THE WINDOW

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

FEBRUARY 2024

Demystifying Stewardship | Why I Volunteer at St James'

Written by Peter Maina

I started attending Sunday School when I was about 4 years old. My brothers and I would get up early in the morning, dress up and go to church for Sunday school. I remember Sunday was the only day we used to wear shoes:). On Saturdays we used to go clean the church compound and mop the floor. In addition, we used to set up chairs and tables for the Sunday service the following Sunday morning. It was a commitment I valued so much and there was no reason not to show up. When I grew up about 12 years we joined youth and responsibilities changed. We used to clean the church compound, act dramas in the church and even compete with other churches acting dramas based on different bible stories. In the youth stage/ teenage, we used to bring different agricultural products to church for fundraising. Sometimes we brought our goods from home like chicken, yams, avocados, cassava among other farm products to sell for fundraising. The money generated from selling these farm products was for development of the church.

The above experience got me to volunteer at church at an early age. Now here at St. James' I feel that there is a need for us all to come together to serve our living God. There are so many ways to serve God here at St James'.

We need to support the church with our finances and time volunteering. There are many ways to volunteer at St. James' church you can help in ushering, work parties (cleaning of the church compound) that happens once a month on Saturdays, join the choir, read the lessons, join vestry, kitchen, bring snacks ,stewardship committee and many more ways that you can support St. James' church. The bible reminds us about giving: in Corinthians 9:7 is a verse on giving that emphasizes the importance of giving with a joyful and willing heart.

This is why I volunteer at St James'. It fulfills my heart with joy and it is something that has been in me since I was young. You may want to consider where you can help / volunteer at St James'. There are tons of opportunities out there that you can pick one activity that you may wish to do. Ask yourself what is one thing that I can serve at St James'. God has given you good health and you can choose one way to serve HIM here at St. James'. It is WE, the St. James' members who run the church and make everything good happen here at St James'. Ask yourself: *"What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?" Psalm 116:12*

This is the last in the series for 2023, written by current members of the vestry.
We look forward to the 2024 vestry members contributions to The Window, with a new theme.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Pancake Supper *(the Evening Before)*

Please plan to join the St. James' community as we prepare for the Lenten season, sharing a traditional meal of pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage. This special event takes place on Shrove Tuesday, February 13, the day before Ash Wednesday.

Thanks to a generous donation there will be no charge to participate in this event. It is very important to sign up if you plan to attend to ensure we have adequate provisions. You will find the sign-up sheet in the parish hall. Dinner will be served between 5:30 and 7:00.

The Pancake Supper is put on by the men of St. James'. There is a sign-up sheet in the parish hall for those willing to serve at this fun event. We need help setting up, preparing, cooking, serving and cleaning.

Call Dave Nelsen at 510-673-5042 with any questions.

ON SATURDAY MORNINGS DURING LENT

Praying with St. Ignatius for Lent

Saturdays in March
(March 2, 9, 16, 23)
10:00-10:45am
Facilitated by Reverend Lori

Ignatian prayer is a particular way of praying that is imaginative, reflective, and personal. St. Ignatius Loyola encouraged people to develop an intimate relationship with a God who loves us, trusting our human desire to draw near to God and to return God's love.

Ignatian prayer places great emphasis on the power of the imagination to deepen our relationship with God. One expression of this type of prayer, often called the Spiritual Exercises, is to use your imagination to engage with scripture as a participant, not as a detached observer.Take, for example, the healing of the blind man Bartimaeus. The person in prayer might feel the heat of the sun, smell the passing animals, hear the noise of the crowd, all while watching Jesus as he approaches the man, heals him, and disputes with the angry Pharisees.

This Lent, gather in the Education Room from 10:00-10:45 on four Saturdays in March to enter into this deep prayer using the stories of Jesus entering Jerusalem, turning the tables over in the temple, having his last supper with the disciples, and walking the walk to Golgotha.

