The Window

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

FEBRUARY 2025

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Written by Vivienne Paratore

The two topics for articles this year were 'Go Tell It on the Mountain' and 'Who is My Neighbor'. When I look back at the 12 articles from this year I see only 2 on 'Go Tell It on the Mountain' which speaks to Episcopalians' reticence to yell out about their faith. We are a polite lot who do not want to stand out amongst non church groups by talking about God or Jesus or church.

With the separation of religion and state, I have been careful not to profess my faith in the educational setting in which I worked but have not shied away from answering questions truthfully about what I am doing on the weekend. Any opportunity to let others know about the work that God is accomplishing through us is a way to let others know about our faith. When others show interest, it is easy to invite them to join us in worship even if it is just to see how different church congregations worship.

Trying to live a life of example and modeled after Christ's life in our world is a quiet way to witness to God's presence in the world. Jimmy Carter is a quintessential example of someone who lived their faith on a daily basis. Sometimes there are opportunities for us to talk with friends and acquaintances about why it is important to follow the way of love rather than of hate and how we conduct ourselves in challenging situations can be the strongest message about the influence of God's love in our lives.

People watch each other, and our reactions to adversity, even heartbreaking situations, show our belief and faith in God's unfailing support and love for us. Loving those who do not love us takes God's support, and learning to lean on Jesus in times of trouble takes strength and faith.

May we all 'tell it on the mountain' in our own ways. May we continue to see God's presence in our lives and feel God's arms around while our friend Jesus walks beside each of us.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

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, March 4, the day before Ash Wednesday. Dinner will be served from 5:30 - 7:00pm.**

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.

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. Contact Bruce Roberts with any questions.

Faith Formation | Foundations of our Faith

Join us for a four-part series to discuss some of the elements of our faith tradition. Whether you're new to St. James', the Episcopal Church, or would like to be refreshed, these classes are for you. **Taking the series could lead to Confirmation/Reception if desired.** A fifth meeting to review the service is required. Lunch will be provided.

Classes will be in-person on Sundays from 12:15-1:30pm in the Education Room, after the 10:30am service.

Meetings will be on these dates: March 23, March 30, April 6, April 27, and May 4 (Confirmation/Reception)

Senior Lunch in March

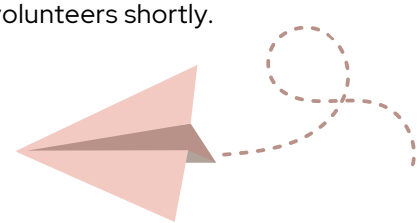
Our next Senior Lunch will take place on **Thursday, March 6th, 12 Noon - 1:30 PM.**

This will be out tenth gathering and we look forward to celebrating together.

Summer Day Camp Returns

Plans are going ahead for Summer Day Camp at St. James' to take place **the week of July 21-25.**

Keep on the look out for more details for students and volunteers shortly.



VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Charisma Pangilinan, Sr. Warden

The Vestry met in person on January 9, 2025 with Barbara Vacchieri beginning with Opening Prayer at 7:02pm.

Monthly Business

- Oral Communication: Ann Saponara has decided to leave St. James' church and therefore, resigned from Vestry.
- Voted and accepted approval of the December 19 Vestry meeting minutes.
- Bruce, the Treasurer, reviewed the financial reports. We closed the 2024 budget above budget by about $19k. Although pledges ended below budget by .2%, the plate donation amount and use of church amounts ended over 100% leading to the overage. Voted and accepted approval of the December financial reports.
- Voted and accepted approval of the December staff and ministry reports.

New and Continuing Business

- Three Vestry members will be cycling off this year. This is the last meeting for Vivienne Paratore, Peter Maina and Nancy Castaneda. The new Vestry candidates are Emily Dunn, Paula McKinney, and Bev Mosier.
- Voted and approved Katie Porter as a replacement Vestry member for a 2 year term.
- Voted and approved the donation of the birthday fund amount totaling $726 to Episcopal Relief & Development in response to the fires in Southern California.
- Vestry members signed up for breakfast items to bring to the Annual Meeting.
- Vestry members informed we will need to write pledge thank you cards.
- Charisma gave an update on the Safe parking program for January and asked for volunteers, mostly for the morning shift. Several new volunteers are expected as they clear the background check. Vivienne recommended that the volunteer has a key to heat water and allow the parkers to warm up inside the Parish Hall.
- Discussed and voted on the 2025 budget with a deficit of $14,147.72.
- Entered Executive session to discuss hiring a part-time clergy member. Voted and approved to move forward with the hiring of a part-time clergy member.

Reminders

- Vivienne is assigned the newsletter Article for February, due January 20
- February Vestry Meeting – February 20
- Budget Meeting – January 12; Annual Meeting – January 19
- Vestry Retreat – February 7 (evening) & February 8 (day)

The meeting adjourned and Barbara led us in 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).

City of Fremont's Proposed Camping Ban

St. James' has a long history of supporting the unhoused and working towards solutions to homelessness. We are proud to be a part of the City's Safe Parking Program and we have partnered with Abode Services to serve the unhoused and to grieve those who have died on the streets. Our Blessing Bag ministry brings much needed supplies to many with little resources.

In December the majority of the Fremont City Council voted YES on an ordinance that would ban "camping" in public places in the City of Fremont **(see the Camping Ban HERE)**. This action will impact many people who already have significant challenges and is counter to the universal "Golden Rule" to treat others as we wish to be treated and to the Christian call to love our neighbors as ourselves. Those who will be affected by this ban are our neighbors, whether they live in houses, or not.

