The Window

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

OCTOBER 2024

Who Are Our Neighbors

Written by Matt Hurley

While thinking about this article I asked ChatGPT to write a sample essay answering the question "who are our neighbors." I was simply curious to see what would happen. What it returned was a very pleasant, if generic, article about looking beyond the people who live next door and including the strangers we interact with, pass on the street, or drive past on a daily basis. Most of us at St. James' grew up in a religious tradition, be it Episcopal, Roman Catholic, or something else. I expect we have all encountered this idea before, to think beyond those who look like us, act like us, and are familiar; to consider those who are clearly different.

Where I struggle recognizing my neighbors is not "showing a simple smile to the grocery store checker," as ChatGPT implored, but in seeing people who look like me, live near me, and have similar backgrounds but believe things and act in ways that are offensive and destructive. How do I see a neighbor in someone who believes the worst stereotypes or disrespects my marriage to Will? What if the person is a family member? How do we see God in them?

I recently had an experience where a family member referred to our wedding as a "union ceremony" along with saying other offensive things. Despite our best efforts, the respect and consideration we have extended is not reciprocated. Seeing God in those who offend us can stretch us to our breaking point, but it is an important aspect of living our faith. We are called to love our neighbors, including those who hurt or anger us.

This does not mean we compromise our beliefs or set aside our principles. True integrity comes from understanding the tradeoff between compromise and principle. Integrity is about being whole, consistent, and steadfast in our values and demonstrating them for others: living our faith consistently, being authentic, honest, and transparent, respecting differences and boundaries, recognizing the image of God in others.

Acting with integrity, especially in the face of those who criticize or disrespect us, is essential to proclaiming the gospel message. It forces us to live our lives in a way that reflects the teachings and values of Jesus. We are called to both stand up for justice (Isaiah 1:17) and to show love and compassion to those around us (Mark 12:30 – 31). In these circumstances it may seem that these two parts of scripture are in conflict, but they are not. Instead, they are a challenge to extend the grace and compassion of our faith to all.

(continued on next page)

Our actions speak louder than the words we say. Being a good neighbor simply requires an open heart and a willingness to see beyond the surface-level connections we share. By living our values, with integrity, we demonstrate God in our lives; we tell it from the mountain.

California Coastal Clean Up

Submitted by Jan Scrutton

A small team marked the Season of Creation by getting involved in the 40th Annual California Coastal Clean Up on Saturday September 21st.

Events are held all over the state and we joined the East Bay Parks Event at the Hayward Regional Shoreline and enjoyed the opportunity to chat with each other while cleaning up trash that would otherwise enter the bay and eventually the ocean.

Some of the more interesting items collecting included an inner tube and car parts. We were told not to collect the glass in the bay because it came from a glass factory previously on the site (and there was a lot of it!)

After returning home I did a little more research into the history of the site to understand the quantity of glass, pottery and debris in the mud (it had been low tide).

The shoreline in this part of the bay is now protected but any trash from sources over 50 years old is considered historical and hence cannot be collected.

Along with the glass factory dump this shoreline is impacted as it was used after the 1906 earthquake to dump some of the city debris cleared from Oakland and San Francisco - perhaps explaining the number of leather shoe parts we saw, along with a lot of pottery.

Our approach to looking after the bay has certainly changed in the last 100 years!

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 follow 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.

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Charima Pangilinan

The Vestry met on September 19, 2024 with Charisma beginning with opening prayer at 7:03pm.

Monthly Business

- Recorded email vote for Investment of cash on hand into CDs.
- Recorded email vote for Lease of parking spots to Swoop Transportation. Working out very well.
- Recorded email vote for emergency plumbing repair in Parish Hall.
- Preliminary discussion regarding Land development of Park. Charlie Paratore gained information from an architectural firm and the City of Fremont for planning services.
    - The architectural firm explained that the first stage is to do a feasibility study, i.e., is there anything underground. Feasibility study is about $5k. The study would tell us what potential we have to use the land for alternate income streams.
- Gregg Feeney offered to bring free cardboard from his company if we want to use it to lay down in the park to combat weeds.
- Voted and approved $1260 taken from Memorial Garden SI Account to purchase 20 columbarium canisters.
- The Vestry will be preaching on Oct 27th. Burtin and John at 8am. Vivienne, Charisma, Matt at 10:30am.
    - The group should connect separately to determine logistics and review the lessons.
- Voted and approved/authorized updated Personnel Handbook.
- Vestry went into Executive session to discuss employee benefit packages. Voted and approved the same benefit package offered today for employees working 30 or more hours. This is for next year's budget.
- Vivienne reviewed the process for email voting, especially regarding the text notification about the email. The text is only a courtesy notification and is not to be used for discussion.
    - There is no need to reply or acknowledge the text. The first email is for discussion. The second email is for the vote and should not be copied to all.

