The Window

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

APRIL 2025

You Are the Light of the World

Written by Marcus Pun

What is light?

When it applies to a person, it's like a neutron bouncing around splitting atoms. When many atoms are split, it can lead to a chain reaction, which releases a lot of energy, or a lot of good deeds and acts of kindness. Kirk Johnston was one of those atoms, and was a regular on the infamous Marin Sunday Morning Ride. A motorcycle mass ride from the Arco Station in Mill Valley to Hwy 1, up to Point Reyes, Tomales Bay, and then inland, through Chileno Valley, past Skywalker Ranch, and to an abandoned gas station on Lucas Valley Road.

He rode a Suzuki Triple. 2-stroke 3 cylinder engine, called a "water buffalo" because it was one of the early water cooled motorcycle engines. Kirk was an accomplished rider but generally stayed in back. Like the last person on a hike, he had years of experience on two wheels and on the Ride.

Kirk was in essence a guardian angel to new riders like me. By the time I had joined the ride I had been riding for 7 years, had just come back from a 7000 mile trip that included the Northwest to Vancouver for Expo 86, up the coast and across British Columbia. I had ridden in rain and even a little snow. I felt the need to be better, faster, safer of course, and just learn more about riding than I had already. So I started in the back of the pack so to speak and by the time I left for fatherhood and family in 1993, I was a very accomplished rider. It would be a journey that ended without my friend, Kirk.

Sometimes Kirk would show up with his van or what we would like to call his crash van, which was needed on occasion to pick up a fallen motorcycle too broken to ride, or a flat tire or whatever. One time in my case, I had a flat, he rode his bike to his home in Novato, picked up his van and took me and my bike over to Albany. And that is when I started learning about the light that was "Captain Kirk" as we called him.

Of course we had the attention of the California Highway Patrol and Kirk became our community liaison. Along Hwy 1 near the Bolinas turn off in Olema there was at the time a refuge for children who had been physically abused. So with the help of the local CHP lieutenant, Kirk organized a pancake breakfast which was attended by over 70 riders. I think we raised about $600-$700 that day for the facility. Everyone was pleasantly surprised at the turn out and the successful fundraising.

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You Are the Light of the World *(continued)*

Once in a while, in church I wear a t-shirt with a motorcycle leaning into a turn. This was another "Captain Kirk" project. The Sunday Morning Ride goes right through Stinson Beach and in town there is the Stinson Beach firehouse. They have the emergency vehicles and EMTs that serve the area. They are all volunteers. Much of their equipment is donated. When someone crashes nearby they are the first responders. Kirk came up with an idea for a fundraiser in appreciation for the service and to make sure they were up on some gear they needed. So he came up with a t-shirt design, got orders and I think printed about 100 of them, so we raised I think about $1000 for the fire station.

These weren't just individual bits of assistance, this was more far reaching in terms of who was affected and the example it set. We also had some laughs. One particularly rainy Sunday morning, Kirk and I were the only two riders to show up. After about half an hour waiting for anyone to show up, we decided to call it a day. We were disappointed to say the least. I always used the SMR to learn about riding in adverse conditions.

When the Loma Prieta earthquake hit, we expected Kirk to show up and help out or let us know he was ok. He never did. Then word started to come out from a fellow rider that he was speeding to safety as the earthquake started, and had seen Kirk frantically trying to drive out of the lower deck of the Nimitz in the Peerless coffee van he was in. Phone messages had gone unanswered. Then we got the news that Kirk was one of the victims of the Cypress freeway collapse. We were devastated. Then we would find out more. At the memorial service several hundred had turned out. One by one, people from this other group of people ("Who were they?" some of us asked: his fellow parishioners at a Marin County Christian Science Church) came forth with a story. Each told about how Kirk had helped them through a difficulty, a large problem, or a small problem in their lives. One woman stood out with her story. She was a local actress, and had heard about an audition that she felt she should attend down in Los Angeles. She had no resources to make such a trip. When Kirk heard about this, he picked her up at home and drove her down to Los Angeles and the audition. Asked for nothing back. Never did.

That was Kirk. Always generous, always giving and very present. Kirk never talked about his other Sunday avocation. Never wore it on his sleeve. He just did what Kirk did, with kindness and a smile. All the time while he was having some crappy custody issues over his son with his ex-wife which we all knew about. Kirk was the shining light in our lives and not a few of us vowed to carry on Kirk's habit of doing good works. When we left the service, it was as a critical mass of good among many, inspired by the life of one man living his faith. Those of us that are left all still have WWCKD (What Would Captain Kirk Do?) Moments. A number of people who I have stayed in contact with are still doing good works as volunteers, and no doubt also help with those they know or never knew.

As this is my last essay of my current term in vestry, you now know a bit of the rest of my story. For me it is a turn of good fortune that St. James' has become my framework for channeling not only the good works of an old friend, but of many old friends and relatives. My mother, for instance, volunteered for Girl Scouts, especially day camp up in Tilden Park for over 40 years. I could write a book of people who I have known who gave of themselves with grace and...

