The Window

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

JULY 2024

Never Losing That Connection With Church and God

Written by Gregg Feeney

Keeping the connection with God and your church community is key to life. Church was a big part of my life until I went to college up at Humboldt State back in the late 70's. Back then the PC had not been created and there were no mobile phones, getting a letter to my girlfriend Darcia took 5-7 days, and phone calls were over 45 cents per minute. I did attend a Lutheran church occasionally, but I did not have the feeling of community. None of my peers were attending and I lost that connection.

Moving to the Bay Area in 1982 with Darcia took us away from our families located in the San Joaquin Valley. We searched for a Catholic church because that was what we were raised with. I struggled to find the connection I needed. Darcia's friend started attending an Episcopal church down in San Jose and told Darcia about it, and how it was easy to transition over from the Catholic Church to the Episcopal Church. I believe we started attending St. James' around 1996 and we needed community to help get through losing my father-in-law to a long battle with cancer in late 1995. It was very hard on our family due to the love and caring he gave to us.

Finding St. James' was the connection I was looking for to heal and get closer to God through community. I found the church that I had been searching for a long time. We got hooked in with the Newcomers group and started to participate in coffee hour, Sunday school, and many activities. The readings and sermons were key to our enrichment. When I pull into the parking lot at St. James', whether it's for Sunday worship or other activities, I feel that strong connection of community.

Since joining the vestry, I see what pulls us all together and want to keep the connection to God. We are a diverse community and we need to keep growing in our faith and size. Looking back on how I lost that connection, I realized that had there been a greater outreach to college students and young adults, I would have stayed connected. I did not have cell phones or slick laptops / iPads to divert my attention away. There were other ways.

During our Vital & Thriving meeting last weekend, we brainstormed and came up with great ideas that the Steering Team will review and come back to us on how we can implement them. How do we minister to the new arrivals to our area, the disenfranchised church-goers and seekers? We need to be more outward looking and use our resources and land to bring new members to us. St. James' collectively survived the pandemic and we are continuing to keep the spiritual values of Jesus alive. I truly appreciate what our leaders and fellow parishioners did to keep us going, and I will continue to be a part of a community that I needed 28 years ago.

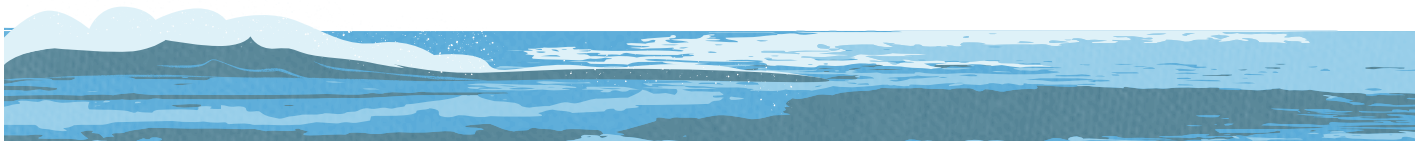
UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Ladies' Flatlanders | St. James' Women's Weekend Getaway

Ladies' Flatlanders, our weekend at the beach, spent in fellowship, fun and friendship, returns **September 12-15, 2024**. We get away to the shore – **renting a townhouse at Pajaro Dunes on Monterey Bay**. We gather as a chance to relax, share our stories, walk on the beach, eat good food, and enjoy!

The weekend is **open to all women between the ages of 21-99**. We always welcome new & returning participants.

Look for a signup sheet soon in the Parish Hall. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Castaneda, Mary Casas, Laura Winter, or any other women who have attended in the past.



VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Charisma Pangilinan, Jr. Warden

The Vestry met by Zoom on June 20, 2024 with Peter Maina beginning with opening prayer at 7:01pm.

