# THE WINDOW

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

OCTOBER 2023


## Demystifying Stewardship | Why I Volunteer at St James'

*Written by Samir Kalita*

When I first joined the St. James' community, it had been quite a while since I had regularly attended church. My family and I somewhat regularly while I was growing up and as I got older, would attend services here and there but never really attended through a full year. This sporadic attendance meant most of my understanding about giving at church was limited to what I learned as a child, putting a few dollars in the collection plate, and maybe helping to clean up occasionally. Through my first year or two at St. James', my initial understanding about stewardship was much like what I thought as a kid, committing to support the church financially and helping to clean up occasionally. Then I started really listening to others as they talked more in depth about how they serve the church; donating their time, skills, and resources to help prepare the church for services, maintain the buildings & grounds or helping in hundreds of other ways. This really resonated with me as I have always enjoyed volunteering and service projects are a lot of fun for me. I started helping with our annual campout, maintaining the campus, and yes, still helping to clean up occasionally.

A few years ago, I was asked to join the Vestry. My initial reaction was to say no but that was mostly because I didn't understand what the Vestry was and what they did.

After learning about how essential the Vestry was and how the time commitment really wasn't anywhere near what my imagination thought it would be (just a handful of hours each month), I decided to accept the invitation. My first year on the Vestry once again expanded my understanding of stewardship. I learned about how much thought Reverend Lori and the Vestry put into the focus of our stewardship at St. James'. I saw how this focus moved out beyond just the grounds of St. James' and how it touched the lives of so many other people in our community.

As my spiritual growth has continued, so has my understanding of service, giving and stewardship. I have learned how just a little help in an area (like picking up something to include in our Blessing Bags or helping to prepare a meal at Sunrise Village) can have a huge impact in the lives of others. While the church does depend on financial giving, there are so many other ways to help St. James', the people in our parish, and the people in our community. For me, I enjoy being outdoors, camping and cooking, making the annual campout and campus cleanups perfect for me. I would encourage all of you to think of how your natural interests could help lead you to one of our ministries and explore the different ways you can help serve God.

***This is another in our 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.***

# VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*Submitted by Bev Mosier, Jr Warden*

The September vestry meeting was held in person and via Zoom and opened with Vivienne leading in prayer at 7:00PM. We welcomed our new seminarian, Karla Koon, who attended the meeting to observe.

Meg reminded the vestry to sign up for the Faith & Friendship Dinner Groups, if they are interested and haven't yet signed up. Bev gave updates on Hope and Miriam, the two Kenyan college students currently in their second year whom we have supported through Maisha Bora since they began high school 6 years ago.

The vestry approved the August 17 vestry meeting minutes, the August financial reports, and the August staff and ministry reports.

Meg reported the results of two email votes to be entered into the record:

1. choir retreat expenses (funds were approved but were later cancelled due to a change in plans)
2. scholarship distribution from the Sarah F. Morgan Scholarship Fund (passed unanimously)

In addition, the vestry voted to:

1. Trim three ash trees for a total of $5,000. Will be funded from the Endowment fund as a capital expense. A huge branch fell off the tree outside the Vestry Room window on September 12. Two separate professionals determined that neither that tree nor the two other ash trees need to be removed. Trimming will prevent further branches from falling.
2. Authorize a continuation of our rector's medical benefits for the coming year at the same level as this past year.

There was a discussion regarding an upcoming Ministry Leader/Participant lunch on October 8, a gathering to discuss hopes and needs for our ministries and how to best invite others into ministry. We began a brainstorming session to identify new income streams, including stewardship and outreach. We are not yet in dire financial straights but could be in a few years if we cannot find sources for supporting ourselves better financially.

An update was provided for the April request for funding from the bishop for family leave. The diocese donated $2500 to our special interest account, "Rector Sabbatical", a fund which covers clergy at St. James', e.g., in the event Rev. Lori is away for a longer period of time.

The business portion of the meeting was closed at 8:45 and Vivienne led compline. The next vestry meeting will be held on October 19.