Reminders

- Matt is assigned the newsletter article for the Window for October. Due September 20. ***(See Page 1)***
- The November newsletter article is assigned to Barbara.
- Rev. Lori is on a Clergy retreat Sep 25-27.
- The next Vestry meeting is on Zoom on October 17 with Kaethe assigned opening prayer and Compline.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm., and Rev. Lori closed the meeting with 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).

Maisha Bora Update

Submitted by Bev Mosier

St. James' has been supporting two young Kenyans, **Hope Nanyole** and **Miriam Nangila**, for 6 years now through Maisha Bora, which means "Quality of Life" in Swahili. Maisha Bora provides scholarships for girls from poor families who could not otherwise attend school.

We have been paying Hope and Miriam's tuition and other school-related fees since their first year in high school. At this writing, they have just completed their 2nd years at their respective medical colleges in the fields of surgical technology and nursing.

Despite serious ongoing political turmoil in Kenya, Hope and Miriam continue to maintain academically. The situation is dire, however. Political unrest has long impacted all aspects of Kenyan life, but it feels especially dangerous at this time.

Just since June 2024, more than 60 Kenyan university students have been killed and a greater number abducted during what were originally peaceful nationwide protests. Many of the abducted are still missing and there is an increasing outcry from families and supporters. Yet, the government continues to ignore their pleas.

Anne Mwaura, the director of Maisha Bora and our liaison with Hope and Miriam, reports that she is also fearful for the welfare of her own sons, Jacob, a senior in high school and Viktor, his older brother. She asks for our prayers for all young Kenyans, including her own boys.

See the following page to read the letters sent to us by Hope and Miriam.

Letter from Hope

Written by Hope Nanyole

ACTIVITIES

This year we've done several official activities, which include:

Trip to Kisumu

At Kisumu, we looked into port health both at the Airport & lake port; rice irrigation and processing, fish processing, and many more.

This enlightened us and enabled students to get different views of what was expected of them after graduation. The trip occurred early February.

Study and Exam

The semester was a productive one as we gained more knowledge. Knowledge that was to be used during the Community Based Education Session (COBES) activities.

Exams were done but results are yet to be released for both semesters 1 and 2. They are expected to be released before the end of the year.

COBES

This is a field work activity that took 6 weeks. It began on 5th of May. I was stationed at the Bukura Community Health Center.

Interaction with the Bukura Health Center and staff gave us a rough idea of the state of the healthcare system. The community was also receptive and resourceful to our practical learning

In conclusion the year has been a bit smooth with little challenges.

Letter from Miriam

Written by Miriam Nangila

Praise God Rev Lori and the church, hope you are fine in the lord me too. First I would like to appreciate you for the financial support you've given me and the love you showed me, for by doing this you have enabled my learning to run smoothly.

Right now I'm still in the 1st semester of the 2nd academic year. This semester has been so busy as we are having rotation in the hospital where we serve patients and the school also expects you to revise for the external exams which are going to take place in November. It's only God's grace and motivation which keeps me moving
because it is not that easy.

Last week we went for the interview at Cure Hospital as the school required us to do some clinical rotations in that hospital rather than working at our hospital - Kijabe hospital so as to have more experience and change the environment. The interview ran smoothly and I have just received a congratulations message from Cure Hospital that I have passed the interview and could start doing the clinical rotation either from September or October according to our school schedule. This made me happy as I am willing to gain new experience from the new hospital. This semester is going to end in August 2024 After which next week will be the beginning of a new semester which will run from September 2024 to March 2025.

Rev Lori and together with the church you are my family and you have played a great role for me to be where I am today. My prayer to you is according to Psalm 67:1 because of the wonderful work you have done for me and other people.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Summer Sunday School | Current Events

Sunday School, for children in TK- 6th grade, meets weekly during the 10:30AM service. The children gather in church and head to the Sunday School classroom when the service begins and returning 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 2024-25 school year and all families are encouraged to complete it.

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.

Any questions about our programs for children or youth?
Email our Children & Youth Minister Jan Scrutton at jan@saintj.com.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY | August 2024

Fund Balances	08/31/2023	08/31/2024
Operating Fund	54,499.02	52,621.22
Building Fund *	95,473.57	295,903.30
Special Interest Funds *	649,679.96	507,472.22
Pledges Budgeted	229,822.67	265,154.00
Pledges Paid	244,769.14	250,059.92
Unpledged Contributions	6,671.00	6,380.00
Other Operating Income	10,901.68	11,617.70
Total Operating Income	262,368.82	268,057.62
Total Operating Expenses	268,962.69	276,529..29
Income Less Expenses	(6,593.87)	(8,471.67)

* 2024 Building Fund temporarily holding $200,000 of Special Interest funds

Ladies Flatlanders Trip 2024

Submitted by Laura Winter

Once again, a group of women spent a lovely **weekend at the Monterey Bay coastline in September**. Each year we gather in fellowship to renew and refresh together. Old friends and new, we share conversations, walks on the beach, game playing, and Sunday morning worship. All through the weekend we find time for delicious food, sharing in the preparation, eating and cleanup. Laughter permeates the atmosphere. There is time for quiet conversations, naps, and reading for those who desire peace and quiet. This year fourteen ladies participated: Nancy, Linda K, Laura, Jackie, Jan, Julie, Linda H, Sylvia, Lettie, Patty, Lin, Cathy, Jay, and Linda N (that's a lot of Lindas!)

