

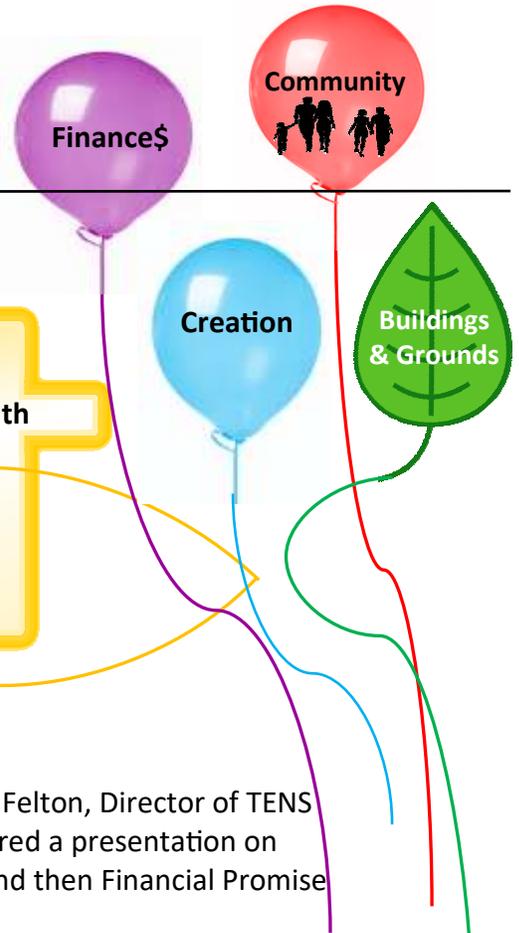
St. Jude the Apostle Episcopal Church in Cupertino

20920 McClellan Rd., Cupertino, CA 95014 (408) 252-4166

St. Jude's is a spiritual oasis where lives are transformed.

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the View from the orchard



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Celebrating Abundance

Celebrating our Abundance of...

In October 2017, our Harvest Dinner speaker Rick Felton, Director of TENS (The Episcopal Network of Stewardship), also offered a presentation on "Stewardship Year Round" to the vestry, clergy, and then Financial Promise Season task force.

Felton shared, "Stewardship is about making a choice about: your values, your time, and your money." Not only money, as we focus on with our Financial Promise Season each fall. Felton challenged us: When in our life together do we examine our choices with other resources – values, time, etc., and how are we nurturing a culture of holistic generosity?

Wilma continued this conversation at the February 2018 vestry retreat. While many were drawn to the idea, most agreed that the word "Stewardship" has too many negative connotations. So, the vestry wondered together about practicing this concept year-round but under the header of "Celebrating our Abundance of..."

Sarah led the vestry in reflecting on where we are experiencing abundance, which generated a long list of shared abundances! Then, at a follow up vestry meeting, the leadership chose several themes to focus on year-round through the Prayers of the People, sermons, View articles, etc.

Below are the themes we've been celebrating...

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March-April	Faith
May-June	Property/Campus
July-August	Community
September	Creation
October-November	Finances
December-February	TBD by Wilma

As we move through the year, where have you seen an abundance of these foci? What choices might you make to be a good steward of these resources? How might our community be better stewards of and witnesses to the abundance of these resources in our life together?

Congratulations, high school and college graduates!

Jonathan Bruns (Rosa Pellecer's son)
Ohio State, Bachelor's degree

Andy Estrada
Gunn High School, Palo Alto
Favorite memory: *Going ice skating with the youth group and having John and another youth teach me how to do it with a ton of patience. It was a great day!*

Joseph Hultquist (Jeff and Mary's son)
University of North Carolina, MFA

Icko Xiaoyoung Iben
Cupertino High School
Favorite memory: *Family Camp in Big Basin and Faithfull Families dinners*

Allen Kalampukattussery
Monta Vista High School and De Anza Community College
Favorite memory: *Synchronized stirring squad at chili-making lock-in*

Krystal Kim (Sarah's daughter)
Milpitas High School

Alex Lynch
Lynbrook High School

Prayer for graduates

Author of Life, Architect of our souls, our hearts are filled with gratitude for our youth and friends who now stand on the threshold of adult life. We have watched them grow and learn, rise to numerous challenges and celebrate many accomplishments. They have been discerning who they are in this world and to what You are calling them. We ask Your blessing now, as they commence a new chapter of their life's journey, that they feel Your presence with them wherever their paths may turn. May they have courage to meet adversity, integrity when speaking their truth, and compassion that moves them to action for justice. We ask this all for Your love's sake, through Jesus Christ. Amen.



