THE WINDOW

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, FREMONT CALIFORNIA

APRIL 2023

Demystifying Stewardship | Why I Participate in Deaf Ministry

Bev Mosier

Stewardship is much more than giving money. It also entails active participation in ministry. It takes a team of individuals, each playing a specific role, to keep a church functioning effectively.
Gamber and Lewellis (2017) in their book, *Your Faith, Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church*, state that, "baptism is full initiation unto the Body of Christ… [and] as a member of the Body of Christ, each [of us] is also a minister of the Church." We have a common mission to represent Christ and his Church, but we are called to different ways of ministering.

I have loved participating in "St. James' ASL" (our Deaf Ministry), because it has become a microcosm of the larger church. Only 4 years ago, we started out as a handful of local, ASL signers, but have grown into a full-fledged fellowship that includes members from other cities and states via Zoom. No single person made that journey happen. Everyone has been contributing her or his own gifts and talents. For example:
-A committee of six now meets regularly to discuss issues, plan events, make decisions about how donations to SJASL will be spent, and so on.
-One coordinator oversees translations of written English readings, prayers, and worship songs into beautifully rendered American Sign Language, making the service fully accessible to members of the group, nearly all of whom are Deaf.
-There is also a primary person to create power point presentations and teach or give reflections, with others contributing every few weeks.
-A tech person runs our Zoom services, makes recordings, spotlights speakers (since Zoom currently is designed to follow voices to automatically shift to the next person).
-The recordings are uploaded on YouTube by yet another person for those who missed the service or simply want to see it again.
-Another person led the planning of our retreat and was the primary presenter there.
-We also have a scheduler, a treasurer, a hospitality person who sends cards from the group to those celebrating or experiencing loss. He also provides advent wreaths, Easter lilies, etc. as appropriate.

SJASL services are conducted in American Sign Language without English interpretation because it is so much more comfortable and meaningful to attend church in one's own language than to feel one-step removed by an interpreter from worship being conducted in another language. This is especially true for visually oriented people during an auditory-based liturgy.

What distinguishes us from most Deaf ministries around the country is that SJASL is run autonomously by Deaf members themselves. Unfortunately, the majority of Deaf ministries placed under the umbrella of a larger, English-speaking church, struggle with the "colonizing" effects described by Dr. Harlan Lane in his 1992 book *The Mask of Benevolence: Disabling the Deaf Community*. While benevolence itself is often perceived as positive, it can mask a harmful and oppressive assumption of superiority which causes a "disabling" lack of access for Deaf people.

(continued on next page)

Demystifying Stewardship *(continued)*

The desire to "help" Deaf people instills dependence in those being "taken care of." Far from "helping," this is seriously disempowering. It is found all too often in medical, educational and – sadly – religious contexts.

It is a testament to the sincere desire of the St. James' parish to recognize and acknowledge diversity in its many forms that the English-speaking church members at St. James' have not pushed for the ASL-signers to integrate into hearing services. Instead, Deaf participants are creating their own worship style, through active involvement in their own ministry.

As a person with hearing privilege and power myself, where do I fit into this ministry? I have been involved in the Deaf Community for nearly 50 years. I have had Deaf family members, Deaf colleagues, Deaf students, and many close Deaf friends.

It has been a journey of self-discovery, repeatedly facing my own erroneous assumptions and prejudices, as well as my own "need" to "help." Gradually, I've become able to see the world through a different lens. At St. James, I have two roles, one as a member of the (hearing) Vestry and the other as a co-participant in Deaf Ministry. Each feeds a different part of my soul.

I choose to participate in St. James' ASL not only because I have some skills I can contribute, but even more because I get so much out of it. Whenever we put effort into something, we invariably are enriched by it, as well.SJASL is a lively, supportive, intimate, growing group of individuals who are "there" for each other and striving collectively on an ongoing adventure toward ever deepening relationships with God. Formally on Sundays and informally throughout the week, it is a joy to be embraced by such fellowship. This is what I believe church is meant to be.

This is the second in a series for 2023, written by current members of the vestry. It is our goal through these monthly messages to share what Stewardship means to each of us.

