



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.

December 2018 Volume 33, No. 8 www.saintjudes.org

the **View** from the orchard

This Month

Financial Promise Season
page 1

Promise Season Story Tellers
pages 2-3

St. Jude's Reads
page 3

Education for Ministry
page 4

Advent Preparation
pages 4-5

Youth Group
page 5

Vestry Notes
pages 6

Being a Convention Delegate
pages 6-7

Gratitudes
pages 7-8

Hello and Goodbyes
page 7-8

Financial Promise Season: *Strengthening Our Community Together*

Sarah+

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who helped make our financial promise season meaningful. Not in the least the core volunteer planning team who worked with me: Kathy Yates, Steve Rudd, Jennifer Shearin, and Karen LeBlanc, and the many folks who helped with the Harvest Dinner, also the anonymous donor of drinks for the evening, and all of you who participated in the dinner and pledged toward our 2019 goals.

From the Finance Team: "Thank you for your continuing support and generosity as we continue to welcome Financial Promises/Pledges for 2019. The good news is that most of the pledges received so far are increases, in some cases significantly,

from 2018. Currently we have 79 pledges in totaling about \$400,000." If you would like to make a promise, anything from \$1 per week to a tithe of 10% to a promise proportional to your income, you may still do so via a card from the pew or online here www.saintjudes.org/pledge-form. Even more than financially-related goals, this season has been an invitation to think about the various ways we can strengthen the spirit and ministry of our community.

We hoped to give voice to the relational and spiritual dimensions of our life together that make the most notable differences. The Education for Ministry (EfM) discussion at the Harvest Dinner (page 4), storytellers (pages 2-3), and seasonal reflection questions invited us reflect on those dimensions. Below are the weekly, seasonal reflection questions:



(continued on next page)

- In what ways does the body of Christ at St. Jude's offer you a quality of community that you do not experience in other circles?
- How do you care for yourself and others at St. Jude's? How do you balance care of self with care of others?
- How does St. Jude's enable and empower you to practice kindness -- to yourself, to loved ones, to St. Jude's, to our wider world?
- How are you being transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ at St. Jude's?

Though the "ask" season is wrapping up, we hope you will continue to reflect on what difference the community of St. Jude's makes and how you can help strengthen our community in 2019.

Financial Promise Season Storytellers

Giving Back

Karen and Mark LeBlanc

Karen: I was born and raised in California, confirmed in 2002 at St. Timothy's. Mark is from Canada and was raised Catholic. He found St. Jude's through his growing relationship with me. We are youth mentors for the middle school and high school kids at St. Jude's, where we feel very privileged to be part of their spiritual growth.



Giving back to the community through SWS, working with the youth, helping when needed, and being part of the Good Samaritan ministry are some more ways we volunteer at St. Jude's. We pledge a financial promise in more than one way. We feel that the care and support St. Jude's provides us and others needs the financial support from us to ensure the facilities and other areas of our outreach are still supporting our community. Outside of our financial promise and the youth group, I support the community forum website, adult education, financial planning, delegate for our church at convention, and this year, I was the leader for Harvest dinner.

It is an important part of our Christian faith to give, whether it is love, a helping hand, prayers or money. We have the responsibility to keep sharing

our riches with this community, as we are part of its growth and upkeep. We feel that St. Jude's is where we want to share our wealth because we know that without our contributions and yours, we will not be able to keep all the wonderful things we do here.

Caring for Each Other and Myself

Noriko Kunimi



I was born and raised in Japan. As I was growing up, my father who was a devout Zen Buddhist influenced me the most. His spirituality was not confined by religious dogma.

As a young adult in Colorado I found an Episcopal Church, which I loved, but after a painful incident I left the church. I stayed away from religious institutions for 30 years, but no matter what I did, God never let go of me. 12 years ago, God started nudging me to get back into a faith community. The first time I stepped into a St. Jude's service I heard God say to me "welcome home". I cried throughout the service.

St. Jude's has the spirituality that I referred to earlier about my father. We are free to experience God in whatever way we are individually led. This is why I make a financial pledge each year. I want St. Jude's to go on providing a spiritual oasis to all.

This Sunday's theme is caring for each other as well as for our selves. I am active in the Good Samaritan ministry, Lay Eucharistic ministry, Coffee ministry, and occasionally fill in to do altar flowers. I have learned to care for myself as well as others by not overcommitting. I am thankful that God led me to St. Jude's. I pray that St. Jude's provides each of you what you need, and that you will continue to be a part of this wonderful community.