Our Shared, Faith Community: Remaining Vibrant?

Sarah +

I attended a conference in January at the University of Southern California entitled, "Reimagining Religion 2018: New Stories, New Communities." The conference overview read as follows:

"One of the biggest religion stories of today is the rising number of Americans who no longer identify with a particular religion. But disaffiliation is only one side of the story. The current period of flux also is characterized by people and congregations exploring spirituality and experimenting with new forms of religious expression."

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After naming the research reflecting a movement away from religious affiliation, the conference turned its attention to how spiritual communities might respond. The opening speaker, Richard Flory of the USC Center for Religion and Civic Cultures, captured it this way: “Spiritual communities are reimagining themselves so that they can continue to be vibrant sources of meaning and community, of positive contributor in and to neighborhood, and communicate to the broader public sphere... in a positive way, and to respond to challenges and opportunities.”

As I listened and thought about conversations about needs at St. Jude’s, I wondered if it’s time to reimagine our faith life together to be a vibrant presence in our shared community and what might that look like?

Commonly accepted, core characteristics of vibrant spiritual communities are ...



A few examples of these characteristics that were shared at our Pentecost Jazz Vespers include,

- “Activated” – supporting Live Oak, Santa Maria Urban Ministry in hiring an Executive Director, and other outreach activities.
- “Adaptive” – holding prayer vigils in times of crisis (e.g., mass shootings).
- “Bounded” – drawing on a diversity of music from around the world and through time, such as Canterbury folk and African songs.
- “Empathetic,” “Embedded,” “Somatic” -hosting Safe Park for homeless individuals and family units in our area.

- “Enfranchised” – the Social Justice/Outreach committee has followed the passions of its members in setting activities and financial contributions. Our giving is similarly oriented around the social justice and outreach activities of all parishioners, not just committee members.
- “Networked” – cooperating with social agencies for Safe Care Park project.

What else might we do to reimagine our shared life together to remain a vibrant spiritual community? Vestry and clergy would love to hear your thoughts!



“Slow July” Worship: “...a sacred experiment in creating community on the horizon of faith....one that celebrates the living web of God and the world”

The “Slow July” liturgy-planning task force of Bruce+, Carolyn Bowker, Elena Lamp, Karen LeBlanc, Lauren Minkel-Corriveau, and Sarah+ (with input received earlier from Jani+, Laura Green, and a few others) had a wonderful and fruitful planning time.

We began by naming core, liturgical strengths at St. Jude’s, which we summarized as follows:

- Creating an environment of “all are welcome,” “come as you are,” relatively informal and warm atmosphere
- Worship outside the box with alternative prayers, readings, diverse and inclusive language
- A diversity of music, including quiet, simple songs and choir offerings
- Sermons and gifted readers
- Our wonderful use of space and visuals

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- Congregation participation/engagement, including children and youth present and leading worship

Then we recalled the Vestry's hope that having one service in July will give us an opportunity to embrace Bishop Mary's encouragement to "wonder and wander" in worship, be an expression of our Mission Covenant to "Support All Ages," and ease the volunteering schedule for Sunday morning ministries.

With these foundations, we emerged from our fun, prayerful time with a range of "liturgical love languages" that begin with contemplative worship and build toward high-energy worship (see below). Across all July Sundays, we hope to offer a music range that includes something for children, sermons with a children's part, a Healing Prayer station during communion, and post-Blessing Announcements. We pray, as Laura Green summarized, that these worship services make it easier to love and be loved by God.

Grounded: Finding God in the World, Diana Butler Bass, 283; read by the Wednesday book group)

July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29
9:30-10:30a	9:30-10:30a	9:30-10a	9:30-10:30a	9:30-10:30a
To join Wilma in spirit as she begins her 30-day silent retreat, we'll share a Taize-like worship service with communion.	We'll share an 8am style worship service.	This casual, communion service will include a blessing of those preparing to serve through the day.	We'll share in a global, chanting-based worship service.	We'll share an overtly children-friendly worship service.