*The Vestry usually meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. The same pre-pandemic format is being followed as per usual, and meetings are now hybrid with in-person and remote attendees. Draft agendas are published in advance on our parish website.*

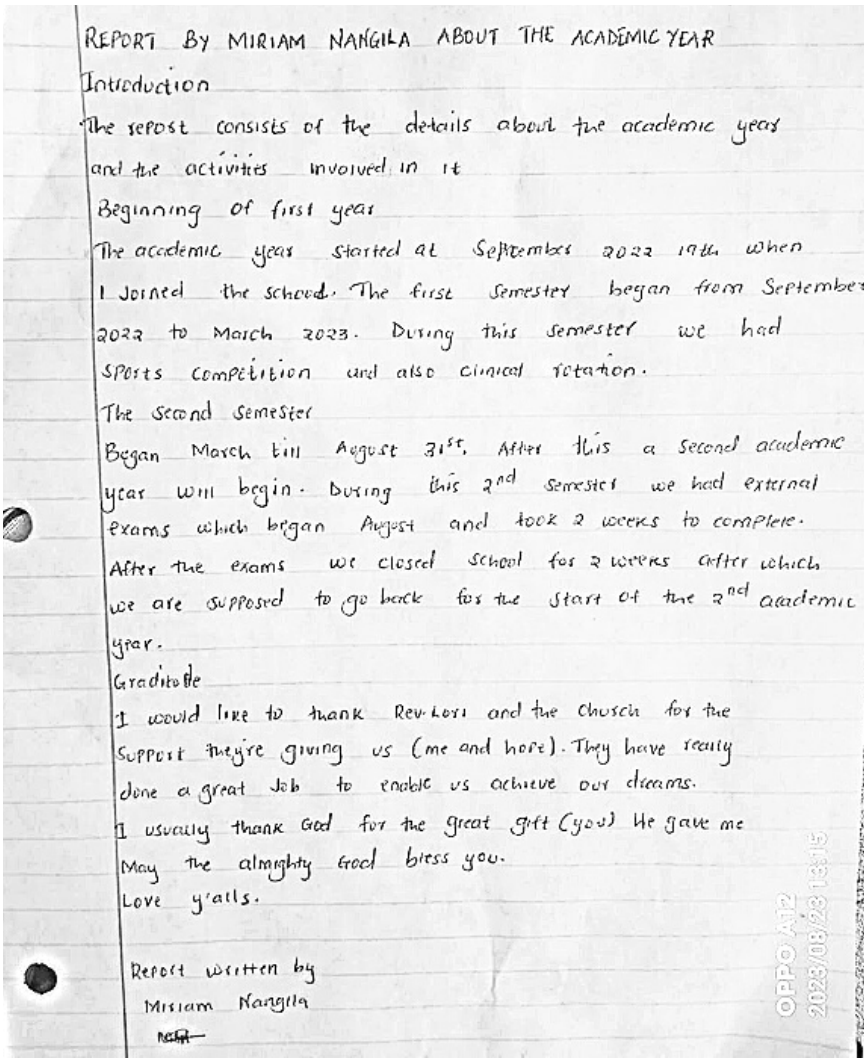
# MAISHA BORA UPDATE

*Received from Anne*

Hope and Miriam have gone back to college for the start of their 2nd year course. Hope went back on 4th September and Miriam went back on 12th September. It's a bit of a difficult time in Kenya economically because, apart from trying to bounce back from the Covid crisis, there is political instability from last year's elections. However, the school programs are moving on and thankfully, our students are back in school and are able to concentrate with their education because the institutions are enclosed. We are praying that the nation will soon realize political stability so people can be able to handle other important life needs

I'm hereby sending you some letters from Miriam and Hope, they like doing hand written ones and I'm sending as they are, and also some pictures.

**Thanks so much for your support to the two girls!**



REPORT BY MIRIAM NANGILA ABOUT THE ACADEMIC YEAR

Introduction

The repost consists of the details about the academic years and the activities involved in it

Beginning of first year

The academic years started at Septembes 2022 19th when I Joined the school. The first semester began from Septembes 2022 to March 2023. During this semester we had sports competition and also clinical rotation.

The second semester

Began March till August 31st. After this a second academic year will begin. During this 2nd semester we had external exams which began August and took 2 weeks to complete. After the exams we closed school for 2 weeks after which we are supposed to go back for the start of the 2nd academic year.