BOOK CLUB IN MAY

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

Please join us for a book club discussion of C.S. Lewis' "Mere Christianity" during the month of May, 2023. We will meet on five consecutive Wednesdays from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the education room during May: May 3rd (Chapters 1 & 2), May 10th (Chapters 3 & 4), May 17th (Chapters 5 & 6), May 24th (Chapters 7 & 8) and May 31st (Chapters 9, 10 & 11). Everyone is welcome and you need not attend all meetings to come. Free copies of the book are at the back of the big church for those who plan to attend one or more meetings.

As John Wagas recently said in the March Window edition, the chapters are "transcribed from Lewis' original radio broadcasts" in 1942 and he approaches the "paradoxical grandeur and simplicity of the Christian faith with wonder, intelligence, emotion, sympathy, wit, and candor." The NY Times Book Review said: "C.S. Lewis is the ideal persuader for the half-convinced, for the good man [or woman!] who would like to be a Christian but finds his [or her] intellect getting in the way." The forward of the book says that Lewis seeks "to help us see religion with fresh eyes, as a radical faith whose adherents might be likened to an underground group gathering in a war zone, a place where evil seems to have the upper hand, to hear messages of hope from the other side."

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Saint James' Episcopal Church

37051 Cabrillo Terrace (at Thornton Ave.), Fremont California

Find us online at www.saintj.com

Called to serve, in new & loving ways.

PALM SUNDAY | April 2

8:00am & 10:30am

Blessing of the palms, followed by the grand procession into the church representing Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Holy Communion will include a sermon & will end with the reading of the Passion.

MAUNDY THURSDAY | April 6

6:30pm Gather, Service Afterward

A simple meal in monastic style will begin at 6:30pm. Following the meal, we will have the liturgy ritual of foot washing, continuing with Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar.

GOOD FRIDAY | April 7

12:00-2:00pm (Worship), 2:00-3:00pm (Stations of the Cross), 7:00pm (Worship)

Reading of the Passion and the Veneration of the Cross; The Stations of the Cross follows this service in the Big Church; Evening service of Lessons & Spirituals

EASTER VIGIL | April 8

8:00pm (at St. Anne's, 2791 Driscoll Road, Fremont)

Lighting of the Easter Fire, Stories, & Songs, with Easter Proclamation and Holy Communion

EASTER SUNDAY | April 9

10:30am (in the Big Church)

A Festive Service in the Big Church with music and Holy Communion, followed by the annual Easter Egg Hunt for Children and a reception hosted by the Vestry after the service.

Moving Toward Maturity

Reflection by Brian Cochran

"Could you not keep awake one hour?" *Mark 14:37*

". . . suffering produces endurance . . ." *Romans 5:3*

"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving." *Colossians 4:2*

"Lent is our battlefield with the false self." So says the monk Thomas Keating, OCSO, international leader of the meditation movement in Christianity. He guided the establishment and expansion of Contemplative Outreach, the organization which teaches Centering Prayer. And he carried forward this effort until his death on October 25, 2018 at the age of 95.

Lent is our battlefield with the false self. What does this mean? It means that we still have a ways to go in the struggle with the delusion that everything is okay. All we have to do is look at one day's headlines in the news to know this to be true. But the extremely difficult challenge is to look inwardly at our own lives and see the same thing, the delusion that everything is okay. It is not. We have not reached the full maturity of faith, hope, and love.

And so Lent, though it is nearly done, continues to provide us with the opportunity to fight the good fight. And the fight we are fighting is with the false self, our old emotional programs for happiness. Here is where the difficulty lies. We have built up strategies over a lifetime to make ourselves happy in the face of the challenges of life. But these are not the way that God would have us live to be happy. We see that death comes to all, but this is terrifying, and so we focus on distractions to avoid looking at this truth. We surround ourselves with protections to falsely reassure ourselves that everything will be okay. Based on the temptations of Jesus, Keating calls this first temptation the programs for survival and security. When the devil challenges the hungry Jesus to turn the stones into bread to prove his sonship, he is tempting Jesus to trust in his own power to miraculously survive, rather than in the care of God.

