THE WINDOW

St. James' Episcopal Church | Fremont, CA

November 2022

Introducing Vital + Thriving

Every church coming out of the pandemic is faced with two questions. Who are we? To what is God calling us? Now, of course, these questions have always been a part of religious landscape, but the pandemic has thrown a spotlight on these questions because the landscape in which we were familiar with has changed. Our once-transient community has become more transient with the ability to work and worship from home. The needs of the world have become more complicated with the fracturing of so many of our institutions and communities.

Like the diaspora Jews who were far-flung from their homelands, we, too, are in a sort of diaspora condition. Some of our members are dispersed away from the church and others have ceased to engage. The world is too broken for us to settle for worship alone without channeling our energy outwards to make a difference beyond our physical walls. We are faced with an unknown future, and we can either be passive and let what will be, be, or we can be intentional about listening for God's voice.

To actively engage our future, St. James' will be participating in a program called **Vital + Thriving Congregations**. This program is brought to us by the Center for Church Innovations through the Graduate Theological Union and is funded by the Diocese of California. It is a program meant to walk a congregation through a process of discernment and action.

In general, the program is divided into three years:

- Year One – Discovery. The congregation goes through a process of listening to one another, listening to our neighbors, and listening to God in order to discover a path forward.
- Year Two – Experimenting. The congregation takes what has been heard and begins trying out new ministries with the expectation that failure is likely, but that the process of experimenting will further increase our understanding of where God is leading.
- Year Three – Focus. Having listened and experimented, the congregation focuses on a specific direction to move towards, bringing new ministry/s and mission to fruition.

Key to this program is that it is lay led and clergy supported. That is to say, the direction of the congregation comes from the gathered assembly rather than from the priest. The leaders of this effort are parishioners, and the whole congregation is part of the conversation. You will have a part in helping us discern the direction of St. James'.

This is an exciting time in the life of our congregation and I look forward to discovering what God has in plan for us! Please feel free to ask me any questions you may have and keep your eyes open for more information and activities.

~Lori+

A Message From Rev. Bill

November begins with the commemoration of All Saints Day, which actually is a very inclusive holiday. In addition to those very holy persons whose lives were examples of faithful living, such as Saint Francis of Assisi, we also understand that we and all members of the Church are "saints" in the sense in which the New Testament uses the term. By grace, we are corporate members in the living Body of Christ, united in one life with saints past and those yet to come.

Near the end of November, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day both as a national holiday and as the liturgical celebration in which we give thanks for all of God's gifts to us. As members of the Church, we continually give thanks in many ways--by our participation in the weekly Eucharist, in our hymns and prayers on Sundays and throughout the week, by our stewardship in giving to the Church and by doing God's work in the world, and by a host of loving acts that share the love of God given to us. Thanksgiving Day is but one special day focused on our grateful response to God's continual stream of blessings.

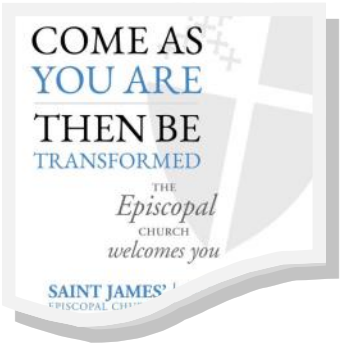
One way to connect the message of both of these holidays can be found in The General Thanksgiving which concludes both Morning and Evening Prayer:

We bless you [God] *for our creation, preservation,*
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ… (BCP p. 102)

Thanksgiving for us is not only about recognition of those good things – "blessings" –which we always acknowledge as coming from God, but also for the most precious gift of God's love: **the sending of Jesus to redeem us that we might have life through Christ**. This is what C.S. Lewis had called "putting first things first," because it recognizes how essential is our life in God, and that Christ's work of redemption demonstrates the depths of God's love for the world. That immeasurable love is the basis for all our other thanksgiving. In Christ, we have life such as God intended for us, yet too often when we give thanks, we neglect to recall this most gracious divine giving.

