The Window

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

OCTOBER 2025

Facing the Sun

Emily Dunn

Our front door faces west (toward the sunset), so imagine my surprise when I walked out our front door one morning a few years ago and was greeted by blazing bright light in my eyes. It so happened that the location of the sun in the sky was just right for the sunlight to reflect off some surface on a house across the way and shine brightly right in our doorway. I could not see the sun, but I could see its light so very brightly because of the reflection.

I believe this reflection shows what we are to do as followers of Jesus: reflect the light of God to those who cannot or do not see God for themselves, whose "doorways" are facing away from the light of God, facing away from the hope that God offers in our often hopeless-seeming world.

In Matthew 5:14 and 5:16, respectively, Jesus says, "You are the light of the world" and "let your light shine before others," yet in John 8:12, Jesus says "I am the light of the world." To read "You are the light of the world" about ourselves can seem like too high a calling, like an impossible task, but perhaps it helps us to think of reflecting the light of God to others, reflecting Jesus who is the light of the world. We do not have to be the source of the light, but we can reflect the light. We reflect the light in our kind words and our thoughtful actions, in how we treat others, in how we show mercy and grace, in acts of compassion and caring, in being patient, in taking the time to listen, in thinking not, *How can I be served?* but, *How can I serve?* — loving others in as many ways as we are able.

As John Amouroux wrote in the August issue of *The Window*, "In short, being a light is to demonstrate an act of love." If you read the news headlines these days, many parts of our nation and world seem awfully lacking in love. I don't have the answers; I don't have any solutions; but I do believe that as we show love for others in this world that is often so unloving, we reflect the light of God more brightly than we can imagine.

Continued on next page

Facing the Sun *(continued)*

I will leave you with a quotation from the children's book *The Hotel Balzaar,* by Kate DiCamillo: "Tell me where you see the light seep through. Speaking of light, did I tell you how bright the stars are? They are brighter than you would think anything could be in this terrible world."

Let us be bright in this terrible world by reflecting the light of God. The light will seep through.

Episcopal Asian Ministries AAPI Young Adult Retreat

John Wagas

From September 11 through 14, I was on Oahu (in Hawaii) at Camp Mokule'ia for an AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) retreat for young adults (20-35 years old) held by the churchwide Asian American Ministry. Alongside seven other young adults from across the Episcopal Church were Reverend Jo Ann Jaén Lagman (churchwide Asiamerica missioner) and Canon Myra Barnes (churchwide Young Adult and Campus Ministry). And a huge shoutout to fellow DioCal friends Evelini and Asupa (Sa Paula/St. Paul's, Burlingame) and Angela (St. Peter's, Redwood City)!

UPDATES AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Imara International - *First Funding Goal Reached!*

We are excited to begin our relationship with Imara International. Providing services in Kenya, this organization supports teenage mothers and their children through education and life skills. Our outreach goal is $300 per month, $3,600 per year. We are taking the steps to officially sign up with Imara International, having raised over 50% of the annual commitment ($1,800). To make a donation toward this ongoing effort, write a check to St. James' Episcopal Church, with "Imara International" in the memo line, or use our giving page to make a PayPal donation. If using PayPal, click the "Donate to a fund (with fees) with PayPal" button and enter "Imara International" in the "Write a note (Optional)" box. Gifts made to Imara International through St. James' qualify for corporate gift matching where available. Please check with your employer!

Broadening Prayers and Impact - *Episcopal Relief and Development*

With the ongoing tragedies throughout our world--and the most recent flooding in Texas and this year's wildfires--the need for recovery and restoration is great. The Episcopal Church's response is through the work and ministry of Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). Established in 1940 as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief and renamed in 2000 to reflect its ongoing mission, ERD continues to meet the needs of our neighbors near and far. In these times of disaster and human conflict, ERD is well suited to make an immediate and impactful response. Please consider donating to and learning more about this work at episcopalrelief.org.

Autumn Senior Lunch

We invite you to our upcoming Senior Lunch on **Wednesday, October 15, starting at 12:00 noon**. Donations of $5 are greatly appreciated.

Sign up in the Parish Hall, or by emailing Jan Scrutton, or by calling the church office (leaving a message if after hours) at 510-797-1492. See you there!

Feast of St. Francis

All creatures great and small are invited to join us in celebrating **the Feast of St. Francis on Sunday, October 5**. There will be two services on that day: the 8:00am service will be in the Little Church, and the 10:30am service will be outdoors on the lawn. The outdoor service will include a Blessing of the Animals. We hope you will join us!

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

John Amoroux, Junior Warden

The meeting was held on September 18 over Zoom and was called to order at 7:00pm. John led the opening prayer.

Monthly Business

- Oral communications: 10 minutes
  - Marcus discussed Blessing Bag grant status.
  - Charisma discussed church key issues.
- Approved the August 21 vestry meeting minutes.
- Reviewed and accepted the August financial reports.
- Accepted the August staff and ministry reports.