Dignity in the Widow's Mite

Beth and Amber Leonard

Amber: St. Jude's is the church my family belongs to. One of the things my mom always says is really important is being kind to other people. It's even more important than doing well in school. Every

night at bedtime, my mom asks me about my opportunity to be nice each day. St. Jude's gives me opportunities to be nice; making blankets, helping with Vacation Bible Camp, and pledging are all opportunities for kindness at church.



Beth: To me, a part of being kind, is respecting the value of the widow's mite. When Jesus visits the temple with his disciples, the wealthy sound a trumpet before them to announce how much money they are giving, but the widow in the back gives just one mite, worth only a few cents, but all the money she has. Jesus recognizes the value in the dignity of allowing every person to contribute.

I've been pledging since I had regular babysitting jobs around the age of 10. I've heard that some churches don't like children to pledge, because it brings the average pledge down, but I believe in the dignity of the widow's mite. My own children started asking to pledge a few years ago.

I've personally been incredibly blessed financially, and been able to arrange my finances so that I can tithe. I'm proud to support a place like St. Jude's that's doing the important work of bringing people together.

Strengthening our Community Together

Scott Rotondo

As we think this month about "strengthening our community together" I wonder what Jesus would have us do.



The first step, I think, is to be actively involved. I remember that when we first came to St. Jude's, I volunteered to be a lay reader but otherwise didn't sign up for anything beyond coming to church on Sunday. Then after a couple of years I was asked to run for Vestry. I clearly remember the moment when I decided to say yes, while walking the labyrinth during a Jazz Vespers service in the parish

hall. I felt like this was something God wanted me to do in order to help St. Jude's continue to thrive.

Another thing that strengthens our community is the ability to embrace a diverse set of opinions. I was raised Lutheran but stopped attending church as a young adult. When I discovered the Episcopal Church and its inclusive tradition of accepting members with a broad range of views, I felt much more comfortable about the idea of joining a church again. I often think of the sermon where Canon Jesus Reyes spoke of the Chinese character for "truth" as being composed of elements that mean "10 eyes on the table." It helps me to remember that there are lots of valid perspectives, not just mine, whether we are talking about theology or decisions about running the church or even national politics.

St. Jude's Reads: Memoirs, Reflections & Life Stories

Lianne Card, Library

Enjoy these six new life stories from our collection:

Fleming, Melissa. *A Hope More Powerful than the Sea: The Journey of Doaa Al Zamel*. 2017. This true story represents the millions of unheard voices of refugees. As a 19-year old Syrian woman, Doaa is cast into the sea when her overcrowded boat aiming to Sweden is capsized. She floats holding two toddlers entrusted to her by their parents and awaiting rescue.



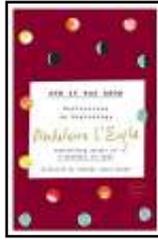
Gallagher, Nora. *Practicing Resurrection: A Memoir of Work, Doubt, Discernment and Moments of Grace*, 2003, in this memoir, the author searches for direction in the wake of her brother's death.



Hempel, Amy. *The Collected Stories*, 2007. In this New York Times Book of the Year, Amy Hempel demonstrates her mastery of the short story form. Themes include marriages, minor disasters, and moments of revelation.



L'Engle, Madeleine, *And it Was Good: Reflections on Beginnings*, 1983. The celebrated children's author reflects on Genesis, the Creator and His Works.



King, Ursula. *The Spirit of Fire: The Life and Vision of Teilhard de Chardin*, 1996. A beautiful biography of the life of Father Teilhard, a spirit and intellectual giant of the twentieth century. The biography is enhanced by many relevant photographs.



Solnit, Rebecca. *A Field Guide to Getting Lost*, 2005. This series of essays explores both the terrors and pleasures of getting lost. Solnit believes that loss is intrinsic to human life and provides a never ending process of abandonment followed by discovery.



Education for Ministry (EfM) – group forming at St Jude's

Karen LeBlanc

We heard that people enjoyed sharing their stories at the Harvest Dinner, getting a taste of the experience of theological reflections we learn and share in EfM.



Through study, worship and theological reflection, EfM helps adults of any age encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and how that tradition relates to your experiences of the world today.

EfM small groups have a reputation for becoming very close-knit as you learn and grow together in a setting where every question is possible and no answer is mocked. Our group will meet weekly for 36 weeks of the year; day and time to be decided depending on participants' preferences. It's a four-year course, but you enroll year by year. Reading requirement will probably take about three hours a week, but sometimes people become so interested that they do extra reading around the subjects. The

course is internationally recognized and used, yet there are no tests or exams.