Image by Bro. Martin Erspamer, OSB

So Lent, with its call to fasting, reading, and prayer, provides us the means to trust in God for our survival, rather than depending on efforts to keep ourselves alive. We learn to let go of our false sense of control over our health and rely completely on God for this wonderful thing called life.

Reading Scripture or prayer can help straighten out our thinking about the second set of emotional programs for happiness: esteem and affection. These programs relate to the second temptation where the devil takes Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and challenges him to throw himself off, using Scripture to say that God will protect him. In doing some dramatic miracle in the temple courtyard, Jesus would have the attention and glory of a sports star. We long to be seen and praised for our efforts. And we go to great lengths to get the recognition we crave. But really, God is on our side and in our corner, giving us all the value and attention we need.

Finally, we follow Jesus' choice of God only when tempted by the devil with power. We can meet with God in silent prayer in order to turn over the control and power we falsely think we have or want over life . I let God work on my life to bring me the love, determination, and trust I need. Centering Prayer practice asks us to pray silently at least twenty minutes, twice a day, as the basic dose for transformation. This may seem like a lot. But otherwise, we are just dabbling, says monk William Meninger, OCSO, Keating's fellow monk who found the seeds of Centering Prayer in the old book The Cloud of Unknowing.

So I call myself and you to a holy Holy Week, to finish Lent strong with fasting (even partial fasting), reading, and prayer, silently coming before God, through Jesus the anointed one, in the power of the Spirit. And may we know the power of the resurrection in our own hearts this Easter.

See next page for Centering Prayer guidelines

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Stop the Bleed/First Aid Class

Saint James' and Saint Anne's Disaster Preparedness Team has scheduled two classes for First Aid/ "Stop the Bleed" on the following dates: **Sunday, April 16** from **12:30 PM** to **4:30 PM** and **Sunday, May 7** from **12:30 PM** to **4:30 PM**, with Life Support Services. Please select one class which fits your schedule. Lunch will be provided at 11:30 am.

The ***fee per person is $55***. Cost includes all books, materials, supplies, equipment and certification. Once registered, a link will be provided for the "Stop the Bleed" lecture portion, and the practical hands-on as well as first aid instruction will be conducted at class.

Sign up here: https://saintj.com/wp/ministries/disaster-preparedness-team/first-aid-class-registration/ or visit our website, www.saintj.com, to register by Sunday, April 9 for the first class and April 30 for the second class. This will allow enough time to view the online material prior to class. For more details, please contact Elaine Vallecillo-Miller at (cell) 510-432-8851. We need a minimum of 5 individuals to hold the class.

The Guidelines for Centering Prayer

The Prayer of Consent

Offered by Brian Cochran

1. Choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.
2. Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly and silently introduce the sacred word as the symbol of your consent to God's presence and action within.
3. When engaged with your thoughts,* return ever-so-gently to the sacred word.
4. At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.

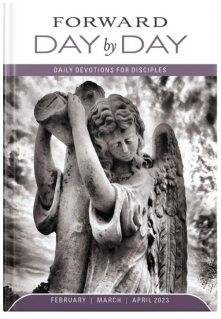
*thoughts include body sensations, feelings, images, and reflections

https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-method/

Forward Day by Day

February, March, & April

If you haven't already picked one up, the current edition of Forward Day by Day is available for pick-up at the church (either in the back of the churches on Sundays or outside the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays).



These devotionals, produced by the Episcopal publisher Forward Movement, provide a succinct opening into scripture and how our faith is woven into the fabric of life through daily devotions blending scripture with brief reflections.

May this booklet be a source of inspiration and consolation for you as we journey through this holy season of Lent and emerge into Easter and beyond..

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Bev Mosier, Junior Warden

The vestry met on Thursday, March 16, 2023. The vestry members gathered in person in the Education Room, while guests joined for part of the meeting via Zoom.

Vivienne Paratore once again led us in Dwelling in the Word before the meeting started.

