The Window

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

AUGUST 2024

Sharing Joy: We Just Can't Keep it to Ourselves

Written by John Amouroux

I recently returned from a trip to Las Vegas. I was there to see a concert, but I did spend a good amount of time walking through many casinos while touring the strip and avoiding the 110 degree heat. These casinos are quite ornate, flashy, and mesmerizing places. As we know, all this extravagance serves a purpose: to push us towards gambling to try to win a jackpot and take home a huge prize. I don't really gamble, but while was there I couldn't help but think about how I would feel winning such a prize. I know I would be full of excitement and joy, a joy I would not be able to keep to myself. Yes, the kind of joy where I would have to, "Go, tell it on the mountain!"

The words of the classic spiritual "Go Tell It On the Mountain" say to announce that Jesus Christ is born. It is a song filled with the joy of salvation, and full of encouragement to share that joy. So, thinking of my imagined Vegas winnings, would I be sharing my joy by telling all my friends and family of my fortune? I guess I could post it on Facebook as well? Maybe I could put up some highway billboards? And internet ads? In this technological era I think it would not be very difficult to let the world know of my joy. Maybe I would also rent out the finest restaurant in Fremont and invite all my friends and family to a giant celebration. Surely that's spreading joy

Okay... I have to admit that none of this would even begin to come close to allowing others to share in my Vegas jackpot joy. It would only serve to advertise my fortune and vanity. So what would be better alternatives? How about if I paid off my nephew's student loans? My sister's mortgage? My cousin's medical bills? What if I had won enough money to buy a vacant lot and put up tiny homes for the unhoused? Yes, I think you'll agree that efforts like these would touch people's lives in a meaningful way, and thus allow them to start to substantially share in my joy. It would help to directly connect them to the joy I received from winning that jackpot.

So what about this year's vestry theme of "Go tell it on the mountain". As I've hinted at above, it seems to me that sharing the joy of winning a Vegas jackpot can be compared to sharing the joy of our salvation obtained through Jesus. But it is not enough just to tell others about Him. Consider how many of us have converted to the LDS church because of those well-meaning young people on bicycles frequently knocking on our doors? Or think about those recent "He Gets Us" commercials? They have nice sentiments, but I highly doubt they have much of an effect for the vast majority who see them. These are not joy-spreading actions.

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Sharing Joy *(continued)*

Unlike the case with my imaginary Vegas winnings we all don't have loads of extra money sitting around. We understand that sharing the joy of knowing salvation through Jesus through financial means is important, but it is not sufficient in and of itself. We can spend an afternoon helping a friend with a celebration of life event for their deceased parent. We can monitor parking lots to ensure the Fremont Safe Parking clients have a safe and welcoming place to spend the night. We can help prepare meals for the poor. We can build up bags of essentials to hand out to the unhoused we encounter in our daily travels. We can help build homes in Mexico for needy families. We can visit the home-bound and do errands for them for which they are unable to do.

With joy and through our blessings we at St. James' already do all these things, and so much more. But we are few, and the needs are great. Churches can be found on almost any corner but joy is still a scarce resource in the world. We have it; others need it. We know how to cultivate it. Consider the kind stranger you may meet today. Or the friend you haven't seen in a while. Maybe you can invite them to join us, to receive joy and to help us spread it further. What we have here is very special and we can't just keep it to ourselves. I invite you all to continue to think about how to further share our joy, how to "Go tell it on the mountain".

May God continue to bless us, and bless our community through all we do!

JULY VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Charisma Pangilinan, Jr Warden

The Vestry met in person on July 18, 2024 with Gregg Feeney beginning with opening prayer at 7:01pm.

Special Guest: Bev Mosier presented on International Outreach Opportunities. St. James is looking for new organizations to support when support for Maisha Bora ends next year. The options are Love Quilt Project, Kenya Connect, and Imara International - all youth education focused.

Monthly Business

- Oral Communications
  - Gregg brought up volunteer opportunities for Abode. They need help loading & delivering fruit and vegetables from Whole Foods to their location. Gregg will offer out to the parish to contact Abode directly.
- Voted and accepted approval of the June 20 Vestry meeting minutes.,
- Bruce Roberts, Treasurer, reviewed the financial reports. Budget is in the black by $5919. Voted and accepted approval of the June financial reports.
- Voted and accepted approval of the June staff and ministry reports.