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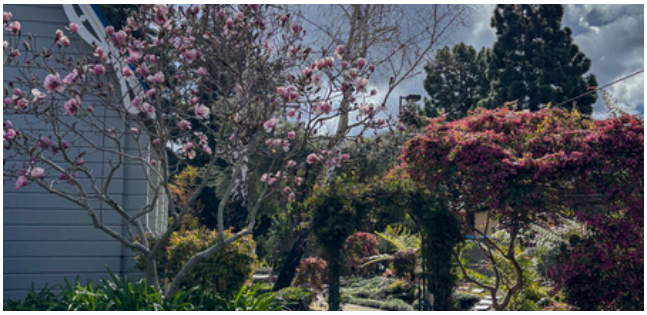
You Are the Light of the World *(continued)*

...purpose. Examples that shine in the darkness and light the many paths for others to follow.

The memorial ride was with a police escort, up part way to Mt. Tamalpais, and we ended up at the top of a hill overlooking San Francisco and the Bay Area that he loved so much. His girlfriend scattered his ashes as we all took in the view, and also thanked good fortune that we were upwind. Kirk would have had a laughing fit if it wasn't. Oh, I never did talk about his sick jokes. Don't remember them these days but eliciting groans was a specialty. So when I look that way from across the Bay I sometimes say hello to an old friend. I wish that he was still here, and hope to keep his memory alive in what I do until my ride is over.

Memorial Garden Tree Work

Submitted by Bruce Roberts



March Senior Lunch

Submitted by Patty Lacy

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

2025 Holiday Easter Lilies

Submitted by Katie Cunningham

The Easter season is upon us and soon St. James' Church will be decorated with lovely Easter Lily plants. You can help provide an Easter Lily plant or plants, in Memory of, or in Thanksgiving for, a loved one. A sign up sheet for the Easter Lily plants is posted at the entrance of both churches and inside the Parish Hall. The names of the donors and the reason for the donations will be placed in the Easter bulletin. **The cut off date for names to be added to the Easter bulletin is Sunday, April 13, 2025.**

The suggested donation for each plant is $10.00. There are envelopes located by the sign up sheets that can be used for your donation or you may use your pledge envelopes. These envelopes can be dropped into the Collection Plates or inside the office. Please write on the front of your envelope and on the check memo line "Easter Lily Fund". We look forward to celebrating Easter this year at St. James'. **If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Poole.**

Foundations of Our Faith - Faith Formation

Join us for this faith formation series where we discuss some of the elements of our faith tradition. Taking this series could lead to Confirmation/Reception if desired. A fifth meeting to review the service will be required. **We will meet in the Education Room from 12:15-1:30pm on Sundays**. There are three sessions remaining: **April 6, April 13, and May 4 (for those seeking Confirmation/Reception)**. Lunch will be provided.

Egg Hunt Donations

Donations for our kids' Easter Goodie Bags can be made until April 13th through check or cash (please include 'Egg Hunt' on the memo line), or bags of wrapped candy/treats delivered to the parish office.

Have any questions? Contact Jan Scrutton, our Children & Youth Minister, at jan@saintj.com.

Lenten Healing Service

Join us on Wednesday evenings as we gather in prayer for a Healing Service with anointing.

We will gather in-person in the Little Church from 7:00-7:30pm for two more Wednesdays, April 2 and 9.

May you continue to be blessed this Lenten season.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday :: April 13, 8:00 &10:30

We begin outside with a blessing of the palms, followed by the grand procession into the church, a representation of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Our service of Holy Communion will include a sermon and will end with the reading of the Passion.

Maundy Thursday :: April 17, 6:30

A simple meal in monastic style followed by Holy Communion, ritual, and the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday :: April 18

12:00-2:00pm

A traditional service of solemn collects, hymns, the Passion, and the Veneration of the Cross.

2:00-3:00pm

Walk the Stations of the Cross (guided, indoors) for those who wish to extend their worship this additional hour.

7:00pm

A service honoring Jesus' last hours with spirituals and the story of Jesus' crucifixion.

For those unable to make the daytime service, this is your chance to meditate on the Passion before we reach Easter.

Holy Saturday :: April 19, 10-12pm

On this day of preparation, gather for brunch, a brief service for Holy Saturday, and to make ready the sanctuary for Resurrection.

Easter Principal :: April 20, 10:30

A Festive Service in the Big Church with music and Holy Communion, followed by the annual Easter Egg Hunt for Children, the Easter photobooth, and a reception hosted by the Vestry.

Saturday, April 19

In-Person Easter Vigils
All Saints' San Leandro 8pm
Holy Cross Castro Valley 8pm
St. Clare's Pleasanton 8pm

On-line at The National Cathedral at 5pm PDT (go to saintj.com for the link)

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by John Amouroux, Jr. Warden

The meeting began, and Bev Mosier led the Opening Prayer.