The weather cooperated Thursday evening and we enjoyed the view of the sun setting over the water. Much of the rest of our time there was spent under grey skies, but it did not damper our time together. Our Sunday worship service celebrated sisterhood & community as we rejoiced in the faces around us.

We spoke of power of water – the sound of the surf just outside our windows, in the food and drink that sustains us, and in our baptism with God. We read an essay written at Flatlanders ten years ago by Connie Rux that sums up our time spent together. The committee reserved our spot for **next year's Flatlanders weekend from September 18-21, 2025** (mark your calendars now!). We realize that some of us struggle climbing all the stairs in the unit we have rented in the past. Though we love the space we have been using, the comfort and accessibility for all to participate is more important. Therefore, next year we are renting two units; one has only one flight of stairs, with some sleeping spaces on the same level as the community spaces.

If you have declined to participate in the past because it seemed too difficult to reach, please consider attending in 2025.

And as always, please talk to Nancy Castaneda, Laura Winter or Mary Casas to find out more and answer your questions.

Men's Mountain Trip 2024

Submitted by Gregg Feeney

A group of us tried a new spot this year as a change of scenery. We traveled to **Groveland and stayed at a home in the Pine Mountain Lake gated community.**

We had our traditional Thursday dinner at a local pub. Our group solidifies our plans for the next couple of days. The food was good and we enjoyed watching and listening to the karaoke participants. None of us felt like participating in karaoke; not even our 2 choir members.

Friday morning, we split up with four of us golfing and two went to Yosemite. Bruce took some great photos while he and Jim spent the day there. It was a long day for all and came back to reflect on past trips. We missed Bud and Bob, and said a prayer and raised our glasses to them.

On Saturday we hung out around the house and Ken tried his luck at fishing but nothing panned out. The meals we planned well and enjoyed more discussions about St James' and made a pledge to get more younger men involved next year. **We are also starting Saturday breakfast again at MyCafe in Newark, and aiming for the 2nd Saturday of the month.**

Next year we are heading back to Twain Harte and will work with a local realtor to secure homes close to each other and put us within a short distance to downtown. We realized that Groveland was too small and remote for us. **The date of the next trip will be Aug 14 – 17,** and it will be announced regularly throughout the year.

If you have declined to participate in the past because it seemed too difficult to reach, please consider attending in 2025.

For further information on this trip and learn about the experience, please talk to Gregg Feeney to find out more and answer your questions.

ALWAYS AT SAINT JAMES'

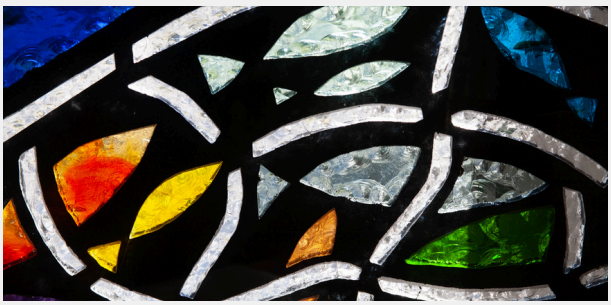
PARISH CALENDAR

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 OCTOBER

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 Jonathan, Megan, Gerald, Amber

For Teachers, Principals, School Staff
Jennifer, Monique, Toni, Jill, Sherea, Esther, Peter, Vivienne, Margaret, Stephen, Tim, Jason, Jeannie, Lucia, Travis, Jasmine, and those in our families and communities

For Those Expecting Children
Franklin & Brittany

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength, & Guidance
David, Micah, & Bennie, Lisa's family, Br Richard's family

For Those Who Need Healing & Comfort
Ron, Julie, Gail, Craig, Linda, Barry, David, Elaine, Kit, Margaret, Jim, Karla, Ron, Paul, Jose, Bodil, Barbara, Jane, Amanda, Marilyn, Mandy, Doug, Nadine, June

For Those Who Have Passed Away
Harry, Ellison, Mark, Tom

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 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 21.

BIRTHDAYS
OCTOBER

6	Lynn Locher
7	Mary Casas
8	Keith Westra
9	Beth Scrutton
12	Will Feliciano
18	Samaira Ubhi
19	Sherea Westra
22	Samir Kalitta
	Alyssa Koonze
23	Marilyn Rose
25	Gloryanne Bryant
	Nancy Catania
28	Emily Dunn
	Leticia Rodarte
29	Kyler Westra

ANNIVERSARIES
OCTOBER

15	Dave Nelsen & Linda Zetterholm-Nelsen
20	Meg & John Amouroux
24	Jean & Brandon Bennett
31	Antwanette & Brandon Bragg

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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