The Window

The Newsletter of St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont, CA

Called to serve in new and loving ways

March 2021

Bags of Gold

Edward Hays recounts a story in his book The Lenten Labyrinth. The story is about twelve blind beggars. They approach a castle begging for alms. The lord of the castle comes to the door. "Well, my good men," he says. "I understand you are in need. Go now to the village. Eat, drink, and be merry. Here are twenty gold coins for you." The beggars all tapped their canes in delight, thanking the lord and going directly to the inn where they enjoyed a wonderful feast of food and drink.

After they had their fill and were satisfied, the inn keeper presented them a bill for the banquet they enjoyed. Each of the blind men, pointing to the beggar in the next seat, said, "Give it to him. He has the money." In the end, none of the beggars had been given any gold. Each one thought someone else held the bag of gold coins from the lord of the castle, and so the bill was never paid, just passed from one to another.

It is easy for us to pass the buck, to assume someone else will pick up the tab. We do this because we fear we don't have enough ourselves, or because we make assumptions without investigation, or because we feel we've already paid our fair share at one point or another. Yet, we are all given riches beyond riches, bags of gold that we may not even realize we have. For some, we have the gift of conversation, and we can expend this gift through reaching out to someone who may appreciate a talk on the phone. For others, we have the gift of mobility, and we can use this gift by running errands for someone who isn't able to get our of the house. Some have the gift of technological knowledge, some the gift of intercessory prayer, some the gift of financial stability. For every gift there is a potential need.

In Lent, we often talk about what we might give up. Perhaps this year, in this time of slowing down and reflectiveness, we can examine not what to give up, but what to give. Add a new layer of meaning to your Lenten practice by identifying your own riches for the purpose of determining how you might give it away.

A Word about Holy Week and Easter

In spite of not being able to gather, the sacred practice of observing the Great Triduum, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil will still happen. We will be offering services for each of these sacred days. While we know they will be virtual, the format for each is still being determined. In the meantime, make sure you mark your calendars for **April 1, 2, and 3**!

Lori+

Edward M. Hays, *The Lenten Labyrinth*, (Kansas: Forrest of Peace Publishing, 1994), p.65-66.

Lent: The Springtime of Renewal

Lent comes from the Old English word for "spring." It is the time of year when the days lengthen and the first blossoms and flowers bloom. I mention this because the word *Lent* so often connotes something dismal, like unwelcome chores we are required to perform. Perhaps getting back to an earlier notion of this season might open the prospect of it being a time of renewal and new direction, even new life, while not entirely losing sight of repentance.

For repentance is a means to wholeness. The goodness which God intended for us in creation seems lost to us because we have wandered and strayed from God's presence. Isaiah recognized this when he declared,

> See, the Lord's hand is not too short to save,
> nor his ear too dull to hear.
> Rather, your iniquities have been barriers
> between you and your God,
> and your sins have hidden his face from you
> so that he does not hear. (Isaiah 59: 1-2)

In our estrangement—from God, from others who seem as strangers and perhaps enemies, from ourselves as we remember ourselves to be once—we find ourselves in a barren, winterish place. If concepts like *sin* seem uncomfortable to you, look at your spirit to see whether you feel whole, balanced, and in tune with your world, or whether you feel instead isolation, alienation, and a barrenness which clearly is not what life should be.

Lent is the season when we can hear God's call, echoing through prophets, apostles, and Jesus himself, to turn around and return to God's loving embrace. Of all the year, this is the season to rejoice that our exile is about to end and that, no matter what it is that separates us from completeness and knowing the love of God, we are assured that God desires nothing more than that we should find ourselves again within God's embrace. The road there may involve some humiliation as we admit to ourselves and God that we need God's grace to turn our lives around, but as Paul wrote, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1)

Let us welcome the blessings of Lent together!

~Bill+

Mark Your Calendars

March 28: Palm Sunday
April 1: Maundy Thursday
April 2: Good Friday
April 3: Easter Vigil
April 4: EASTER SUNDAY

WORSHIP, FORMATION, FELLOWSHIP
The Ways We Are Church Together

WORSHIP

Sunday Morning Service Live Stream!
Join our service live-stream at 8:25am on Sunday at saintj.com, or join our Zoom "watch party" (see below). The service can be joined at any time on Sunday from 8:25am, or watched during the week.

Watch Parties at 8:30am and 11:00am
Watch the Sunday Morning service with others! Log into Zoom at 8:30am or 11:00am to watch with others, and then stick around for coffee hours. Email Jennifer at music@saintj.com for the Watch Party/Coffee Hour link.