New and Continuing Business

- Recorded the email vote for the fascia/gutter repairs near the vestry room.
- Did a Volunteer Appreciation/New Member Welcome event debriefing.
- Discussed the Stewardship sermons for November 9 and selected the gospel.
- The Land Development Team updated their current status.

Reminders

- The newsletter article for October by Emily is due September 20. *(See Page 1)*
- The newsletter article for November by Katie is due October 20.
- For the October 5 Feast of St. Francis:
  - 8:00am service will be in the Big Church.
  - 10:30am service will be outdoors on the lawn.
- The October 16 Vestry meeting will be held on Zoom (Katie will provide prayers).
- September 30 through October 2, Lori and Ingrid will be away at a clergy retreat.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57pm, and John 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).

Ladies' Flatlanders Trip 2025

Laura Winter

Twelve wonderful women gathered on the shores of Monterey Bay in mid-September for our parish's annual fellowship weekend!

It was a great chance to relax and recharge. We stayed at a different home this year, because it was more accessible for all of us with mobility issues and aging bodies. We welcomed back a couple of long-distance travelers, Lin from Phoenix, and Connie from Florida! This year was the first time Connie could attend since retiring to Tampa in 2015 with Jack. Jay drove over on Friday, meeting up with us after her retirement to live by the water last year. Jasmine joined as a first-time participant and taught us one of her favorite games.

The weather was perfect for long walks on the beach. We also watched the surf from our balcony, observing dolphins and whales swim by, birds dive-bomb for fish, and many people playing, fishing and surfing along the shore. Friday evening we roasted marshmallows for s'mores on our beach bonfire, later checking out the visible Milky Way soaring overhead.

Inside, we shared stories as we relaxed in our weekend home. We played games, cooked and ate delicious meals, and assembled a pair of jigsaw puzzles. There was time for conversations with the whole group, and opportunities for quiet discussions among two or three at a time. Naps were plentiful too. We strive to provide a place of belonging for all who attend and all who wonder if they would be comfortable joining the group.

Sunday morning closed with our traditional morning prayer service. We reflected on our time together and shared our experiences.

We already have next year's weekend scheduled and would love to have more women **join us September 17-20, 2026.** We have reserved two units – the one we stayed in this year and the adjacent home. Ladies, mark your calendars and join in the fun!

Men's Outdoor Trip 2025

Gregg Feeney

Our return to Twain Harte was a success. A total of ten guys went this year, and next year we're aiming toward 12-14. Most of us stayed three nights, but a few made it two nights due to work commitments. Our group had two new additions this year. We found a large home that met all our expectations. It was a little more remote than I expected, but it worked well for our group. Byron was one of our new attendees, and he shared a nice note. My objective for this year was to renew old friendships with former St. James' parishioners Mike Dearborn and Charlie Dickinson, who had served twice with me on the Church Vestry in the mid-1990s. Kudos to Chef Al Casas and his sous-chefs, who kept us well fed with his culinary skills in cooking all breakfast and dinner meals for the weekend stay.

A few of us could not make it up until Friday afternoon and missed the dinner group for Thursday at the local watering hole, The Rock. Charlie and Al managed to find time to play golf, and Al said it was very challenging. Al, Charlie, Giri, and Gregg played the local course on Saturday, and we only played 9 holes due to heat and our high scores. It gives us a whole year to improve.

Dave, Frank, and Bruce took a ride on the Railtown 1897 railroad in Jamestown on Saturday, and as we look back over the years, the railroad was visited by the Men's Group in 2015 as well. Besides taking the ride out to the rock quarry on a sunny afternoon, the guys spent some time in the roundhouse with the same railroader they met ten years ago, all of us a bit older.

Mike drove us on a guided tour of the Twain Harte area, which included a visit to Twain Harte Lake and a chance to see his wife, and we cooled ourselves with a slurp of soft ice cream in the shade of a Canyon Live Oak by the lake. He also showed us the new improvements to their home. After each day of our outings, we came back to the house and shared stories and were glad we all could fit into one house.

Our host gave us a late check-out on Sunday, which made our stay relaxing, with no mad dash to get out by 10:00am. Guys, **mark your calendar for next August 13-16, 2026.** We expect to return next year to Twain Harte and possibly to the same house.

Young Adult Retreat: Bay Area Episcopalians

John Wagas

At the end of August, 28 young adults from the Dioceses of California and El Camino Real gathered at The Bishop's Ranch to connect and make new connections.

This retreat was organized by the Diocese of California's Young Adult Working Group, of which I have been a member since its inception and have served as Vice Chair of for the last two years. It was the culmination of much planning and fundraising, and we know that this is just the beginning of countless friendships alongside future opportunities for fellowship and formation, especially within the Diocese of California.

Facilitating this retreat was Maleah Rios, who graciously wove her time and talents with our own to craft a space that was both sacred and safe, allowing all of those present to be vulnerable about our experiences within and beyond the Church.

I call all of us to not only open our ears to the voices of young adults in our faith communities, but empower them in tangible and meaningful ways—from lay and ordained ministry, vestry and deanery, online and in person, administrative and sacramental, diocesan and churchwide, and so much more. Let this retreat be the first step toward affirming and empowering us all.

