The Window

The Newsletter of St. James' Episcopal Church in Fremont, CA
CALLED TO SERVE IN NEW AND LOVING WAYS.

October 2010

The Essential Things

Trappist monk, Thomas Merton, was a man of irony – vowed to a life of silence, he was known around the world for his words; living most of his adult life in an American community with other men, he died alone in the foreign city of Bangkok; a pacifist who criticized the war in Southeast Asia, his body was flown home from Vietnam in 1968 aboard a United States Air Force jet.

Living a life of simplicity, it is said that when he died, he had few personal effects. His possessions are a glimpse into what he saw as essential: a watch, two pairs of bifocals, a broken rosary, two leather-bound prayer books, and a small icon of the Virgin and Child. The important things: a way to tell when time is passing – his watch; tools for clarity and a forward-looking vision – his glasses; a reminder of being linked to others and to God, even in brokenness – his rosary; words of wisdom – his prayer books; the image of God – his icon[1]

We all move from one place to another with stuff – things that can be seen and things that are less easy to detect. As I begin my service with you, I find myself reflecting on what I bring – both the important and unimportant, the useful and not so useful. At my very best, I stand before you just as I stand before God, revealing my truest self: a heart for love, a quick laughter, a curious spirit, and a belief in the goodness of each person. And though I am not at my best all of the time, and you will not be at your best all of the time, I promise you this – I will always seek authenticity both in my own being and in yours. I will always strive to be honest and loving, even when I am wrong or unsure, and I will stand with you as we together worship our God and extend our hands as the presence of Christ in this world.

Together we will do amazing things that stem from the most essential possessions of our communal life – a cup holding the symbolic life force of Jesus, water and wine, divinity and humanity and a plate holding the Body given for the healing of the world. I cannot think of a place I would rather be or work I would rather do. Here's to the beginning with blessings for our journey.

Lori

1 Journeys of Simplicity, pgs. 6-7.

Stewardship Corner

Give With a Smile!

We have been hearing a lot about the Fall Stewardship Program lately. The Stewardship Committee has been hard at work putting together these events for us to come together to consider the gifts we receive from God and to respond with gratitude for those gifts. I hope you have already signed up to attend one of the three dinners or the luncheon planned but if you haven't, please do so right away. These will be fun and informative opportunities to spend time in small, relaxed social settings with other St. James' parishioners and with our new Rector.

October 24th, "Pledge Sunday", will be a very important day for the future of St. James'. It is the day we will come together to present our gifts for the coming year. I hope you will prayerfully consider how St. James' has been blessed, what would be missing if St. James' Church was no longer on Thornton Avenue, what are the gifts God has given us, what might God be calling us to do with those gifts, and then fill out your pledge card.

A pledge is important so that the Vestry can prepare the budget for the coming year based on the financial resources it can expect. A pledge is not a legal obligation but states our current intentions about our offerings for the coming year;. It can be changed at any time, either up or down, merely by notifying the Church Treasurer. With all of our pledges in hand, we will be able to plan for St. James' mission and ministry next year with confidence.

I recently read an article listing the seven truths concerning financial development programs, and the seventh truth was right on. *"If you are not smiling when you sign your pledge card, you have filled in the wrong amount. You have pledged too much or too little. Give a happy amount!"* God loves a cheerful giver.

I hope we all sign our pledge cards with a smile on our face!!

Gail Blalock
Stewardship Chair

Celebrate the Saints in Your Life

On Sunday October 31, 2010 we will celebrate the Saints in Our Lives in EB 1 during the Adult Education hour from 9:15am to 10:15am. This is a congregation participation event. You celebrate YOUR saints.

Use your **Imagination**…..
Who are the Saints in your life? What do you have to celebrate them, alive or passed on? Maybe you have an old hat, a painting, photos, clothing, a piece of jewelry, an object, and a story to go with the object(s)?

You can tell the story. You can show the story on a PowerPoint presentation. Music? You can have the story written for all to read. You can let the objects speak for themselves. Although this is not a contest event, use all the sparkle you can.

Start thinking now and gathering those objects, etc.

What will you need to set up your display? Space, table, computer, projector, chair?

This can be your version of Dia De los Muertos or your own celebration of the live saint(s) in your life as well.

Contact Elaine Miller or Bruce Roberts, your friendly guides to the saints. We can help you get the display items you need, but you supply the objects of the saints.