Wednesday 10:00am Service
Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with prayers and sermon discussion in real-time on Zoom. Join us! Email Rev. Lori at lori@saintj.com (odd Wednesdays) or Rev. Bill at bhale@saintj.com (even Wednesdays).

Wednesday 1:00pm Connecting with Others Bible Study
Watch a short video and have a rich conversation with other parishioners. Email Rev. Lori at lori@saintj.com if you'd like to join us.

Morning Prayer 8-8:30am. Monday-Friday
Join Rev. Bill for Morning Prayer via Zoom. Contact bhale@saintj.com for the link.

FELLOWSHIP

Coffee Hours at 9:00am and 11:30am
Our coffee hours follow our Watch Parties, and are a great way to check in and say hello to others. Email Jennifer Ravera at music@saintj.com to get the information.

Thursday 12:00pm Home Alone Group
For those who are living alone, meet us on Thursdays during lunchtime to say hello. Email Rev. Bill at bhale@saintj.com for information.

Thursday Night 7:00pm Social Hour
Grab a drink and link in to Zoom to socialize with others and see how everyone is doing. Email Jennifer Ravera at music@saintj.com for details.

Audio Sermons and Online Resources
While we have suspended in-person worship services, you can still experience Sunday's Morning Prayer and sermons. Go to our website for online worship resources, or search in iTunes for "Saint James' Fremont" and subscribe to our weekly sermon podcast. We are also building a library of links to curated resources there to enrich our life in community while apart. Go to: https://saintj.com/wp/worship/online-worship/.

Lenten Opportunites

Two opportunities to enter into Lent more deeply:

The Passion Play of Jesus Christ
Six Tuesday afternoons, 12-1pm, February 23—March 30
Led by Rev. Lori Walton

In this six-week class, we will follow the biblical story of the Passion and see how this amazing play has been used both as a ritual of praise and later as a weapon through its anti-Semitic past. The class will include video, scripture, and discussion.

A Time in the Wilderness
Five Tuesday evenings, 7-8pm, February 23—March 23
Led by Seminarian Dan Carlson

This class will explore a central image of the Lenten season—the Wilderness. Within the biblical narrative, characters are sometimes called into the wilderness where they are transformed by their encounters with a mysterious God whose presence is found in the unfamiliar and lonely places of the world. We will explore various biblical readings of the Lenten season while connecting their themes to our own lived experience. Where are we being called to venture into the unknown? What might we need to leave behind in order to set out on this journey? How might we be transformed by our wilderness encounters? Join us as we make this Lenten journey together.

To join the Lenten classes, use this FORM. It's not too late!

Lent Madness Continues!

It's not too late to follow Lent Madness! You can vote for your favorite saint, and tune in on March 31 to see who wins the Golden Halo! Sign up for email alerts at https://www.lentmadness.org/; you can also purchase your own Saintly Scorecard. ***Who will win the Golden Halo???***

Growing Faith in a Changing World
Sylvia Ma

The last twelve months has been difficult for me. The pandemic turned the world upside down. Next came the reality of racial injustice. Then came the presidential election and the controversy around the results. Just as I thought I made it through 2020 and hoped 2021 will be better, the insurrections in the Capitol happened on January 6th. None of these affected me directly, but it saddened me to see the failings of the United States, the deaths and destructions of these events and the families that are affected.

The pandemic. Shouldn't the United States, a first world country, with all the resources, first rate medical care and emergency planning, be able to keep the pandemic in-check? No, the virus is still raging after a year and we have to deal with COVID variants. We did manage to approve two vaccines and vaccinations are rolling out very slowly. Lord, give me patience and strength to journey on and to stay safe.

With the stay-at-home order all these months, I started new routines for my spiritual life. I have been participating in morning prayers with Rev. Bill three times a week, compline every night and Ante-communion on Wednesday mornings. I am finding comfort in the scriptures and the psalms. I dusted off my 40-year old Book of Common Prayers and actually sing it. Reading Margaret Guenther's book, *The Practice of Prayer* for the Advent series led me to recite the Jesus Prayer (Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner) while I walk every day. I am doing a more extensive petitions in my compline, and I started writing a journal, first time in my life. It is never too late to start new routines to take care of our spiritual lives, especially amid a pandemic.

