The Window

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

NOVEMBER 2025

Go Tell It on the Mountain

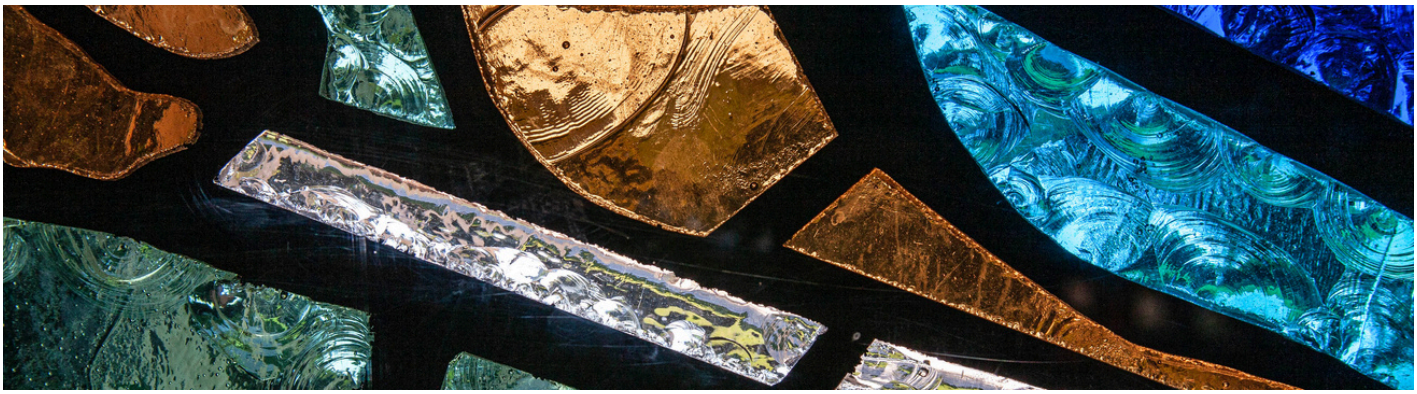
Katie Porter

We all know what "Go tell it on the mountain" means: to share the Good News of Jesus Christ's birth and our salvation with others. But, as Episcopalians, we are often reluctant to speak out about our faith. Also, it is difficult to do in our current times, particularly when it is not considered appropriate to talk about religion or politics.

So, we all tell it on the mountain in our own ways. For me, volunteer work has been a way to share God's presence in the world. Currently I volunteer at Washington Hospital; I help in the main lobby. Often the visitors coming in are worried or stressed. They need help getting to their appointment or to a patient's room, whether with a guiding hand or a wheelchair. In these small ways, I try to help make their visit a little easier.

In the past I have volunteered with Meals on Wheels, HERS Breast Cancer Foundation, at my children's schools, and at St. James'. Each one provides different ways to make a difference, with God's help of course.

May we all "tell it on the mountain" in our own ways and continue to feel God's presence in our lives.



UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Everyone Is Welcome | *Parish Pride Flag*

We are repeatedly told that the Pride flag is an important factor in encouraging new visitors, that it tells people we are a church of inclusion and welcome, a safe place for all people, and one that celebrates God 's love for everyone.

Periodically, our flag goes missing. We remain committed to continuing our message of welcome by replacing stolen flags with new ones. **Each flag costs about $100. If you would like to donate toward a Pride flag, note "Pride flag" in the memo line of your check to St. James'.** We thank you for your consideration.

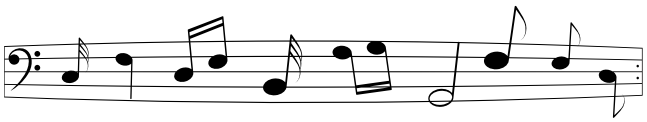
A Non-Musician's Guide to Music

Free Lectures at St. Anne's

Dr. Giancarlo Aquilanti, the Music Director of St. Anne's and the Director of Music Theory and Senior Lecturer at Stanford University, is presenting a series of lectures in the coming months on exploring music, titled "A Non-Musician's Guide to How Music Works: Unlocking the Magic of Music."

You are invited to attend the lectures, which are **hosted in-person at St. Anne's Episcopal Church**, **2791 Driscoll Road**, in south Fremont.

The three lectures are scheduled for **Saturdays at 2:30pm on November 8, February 7, and April 18.**



Stories of Immigration

In-Person Speaker Series

Gather with us as we listen to stories of immigration from fellow parishioners **between services from 9:15-10am in the Education Room in November**.

November 2 - George V.
November 9 - Xiyun F., Marlene B., Jean B.
November 16 - Tom V., Sylvia M., Reena D.

Senior Lunch | *Gratitude & Date*

Thank you to all who made the Senior Lunch possible! Big thanks to Jan Scrutton for all that goes into these gatherings and to Rev. Ingrid for sharing her gifts of hospitality.