Finally, the remembrance of God's loving gift of life redefines our understanding of who we are in this world. By embracing our call to accept Christ's gift of redemption and life, we become part of the Church which constantly proclaims God to the world. We live our eternal life, denying the power of death over us; we rejoice to find ourselves among those still-living hosts of the faithful who preceded us and also the multitudes who shall share our faith and life in ages to come. For, as saints living the life of faith, we can affirm what Jesus himself taught: that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob "is God not of the dead but of the living, for to God all of them are alive." (Luke 20:38) ~Bill+

The Ways We Are Church Together



WORSHIP

Worship At Church
We offer two services on Sunday morning at 8am and 10:30am. Coffee and light snacks following each service.

Sunday Morning Service Live Stream
If you cannot attend church in person, you can join our 10:30am service live-streamed on Sundays at saintj.com. The service can be joined at any time on Sunday from 10:30am or watched during the week on our YouTube channel.

Wednesday 10:00am Service
Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with prayers and sermon discussion in real time on Zoom. Join us! Email Rev. Bill at bhale@saintj.com. Link can also be found under "Upcoming Events" on the right side of our website.

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

FELLOWSHIP

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

Grief Support Group Tuesdays @ 2pm on Zoom
Rev. Bill Hale, former grief support person for Odyssey Hospice in Michigan, facilitates the group. Please contact Rev. Bill at bhale@saintj.com for more information. This group is open to all, not just St. James' folks.

LEARNING

Focus On Faith Saturdays @ 10am.
Do you have questions about the church, God, faith? Would you benefit from hearing about other's faith journey and experience? Are you looking for a place to drop-in to talk about spirituality? Join with others and Rev. Bill for this on-going gathering. Questions? Email Bill at bhale@saintj.com for details. Access the Zoom link here.

Bible Studies
Monday 11:00am. Join with others to catch up and wrestle with some of the sacred texts of the Bible. We meet every Monday on zoom. Everyone is welcome. Email lori@saintj.com or find the zoom link on the home page of our website.

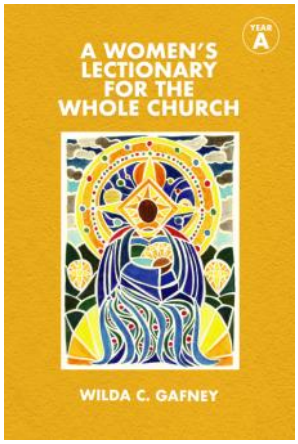
Wednesday 11:00am. Bible Study at 11:00am, also via Zoom. Rev. Lori will send out a link to a short video and discussion questions. Email lori@saintj.com to be added to this list as well.

Audio Sermons and Online Resources
Zoom links for all of our offerings can be found on our website, saintj.com. Look for the calendar of events on the right side of our home page. If something is not listed, email the leader and they will make sure you have what you need. Sunday's service and sermons are also online. Go to our website for online worship resources. Like us on Facebook and Instagram! We also have a YouTube page, and a Twitter feed.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Hearing Scripture Anew for Advent

Our sacred scripture brings us comfort, enlightenment, and a deeper relationship with God. In it, we hear both about God's work in the world and how human beings relate to God. Each season brings with it a particular focus and imagery. We often think of Advent as a time of waiting, and the stories in scripture leading up to the birth of Jesus elevate the ways in which women and girls have played a part in the beautiful story of God. However, we don't often hear the fullness of these stories found in both the Hebrew and New Testament writings. To that end, for the Season of Advent, we will be using a slightly different set of lessons. These lessons are taken from the work of The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney. Their particular focus is on women and girls found in our sacred stories, a slightly different angle from the male-centric scripture we usually hear. I hope you will allow the lessons read in Advent wash over you in a new way. I hope you will find comfort in these stories, and if challenged, my hope is that you will sit with that challenge as a way towards further growth. I look forward to moving towards the Christ-child with you, knowing that even now, even in that waiting, Emmanuel, God is with us.