Racial justice. A disappointing situation in these united states. Fifty years after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the struggle continues. We, as a nation, should be doing much better. I have been here in the United States for more than fifty years, I should be doing much better. I learned much in the Sacred Ground series on issues of racial justice: how we failed and are still failing as a nation, with the Native Americans, the African Americans, the Latinx, and with the Asian Americans. Paul reminded us in Galatian 3:28 that we are all one in Christ Jesus. How can I do better? How can I be an antiracist instead? Lord, open my eyes and ears, give me guidance in what I say and what I do and how I think. Help me, Lord.

Christian against Christian Nationalists. I attended a webinar with our Presiding Bishop Curry as a panelist on Christian Against Christian Nationalists. Bishop Curry reminded us that we are the kind of Christians who follow Jesus's teaching: to love our neighbors as ourselves. No easy task but I must keep trying. Lord, give me grace when I keep failing and be with me always.

Last week, I watched a webinar by The Rev. Bruce Epperly on his book: *Hope Beyond Pandemic*. He reminded me that Jesus told us about Hope, Faith and Love. The world is changing. I do not think we will be returning to the pre-2020/pre pandemic normal. Nor do I want to. We need to move forward and grow. Changes are difficult but we are not in this alone. God is with us. We have Jesus's teaching guiding us. We have faith, leading to hope and we should try to spread God's love to this changing world. One small deed at a time, with God's help. Amen.

Giving Thanks!

We heartily express our gratitude to Lynn Locher!

Nine years ago, Lynn was asked to step into the role as Church Treasurer and she agreed to do so. For these nine years, Lynn has been faithful in the stewardship of our funds, ensuring our books are in order, our funds have been expended wisely, and our investments secured. Lynn joined St. James' in 1987 when she and her husband Ralph moved to Fremont. Along with being the Treasurer, Lynn has also served in various ministries, including stewardship, vestry, and as a Eucharistic Minister. She now steps out of her Treasurer shoes, leaving them to our new Treasurer, Bruce Roberts, to fill! So, thank you to Lynn and congratulations to Bruce!

~Lori+

Chair Exercise Classes led by Sylvia Ma

With the consent from Lori, as a ministry of St. James', I have started a Zoom chair exercise class in February on Tuesdays at 10am. Both parishioners and non-parishioners are welcome. Please spread the word. We do warm up exercises, breathing exercises (QiGong/meditation), Tai Chi/ Hsing I movements and end the hour with self-massages. Please email SRWarden@saintj.com if you have any questions or if you are interested and I will send you the Zoom link.

Financial Summary January 2021

Fund Balances	1/31/2020	1/31/2021
Operating Fund	**$ 95,466.49**	**$ 106,768.39**
Building Fund	**$ 70,262.69**	**$ 29,369.64**
Pledges Budgeted	28,588.66	29,607.50
Pledges Paid	64,257.30	32,066.47
Unpledged Contributions	2,215.00	488.60
Other Op Income	2,022.62	37.92
Total Operating Income	68,494.92	32,592.99
Total Operating Expenses	22,619.95	30,299.82
Income less Expenses	**45,874.97**	**2,293.17**

Vestry Highlights
Submitted by Jim McConnell, Jr. Warden

The Vestry met on February 18th. Greg Miller opened the meeting with prayer. Lori reinforced our commitment to follow CDC and Diocese guidelines for regathering. Sylvia Ma informed us that Vanco will be removed as an option for online donations, and we will retain PayPal. Parishioners are encouraged to use their bank's bill pay function for pledge giving.

Minutes for the January 14th Vestry meeting, January 24th Annual meeting, and the January 30th Vestry retreat were approved.

The February Financial report was approved. We voted to renew a $50,000 CD at the highest available interest rate. The PPP loan forgiveness paperwork with Heritage Bank has been submitted. After the PPP loan forgiveness is completed, the Treasurer proposed allocating $30,000 to the building fund, $2,000 to the Sabbatical Fund, and $22,895 to the COVID reserve fund. The proposal was approved.

The Maisha Bora donation is on hold due to Covid lockdown in Kenya. A donation to Abode Services of $1000 from the McCutcheon Concert proceeds was approved. Jim McConnell guided a discussion on campus security after attempted break-ins. The break-ins are likely due to homeless persons seeking shelter. A committee was formed to investigate options.

The Vestry entered Executive Session to review staff compensation. Staff compensation modification was approved. Greg Miller closed the meeting with Compline.