Then, Rev. Lori began the meeting at 7pm by welcoming two Deaf guests from St. James' ASL, Ella Lentz and Celia May ("CM") Baldwin, to give a presentation about our Deaf ministry. CM provided some history of the group, Ella described linguistic differences between English and ASL and reasons that full accessibility for Deaf parishioners is facilitated by services in ASL, followed by a 6 ½ minute videoclip of excerpts from a variety of services.

Next, Rev. Lori opened us in prayer for the business portion of the meeting.

- ·We approved the January 27th and February 11th vestry retreat minutes, and the February 16 vestry meeting minutes.
- ·The February financial reports, and the February staff and ministry reports were also reviewed and approved.
    - ·Because of a substantial donation made by one church member in February, we are now in much better shape financially than we were one month ago.
    - ·There is some uncertainty about the stability of various banks at present, but Heritage Bank is still strong.

New and Continuing Business:

- ·Vivienne Paratore reported that the parish "timeline event" was attended by only 50 people total. Nonetheless, some excellent insights were shared during Dwelling in the Word and the timeline was successfully created.
- ·The volunteer spreadsheet and how to populate it was further explained.
- ·There is a possibility that a seminarian may join us 8-10 hours/week in September.
- ·The annual parochial report was reviewed and approved.
- ·Bishop Marc will come to St. James' on April 30th. He will do baptisms, confirmations, and receptions. Options for lunch afterward with members of the Vestry were discussed.

The meeting adjourned, and Vivienne Paratore closed the evening with Compline. The next Vestry meeting will be held on April 20.

WAYS WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER

WORSHIP

WORSHIP AT CHURCH

We offer two services on Sunday morning at 8:00am and 10:30am. Coffee and light snacks following each service. Join us for worship and fellowship!

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! The link can be found under "Upcoming Events" on the right side of our **website**.

Online Worship Resources | Link

This page on our parish website contains additional information and resources for online worship including links to our Sunday service recordings, a PDF version of the Book of Common Prayer (1979), daily scriptural readings, helpful websites, & more.

Follow us on Social Media!

FACEBOOK INSTAGRAM TWITTER

Find Links to service & sermon audio/video here:

YOUTUBE ITUNES SPOTIFY TUNEIN

LEARNING

BIBLE STUDIES

Monday | 11:00am on Zoom

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 on Zoom

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.

FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

There are many opportunities for fellowship at St James' including our Coffee Hour held after each service on Sunday mornings. Come over to the Parish Hall after worship for a cup of coffee, light refreshments and good conversation.

*Zoom links for all of our offerings can be found on our parish 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 on iTunes, Spotify, TuneIn, and Youtube. Go to our website for online worship resources. Like us on Facebook and Instagram! We also have a YouTube page, and a Twitter feed.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Saint James' Children & Youth Ministry | *Current Events*

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

Episcopal Youth Fremont is a youth group for 6th – 12th graders based at St. James' which meets during the school year. Any questions about our programs for children or youth? Email our Children & Youth Minister Jan Scrutton at jan@saintj.com.

Financial Summary | February 2023

Fund Balances	2/28/2022	2/28/2023
Operating Fund	89,005.95	69,034.45
Building Fund	66,311.61	95,231.18
Special Interest funds	325,118.52	642,753.01
Pledges Budgeted	61,463.34	57,455.67
Pledges Paid	65,073.02	71,734.48
Unpledged contributions	2,384.84	1,131.00
Other Operating Income	2,688.09	2,898.62
Total Operating Income	70,145.95	75,764.10
Total Operating Expenses	63,969.40	67,822.54
Income less Expenses	6,176.55	7,941.56

ALWAYS AT ST. JAMES'

PARISH CALENDAR

Access the church calendar **here.**

UPDATED COVID PROTOCOLS

A reminder that our protocols updated in November of last year, 2022.
In summary, the following are in effect:

- Masks are still strongly recommended, but not required.
- Those serving at the altar, as ushers, and as hospitality hosts will still wear masks.
- Vaccination status will not be verified, though we strongly recommend the most recent boosters, and request people are vaccinated.
- The churches will still be ventilated but can be modified to accommodate the weather.
- The choir has returned to offer anthems and musical leadership.
- Holy water has been returned to the fonts located at each entry.
- Coffee hours are both inside and outside for folks to choose where they'd like to sit.
- Wine is offered by intinction (dipping the host into the wine), with the clergy intincting the host for the communicant.