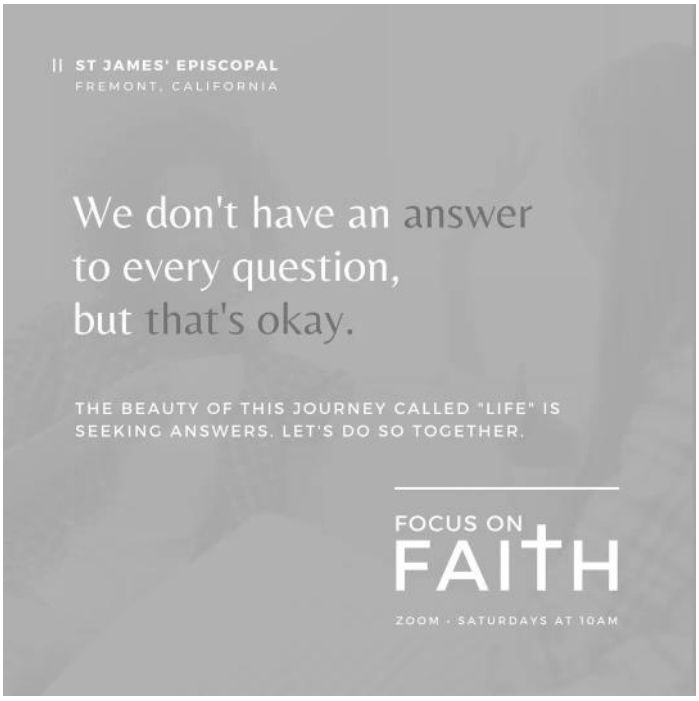
~Lori+

The Feast of All Saints & the Reading of the Names of the Dead (The Necrology)

The Feast of All Saints', November 6th, is a day when we remember those who have died. We will be reading the names of the deceased, called the necrology, at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services. If you have a name of a loved one who you would like remembered, please send it to Rev. Lori no later than November 1st.

Thanksgiving Day Service, 10am

Begin your Thanksgiving celebration on Thursday, November 24, with a service at St. James'!



THE DIOCESE OF CALIFORNIA

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE BAY AREA

Our bishop, Marc Andrus, announced his plan to retire as bishop of the Diocese of California. The process to find his replacement takes a couple years, just like a church's efforts to hire a new rector. The Diocese will establish a Search Committee, they will create a profile, accept applications, interview potential candidates, and plan to call a new bishop early in 2023, with a start date of May 2024. Your prayers for all involved in this transitional time is requested and appreciated.

A Prayer for Transition

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, by your grace you have called us into one fellowship of faith: Look graciously on the people of the Diocese of California during this time of transition. May we be guided in heart and mind by your Holy Spirit to seek and welcome a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us to perform the work of the Church. Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do. Save us from all false choices, that in your light we may see light, and on your path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CALLING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS of 1996

While sorting out the sacristy cupboard we uncovered a wall hanging and altar set made by the Sunday School class of 1996. Did you know someone who contributed a handprint to this project? I'd love to collect pictures to illustrate 'where they are now' so we can display them along with the hanging late in November. Email jan@saintj.com if you have a picture from 1996 or more recently.

Financial Summary for September, 2022

Fund Balances	**9/30/2021**	**9/30/2022**
Operating Fund	$49,175.27	$33,439.74
Building Fund	$66,308.64	$96,715.32
Pledges Budgeted	$266,467.50	$276,585.00
Pledges Paid	$255,585.32	$248,693.55
Unpledged Contributions	$13,666.13	$9,477.97
Other Operating Income	$2,314.55	$11,526.85
YTD Total Operating Income	$271,566.00	$269,698.37
YTD Total Operating Expenses	$273,615.32	$295,181.05
Income less Expenses	($2,049.32)	($25,482.68)

Children & Youth Ministries

Check current events at: https://saintj.com/wp/ministries/childrens-programs/

Sunday School, for children in TK- 6th grade, meets weekly during the 10:30AM service. The children gather outside and head to the Sunday School classroom when the service begins and return to church during the Peace to participate in the Eucharist with their families.