Monthly Business

- During oral communications Charisma shared that our next month to host the Safe Parking programs has been moved up to September
- Approved the February 20 Vestry Meeting Minutes, the Feb 8th retreat minutes, the February Financial Reports, and the February Staff and Ministry Reports

New and Continuing Business

- Approved the funding for the necessary sewer work for the church hall
- The vestry members signed up to support the various regular events for 2025/26
- The vestry accepted the 2024 Parochial Report, approved funding for the final year of Maisha Bora, and voted to allow the distribution of the special service and birthday funds to be decided by the lead team
- Decided to move the April vestry meeting to Wed Apr 16th (on Zoom) to avoid a conflict with Maundy Thursday
- Reviewed purpose and function of the parish@saintj.com email alias

Reminders

- Newsletter Article for April, due March 20 (Marcus)
- Newsletter Article for May, due April 20 (Bev)
- April Vestry Meeting – April 16 on Zoom (Barbara has prayers)

The meeting adjourned, and Bev Mosier 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).

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.

St. James' Endowment Fund - Support Today, Secure Tomorrow

Submitted by Meg Amouroux

Donating to the St. James' Endowment Fund ensures the long-term financial stability of our church, allowing us to continue its mission and serve the community for generations to come.

Your contributions support vital programs, preserve the historic Little Church, and help meet the evolving needs of the congregation alongside our current and future ministries. Note that endowment funds are not used for monthly expenses.

Donations to the Fund may be made through wills or estate plans, or through stand-alone offerings anytime throughout the year.

Contact the church office to be connected with an Endowment Board member for more information.

Outreach - Responding to Needs

Written by Jan Scrutton

Regularly throughout the year at St. James' you may hear an appeal for donations to support a particular fund in which each of us, according to our ability and connection to the issue, contribute as we can. One annual collection that many people value is the opportunity to support local school children through our annual School Supplies Drive.

In January, I received an email from one of the organizations we support with school supplies to see if we could help. Union City Family Center had identified 30 high school students with 'super high needs.' While they had school supplies available, they did not have backpacks. Rev. Lori and I were able to use funds to help them meet more than half of their immediate needs and deliver those backpacks within 4 days.

We were fortunate to be able to respond to this request so quickly because of the generous donations you have made in the past to three accounts.

We have two outreach funds, *General and Children's*, and Rev. Lori has a *Rector's Discretionary* account. You can make donations to these accounts at any time by donating in addition to your pledge (separate check or cash) and making sure you label the check or envelope (general outreach, children's outreach, or Rector's discretionary).

In the past year our children's outreach funds have also been used to sponsor children taking part in Fremont City afterschool/vacation programs and to support Kindergarten children needing supplies. I am always grateful for your generosity and the ability it gives us to respond to immediate needs in addition to planning outreach projects. Thank you!

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/Holy Communion.

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 | FEBRUARY 2025

Fund Balances	2/29/2024	2/28/2025
Operating Fund	63,160.71	68,880.11
Building Fund	95,688.03	117,025.66
Special Interest funds	697,701.24	723,777.97
Pledges Budgeted	66,288.50	62,493.66
Pledges Paid	67,027.48	73,847.96
Unpledged Contributions	985.00	2,460.00
Other Operating Income	2,821.72	3,444.56
Total Operating Income	70,834.20	79,752.52
Total Operating Expenses	68,766.38	71,984.30
Income Less Expenses	2,067.82	7,768.22

ALWAYS AT SAINT JAMES'

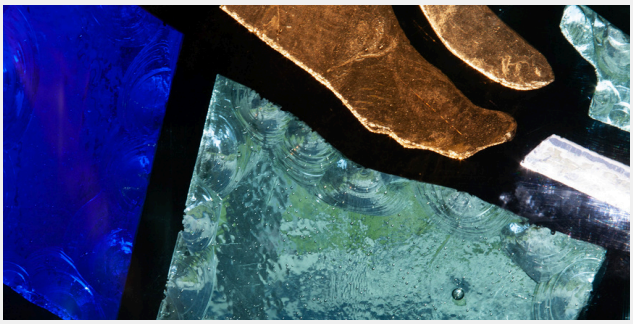
PARISH CALENDAR

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 APRIL

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
Name, 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

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength, & Guidance
David, Derek, Lynn, the Tomkinson family, Maria, Rob, Raj, Marcus, Kathleen, Marilyn, Alohi

For Those Who Need Healing & Comfort
Ron, Julie, Gail, Linda, Barry, David, Elaine, Margaret, Karla, Mandy, John, Ralph, Andrew, Gill, Don, Gary, Harriet, John, Alex, Eric, Kristy, Carlos, Paul, José, Barbara, Albert, Amber, Sami, Diane

For Those Who Have Passed Away
Roberta, Ernie, Bobbi, Barbara, Jeff, Dick

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

Email your submissions to newsletter@saintj.com by April 21.

BIRTHDAYS
APRIL

8	Tarunpreet Ubhi
	Eliana Ortiz
10	EJ Hilliard
13	Brigitte Reynolds
14	Tim Feeney
16	Stuart Langs
	John Michael Butterfield
17	Tom Scrutton
20	Ruth Poole
21	Elvin Maina
22	Elaine Maina
23	Karl Drescher
24	Bill Hale
26	Elizabeth Hart
28	Al Casas

ANNIVERSARIES
APRIL

9 Amy & Mark Reynolds

17 Nadia & Giri Singh

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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
John Amouroux | jrwarden@saintj.com

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