Save the date for our next gathering at 12 noon on Tuesday, January 13!

Diocesan Strategic Vision Process

Finalized Plan Document Available

Last year, the Dioceses' Executive Council created a Strategic Vision Committee (SVC) to engage and grow long-term planning for adaptive change in response to the challenges and opportunities facing our diocese. This has resulted in **the crafting of a *Strategic Vision Plan* (SVP)** that was finalized and presented at our annual Diocesan Convention in October. Marked for implementation over the next three years, its vision is "a growing Church, alive and transformed in Christ, serving a diverse and interconnected Bay Area and wider world."

Subtitled ***"Rooted in Christ, bearing fruit for the healing of the world,"*** the plan contains prayerful reflections and concrete initiatives/programs/steps to be pursued by our diocese. To read the document, revisit the five-part video series discussing our values, learn about the Committee, find frequently asked questions, and explore related resources/materials, **visit diocal.org/strategic-vision-process.**

Let us continue to hold our entire diocesan community in prayer as we pursue this vision for witness, relationship, and growth together.

176th Diocesan Convention

Documents & Resources Available

On Friday, October 17, and Saturday, October 18, folks both lay and ordained throughout the diocese gathered online via Zoom and in person at Grace Cathedral for our annual Diocesan Convention.

Alongside resolutions, nominations, and reports, this year's convention was marked by the presentation of the finalized Strategic Vision Plan, and we celebrated the 30 years of dedicated service by St. James' own EJ Hilliard on the Diocesan Resolutions Committee.

To view the convention booklet, read the various resolutions, review the nominee profiles and committee reports, find the diocesan Constitution & Canons, and more, visit diocalconvention.org.

DioCal Email Newsletter

Weekly on Thursdays

Keep in touch with news, updates, resources, and events throughout our diocese with the weekly email newsletter. This email newsletter, formerly known as *DioBytes*, is released weekly on Thursday and is assembled by the Diocesan Communications Team. **To sign up for *DioCal News & Events* and view past issues, visit diocal.org/news-events/.**

Folks in the diocese are also invited to share events, photos, milestones, and more to connect with and inspire our wider diocesan community. **Newsletter submissions are sent to newsletter@diocal.org**, and the guidelines for submissions can be found online at **diocal.org/news-events/**. Note that the submission deadline is weekly, on Sundays at 5:00pm.

Vestry Meeting Minutes | October 16, 2025

John Amouroux, Junior Warden

The meeting was held on October 16 over Zoom and was called to order at 7:00pm. Katie led the Opening Prayer.

Monthly Business

- Oral Communications: 10 minutes
  - Safe parking went well, gas gift cards distributed, next time at St. James' is Feb 2026
  - Gregg discussed obtaining more proper canopies for events
  - Marcus discussed blessing bag purchases
- Approved the September 18 vestry meeting minutes
- Approved re-investment of maturing CDs
- Reviewed and accepted the September financial reports
- Accepted the September staff and ministry reports
- Voted to approve blessing bag resupply purchase

New and Continuing Business

- Stewardship sermon prep update – November 9
- Update on the land development team status
- Update on Imara International postponed until Nov meeting
- Discussed early consideration of potential vestry members
- Discussed the banner and flag schedule
- Voted to approve the health benefit package for 2026

Reminders

- October 20 - Newsletter article for November by Katie
- November 20 - Newsletter article for December by Gregg
- November 3 - Stewardship mailing
- November 10-13 - Lori on vacation
- November 23 - Ingathering of pledges
- November 20 - Next vestry meeting, IN PERSON, Paula has prayers
- December 20 at 10:00am - Ingrid's priestly ordination at St. James'!

The meeting adjourned at 8:38pm, and Katie closed the meeting with Compline.

The vestry of St. James' meets over Zoom in the odd months (January, March, etc.) and meets in person in the parish hall during the even months (February, April, etc).

According to An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church (Church Publishing), *the basic responsibilities of the vestry are to "help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances."*

WAYS WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER

LITURGY & WORSHIP

WORSHIP IN PERSON 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**, our parish website. The service can be joined at any time on Sunday from 10:30am or watched during the week online through our **YouTube channel**.

WEDNESDAY 10:00AM SERVICE

Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with prayers and sermon discussion in real time through Zoom on Wednesday mornings. The link can be found under "Upcoming Events" on the right side of our **website**.

Follow us on Social Media!

FACEBOOK INSTAGRAM

Find service & sermon audio/video recordings:

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 Rev. Lori at lori@saintj.com for the Zoom link or find more info on our 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

Join us for light refreshments and conversation after each service on Sunday mornings in the Parish Hall.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

MORNING CHAIR EXERCISE

Tuesdays on Zoom | 10am – 11am

Join our weekly class of chair exercises on Breathing (Qi Gong) and Tai Chi (Hsing I). ***Email Sylvia Ma at hsiehtinghsueh@yahoo.com for the Zoom link.***

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Sunday School | ***Current Events***

Sunday School, for children age 4 through 6th grades, meets weekly during the 10:30am service; all are invited and 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 scripture passages. Afterward, children then return to church in time to join their families for the Liturgy of the Table (also known as the Eucharist or Holy Communion).