Graditude

I would like to thank Rev Lori and the church for the support they're giving us (me and hope). They have really done a great Job to enable us achieve our dreams.

I usually thank God for the great gift (you) He gave me

May the almighty God bless you.

Love y'alls.

Report written by

Miriam Nangila

# MAISHA BORA UPDATE (cont.)

Nanyole Hope Achieng
B.Sc Environmental Health
Year. 2.1. 23/08/2023.
Moi University - College of Health Science

Report on the first year on campus

The semesters
There were two semesters during the first academic year. but no activities during the first semester but in the second we did visit some place

Exams
I did exams for both first and second semester; the results are yet to be released but hopefully by the end of this year they'll be out

Activities
I managed to go to the slaughter house and was able to witness the whole process of slaughter and inspection of food animals. We expect to be visiting the mortuary

Holidays
The holiday was from end of May to 7th September and am ready to go back and see what's more.

Conclusion
Overall, I would have made this far had it not been God and the great support from you the church and the Maisha Bora team. May God bless you all!

Report by:
Nanyole Hope Achieng

# LADIES FLATLANDERS 2023

*Submitted by Mary Casas*

The Ladies Flatlanders trip was held at Pajaro Dunes in Watsonville again this year with 7 ladies in attendance. The house we stayed in had a beautiful view of the ocean complete with pelicans flying by and fishing. We enjoyed a lot of laughs , walks on the beach, great food, and solved a beautiful puzzle!

Patty Lacy led us in Morning Prayer on Sunday morning. It's always a pleasure to worship with the sound of the ocean in the background.

We are always excited to welcome new friends, and reconnect with old friends at this yearly event. Next year's weekend will be September 12-15, 2024. We would love for you to join us.

# Prayers We Pray | The Gloria, Part 1

*Submitted by Brian Cochran*

"Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth."

*—The Book of Common Prayer*

What is prayer? My introduction to prayer came through the Protestant Christian tradition. I grew up attending Atwater United Methodist Church, including Sunday school, youth group, and Vacation Bible Schools, where I enthusiastically sang songs like "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" and "Praise Ye the Lord, Alleluia!" (Jennifer Ravera still leads this second one in St. James' summer Day Camps.) Our VBS also collected money for the Heifer Project. Several ministers prepared me for confirmation during my early teen years. And I distinctly remember one teaching me about prayer using the acronym A.C.T.S. which stands for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Two decades later I learned about and started practicing silent Christian prayer when I met Episcopal priest Ken Kaisch.*

We pray the hymn called The Gloria every Sunday at the 8:00 am service right after the Collect for Purity (which I wrote about last month). Sometimes The Gloria is sung at 10:30. It is a very ancient Christian psalm, based on Luke 1-2 and the Psalms in the Hebrew Bible. It includes all the aspects of the ACTS acronym. Being Christian it uses the Trinity as an outline just like many of our prayers and confessions.

It begins with the prayer "Glory to God," which, as I saw in preparation for this article, is deceptively simple. The word glory has several different nuances, even in this prayer, and this first use is no different. It could mean "praise be" or "blessed be" or it could mean "attention to" God.

I like the idea of "may attention be drawn to God" here because we are at the beginning of the service and after having sung a hymn, invoked the Trinity in the acclamation, and prayed the Collect for Purity, we are ready to focus on God. This definition of glory is clear in the sentence, "Steph Curry gets all the glory." There is a secondary sense of praise too, but attention is the stronger meaning. So maybe we could translate "Glory to God in the highest!" as "Let's pay attention to God who is beyond everything we could think of!"

Giving attention to God like this then leads to God's people resting in peace.

Next comes a flurry of titles and images of God the Father: "Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father." We call God "Lord," which is a word for leader or owner (think landlord), "King," leader of a nation, "almighty," that is, all powerful, and "Father," one of the leaders of a family. After addressing God in these (admittedly masculine) ways, we express our intentions to worship, thank, and praise "you for your glory." There's that word glory again, but this time it means something like "brilliance" or "splendor." After recognizing God as our magnificent leader, we commit to declaring worth, thanks, and praise to the shining Divine Presence. What a lovely meditation.