Monthly Business

- Oral Communications
  - Charisma Pangilinan gave a reminder to the Vestry members who still need to complete the Whole and Healthy Church training online.
  - Vivienne Paratore informed the Vestry that we were notified by the neighboring church that during their fire department inspection, the inspector noted that the weeds along our back fence near the school were too high and needed to be trimmed. Vivienne took care of the weeding herself with her own weed whacker. We noted that the back area needs to be maintained just as much as the front of the property during our Campus Cleanup parties.
  - Both Vivienne and Charisma gave an update on the Safe Parking Program. We are on track to host in July. A sign up sheet for volunteers to do sign in's and sign out's can be found in the Parish Hall. Bob Dougherty is painting temporary numbers on the spaces that we will use for the participants.
- Voted and accepted approval of the May 16 Vestry meeting minutes.
- In the absence of the Treasurer, Vivienne reviewed the financial reports. Pledges down 2.54%, perhaps because people are not keeping up with their pledge. Overall, the budget is still in the positive by $32. Several comments that the cost for the Memorial Garden clean up was well worth it. The gardener did a fantastic job. Voted and accepted approval of the May financial reports.
- Voted and accepted approval of the May staff and ministry reports.

New and Continuing Business

- Voted and approved an additional $300 contribution for the Corazon build. Reminder that the participants are Antoine Alcazar and his girlfriend Kimberly, Missy & Victor Bontempo, Charisma Pangilinan and Jasmine Reynolds. Griselda Prather is no longer participating this year.
- Discussion held regarding the possible hiring of an soprano section lead for the choir from September to December. Payment for this person would partially come from a donation from a parishioner and part from budget. A few Vestry members commented that they would prefer more accessible songs sung so more of the congregation is encouraged to sing. Ultimately, the Vestry were not compelled to make a motion for a vote.
- Charisma gave an update on the planning for the Feast of St. James' coming on July 21. The committee met and agreed on owners for specific tasks. Also, solicited additional Vestry members to help specifically on the morning of the event to set up the pop up tents, tables, and chairs.
- Vivienne checked in with the Vestry if anyone had read the hand outs she previously distributed regarding alternate income streams and if there were any further thoughts. Charisma commented that she recently had an idea that if we built a second columbarium in the little church and raised the price even slightly per unit, it could potentially bring in about $80-100K in new revenue. Gregg Feeney suggested every Vestry member check out...

New and Continuing Business ***(continued)***

- **...**the website or call 3 churches to see what they do for fundraising or revenue generation. Vivienne notified the Vestry that we will break out into our small group discussions during our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57. Peter Maina led us in Compline.

Creating a Legacy Planned Giving at St. James'

Written by Meg Amouroux

On Sunday, June 2, 2024, St. James' welcomed J. Davey Gerhard, the Episcopal Diocese of California's Canon for Stewardship. Davey preached at both services and met with the congregation to talk about giving to the life of our parish. He shared ideas and answered questions about planned giving, remembering St. James' in our wills, and how making regular gifts in small amounts over time can make a significant impact.

By asking attendees to share stories of St. James' friends who have gone before and have gifted us in various ways, we heard about Penny and Brad, about Dorothy and Joan. We heard about their welcoming energy, their giving of their time, their sharing the sacredness of spaces on our campus. Davey said, "So I wonder if St. Dorothy and St. Joan and St. Penny and St. Brad ever imagined that we would be sitting around talking about and telling their stories, yet that's what we do. That's what we do with people who inspire us, who remind us, who welcome us into a place." Hearing about their impact on so many of us, we were asked to consider how our own legacies might be remembered. We are reminded that we might not ever see or understand the effects of our works, efforts, and gifts, but they are surely felt. Planned giving, also called legacy giving or estate planning, is one way that you may endow the ministries at St. James' in perpetuity. Gifts to our Endowment act as your eternal support to your church and the people it serves into the future.

Canon Davey's visit was hosted by the St. James' Endowment Board. The Board encourages those who have given gifts and/or have remembered St. James' in their wills, to talk with others as to why it is important to you to give these gifts for the future of our parish. For more info about planned giving, visit diocal.org/giving.

2024 Annual School Supplies Drive

Each summer (for 10 years now) St. James' collects school supplies and donations to support children and young people preparing for a new year at school or college. **This year we will be collecting donations – of supplies and financial donations - until July 21, the day of our St. James' Day** celebration, to allow our partners time to get the supplies to the children most in need. You can support us by **purchasing supplies from the list** found on our **parish website** and dropping them at church by Sunday, July 21st. Alternatively, you can **make a cash or check donation** ('School Supplies' in the memo line) at church or by mail to PO Box 457, Fremont, CA 94537.

WAYS WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER

LITURGY & 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

Follow us on Social Media!