A registration form for all under 18's which includes a media release and opportunity to share any relevant information can be found HERE. This is for the 2022-23 school year and all families are encouraged to complete it as the new school year begins.

Episcopal Youth Fremont is a youth group for 6th – 12th graders based at St. James' which meets during the school year. Our next meeting is Sunday **November 13 from 6-8 PM**. We will discuss plans for the next year – including a possible day out and plans for confirmation preparation for those who are interested.

Any questions about our programs for children or youth? Email our Children & Youth Minister Jan Scrutton at jan@saintj.com.

EYF trip to Monterey

On Saturday October 8th a small group pf Episcopal Youth Fremont took a day trip to Monterey with Jan & Mike. They were able to visit the aquarium—including a visit behind the scenes to see the jellies and touch a moon jelly (the benefit of having a friend of youth group on staff!). After enjoying lunch we headed to Asilomar State Park Beach for some tide pooling and climbing on rocks. We finished our day with a Liturgy for Reaching the Ocean on the beach.

Here are some comments from the group.

- 'The thing I enjoyed most in the aquarium was seeing the biggest tank, the 'Open Sea', and getting to hang with people I don't usually see'.

- 'I liked touching the moon jelly, it didn't feel anything like I expected it to',
- 'Climbing on the rocks and finding creatures in the tide pools was fun. Jan helped me find lots of cool stuff'.

From our prayers:
We recognize here on the beach, a place of change and renewal,
May we remember that God allows us new chances and forgiveness just as the tide refreshes the beach.
(from Every Moment Holy by Douglas Kaine McKelvey)

~ Jan Scrutton

Blessing of the Animals, October 2

Photos by Robert Bynum & Bruce Roberts

Vestry Voices: Expressions of Love @ St. James'

This month's reflections are from Greg Miller

In 2005, Elaine and I came to Saint James' Church. We had been attending and participating at Saint Timothy's in Mountain View. We had been living, working, etc. on the Peninsula for several years, but housing costs brought us to Newark. We continued commuting to St. Tim's and participating with the Boy Scout troop in Palo Alto. Then, in March 2005, Elaine had a stroke which immediately retired her from most jobs outside the home. We stopped the weekly trips on Sunday mornings to Mountain View. After a few months, we both felt the need to return to a faith community. I began looking for Episcopal churches in the Tri-City area and saw that St. James' was very near! We decided to "check it out" and were pleasantly welcomed by a very warm community.

As Elaine was recovering, I felt the need to participate with our new community. One of my "love languages" is acts of service. As I am basically a techie (electricity, wood, metal), I stepped right in to participating any way that I felt capable: parish life activities, choir, audio/ video team (aka "road crew"), work parties, fellowship dinners, men's group activities, assisting the liturgical design team hang decorations, even joining the vestry.

Although this may seem like I'm very busy, I feel as though it has always been with God's help. Just attending church Sundays, or just Christmas and Easter, may be enough for some. We all are brought to participate in God's love in myriad ways.

Vestry Meeting Highlights

Submitted by Meg Amouroux, Jr. Warden

Your vestry met on Thursday, October 20. Samir Kalitta led opening prayer. We continue to meet in a "hybrid" format, with most folks gathering in person in the Education Room, and others joining remotely via Zoom. We began to gather at 6:30pm to share God moments, and Rev. Lori opened the meeting at 7pm.

September vestry meeting minutes were approved. September staff and ministry reports, and Financial Reports were accepted and approved.

New and Continuing Business:

- A motion was made to hire a caroling group for Christmas Eve's evening service. Funds to cover costs to be taken from Music special interest account. Motion passed.
- Mary Frances Leopold shared information from the Social Justice Task Force regarding a new street-facing sign boards, featuring a brief message and icons about prayer around current social justice issues. Her team continues to fine-tune the imagery.
- As an informational presentation, Rev. Lori shared updated Staff Position Descriptions.
- We reviewed the updated Covid protocols. (See pg. 11 for details.)
- A motion was made to purchase a new free-standing Hymn Board, to be used primarily in the Little Church. It will be paid for via donations from the Memorial Donations' special interest account. Motion passed.
- A reservation has been made for the January 2023 vestry retreat, to be held on Saturday Jan. 28 at Dominican Center, at Mission San Jose in Fremont. We intend to gather on the Friday evening prior, as well.