Why I worship at St. Jude's

Carolyn Bowker

I walk in the doors of the back of the church sanctuary and feel the presence of peace in the soft wooden walls and light coming in from the apricot window and behind the altar. As I kneel in silence, I am grateful for this sanctuary home. Over the years what has drawn me to St. Jude's was not only this quiet peaceful sanctuary, but the love I have witnessed in the people. Even when I first came to St. Jude's, I could see the love with couples holding hands, children laughing. Now nearly 30 years later, I have many friendships that have developed. Support and love has come to me through many ups and downs in life and I continue to be grateful. I have worshipped at many of the services, not only Sunday, but Wednesday noon, Tuesday Taizé, Ash



Wednesday, Holy Week, Thanksgiving (one of my favorites), Christmas, Jazz Vespers. We offer much to heal the soul.

Mark LeBlanc

I started going to Saint Jude's because I was welcomed by one person and stayed because I felt truly welcomed by everyone at Saint Jude's. I was working through some personal issues at the time and the readings and sermons helped me to overcome them. Attending Saint Jude's brought about a transformation that brought in me a measure of goodness and well-being. I also attend because I want others to feel the same way I do and help them as everyone at Saint Jude's has helped me. I enjoy most hanging with the youth and just being there for them should they need some advice or encouragement.

William Mason

I've been going to St. Jude's for as long as I can remember, in fact since I was a baby. When I was young, I played in the nursery and looked forward to my mom coming to get me to sit with her in the choir. I also went with her to Thursday morning covenant group. I then started going to Sunday School and sang in the children's choir before I eventually moved up to the Youth Group, where I have helped set up the Easter Egg Hunt, played piano during youth Sundays, gone to multiple lock ins, and made chili. I am now a greeter for Godly play, and I love hanging out with the younger children as they begin their journey with St. Jude's. I look forward to seeing familiar faces each week and hope that St. Jude's will continue to be a part of my life.



Mary Stiles

I attend the 8am Sunday worship service and the 12pm Wednesday healing service at Saint Jude's. Why do I attend? I appreciate having the time for quiet reflection, to pray and get centered. The sermons and readings remind me of what's important: compassion, generosity, kindness, honesty. They help me reset my internal compass.



But I also show up each week because of the congregation. Many people like me who have ME/CFS (chronic fatigue syndrome) are isolated, but belonging to a community like this, where people accept me for who I am, which has been instrumental in helping me keep my equilibrium while dealing with my disability. Seeing my friends cheers me up. I love to laugh with them and hear how they're doing. The people at Saint Jude's inspire me and teach me through their loving kindness how to be a better person, how to walk in this world as a follower of Jesus.

Why do YOU worship at St. Jude's?

Gratitudes

We give special thanks this month for:

- St. Jude's financial support that enabled the students at our partner school in Haiti to eat lunch daily for the last year



- Fr Lapsley's visit and reconciliation-healing ministry with us last month



- All those who helped with set up and clean up on Rogation-in-place Sunday

- Our Taize Prayer leaders Mair Dundon and LeMel Firestone-Palerm



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More Gratitudes!

•Godly Play leaders Linda Morris and Mary Lyn Azar and volunteers: Mary Lyn Azar, Barbara Davidson, Kathy Disney, Beth Leonard, Kelly Masegian, Kate Mason, William Mason, Matt Matthews, Linda Morris, Valerie Nau, Jani Wild



•Our generous and faithful choir and many musicians: Linda Morris, Lizzie Hood, Lori Bertolucci, Susan Isetorp, Kathy Disney, Sharon Mason, Irene Kwok, Sara Razavi, Elena Lamp, Mason Razavi, Connie Erickson, Louise Thompson, Gordon Mullin, Matt Matthews, John Kemp, Kevin Richart, Margaret George. Recent faithful retirees from the choir include: Jennifer Stern, Jeffrey Pugh, Ned and Sherry Snow, Juneann McDonald, Terri Hoornstra



•... including the Blessings written by the GOTS Writers group LeMel Firestone, Eileen Motozaki, Barbara Simmons, Diane Snow, and Susan Von Konsky



Your 2018 Vestry: (from back left) Pat Coles, Ken Foot, Lauren Minkel, Mason Razavi, Kathy Yates, Don Disney, Wilma Jakobsen, Susan Davenport, Liz Mulford, Scott Rotondo. (front from left) Shanie George, Sarah Lapenta-H, Judy Bailey.