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** (except October 5, when livestream will be at 8:00am). 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**.

Follow us on Social Media!

FACEBOOK INSTAGRAM

Find Links to service & sermon audio/video here:

YOUTUBE APPLE SPOTIFY TUNEIN

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

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. Email lori@saintj.com for the Zoom link or find more information on our parish **website**.

Wednesday | 11:00am on Zoom

Join us for Bible Study facilitated by Rev. Lori. Each week we discuss scripture, engaging in various media such as art, video, and text. Email Rev. Lori with questions or find the Zoom link on our website.

COMMUNITY 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.*

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Sunday School | ***Current Events***

Sunday School, for children aged 4 through 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- through 12th-graders based at St. James' which meets during the school year. Contact Jan for info about autumn plans and to express interest in our 2025-'26 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 | AUGUST 2025

FUND BALANCES	8/31/2024	8/31/2025
Operating Fund	$52,621.22	$73,882.75
Building Fund	$295,903.30	$105,661.05
Special Interest funds	$507,472.22	$735,172.04
Pledges Budgeted	$265,154.00	$249,974.64
Pledges Paid	$250,059.92	$259,055.75
Unpledged Contributions	$6,380.00	$17,389.99
Other Operating Income	$11,617.70	$19,382.01
Total Operating Income	$268,057.62	$295,827.75
Total Operating Expenses	$276,529.29	$282,990.37
Income Less Expenses	($8,471.67)	$12,837.38

Devotionals Available
Forward Day by Day

The **August through October 2025** edition of *Forward Day by Day* is available for pickup at the church (either in the back of the churches on Sundays or outside the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays). These pocket-sized devotionals provide a succinct opening into scripture and how our faith is woven into the fabric of daily life.

Parishioner Recommendations

Thanks to our parishioners, the Recommendations List is available. Visit our Parish Life page **HERE** and look for "Community Recommendations," where you'll find the link to the list. In this list, you can find recommendations for a variety of local services and businesses – from dentists to manicurists, plumbers to tree trimmers, and much more!

Each Day Writes

Poem by Daniel Berrigan, SJ

Submitted by John Wagas

In my heart's core
ineradicably, what it is to be human.

Hours and hours, no sun rises, night sits
kenneled in me: or spring, spring's
flowering seizes me in an hour.

I tread my heart amazed: what land,
what skies are these, whose shifting weather
now shrink my harvest to a stack of bones;
now weigh my life with glory?

Christ, to whose eyes flew,
whose human heart know, or furious or low,
the dark wing beat of time: your presence give
light to my eyeless mind, reason to my heart's
rhyme.

Diocesan Strategic Visioning Process -- *Videos and Reports*

Members of the diocese are invited to the first layer of our Strategic Vision Process through a series of videos that unpack the values that have been identified as important in our shared life together. A spiritual practice will invite these values to grow in us, in preparation for the Strategic Vision in October at the Diocesan Convention.

To find more information and resources on the Strategic Vision Process of the Episcopal Diocese of California, we invite you to visit **diocal.org/strategic-vision-process/**.

ALWAYS AT SAINT JAMES'

MONTHLY PRAYER LIST

For Those in the Military

Jarrod, Megan, Theresa, Mark, Tim, Caitlin, Emily, Robin, Dave, Shawn, Ethan, Paul, Matthew, Johnny, Johnathan, Darren, and Robert

For Those Who Need Healing and Comfort

Ron, Julie, Linda, Barry, David, Elaine, Margaret, Mandy, John, Ralph, John, Karen, Jim, José, Paul, Albert, Barbara, James, Roland, Jenny and family, Charlie, Jackie, Isabella, Darren, Nicole, and Gary

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength, and Guidance

David, Derek, Lynn, Cat, Linda, Beth, and the Blalock Family

For Those Who Have Passed Away

Beth P, Al, Blossom, and Gail

BLESSING BAGS FOR DISTRUBITION

Each bag contains toiletries, water, food, socks, a blanket, and a mask. We're using reusable cloth bags that double as backpacks. **We are not taking donations other than monetary donations.** This allows us to purchase what we need and to be consistent. Blessing Bags are available to pick up during office hours (Wed/Thurs, 10am-1pm).

It is helpful to have gift cards to give with the 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 or clergy.

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.

MORNING CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS | ZOOM

Tuesdays | 10:00am – 11:00am

Join Sylvia Ma for a weekly Zoom class of 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 is also on the parish website's calendar.

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 and Thursdays, 10am – 1pm*

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Lori Walton, *Rector*.....**lori@saintj.com**
The Rev. Ingrid Jacobson, *Associate Rector*.....**ingrid@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 | 8am and 10:30am

Live-streamed | 10:30am with recording

Wednesday Service:
Online/Zoom | 10am

MAIN COORDINATORS

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors
George Siegmann

Eucharistic Visitors
The Rev. Ingrid Jacobson

Ushers
Burtin Hart

Facilities ***facilities@saintj.com***

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