The meeting adjourned, and Samir closed the meeting with Compline. The next Vestry meeting will be held on November 17. We will continue our hybrid meeting format, with members attending both in-person and remotely, via Zoom.

Thanksgiving Not Just A Day

Reflection from Brian Cochran

I felt burnt out. After singing the chorus, "Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One . . ." for years, I felt burnt out from being commanded, even in songs, to give thanks. Even social workers like Brene' Brown were encouraging us to have a gratitude journal or a gratitude practice.

It's not that I didn't want to express my thanks to God. It was just that my mind and heart were blocked. I couldn't think clearly, I couldn't see clearly enough to express my gratitude beyond a superficial level. The stresses of life including the ups and downs of my work life as a Christian minister and hospice chaplain, family members' serious health issues, and all the uncertainties about the future had numbed me and hindered me from giving thanks joyfully for all the goodness I receive.

Thankfully, I received unexpected help from unusual sources. A group leader introduced me to a book by Zen Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh called "Living Buddha, Living Christ." I was familiar with him and had learned a lot from him, but not this particular book. In it he told a story of being at a conference on religion and peace, how a Protestant minister came up to him at lunch and asked, "Are you a grateful person?" The minister then continued by saying that because Hanh didn't believe in God, he couldn't be grateful for anything. Mr. Hanh did not respond verbally to the minister but thought in his heart, "I am very thankful for this food, for the sun and water and soil and work it took farmers and others to grow it and to get it here to my plate. I am grateful for the community eating here together." And he also wrote about incorporating thanksgiving into his breathing and walking exercises by saying in his heart on the in and the out breaths things like, "Breathing in, I touch my heart," and "Breathing out, I smile with gratitude for my heart."

I added these phrases to my breath prayers and found myself more grateful and also more joyful for the gift of my heart, and also my life. Gradually I began to extend the prayer to being grateful for the air "entering the two beautiful bodies of my lungs" as Mary Oliver puts it in her poem "To Begin With, The Sweet Grass." And to every part of my body and life, each precious present moment. The monk had brought me back to a gentle and nourishing practice of thanksgiving, and for that I am very grateful and happy.

Mary Oliver is another unexpected source. While looking for poems to share with my hospice teams, I read her poem "Praying." She talks about looking at "weeds in a vacant lot, or a few/ small stones;" "just paying attention" "just patching/ a few words together" and that this is "the doorway/ into thanks." As I slow to a stop at the freeway exit, I notice the flowering weeds and fennel which grow there so abundantly. I smell the licorice-like deliciousness, and I smile with gratitude for the example of these humble plants, doing what God has made them do, and only that, and doing it so well right where they are planted. And I quiet down into "a silence in which/ another voice may speak." And I hear God's voice through nature or verse or silence. And I am made whole.

Now I look forward to the Thanksgiving holy-day. I look forward to the weekly Eucharistic prayer of Great Thanksgiving. I look forward to "giving thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for me in Spirit-drenched Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

News For November

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, Robert

For Healthcare Workers and Chaplains

Evelyn, Jeff, Brian, Josephine, Mary, Polly, Alice, Bozena, Angela, Darcia, Mary, Tammy, Mana, Natalie, Dr. Johnathan, Megan, Gerald, Amber

For Teachers, Principals, School Staff

Jennifer, Monique, Toni, Jill, Sherea, Esther, Peter, Vivienne, Margaret, Stephanie, Tim, Jason, Jeannie, and those in our families and communities named in our hearts.