FACEBOOK INSTAGRAM

Find Links to service & sermon audio/video here:

YOUTUBE APPLE SPOTIFY TUNEIN

LEARNING

SCRIPTURE/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 for the Zoom link or find it alongside more information on our parish **website**.

Wednesday | 11:00am on Zoom

Join us for Bible Study at 11:00am held on Zoom and facilitated by Rev. Lori, who will send out a link to a short video and discussion questions. Email Rev. Lori at lori@saintj.com to be added to the 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

Summer Sunday School | Current Events

Sunday school will not meet during the 10:30am Service in July and early August. Children are always welcome in worship, with wiggles and noises too! Activity sheets and a book area are available in church and there will also be opportunity for assisting in the service with Jan, our Children and Youth Minister. Sunday School returns on August 18th and we will celebrate Back to School Sunday on August 25th.

Episcopal Youth Fremont

Episcopal Youth Fremont (EYF) is a youth group for 6th – 12th graders based at St. James' which meets during the school year. Contact Jan for info about summer plans and to express interest in our 2024-5 youth confirmation program. Any questions about our programs for children or youth? **Email our Children & Youth Minister Jan Scrutton at jan@saintj.com.**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY | MAY 2024

Fund Balances	5/31/23	5/31/24
Operating Fund	80,948.55	61,125.02
Building Fund	95,365.01	95,796.26
Special Interest Funds	643,397.57	691,066.21
Pledges Budgeted	143,639.17	165,721.25
Pledges Paid	174,914.14	161,514.82
Unpledged Contributions	3,961.00	4,330.00
Other Operating Income	7,149.81	$ 8,133.31
Total Operating Income	186,024.95	173,978.13
Total Operating Expenses	166,169.29	173,946.00
Income Less Expenses	19,855.66	32.13

Celebrating Our Graduating Seniors

Written by Jan Scrutton

Each year at St. James' we celebrate the graduation of High School Seniors. While many of our young people will experience promotion to new schools, completion of important stages of education or graduations, we take a moment to recognize that move from high school to the wider world. That transition and all the choices and opportunities it presents is a major one.

This year we have two people to recognize who have both graduated from Washington High School in Fremont (Go Huskies!).

We congratulate our two young people on their graduation and hold them in our prayers as they move on to their next adventure.

Keira Westra

Keira Westra has been a member of St. James' since she was born. During her high school career she has enjoyed volunteering at elementary schools as part of the school People of Volunteering club and serving on Interact, a service club. Keira has memories of Easter Egg hunts on our campus and also attended our early summer camps. This fall she will be attending CSU Long Beach as a Liberal Studies major with the intention of becoming an Elementary School teacher.

Anna Davis

Anna Davis joined us at St. James' with her family when she was 13 and recalls helping to paint our outdoor nativity set. Amy has been writing since middle school and specifically been writing poetry for around a year and a half. She has done theater at high school and stage managed/assistant stage managed four productions. The fall will see her start her studies at Boston University with the hope of becoming a lawyer or a professor in the future.

Prayers We Pray

The Lord's Prayer

Written by Brian Cochran

Some years ago I led a Faith Formation series at St. James' on Passage Meditation with an 8-part program created by a Fulbright Scholar from India **(https://www.bmcm.org/learn/)**. This wonderful framework for the spiritual life begins with meditating on a passage you have memorized. To make it easier to get started, I suggested everyone meditate on the Lord's Prayer. We already have that memorized, and yet, for me at least, there was a lot in it that was unexplored. Meditating on this passage, word by word in silence, everyone in the class received insight.

I had been praying the Lord's Prayer for fifty years, but had I really been praying it? Had I just been reciting it from memory, mouthing the words rather than speaking directly to God? When I began practicing Passage Meditation, I began to pray the Lord's Prayer in earnest. The meaning of the prayer began to reveal itself to me in deeper and deeper ways. This is what the founder of Passage Meditation had promised would happen when we practice this!

Rather than comment on the prayer this month, I'm going to encourage you to practice Passage Meditation with the Lord's Prayer (or any other passage you choose). Take a set time (5-10 minutes, or more), set a timer, and sit quietly with the intention of meditating on the Lord's Prayer. Go through it slowly, one word at a time. When you reach the end, return to the beginning of the passage and start over. At the end of your set time, thank God and the Lord Jesus Christ for your time together and for this prayer. If you like, write down something in your journal. Try it again the next day. Who knows? Maybe this will be the beginning of a new adventure in your life as it was in mine!