Our time together will begin with a short instruction, reading the scripture out loud, a time for prayer, and a debrief afterwards.

ON TUESDAY EVENINGS DURING LENT

A Note on the Parish-Wide Email

This email address, **parish@saintj.com**, is a way for parishioners to share messages with the whole parish. If you are a member of the group you can send an email that will be released by a moderator. When you send a message you don't see it in your inbox but there is no need to send it again. If you wish to respond to a message please only reply (not reply all) to the original sender.

Some people have said they don't receive parish@saintj.com emails. This may be for one of two reasons – firstly those messages may be going into your spam folder. Please check your spam folder before inquiring about missing emails. Secondly you may not be signed up to receive them.

If you'd like to add your email address to the list please message our administrator Ron, admin@saintj.com

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Building Hope, Creating Change: 2024 Corazón Home-Build Trip

Submitted by Meg Amouroux

Embark on a transformative journey with Corazón, joining friends from the Southern Alameda Deanery on an impactful trip to Mexico from June 28-30, 2024. Together, we will construct a home – in one weekend! - and unlock doors of opportunity for our neighbors in Northern México. Our construction projects ensure safe and secure homes for families. Volunteer groups, led by experienced builders, construct 16x20 homes in one day. No experience is necessary—just bring your enthusiasm!

In underserved communities, life-altering opportunities may seem distant, but at Corazón, a passionate coalition of volunteers from the U.S. and México unite to make dreams a reality. For over 45 years, Corazón has woven a tapestry of dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and grateful beneficiaries from diverse faiths.

Key Details for the 2024 Southern Alameda Deanery Trip:

- **Build Date:** June 28-30, 2024
- **Departure:** Friday, June 28th
- **Return:** Sunday, June 30th
- **Registration Link:** Corazón.org/3433_alameda

What is Corazón? Corazón, Inc. is a 99% volunteer-run nonprofit formed in 1978, meeting immediate needs and following the "comunidad Corazón" approach.

Is it Safe? More than 20 U.S. nonprofits operate in Baja California yearly, with no reported incidents since 2007. All participants will be required to show that they are fully vaccinated. In addition, a mask must be worn while working inside the house once the walls go up and the roof goes on.

What Do I Need to Bring? Basic supplies like a hammer, safety glasses, and other items are helpful. A complete list of tools you could bring can be provided.

Do I Need a Passport? Yes, U.S. citizens need valid travel documents.

How Will We Get to Chula Vista? Either with other St. James' attendees or on your own, drive down or fly to San Diego. The deanery will arrange transportation into Mexico. Most get to San Diego in personal vehicles.

How Will We Get Into Mexico? Professional bus service ensures a safe journey.

Cost and Dates: The deanery takes care of food on Friday & Saturday nights, and Saturday & Sunday mornings (you will be responsible for food while on the road). You are welcome to help pay for gas in the vehicle you are riding in. St. James' financial contribution to the deanery's 2024 home build has been approved by the vestry, with funds coming from our Corazon special interest account.

Where Will We Stay? A church in San Diego hosts us for Friday and Saturday nights. We will worship with our host parish before heading home at the end of the weekend. You may also stay at a local motel if you like.

Who Can Participate? Entering 6th grade through adults are welcome.

Construction Skills Needed? None! A willing heart and readiness to work and serve are all you need.

Join us in making a lasting impact. St. James' has participated in this program with our friends at the other Southern Alameda Deanery parishes with donations and volunteers for many years. Visit **corazon.org** for more information.

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Bev Mosier, Jr Warden

Note: St. James' Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, January 21, meaning that as of the time of publishing, it has already transpired and that vestry members alongside deanery representatives have been elected.

This year's first vestry meeting, which was held in-person in the Education Room, was held on January 11. It began at 7:04PM with Barbara Vacchieri opening in prayer.

Monthly Business: The December 21st vestry meeting minutes, the December staff and ministry reports, and both the December and end of the year (2023) financial reports were all reviewed and approved.