For Those Who Need Comfort, Strength, and Guidance

Elisa, Emma, Sophia, Carlos, Jan, Sean, Penny, Jackie, Derek, Jackie, Carolyn

For Safe Travels

Marlene

For Those Who Need Healing

Ron, Julie, Gail, Craig, Linda, Diane, Barry, Bud, David, Pat, Carolyn, Bud, Margaret, Beth, Kym, Debbie, Crystal, John, Haven, Deepak, Rose, Debbie, John, Cherie, Carol

For Those Who Have Passed Away

Elizabeth, Elizabeth, Miles, Bill, Mike

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.

11/01	Jino Joseph
	Ami Locher
11/07	Nathaniel Bryant
11/13	Thomas Wiley
11/17	Travis Koonze
	Alberto Verdin
11/18	John Maloney
11/19	Gail Blalock
11/22	Andrew Paratore
	Karen Watkins
11/25	John Paratore
11/27	Andrea Ramsamy
	Marie Verdin
11/28	Kaethe Langs
11/29	Raelene Ramsamy
	Don Rose
	Rick Spalding
11/30	Rebeccah Fuller
	Nancy Svenson

11/01	Donald Razzolini & Michael Aquino
11/03	Marco & Raelene Ramsamy
11/24	Tom & Gail Blalock
11/27	Ralph & Lynn Locher

Always @ St. James'

Calendar

Access the church calendar for November here.

Updated COVID Protocols

Our Regathering Team continues to discuss our protocols and keeping everyone safe while attending in-person activities at St. James'. Our protocols take into consideration the significantly lower infection rate and the availability of vaccinations and boosters. Please note the following items:

- We strongly recommend vaccinations/boosters and masking for all indoor services and meetings, though masks are not required.
- Altar servers, ushers, and hospitality hosts will wear masks while serving.
- Coffee hours will still take place both inside and outside.
- Sacramental wine will be offered through intinction (dipping the host) done by the clergy.
- We encourage everyone to get a vaccination booster once they are eligible.

For further details, please see Rev. Lori Walton's pastoral letter of October 11.

Chair Exercise Class on Zoom

Please join Sylvia Ma for a weekly Zoom class on chair exercises on Breathing/Qi Gong and Tai Chi/ Hsing I movements. No experience is necessary. Sessions held **Tuesday mornings** from **10:00 to 11:00 AM**. Please spread the word. All are welcome. If you are interested, email Sylvia at hsiehtinghsueh@yahoo.com and she will send you the link. The link will also be found on the calendar at St James' website https://saintj.com.

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

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

Blessing Bags for Distribution

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

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 during office hours, Wednesdays & Thursdays between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM in the office hallway.

Gift Cards Help!

Occasionally we have people visit church to ask for assistance. It is helpful to have gift cards we can give out with blessing bags when appropriate. If you'd like to donate a card for us to give out we ask for $25 cards for gas, Safeway, Target, Walmart, or Lucky's. They can be given to the wardens, clergy, or put in the office. Thank you.

Sign up for news from the Diocese!

DioCal, the Diocese of California, publishes a weekly newsletter via email which you can receive by signing up HERE. The web site for the diocese is https://www.diocal.org/.

THE DIOCESE OF CALIFORNIA

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE BAY AREA

SAINT JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CALLED TO SERVE, IN NEW & LOVING WAYS

Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace
MAIL TO: PO Box 457
Fremont, CA 94537-0457

http://saintj.com
Tel: (510) 797-1492

Office Hours
Wednesdays & Thursdays
10 AM to 1 PM

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday Services:
In-Person at 8 AM and 10:30 AM
Live-streamed at 10:30 AM, recording available to view thereafter.

Wednesday Service: 10 AM on Zoom

Morning Prayer: 8-8:30 AM
Monday-Friday via Zoom. Contact bhale@saintj.com for the link.

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bhale@saintj.com
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Jim McConnell

Junior Warden ..... jrwarden@saintj.com
Meg Amouroux

Bob Bynum
Nancy Castaneda
Samir Kalitta
Mary Frances Leopold
Peter Maina
Greg Miller
Sally Morgan
Beverly Mosier
Vivienne Paratore

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
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Jim McConnell | Ken Trant | Scott Whitaker

Alternate to Convention

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