Modern Lord's Prayer

Book of Common Prayer (1979) | Rite II

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your Kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

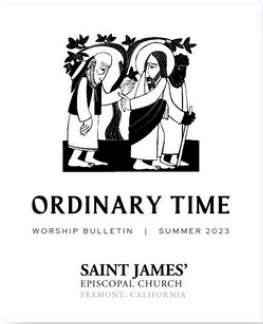
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.

Now and for ever. Amen.

Worship Bulletins | Available



Pick up a worship bulletin if you would like a guide to help you pray with us.

Available on Sundays on the table near the front door of the church, or ask an usher for one.

We provide printed worship bulletins containing the prayers & responses alongside margin commentaries with theological reflections & historical context.

Worship bulletins are designed by parishioner John Wagas in collaboration with Rev. Lori Walton and Jennifer Ravera, our Music Director.

Children & Community Outreach

Written by Jan Scrutton

In 2024, we have continued our efforts to support children and families in our local community (Union City, Newark & Fremont, as well as the greater Bay Area) in different ways.

A new project we have connected with in 2024 is the City of Fremont Low Income Summer Camps Program. The city gathers donations from organizations, 100% of the donations is directed to low income families who need support to enroll their children in city programs such as Swim Lessons, Tiny Tots, camps, reading development, art classes, and more.

Our donation of $750 will support 9 children attending one of these programs.

You will also notice, in recognition of our support, St. James' is named on the sponsors board outside Aqua Adventure in Central Park, Fremont.

This summer we will also be holding our 11th Annual School supplies drive supporting Union City Family Center and Abode Services.

We recognize how important it is for students to arrive in school prepared to learn, and one thing we can do to help them is to provide the resources they need.

Many schools in our local school districts regather in early August so our school supplies campaign will run until our St. James' Day celebration, Sunday July 21st. You can buy supplies from the shopping list (a printable version is available here - **https://saintj.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/School-Supplies-Drive-2024.pdf**

Or you can donate cash/checks to at church, labeled 'school supplies', and we will shop for the items most needed by each group at the end of July.

Thank you for supporting our community outreach programs!

ALWAYS AT SAINT JAMES'

PARISH CALENDAR

Access the online parish calendar **here.**

DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of California, or DioCal, publishes a weekly newsletter every Thursday via email which you can receive by signing up on their website **HERE**.

For more information on diocesan events, staff, offerings, and resources, visit **www.diocal.org**.

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 to pick up during office hours, Wednesdays & Thursdays between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, in the parish 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.

MORNING CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS | ZOOM

Tuesdays | 10:00AM – 11:00 AM

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 JULY

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For Those in the Military
Jarrod, Megan, Theresa, Mark, Tim, Caitlin, Emily, Robin, 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

For Those Expecting Children

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength, & Guidance
David, Brian, Pat, Garrick, Ally, the Helmer family, Brandon, Mark, Taniel, the Peters family, the Rux family, the Yokom family, the Spalding family, the McCoy family

For Safe Travels

For Those Who Need Healing & Comfort
Ron, Julie, Gail, Craig, Linda, Barry, David, Elaine, Kit, Sheila, Margaret, Jim, Karla, Lynate, Dave, Shirley, Amanda, Ron, Paul, Ellison, José, Bodil, Cherie, John

For Those Who Have Passed Away
Betty, Brennen, Jack, Pat

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

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

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

BIRTHDAYS
JULY

4	Bob Bynum
9	George Siegmann III
11	Craig Gentner
17	Angela Casas
	Judy Gough
	Marcus Pun
18	Anne Blalock
19	Nadia Singh
22	Antoine Alcazar
24	Barbara Kostick
27	Evelyn Martinez
	Buffy Reis
28	Gregg Feeney
	Bev Mosier
	Jan Pearson
31	Leland Scheuffele

ANNIVERSARIES
JULY

24	Marilyn & Don Rose
25	Bill & Arlene Hale

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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 Pangilinan | 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 **Gregg Feeney**
Brian Cochran