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

BLESSING BAGS FOR DISTRUBITION

In these difficult times, let us remember those who are without housing or essential needs. Our Blessing Bags are available for you to give away. Each bag contains toiletries, food, socks, a mask, and other necessary items. 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 make a donation to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. If you would like to contribute material items, please check with either Marcus Pun or Mary Frances Leopold as to what is needed **before making a purchase**.

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, and at the back of the Big Church on Sundays

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.

SIGN UP | DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

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 **www.diocal.org**.

CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS | ZOOM

Tuesday mornings from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM.

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. 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 **www.saintj.com**.

NEWS FOR APRIL

SAINT JAMES' PRAYER LIST

Most Holy God, we pray:

For Those in the Military
Jarrod, Megan, Theresa, Mark, Tim, Caitlin, Emily, Robin, 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 Expecting Children
Evan & Yaneyt, Franklin & Brittany

For Those Who Need Comfort, Strength, & Guidance
the Paratore family, Delores, Molly, Jill, Matthew, the Evans family, Glenn, Stanley, Melvin

For Those Who Need Healing
Ron, Julie, Gail, Craig, Linda, Diane, Barry, David, Pat, John, Rachelle, Werner, Nancy, Carol, Bill, Elaine, Travis, Lucia, Ellison, Nathan, Dennis, Paul, Connie, Al, Gabbi, Dana

For Those Who Have Passed Away
Richard, Audrey, David, Alfred, Sue, Jan, Thomas, Peter

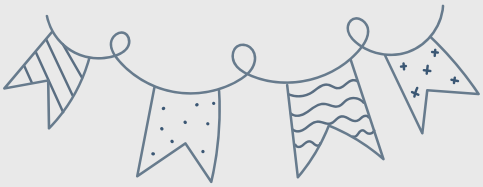
To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please call or email the Church Office. After six weeks, names are removed from the list. Please renew your request as needed. Thank you!

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

Email your submissions to newsletter@saintj.com by April 20.

BIRTHDAYS
APRIL

8	Tarunpreet Ubhi
10	EJ Hilliard
13	Brigitte Reynolds
14	Tim Feeney
16	John Michael Butterfield
	Stuart Langs
17	Tom Scrutton
20	Ruth Poole
21	Elvin Maina
22	Elaine Maina
23	Karl Drescher
24	Bill Hale
26	Elizabeth Hart
	Michael Hart
28	Al Casas



ANNIVERSARIES
APRIL

9	Amy & Mark Reynolds
17	Nadia & Giri Singh

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MAILING *PO Box 457 Fremont, CA 94537-0457*

WEBSITE *www.saintj.com* **TELEPHONE** *(510) 797-1492*

OFFICE HOURS *Wednesdays & Thursdays* | *10 AM – 1 PM*

Called to serve, in new and loving ways.

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton | *Rector*..... **lori@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 MEMBERS

Senior Warden
Meg Amouroux | srwarden@saintj.com

Junior Warden
Bev Mosier | jrwarden@saintj.com

Nancy Castaneda
Samir Kalitta
Peter Maina
Greg Miller
Charisma Pangilinan
Vivienne Paratore
Marcus Pun
Barbara Vacchieri

Vestry Clerk **Elizabeth Hart**

CONVENTION DELEGATES

Elaine Vallecillo-Miller
Jim McConnell
Scott Whitaker
Ken Trant
John Wagas

Alternate to Convention **Sally Morgan**

Contact us: **stjdeanery@saintj.com**

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday Services:
In-Person | 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Live-streamed | 10:30 AM, recording available to view after.

Wednesday Service:
Online/Zoom | 10:00 AM

IMPORTANT COORDINATORS

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors
George Siegmann

Eucharistic Visitors
The Rev. Lori Walton

Ushers
Burtin Hart

Facilities **facilities@saintj.com**

The Window Newsletter Staff
Laura Winter
John Wagas **Brian Cochran**
Marilyn Rose **Gregg Feeney**