similar occurrence happen in our own parish where, due to the lack of a will, the family may face the loss their home.

While many find this type of planning difficult to face, all of us should do our best to plan for the well being of our loved ones after we pass away. Having a will or estate plan leaves you with the peace of mind that your loved ones will have a path to follow when you are gone. Dealing with the grief is difficult enough without having to face the multitude of decisions that must be made without the guidance provided through a will and estate plan.

Bishop Marc Andrus Visitation to St. James'



Caylyn Ramsany awaits confirmation



Baptism of Ian and Bryneth Fuller



Thank you Richard Reynolds for the enticing table arrangements.

Children's Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday



St. James' Bids Farewell to Mary Mitchell



Loving Hands Palanca in Action

Loving Hands/Palanca in Action, is a 4th Day Group that meets every second Saturday of the month from 10 am to 2 pm in the Parish Hall. We are a very dedicated group that tries to fill some of the unmet needs of the community and beyond. Our projects are quite diverse and range from:

- Making “fun” pillowcases for the underprivileged kids who attend Camp St. Francis in the summer;
- Crocheting and knitting scarves for the homeless which one of our members distributes up in San Francisco (we also fill goodie bags for them in the winter with warm gloves, hats, socks, toiletries, food, etc);
- Making lap quilts for the severely wounded Rangers based in San Antonio, Texas as well as
- Making a counted cross stitch pattern of the Purple Heart (for the mothers and wives of our wounded Rangers);
- Filling bags for “SAVE” with toiletries, snacks, etc.
- Beading prayer bracelets for candidates and team for Cursillo weekends;
- Knitting and crocheting hats for preemies, cancer patients and the elderly;
- Letters - letters - letters and cards to our soldiers and
- The newest project we have undertaken is making teddy bears for clients who are registered for HOSPICE. When requested, we also make bears for their loved ones with the deceased’s clothing as a special remembrance.

And it goes on and on.....Last year we shipped goodie bags to soldiers in Iraq and to wounded soldiers based in Germany in addition to sending them glass crosses at Christmas. One of our members also donated her hair to Locks of Love for cancer patients to have wigs made. One of our biggest projects last Christmas involved the Homeless Shelter in Fremont. We filled backpacks for all the kids in the shelter with as many of the requested gifts as we could. (They were stuffed!) Santa came and passed them out with his “elf” helper and we had refreshments and good fellowship.

All are welcome and we’d love to have you join us! Please contact me after church or at (510) 494-0228 and ask me about this wonderful ministry.

Mary Patrician



ST. JAMES' PRAYER LIST

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

- For those who need continued healing: Arcy, Nadine, Rod, Rose, Barbara, Rachel, Elaine, Charlie, Lane, Virginia, Dick, Debbie, David, Carla, Margaret, Beth, Esther, Luke, Trudi, Mildred, Annie, Merle, Louis,

Laura, Mai, Karen, Yvonne, Beth, Debbie, Steven, Pamela, Jennifer, San Juan, Stephen, Jonathan, Keith, Mike, Denna, Jean, Jenni, Kenzie, Pamela, Tammy

- For those who need comfort and strength: Katie, Lisa, David, Bernadett, Karolina, Deja, Mary, Kevin, the Palestinian People, Joel, Hannah, Elizabeth, Carol & family, Mari, Catherine, Marci, Robert, Nina, Kristine, Robert, Carletta, Tammy, Fred

- For those who need guidance and direction: George, our president, Arnold, our governor, Barbara, Shaun, Aaron, Qi Family, Estelita, Doug, Margaret, Tammy, Fred

- For those in the military: Kurt, Jarrod, Matthew, John, Kiffen, Fred Jr., Shakar, Robert, Joseph

- For those enduring the conflicts in the Middle East

- For healthy & safe pregnancy: Holly, Paula, Martin, Saikhham, Allison, Fauzia



MAY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

1	Burtin Hart	20	Iris Noddin
	Katie Smith	22	Jonathan Fuller
	Claudia Allen		Kaitlin MacRae
2	Meg Williams	25	Amy Dickinson
3	Bianca Castro	26	Carol Day
4	Margaret Singh		Betty McCoy
5	Sandra Motley	28	Svend La Rose
	Obi Aginam	31	Austin Dalmasso
7	Mary Gifford		Ian Kreeger
14	Richard Reynolds		Kae Romeril

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

4	Al & Mary Casas
	Paul and Renee Lenart
	Bruce & Joan Roberts
19	Bob & Kitty Reed
20	Rodney & Rose Girard
24	Burtin & Elizabeth Hart
	Elsa & Lloyd Benedict
26	Cathy Knotts & Mitchell Pinnix
27	Norm & Carol Day
29	Jared & Melanie Willson
31	Philip & Barbara Johnsen

Web Address

Visit St. James' web site at <www.saintj.com>

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The Window on St. James'

Next issue will be in June. 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.

June Issue Deadline: May 15



SAINT JAMES'

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94537-0457

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
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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)

Church Office

Office hours: 8:30 - 1:30 Tuesday-Friday
Tel: 510-792-2248
email: office@saintj.com
WEB: <http://www.saintj.com>

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Associate Rector

The Rev. Sylvia Sweeney

Deacon

The Rev. Arlinda Cosby

Administration

Secretary- Gigi Casino
Treasurer- Jan Brandt
Sexton- Cliff Lovette

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Altar Guild- Margaret Rainey
Acolytes- Nancy Castaneda
Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors- Janet Fischer
Ushers- Burtin Hart
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