Sunday Flowers and Sanctus Candles

During the season of Lent, we abstain from having Sunday morning flowers and will resume Easter (April 4th). We are continuing to keep our Sanctus Candle, the symbol of the Living Christ, lit 24/7 in our sanctuary. We'd like to offer the opportunity for you to give in memory of or thanksgiving for someone. During our Sunday announcements we will acknowledge your donation. If you'd like to participate, you can fill out the online form found HERE.

Alternatively, you can send an email to our Admin with the information, and mail a check marked flowers or sanctus candle to PO Box 457, Fremont, CA 94537-0457. The suggested donation is $20 for flowers and $8 for candles.

Water-Wise Planting & Herbs

By Gregg Feeney

In the February 2019 Window newsletter on page 6 I lamented about the drought and time to replant water-wise grass and native plants. Now we are in a drought pattern again so we must continue our quest for water-wise planting.

Back in March 2016 my wife, Darcia, discovered an article about the "Unfussy Fescue" in the Sunset Magazine. This fescue is low maintenance and drought tolerant. It only needs to be mowed 2-3 x / year and needs occasional watering. This grass is derived from a blend of 6 different fescues. The lawn takes on a wavelike look and the seeds grow well in shade or sun. I experimented with a small section and it turned out well. It took a lot of prep and hand-pulling of weeds since I do not use herbicides in my yard. Now about 75% of my former lawn is planted and the remaining is going towards native plants. I still have patches I have to re-seed but very happy with not having to mow my lawn and I have reduced my water consumption.

I receive a lot of compliments especially how soft it is compared to my neighbors fescue. I only mowed it twice in 2019 and water about once a week. The name of the grass is Eco-Lawn. Their website: https://eartheasy.com. The eartheasy folks send me their monthly newsletter via email.

Stores and websites for native plants:

- Dale Hardware does have some native plants. Just ask and they'll point to the section in their greenhouse area. 3400 Thornton Ave, Fremont 510-797-3700.
- Regan's Nursery 4268 Decoto Rd, Fremont 510-797-3222.
- M & M Nursery has many native plants and trees and are very informative - no website but a must -see store. 332 Woodside Rd. Redwood City, CA 94061 650-366-4429.
- Wegman's Nursery has a good website for educational information. 492 Woodside Rd, Redwood City, CA 94061 (650) 368-5908. http://www.wegmansnursery.com
- *M & M Nursery & Wegman's are right down the street from each other.*
- California Native Plant Society provides a vast wealth of knowledge regarding native plants. http://www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/where_to_buy.php

Herbs 101

Since many of us have been working at home more and eating out is currently restricted, we are eating at home more. We like to cook with fresh herbs are started growing more of our own herbs. I wanted to learn more about them and jackpot, I found a great company resource. Click on the link to see a newsletter from California Bountifuls website on herbs: https://www.californiabountiful.com/features/article.aspx?arID=557. Combine this knowledge with the St. James' Gardening & Cooking book resource and you can grow some great herbs.

Lastly, keep your compost piles active and turn once a week. I have thousands of worms due to maintaining a good balance greens and brown goods in my pile.

Happy planting, growing and eating!

Always @ St. James'

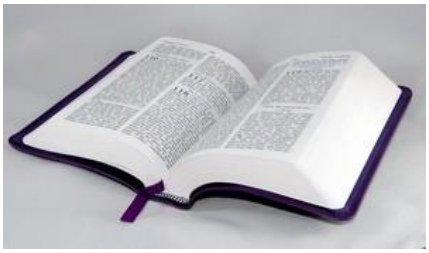
Children and Youth

Check current events at:
https://saintj.com/wp/ministries/childrens-programs/
or email Jan Scrutton, jan@saintj.com.

Episcopal Youth Fremont will meet next via Zoom **Sunday, March 14th from 7 - 8 PM**. All young people 6th - 12th grade are welcome to join us.

Bible Studies

Monday morning Bible Study continues via zoom meetings, 11:00-12:00 each Monday. Our guide is *Our Journey With Luke: The 50 Day Bible Challenge,* by The Rev. Marek Zabriskie. Contact Rev. Lori by emailing lori@saintj.com to get the link to the Zoom meeting**.**



We have a **Wednesday afternoon** Bible Study at 1:00pm, also via Zoom. Lori will send out a link to a short video and discussion questions. Email Lori to be added to this list as well.

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in **April**. We welcome your **comments, essays, poems, photos, book reviews, newsworthy items, and any group activity information**.

Email your submission to newsletter@saintj.com by: **March 15th**

Calendar

You can access the church calendar for March here.