New and Continuing Business

- The vestry voted to contribute $2,500 from our SI Corazon Account to the Corazon Build Project, 2024 in Tijuana, Mexico for the weekend of June 28th-30th. Volunteers are needed.
- Meg Amouroux, Samir Kalitta, Greg Miller, and Bev Mosier's vestry terms are up this month. New vestry members will be elected at the annual meeting on January 21st. The candidates are John Amouroux, Gregg Feeney, Burton Hart, Matt Hurley, Kaethe Langs, and Ann Saponaro.
  - *Editor's Note: All candidates listed above were elected, along with Deanery representatives Mary Frances Leopold, Mike Scrutton and Ken Trant*
- The 2024 Budget was discussed and approved. For the first time in many years pledges are slightly higher than proposed expenditures, i.e., we have a new budget in the black.

The next Vestry meeting will be held in the Education Room on February 15th, in-person only. There will no longer be any hybrid (Zoom and in-person both) vestry meetings. Even months will be on Zoom only. Odd months will be entirely in-person.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM and Barbara led the vestry in Compline.

The Vestry usually meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. There will no longer be any hybrid (Zoom and in-person both) vestry meetings. Even months will be on Zoom only. Odd months will be entirely in-person. This month's meeting will be held February 15th in the Education Room. Draft agendas are published in advance on our parish website.

John McCutcheon's Final Concert at The Club Saint J

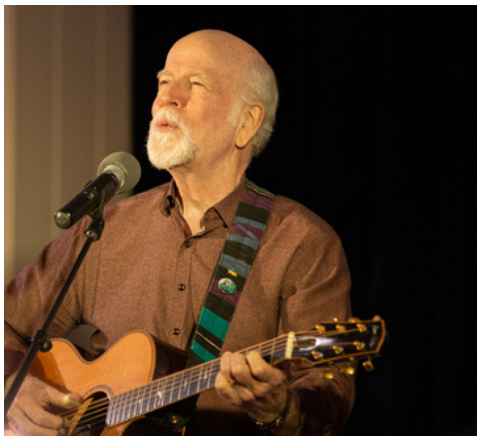
Written by Bruce Roberts

A cold night outside, but this last concert gave us a warm, cozy feeling inside. From "The Best Thing Man Has Ever Done" to "Good Night Irene," we (the audience) applauded loudly. As he has in the past, John's stories, the reasons for his songs, help make the music so much more meaningful. His memories of his first guitar, his relationship with Woody Guthrie's songbook and his hometown librarian made the song live for the audience.

John took us on a musical ride from home to Fitzgerald, Georgia, to the desert, to the Bible, to France in WWI, to Winchester, Virginia and more. Choosing guitar, banjo, autoharp, or fiddle to magnify the musical words, John sang and played so the audience could better feel the story. Even in "Willie's Waltz" the hammered dulcimer spoke to us because we now knew the story behind it.

Part of John's concert may seem like one has heard it previously. That's the part when John asks for requests. Naturally, the requests are songs he has sung for the St. James' crowd before. Songs like "Soup" where the audience gets to say the "Ahhh" part of the song, or the chorus of "Kindergarten Wall" or "Leviathan" played on the hammered dulcimer sounding eerily like whale song.

A lot of John McCutcheon songs sing about real love or they call out those who don't show love; and that is why his songs show so much heart, so much of why he has been invited back so all these twenty years. John's tribute to Bud Pearson centered on Bud's long association with John and the concerts. It will be difficult in the future to hear John's version of Pete Seeger's "Turn, Turn, Turn" without thinking of Bud.



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 WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

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

Find Links to service & sermon audio/video here:

YOUTUBE APPLE 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**.

Monday | 7:00pm on Zoom

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.

FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour is held after each service on Sunday mornings. Come over to the Parish Hall after worship and join us for a cup of coffee, light refreshments, and good conversation. Everyone is welcome!

*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.