In February, there will be a second reading and a vote on this ordinance at a council meeting. Meanwhile, there's time to let our mayor and council members know how you feel about this.

There's a **Facebook group called "Fremont for Everyone"** that has been rallying in opposition to this ban that you could join and/or you might consider emailing the mayor and council members.

If you are interested in learning more about the ban or how to get involved, please email Toni Shellen.

Toni Shellen tonishellen@gmail.com

Mayor Salwan rsalwan@fremont.gov
Vice Mayor Campbell dcampbell@fremont.gov

Councilmember Keng
tkeng@fremont.gov
Councilmember Kimberlin
kkimberlin@fremont.gov
Councilmember Shao
yshao@fremont.gov
Councilmember Yajing Zhang
yazhang@fremont.gov
Councilmember Raymond Liu
rliu@fremont.gov

Parishioner Book Recommendation

Living Buddha, Living Christ | Thich Nhat Hanh

Submitted by John Wagas

Through anecdotes and reflections, the beloved spiritual writer, activist, and monk Thich Nhat Hanh draws parallels between the person and work of Christ and Buddha, revealing to all that there is much more in common with these figures than is often pointed out. Far beyond being revered teachers, Thich Nhat Hanh calls us to see how Christ and Buddha point us toward universal truths that bind us all together.

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

Sunday School | Current Events

Sunday School, for children aged 4 to 6th grade meets weekly, during the 10:30am service and all are welcome to join. We gather for a story and talk about the lesson of the week, usually lectionary-based so the whole family will hear the same Bible passages. Children then return to church in time to join their families for the Eucharist.

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 | DECEMBER 2024

Fund Balances	12/31/23	12/31/24
Operating Fund	84,867.04	80,025.62
Building Fund	95,614.66	95,943.69
Special Interest funds	674,309.89	722,032.83
Pledges Budgeted	344,734.00	397,731.00
Pledges Paid	373,271.21	396,797.39
Unpledged Contributions	12,633.49	13,700.00
Other Operating Income	30,755.19	22,857.34
Total Operating Income	416,659.89	433,354.73
Total Operating Expenses	392,885.74	414,231.10
Income Less Expenses	23,774.15	19,123.63

Campus Care Team Ministry

St James' has created a new Campus Care Team ministry, charged with keeping our campus facilities looking clean and everything in working order. In the past, one or two people have been organizing work parties. Now there is a bigger team, spreading out the responsibility of determining what needs to be done. The work parties are scheduled from 9:00am-12:00noon on the third Saturday of the even months (February, April, June, August, October, and December). Occasionally, the date will change due to a conflict with other campus uses and events.

The work parties will be advertised, and everyone is still welcome to come participate for the full three hours, or for an hour or two as schedules allow. All participants are welcome to a pizza lunch after the work party. St James' pays for the pizza; other food and drinks are covered by the people present.

The alternating months (January, March, May, July, September, November) will offer a chance to meet for a social breakfast, open to anyone. It is a time for fellowship, with a small portion of the time used to discuss upcoming repairs and plan the next work party. The rest of the time is spent visiting among ourselves. The breakfasts begin at 9:00am and are currently held at My Café, just across the freeway from St James'. Those attending buy their own meal. All members of the parish are welcome at breakfast. They will be advertised in advance, and anyone planning to attend must RSVP to the month's coordinator so the proper size table is reserved.

February is a work party month; the date is February 22 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Any questions, please speak with Gregg Feeney dgfeeney@comcast.net or Dave Nelsen dave.nelsen@sbcglobal.net. We look forward to seeing you there!

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 FEBRUARY

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 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, Emma and those in our families and communities

For Those Expecting Children
Sevan & Amber

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength, & Guidance
David, Derek, Linda, Beth, Katie, Terri, Rose Marie, Lynn

For Those Who Need Healing & Comfort
Ron, Julie, Gail, Linda, Barry, David, Elaine, Kit, Margaret, Karla, Mandy, Dee, Amanda, John, Charity, Marge, Claudette, Bill, Lynate, Becky, Nancy, Patty, Paul, José, Barbara, Albert, Jane, Marlene, Gary, Sandi, Ralph, Kristi

For Those Who Have Passed Away
Craig, Melvin, Glenn, Buck, Roberta

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

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

Email your submissions to newsletter@saintj.com by Friday, February 21.

BIRTHDAYS
FEBRUARY

3	Mike Scrutton
4	Bruce Roberts
7	Linda Zetterholm Nelsen
8	Linda Genter
10	Brandon Bragg
11	Darcia Feeney
14	Barbara Duncan
18	Margaret Broun
20	Rebecca Dunn
21	John Wagas
25	Maresa Decena
26	Lauren Doherty
	Francis Singh
	Scott Whitaker III
27	Chris Ma
28	Amy Davis
	Luke Scheufelle

ANNIVERSARIES
FEBRUARY

15 Bob & Lauren Doherty

24 Vivienne & 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
Charisma Pangilinan | srwarden@saintj.com

Junior Warden
TBA (election on 2/7) | jrwarden@saintj.com

John Amouroux
Emily Dunn
Gregg Feeney
Burtin Hart
Matt Hurley
Kaethe Langs
Paula McKinney
Katie Porter
Marcus Pun
Bev Mosier
Barbara Vacchieri

Vestry Clerk **Elizabeth Hart**

CONVENTION DELEGATES

Bev Mosier
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