Blessing Bags for Distribution

In this time of need, let us remember those who have no shelter. Our Blessing Bags are available for you to give away. Each bag contains toiletries, food, socks, and a mask. We're using reusable cloth bags that can also serve as a backpack.

If you would like to contribute to the cost of the bags or the contents, please give a donation to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. ***Please note we are not taking donations other than monetary donations.*** *This allows us to purchase what we need and to be consistent with what we are offering.*

Blessing Bags are available for you to pick up most Wednesdays between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM on the patio. Make sure you wear your mask and practice social distancing when picking up and distributing the bags.

News For February

St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God we pray:

For Those in the Military:

Jarrod, Megan, Erica, Theresa, Mark, Tim, Louis, Caitlin, Emily, Robin, Adam, Dave, Shawn, Ethan, Paul, Matthew, Johnny, Johnathan, Darren

For Essential Workers:

Evelyn, Jeff, Brian, Samir, Mary Frances, Josephine, Mary, Polly, Alice, Bozena, Angela, Darcia, Melissa, Mary, Tammy, Heidi, Mana, Tessa, Alex, Natalie, Gwen, Dr. Johnathan, Evan, Guy

For Those Expecting Children:

Rachel & Justin, Kristen & Eric, Bailey & Steven, Marlene & Felipe

For Those Who Need Comfort and Strength:

Renee, Barbara

For Those Who Need Guidance and Direction:

For Those Who Need Healing:

Ron, Julie, Gail, Craig, Linda, Diane, Barry, Ethan, Bud, Linda, Bob, Jim, Roger, Felipe Sr, Dave, Helen, Del, William, Rose, Debbie, Peter, Ethan, Amy, Warren

For Those Who Have Passed Away:

Ann, Sajam, Ruby, Pete, Milton, Frank, Vicky, Frances

And for all of us impacted by the current pandemic.

To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please call or email the Church Office. After six weeks, names are removed from the list. Please renew your request as needed. Thank you.

03/01	Kimberly Patton
	Dwarka Sankar
03/02	Daniel Zarovy
03/03	Linda Rexroad
03/06	Anna Davis
03/07	Paul Davis
03/08	Robert Lacy
	Jan Scrutton
03/09	Bethany Vacchieri
03/11	Frank Guzior
	Barbara Vacchieri
03/13	Karen Ekren
	Barry Hedgpeth
03/14	Jennifer Ravera
03/15	Grace Zarovy
03/20	Laura Castaneda
	Chris Nance
03/24	Alice Johnson
03/25	Janet Ashford Fischer
03/26	Pat Spalding
03/29	Jules Fortescue
	Lucy Fortescue

NO MARCH ANNIVERSARIES!

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace
MAIL TO: PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94537-0457
http://saintj.com
Tel: (510) 797-1492

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY SERVICE: LIVE-STREAM AT 8:30AM WITH RECORDED SERVICE AVAILABLE TO VIEW THEREAFTER.
HTTP://SAINTJ.COM

MORNING PRAYER 8-8:30AM
MONDAY-FRIDAY VIA ZOOM.
CONTACT bhale@saintj.com FOR THE LINK

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST 10:00AM
VIA ZOOM. CONTACT lori@saintj.com FOR THE LINK

OFFICE HOURS

WEDNESDAYS 10:00AM TO 1:00PM

STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton, Rector ..... lori@saintj.com
The Rev. Dr. Bill Hale, Associate Priest
……..…..bhale@saintj.com
Jan Scrutton, Children and Youth Minister
..... jan@saintj.com
Ron Cook, Office Administrator .. .admin@saintj.com
Jennifer Ravera, Music Director.....music@saintj.com
Bruce Roberts, Treasurer..... treasurer@saintj.com

VESTRY

Senior Warden .....srwarden@saintj.com
Sylvia Ma

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

Meg Amouroux
John Butterfield
Bob Bynum
Bob Doherty
Janet Fischer
Tim Fortescue
Samir Kalitta
Mary Francis Leopold
Greg Miller
Beverly Mosier

Vestry Clerk: *Elizabeth Hart*

Other Important Coordinators

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:
George Siegmann
Eucharistic Visitors: The Rev. Lori Walton
Altar Guild: Katie Cunningham
Ushers: Burtin Hart
Facilities: facilities@saintj.com

Convention Delegates

Email our delegates at:
stjdeanery@saintj.com
Greg Miller
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller
Jim McConnell
Ken Trant
Scott Whitaker

Alternate to Convention

Sally Morgan

***The Window* Staff**

Janet Fischer | Laura Winter

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