Here ends the first part of the hymn. Next month I will talk about the second half, which focuses on the second person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ. Glory to God in the highest!

* author of *Finding God: A Handbook of Christian Meditation*, Paulist Press, 1994

***This article is the second in a series on the prayers of our church.***

# The Gloria

*Submitted by Brian Cochran*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen

*—The Book of Common Prayer (1979), p. 356*

# 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 2023-24 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 | August 2023

| Fund Balances | 8/31/2022 | 8/30/2023 |
|---|---|---|
| Operating Fund | 38,471.10 | 54,499.02 |
| Building Fund | 96,695.52 | 95,473.57 |
| Special Interest funds | 637,930.58 | 649,679.96 |
| Pledges Budgeted | 245,853.34 | 229,822.67 |
| Pledges Paid | 232,163.55 | 244,769.14 |
| Unpledged contributions | 8,757.97 | 6,671.00 |
| Other Operating Income | 10,902.76 | 10,901.68 |
| Total Operating Income | 251,824.28 | 262,368.82 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 262,749.19 | 268,962.69 |
| Income less Expenses | (10,924.91) | (6,593.87) |

# 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**.

## 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, meeting on Zoom. *The Monday Morning Bible Study resumes on October 16.*

**Monday | 7:00pm on Zoom**

New Bible Study begins Monday, October 2. Learn about the Acts of the Apostles. For more information, contact Bev Mosier at bevjcan@gmail.com or 971-218-2462 (voice/text)

**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.

**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

**Find Links to service & sermon audio/video here:**

YOUTUBE SPOTIFY

APPLE TUNEIN

## 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, 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 & Twitter feed.*

# ALWAYS AT SAINT JAMES'

## PARISH CALENDAR

Access the church calendar **here**.

## UPDATED COVID PROTOCOLS

A reminder that our protocols updated in May of this year, 2023.

***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 now fully indoors.
- Wine is offered in a common cup. Intinction is no longer permitted. If you do not want to receive the wine, cross your arms over your chest.

For further details, please see Rev. Lori Walton's **pastoral letter of May 2, 2023**.

## BLESSING BAGS FOR DISTRUBITION

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.

## 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 10:00AM – 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 OCTOBER

## 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, Emma, and those in our families and communities named in our hearts.

**For Those Expecting Children**

**For Those Who Need Comfort, Strength, & Guidance**
The fire victims of Lahaina, Sherlene, Mitch, Cathy, Karyn, Gaston, Kevin

**For Those Who Need Healing**
Ron, Julie Gail, Craig, Linda, Barry, David, Pat, Elaine, Betty, Debbie, Nancy, Nadine, Donna, Bishop Michael, Linda, Janet, Carol and Frank, Kit, Angela

**For Those Who Have Passed Away**
Lee, Bishop "Bud", Marilyn, Jack, Rick, Diane

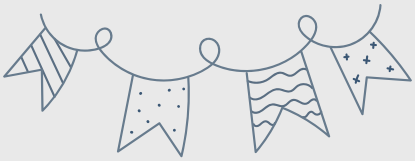
***To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please call or email the Church Office.*** After six weeks, names are removed from the list. Please renew your request as needed. Thank you!

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

***Email your submissions to newsletter@saintj.com by October 20, 2023***

## BIRTHDAYS
OCTOBER

| | |
|---|---|
| 6 | Lynn Locher |
| 7 | Mary Casas |
| 8 | Keith Westra |
| 9 | Beth Scrutton |
| 12 | William Feliciano |
| 18 | Samaira Ubhi |
| 19 | Sherea Westra |
| 22 | Samira Kalia |
| 22 | Alyssa Koonze |
| 23 | Marilyn Rose |
| 25 | Gloryanne Bryant |
| 28 | Leticia Rodarte |
| | Kyler Westra |



## ANNIVERSARIES
OCTOBER

| | |
|---|---|
| 15 | Dave Nelsen & Linda Zetterholm-Nelsen |
| 20 | Meg & John Amouroux |
| 31 | Antwanette & Brando Bragg |

**ADDRESS** *Thornton Avenue at Cabrillo Terrace, Fremont CA*

**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 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**