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VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS (*continued*)

New and Continuing Business

- The Vestry discussed and did a straw vote for the new international outreach opportunity. An actual Vestry vote for the organization will be moved to the August Vestry meeting.
- We re-addressed the possibility of hiring a section lead for the choir. As the original budget was approved in January, Rev. Lori informed us we need to continue with the authorization of hiring. The section lead will hopefully bolster the voices in the choir.
- Charisma gave an update on St. James Day preparations. We have about 75 people signed up on the parish hall and online form. Vivienne will purchase food for 100 people. We already have enough dry paper products for the day. We will be joined by members of the Filipino congregation. We have adequate volunteers to help with set up.
- Charisma gave an update on the SAFE Parking Program. Snacks are now limited to two boxes which will be left outside for the participants to take from whenever they arrive during the night. We discussed the possibility of getting the participants each a gas card. John Amouroux offered to write something up for the Thursday email asking parishioners for donations. Charisma will purchase the cards in bulk. We also have a new tow company, Allied Towing, who will hopefully be more responsive than the previous company.
- Moved into Executive Session to discuss the Postulancy application of John Wagas. Voted and approved endorsement for his postulancy application.
- Updates from Rev Lori:
  - St. James' will be hosting the Fall gathering of the Vital + Thriving teams.
  - In a previous meeting with Bishop Austin, she gave him an update on our situation of needing more family leave for the rector.

Reminders

- John Amouroux wrote the newsletter article for the Window for August *(See Page 1)*.
- The September newsletter article is assigned to Charisma Pangilinan, due August 20th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02pm, and Gregg Feeney closed the meeting with Compline. The next Vestry meeting will be held on Zoom on August 15th. Charisma has opening prayer and Compline.

The vestry meets via Zoom in the odd months (January, March, etc.) and meets in-person in the parish hall during the even months (February, April, etc).

Corazon 2024 Build

Written by Charisma Pangilinan

If I had to describe what the Corazón build is like in one sentence, I'd simply say it's an exercise in faith. One has to have faith that a group of individuals, some without any formal experience in construction, can build a home in one day. You have to have faith that you can work joyfully side by side with 50 strangers, some who speak or understand little English. There has to be faith that after a long laborious day in the sun, you'll walk away exhausted but fulfilled, knowing that you helped protect a family and allowed them to sleep better that night. All of this is exactly what happened at the end of June when **Jasmine and I, along with Victor, Missy, Antoine and Kemberlee** traveled down to San Diego and into Mexico to join the Corazón Construction team.

We had a very early start that Saturday morning, But at the end of day, four walls and a shingled roof, built by separate teams, all rose up to fit together like pieces of a puzzle. The finished home came complete with three windows, a sleeping area loft and a separate room for a toilet. The home was painted bright blue on the outside and a neutral beige on the inside. The family of three were clearly touched when they took possession of the keys to the front door. Many were brought to tears at the sight of it. The six of us all agreed that we would happily participate again in a future build.

St James' Day - July 21, 2024

Lots of fun was had during our Feast Day Celebration. One service, combining the parishioners from 8:00 and 10:30, and our friends from the Philippine Independent Church who regularly worship in the Little Church on Sunday afternoons, made for a full church, filled with the Holy Spirit, laughter, music and joy!

After worship, we continued the celebration with great food, good conversation, a large Jenga game, and pictures with St James' himself!

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. Acolyte training, for existing and interested acolytes (2nd grade and above) will take place on Sunday, 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 | June 2024

Fund Balances	06/30/23	06/30/24
Operating Fund	74,001.83	67,012.13
Building Fund	95,400.41	95,829.56
Special Interest funds	637,127.43	689,919.18
Pledges Budgeted	172,367..00	198,865.50
Pledges Paid	196,031.14	199,189.92
Unpledged Contributions	5,206.00	5,230.00
Other Operating Income	8005.77	9,320.68
Total Operating Income	209,242.91	213,740.60
Total Operating Expenses	196,333.97	207,821.36
Income Less Expenses	12,908.94	5,919.24

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 AUGUST

PARISH PRAYER LIST

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

For Those Expecting Children
Franklin & Brittany

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength, & Guidance
David, the Yokom family, the Spalding family, the McCoy family, Margaret, Willie, the Lorenzo family, Willie, Margaret

For Safe Travels
Byron

For Those Who Need Healing & Comfort
Ron, Julie, Gail, Craig, Linda, Barry, David, Elaine, Kit, Sheila, Margaret, Jim, Karla, Ron, John, Maria, Pankaj, Tom, Lisa, Alicia, Maria, Bernie, Paul, Ellison, José, Bodil, Barbara, Jen, Vickie

For Those Who Have Passed Away
Betty, Pat, Ellie, Harry

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 September. We welcome your comments, essays, poems, photos, book reviews, newsworthy items, and any group activity information.

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

BIRTHDAYS
AUGUST

2	Ralph Locher
4	Adam Locher
	Griselda Prather
6	Shalini Singh
9	Julie Reis
10	Joey Carini
16	Matthew Dunn
18	Becky Whitaker
20	Ella Rodarte
21	Vivienne Paratore
26	Paul Cudlip
	Ken Trant Jr.
	Rachel Whitaker
27	Barbara Johnsen
	Roberta Tomkinson
	Steve Vacchieri
28	Antwannette Bregg
29	Dave Nelsen
31	Simran Ubhi

ANNIVERSARIES
AUGUST

6 Mike & Jan Scrutton
8 Judy Gough & Ella Lentz

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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