Submitted by: Bruce Roberts

From the Senior Warden

Our wait is over, at last this month we celebrate the arrival of our new rector, Rev Lori Walton. While we have been working on our transition and search processes Lori has been in a search of her own to find the church the Lord was calling her to lead. We now begin a new journey into the future, building on our history and growing together as a community that continues to reflect God's love out into the world.

Welcome Lori, exciting times lie ahead.

Jan Scrutton, Sr. Warden

Celebrating St. James' New Beginnings
Announcing the Fall Stewardship Program

This year's Fall Stewardship Program will embrace the theme *"Cottage Dinners Celebrating St. James' New Beginnings"* and will include three dinners and one luncheon held in the Parish Hall at St. James'. The program for all four events will feature our new Rector Lori sharing her thoughts and vision for St. James', reflections on the meaning of Stewardship, and an opportunity for commentary on what gives you joy at St. James'. All parishioners are encouraged to sign up to attend one of these events. Reservation forms are included in the Sunday bulletins or you may call Gail Blalock (490-7565) to sign up.

Please check your calendar and determine which date will work best for you. The dinners are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Thursday, October 7, Friday, October 8, and Tuesday, October 12. The luncheon is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on Friday, October 15. Friday night, October 8, will be a "pizza night" and families with children are encouraged to sign up for this date. And also mark your calendar to be in church on Pledge Sunday, October 24, when we will gather together to present our gifts for the coming year.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to get acquainted with our new Rector and spend a fun evening or afternoon with fellow St. James' parishioners in a small group setting. Most of all, join in celebration and giving thanks for the abundance of gifts God has given us.

The Stewardship Committee

ABODE SERVICES

Together we can end homelessness in our community

Learn how you can make a difference

Journey Home Tours

You are invited to join Abode Services for behind-the-scenes tours of our facilities. You'll have a chance to learn more about Abode Services' programs, meet Board members and staff, and hear stories of how we work to provide housing and opportunities for homeless families and single adults.

Sunrise Village Emergency Shelter
588 Brown Road
Fremont, CA 94538
Tour Time: 12:30 – 1:30pm
Tuesday – October 12
Tuesday – November 9
Tuesday – December 14

The shelter was specially designed and built to house homeless families and single adults in an efficient and dignified manner and houses 66 people for up to three months, 264 individuals in any given year.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Carol Arata, Director of Development, at 510-657-7409 ext. 203 or email carata@abodeservices.org

Faith Formation
St. James' History Classes

The congregation of St James' began in 1867, and has been going strong for the past one hundred forty-three years. Have you ever wondered how the community we call home came to be? When and where were the structures built? What are some of the exciting events that took place? How have the pieces evolved into who we are today?

This month we intend to talk about these things. Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15am on Oct 10 and 17 during Faith Formation in EB1 for a lively discussion of the history of St James'. We will include such topics as the physical elements of the church – when and why were things built and incorporated into our campus and what is their significance? What activities took place here, and which groups have been parts of our past? How has St James' fit into the community of Centerville and Fremont?

Everyone is invited to come take part in this discussion. We intend for it to be a conversation, not a lecture. Many of you remember things those of us leading the class do not, so please come participate. Join us if you have questions to ask, knowledge to share, or just want to listen. If you have items related to St James' from the past, you are invited to bring them for display.

If you have questions, see Laura Winter, Andy MacRae or Bruce Roberts.

Submitted by: Laura Winter

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Thank You!

Thank you, everyone, for your recent generosity and your generous spirits over the last two years. I told myself I would send out thank you notes to everyone, especially all of you who treated me to lunches and dinners my last three weeks in the parish. But I admit it: I couldn't keep up. So, from me to all of you, thanks ever so much. It was a pleasure to serve here and to know and love you through interim time.

God bless you and Lori and your ministry in the world which needs the same kind of love and support you offer to one another.

Faithfully, The Rev. Kathy Crary

St. James' Spirit

On Saturday, September 25th , team St. James' Spirit participated in the 11th Annual "KEEP ABREAST" walk at Quarry Lakes in Fremont. The foundation's mission is to empower women who are affected by breast cancer, support their well-being with postsurgical products and educational services, regardless of their financial status.

This was the second year for our team and everyone was in great spirits. Jan Brandt, Lynn Locher, Marilyn Rose, Ken Trant, Laura Winter, Sandra Motley and Griselda Prather. Tim and Pat Spencer and Ruth Poole walked to honor breast cancer survivors and in memory of loved ones lost to this disease.

Next year, we hope to have an even bigger team. Visit www.herskeepabreast.org to find out more.