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 | DECEMBER 2023

Fund Balances	12/31/2022	12/31/2023
Operating Fund	58,238.14	84,867.04
Building Fund	95,160.53	95,614.66
Special Interest funds	215,421.74	245,248.80
Pledges Budgeted	368,780.00	344,734.00
Pledges Paid	358,146.77	373,271.21
Unpledged contributions	34,667.97	12,633.49
Other Operating Income	15,583.20	30,755.19
Total Operating Income	408,397.94	416,659.89
Total Operating Expenses	396,701.06	392,885.74
Income less Expenses	11,696.88	23,774.15

ALWAYS AT SAINT JAMES'

PARISH CALENDAR

Access the church calendar **here.**

COVID, COLD & FLU PRECAUTIONS

- Please keep yourself and others safe by staying home if feeling unwell, getting your vaccinations, and wearing a mask if you want to be extra cautious.
- A reminder that we are sharing a common cup during communion.
- If you are concerned about drinking from the chalice, receiving only the bread is a full and complete communion.

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.

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, we ask for $25 cards for gas, Safeway, Target, Walmart, or Lucky. 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. If you are interested, email Sylvia at **hsiehtinghsueh@yahoo.com**. The link will also be found on the parish website's calendar.

NEWS FOR FEBRUARY

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, Lucia, Travis, Jasmine, and those in our families and communities named in our hearts

For Those Expecting Children

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength, & Guidance
Loretta, Mike and family, Ruben, Titah, David, the Johnson family

For Safe Travels

For Those Who Need Healing & Comfort
Ron, Julie, Gail, Craig, Linda, Barry, David, Pat, Elaine, Betty, Kit, Sheila, Becky, Wally, Michael, Nancy, Lisa

For Those Who Have Passed Away
Ginny, Gus, Mary-Paule, Melvin

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.

*The next issue of The Window is in **March 2024**.*

*We welcome your comments, essays, poems, photos, book reviews, newsworthy items, and any group activity information in Word or .jpeg format by **February 20, 2024.***

BIRTHDAYS
FEBRUARY 2024

3	Mike Scrutton
4	Bruce Roberts
7	Linda Zetterholm-Nelsen
8	Linda Gentner
10	Brandon Bregg
11	Darcia Feeney
14	Barbara Duncan
18	Margaret Broun
20	Rebecca Dunn
25	Maresa Decena
26	Lauren Doherty
	Francis Singh
	Scott Whitaker III
27	Christopher Ma
28	Amy Davis
	Luke Scheuffele

ANNIVERSARIES
FEBRUARY 2024

15 Bob and Lauren Doherty

24 Vivienne and Charlie Paratore

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* | *10:00am – 1:00pm*

Called to serve, in new and loving ways.

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton | *Rector*.....**lori@saintj.com**
Karla Koon | *Seminarian*.....**karla@saintj.com**
Jan Scrutton | *Children and Youth Minister*.....**jan@saintj.com**
Jennifer Ravera | *Music Director*.....**music@saintj.com**
Ron Cook | *Office Administrator*.....**admin@saintj.com**
Bruce Roberts | *Treasurer*.....**treasurer@saintj.com**

VESTRY MEMBERS

Senior Warden
Vivienne Paratore | srwarden@saintj.com

Junior Warden
Charisma Panginilian | jrwarden@saintj.com

John Amouroux
Nancy Castaneda
Gregg Feeney
Burtin Hart
Matt Hurley
Kaethe Langs
Peter Maina
Marcus Pun
Ann Saponara
Barbara Vacchieri

Vestry Clerk **Elizabeth Hart**

CONVENTION DELEGATES

Mary Frances Leopold
Mike Scrutton
Ken Trant
John Wagas

Alternate to Convention **Jim McConnell**

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

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday Services:
In-Person | 8:00am and 10:30am
Live-streamed | 10:30am with recording

Wednesday Service:
Online/Zoom | 10:00am

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