Episcopal Youth Fremont

Episcopal Youth Fremont (EYF) is a youth group for those in 6th through 12th grades 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 | SEPTEMBER 2025

FUND BALANCES	9/30/2024	9/30/2025
Operating Fund	63,412.20	66,488.64
Building Fund	96,068.05	87,555.47
Special Interest Funds	715,893.31	733,702.61
Pledges Budgeted	298,298.25	281,221.47
Pledges Paid	288,383.92	281,706.78
Unpledged Contributions	8,085.00	18,489.99
Other Operating Income	14,785.37	25,252.95
Total Operating Income	311,254.29	325,449.72
Total Operating Expenses	308,934.98	319,796.74
Income Less Expenses	2319.31	5652.98

Blessing of the Animals

During the Feast of St. Francis, October 5

Photos by Bruce Roberts

Episcopal Relief & Development

Fostering Prayerful Action

With the ongoing tragedies throughout our world, 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, the agency was renamed in 2000 to reflect its ongoing mission. It continues to meet the needs of our neighbors near and far and is well-suited to make an immediate and impactful response in a wide variety of situations/contexts.

Please consider learning more about ERD and donating to their ongoing work through their website, **episcopalrelief.org**. On the "Donate" page, you may select Flood Response, Wildfire Response Fund, and/or support other efforts assisting our siblings around the globe.

At the Wedding March

Poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ

Submitted by John Wagas

God with honour hang your head,
Groom, and grace you, bride, your bed
With lissome scions, sweet scions,
Out of hallowed bodies bred.

Each be other's comfort kind:
Deep, deeper than divined,
Divine charity, dear charity,
Fast you ever, fast bind.

Then let the march tread our ears:
I to him turn with tears
Who to wedlock, his wonder wedlock,
Deals triumph and immortal years.

Hopkins (1844-1889) was an English Jesuit priest and prolific poet whose works often mix nature, spirituality, sensuality, and contemplation.

Imara International | *Continued Outreach Initiative*

We have recently entered into partnership with **Imara International, an organization that provides services in Kenya supporting teenage mothers and their children through fostering education and life skills.**

To donate, either **write a check** to St. James' Episcopal Church with Imara International in the memo line, or **utilize the giving page** found on our parish website 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.

Halloween Celebration

Costume Parade & Trick-or-Treat

Photos by Bruce Roberts

On Sunday, October 26, we celebrated Halloween with a costume parade at church during the 10:30am service and trick-or-treating on the patio afterward.

Many thanks to those who dressed up in their costumes, helped pass out treats, and clapped along as Jennifer played the Addams Family Theme during our parade!

ALWAYS AT SAINT JAMES'

MONTHLY PRAYER LIST

For Those in the Military

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

For Those Who Need Healing & Comfort

Ron, Julie, Linda, Barry, David, Elaine, Margaret, Mandy, John, Ralph, John, Karen, Jim, Darren, Nicole, Gary, Toni, José, Paul, Albert, James, Roland, Barbara, Steve, Jesseny, Warren, Mary Ellen, and Alice

For Those Who Need Solace, Strength, & Guidance

David, Derek, Lynn, Cat, Beth, the Blalock family, the Brewer family, and the Leslie family

For Those Who Have Passed Away

Gail, Robin, Mike, Kathy, and Jeana

BLESSING BAGS & 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 parish 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 gift card, we ask for $25 cards for gas, Safeway, Target, Walmart, or Lucky. They can be given to the wardens (vestry) or clergy.

To add someone to the "Special Prayers" list, please call or email the parish office.

After six weeks, names are removed.

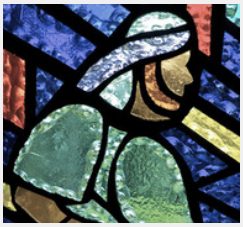
Please renew your request(s) as needed.

ACCESS TO ZOOM LINKS

Zoom links for all of our offerings can be found on our parish website, **saintj.com**; look for the calendar on our home page. If something is not listed, email the gathering/event leader.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The Newsletter Team welcomes your essays, poems, photos, reviews, and news. ***Email your submission to newsletter@saintj.com by November 20*** to ensure it is included in the December issue.



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, 10:00am – 1:00pm*

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: **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 (Ante-Communion)

MAIN COORDINATORS

Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors
George Siegmann

Eucharistic Visitors
The Rev. Ingrid Jacobson

Ushers
Burtin Hart

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

The Window Newsletter Staff
Laura Winter
John Wagas **Gregg Feeney**
Barbara Milligan **Brian Cochran**