Thanks ! Penny Trant

Team St. James' Spirit

Aids Walk Team Achieves Gold Team Status

Well done to Scott Whittaker and the team of walkers who joined the San Francisco Aids Walk on July 18th in Golden Gate Park.

This year the Diocesan Team registered a total of 48 walkers and achieved for the first time Gold Status (raising at least $10,000). That distinction meant they were in the top 25 fundraising teams. They raised $21,506 and ranked up with teams like Pixar, Levi Strauss, Chevron, Google, Williams-Sonoma, Bank of America, PG&E, Blue Shield, Kaiser Permanente, Catholic Charities, Gap and Wells Fargo.

Well done *Team Episcopal Churches of the Bay Area* and our St James' walkers and sponsors.

Jan Scrutton

Financial Summary August 31, 2010

Fund Balances	**8/31/2009**	**8/31/2010**
Operating Fund	28,221	29,644
Building Fund	28,456	27,312

Year To Date Summary Operating

	8/31/2009	**8/31/2010**
Pledges Budgeted	174,555	153,267
Pledges Paid	141,447	140,376
Unpledged Contributions	6,371	3,227
Other Op Income*	12,662	12,991
Total Op Income	160,480	156,594
Total Op Expenses	171,614	164,130
Income less Expense	**(11,134)**	**(7,536)**

*Inc Fundraising

St. James' Prayer List

Most Holy God, we pray for:

Those Who Need Continued Healing: Joy, Brad, Geri, Emily, Francis, Genore, Richard, Phil, Katee, Patricia, Kimmy, Frances

Those Who Need Comfort and Strength: Stephen Ferro and family, Irma and family, Susannah, Beth Veltrop and family

Those Who Need Guidance and Direction: Dean, Kenny, Katee, Kimmy

Those Suffering Economic Hardship: Tim, Jeannie

Families Who Are Expecting Children: Janice, Jocelyn, Mandy, Ginger

Those Who Have Died: Samuel, James

Those In The Military: Scott, Jarrod, Ryan, Angelina, Military Children of ACBSM

Congratulations to Lea Lucas on the birth of twin granddaughters, Sonia Marie & Roxanne Lea Lucas born Sept. 19th and congratulations to first time Grandparents, Scott and Martha Kennedy on the birth of their granddaughter, Chelsea Daniella Bran born Sept. 21st.

The next issue of ***The Window*** is in November We welcome your **comments**, **pictures**, **essays**, **poems**, **cartoons**, **artwork**, **newsworthy items of interest**, **any group activity information and reviews**.

Email your submission to window@saintj.com
November Deadline: October 15th

October Birthdays

1 Brian Whitaker

2 Abe George

3 Emilia Leora
Katherine LaRose

5 Nancy Culbertson

6 Robert Culbertson
Lynn Locher

7 Mary Casas

9 Margaret Rainey
Beth Scrutton

10 Gary Hicks
Cathy Knotts

11 Gwen Metz

13 Judy Colby

14 Richard Kostick
Marianne Gifford
Jessica Lenart
Megan MacRae

17 Jennifer Newbrough

19 Sherea Westra

20 Aaron Duncan

22 Alyssa Koonze

23 Marilyn Rose
Ashley Francis

24 Ruby Pike

25 Glory Bryant

28 Florinne B ecker
Amaya Bader-Rios

29 Joan Kimber
Donna Noll

30 Jack Williams

October Anniversaries

11 Katherine and Alan LaRose
15 Linda and David Nelsen
22 Jack and Enid Williams
27 Deidre and Nick Laino

Please note: If your birth month or anniversary is in this month and your name(s) is not listed or the information is incorrect, please email the appropriate information to office@saintj.com

SAINT JAMES'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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SUNDAY SERVICES AT
8:00 AM & 10:30AM
FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY 9:15-10:15AM
WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 AM
SECOND SUNDAY AT 6:00 PM

St. James' Episcopal Church

OFFICE HOURS 8:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. TUESDAY-FRIDAY: (510) 797-1492

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Rev. Lori Walton

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Acolytes: Nancy Castaneda
Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors: Janet Fischer
Treasurer: Jan Brandt
Ushers: Burtin Hart

The Vestry of St. James'

Senior Warden
Jan Scrutton
Junior Warden
Mary Casas
Parish Life
Penny Trant
Dean Valentine
Facilities
Scott Kennedy
Charlie Paratore

Christian Formation & Worship
Molly Lubwama
Laura Winter
Congregational Care & Social Ministries
Brad Hoffman
Andy MacRae
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