Vestry Highlights: June 2018 meeting

Lauren Minkel

We opened with a reflection on Mark 4:35-41, and Jesus' invitation to go into unknown or dangerous territory. How do we experience timidity, terror, or courage and trust that God is with us?

Sarah reported that the Bishop approved planned liturgies for Sundays in "Slow July," with an invitation our congregation to "playfully" explore as a congregation.

Ken Foot gave an update from Ops Committee: they recommend Stelling parking lot entrances be closed with chains and cones during the week, to reduce fast-moving traffic cutting through the parking lot.

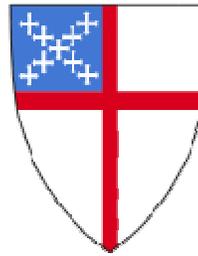
Jennifer Stern gave an update on the courtyard project and Vestry approved using funds from our Property and Live Oak reserves to fund unanticipated requirements for ADA retrofits.

The Vestry heard a report from the Finance Committee and approved two resolutions to approve Finance procedures.

Liz Mulford provided an update from SJOC and the impact of two key ministries: Safe Park and the Haiti Feeding program. Vestry discussed a letter to PACT (People Acting Together in Community), responding to a recent controversial rescindment of an award to Shara Billoo from CAIR. The letter encourages PACT to model reconciliation. Vestry discussed how we as a church grapple with actions that could be considered "political" or divisive, e.g. in the context of the family separation border policy. How does our faith guide us through these issues? How are we creating enough space for courageous conversations about emotionally charged subjects?

Kathy led a discussion on overall parish engagement. Jesus Reyes will join us in July to continue the visioning conversation about directing our energies as a parish and keeping ministries healthy. We also discussed declining Sunday attendance, observing a general sense of exhaustion in Silicon Valley. Rev. Sarah shared that the clergy have prioritized keeping the length of the service to an hour. Lauren Minkel led the closing prayer.

June 20, 2018



Let My People Go

A statement on family separations

When large numbers of people cross borders to flee persecution, war, and disaster, they are considered refugees in the world's eyes, and many nations build refugee camps or absorb migrating people, helping families resettle and educate the children. In the United States, our tendency has been to treat migrants as criminals violating our international boundaries, especially at our border with Mexico.

In the past two weeks, the Department of Justice has taken the deeply troubling step of separating migrant children from their parents at border crossings and putting those children in detention facilities. This policy is intended to horrify and deter migrants. Approximately 2,000 children have been taken from their parents in the past two weeks and put in detention centers, including in San Diego.

As Christians in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we are appalled by this practice of separating children from their parents. This cruel and inhumane treatment can cause long-lasting physical and emotional injury to children, according to the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association.

In addition, it is morally indefensible. In Hebrew and Christian Holy Scriptures, we are enjoined again and again to love the resident aliens and strangers and treat them as our own, to extend hospitality, and to share our resources with them, for we recognize that all that we have is a gift from God. We also are charged with paying special attention to the most vulnerable in our community.

Children are some of the most vulnerable members of society, and they need their families' love as well as our care and attention. We Episcopalians join with many other people of good will across the United States in asking the government to return migrant children to their parents immediately and to allow migrants to process asylum claims or to unite migrant children with family members in the United States.

Finally, we call upon Congress and our Administration to overhaul our immigration system to relieve the suffering of all those who have been harmed by our policies.

Episcopal Public Policy Network of California

Signed in cooperation,

The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of
California

The Rt. Rev. Barry L. Beisner
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of
Northern California

The Rt. Rev. Diane Jardine Bruce
Bishop Suffragan, Episcopal
Diocese of Los Angeles

The Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of El
Camino Real

The Rt. Rev. David Rice
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of San
Joaquin

The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts
Schori, Episcopal Diocese of San
Diego

The Rt. Rev. John Harvey Taylor
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Los
Angeles