To encourage participation, Vestry has decided to sponsor a group at St. Jude's and will subsidize \$200 of the \$350 per year fee. Higher subsidies may be available in case of need. Books are included as part of the fee. This small group is one way to strengthen the spirit of our community.

Advent: Prepare the Way of Love

Wilma

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all God's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:17 -18.



People in the early church, centered their lives on Jesus the Christ and committed to living out God's unconditional love. They were called followers of 'The Way.' Earlier this year, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry invited the Episcopal Church to join together and become part of the Jesus Movement, to follow Jesus, the Way of Love.

In these times of polarization, fear, division, amidst apocalyptic wildfires and too many mass shootings, we need to follow Jesus and the Way of Love more than ever.

This Advent, how can we grow as a community that follows the life-giving, liberating, loving way of Jesus the Christ, whose way of Love has the power to change our lives and change our world?

We will explore the practices that many others in Episcopal Churches are using, by entering into reflection and action around seven practices from the ancient monastic tradition, made new for our times: [Turn-Learn-Pray-Worship-Bless-Go-Rest.](#)

(continued on next page)

Our Advent theme is: **Prepare the Way of Love**, of newness breaking through and bringing love and life! We explore Luke 1 and 2, the pattern for understanding how to prepare the way of love as individuals, families and friends, as a community and out in the world. We “try on” the spiritual practices of the Way of Love.

We invite you to use the advent calendar, THE JOURNEY OF LOVE. It offers daily suggestions for engaging in the seven practices of the [Way of Love](#).

Advent at St. Jude’s offers opportunities for quiet and simplicity amidst the consumerist Christmas count-down, www.saintjudes.org/advent2018. I hope to see you as we prepare in Advent and celebrate Christmas and the joy of the birth of the Savior bringing love and life to our world.



Did you know we have an active youth group?

Sarah+

The youth group has been meeting monthly since September, gathering on the 1st Sunday of the month during the 10:30 am worship service, going out together on the 3rd Sunday of each month after the 10:30 am worship service, and sprinkling in lock-ins here and there. The first lock-in was in November for the annual chili-making marathon, thanks to your generous orders of chili to help raise money for supporting households through Gift of Hope again this Christmas.



The youth and the dedicated mentors, John Kemp, Karen and Mark LeBlanc, and Steve and Lauren Corriveau-Minkel, plan their time together. When they meet during the worship service, clergy have been taking turns to be with them, offering communion when they decide to stay together as a group instead of joining others in the sanctuary. And this program year, the youth will plan and lead all of us in worship at 9:15 am on January, 27, 2019, the day of our Annual Parish Meeting.

Youth group is a great opportunity for those in 6th-12th grade to explore issues of faith and life in ways that are most meaningful to them. It’s also a great opportunity to invite friends to church! If you have any questions about the group or how you may support them well, contact Karen or Steve to learn more.





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.

the permit is in hand for the courtyard project and work will begin soon.

Vestry passed resolutions to affirm Elena Lamp as our new Clerk of the Vestry and an authorized check signer, and to accept with thanks a gift made to the Endowment Fund in honor of Liz Jones. The meeting concluded with a prayer by Wilma.



Consider becoming a Diocesan Convention Delegate

Bruce

Every year at our St. Jude's Annual Meeting, our congregation elects several congregants as delegates and alternates to attend the annual Diocesan Convention held in Salinas in the last weekend of October. This year however, we will be holding an extra convention at St. Andrew's Church in Saratoga on Saturday, June 1. We will elect the next Bishop for our Diocese, a very important task with lasting ramifications for our own congregation.

Being a delegate comes with important responsibilities for the work of the Diocese. Every alternate and delegate is mandated to attend local "Deanery" meetings where policies and Diocesan issues are discussed, including the budget, changes in the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and other important policy matters. Again, this year, there will be special gatherings to meet, ask questions of and learn about each of the candidates for Bishop. Again, the work of the delegates and alternates is crucial for the future of our mission and ministry. There will be materials to read and prepare ahead of time and travel to attend the meetings.

It's also lots of fun! There are great opportunities to meet and get to know members of other

(continued on next page)

Vestry Highlights: November 2018

Shanie George

Wilma opened with a Devotional about joy and hope, including readings from Ephesians and Psalms. Wilma emphasized that God can accomplish more things than we can even imagine. That thought itself gives us strength to move on in all difficulties. Wilma recounted all that has happened since the last vestry meeting, much of which has been very challenging (refugee crisis, shootings, California fires, loss of several parishioners due to relocation and death. A letter from Sarah Lapenta-H announcing her resignation as of January 27 was then read. This is another loss for the parish, and especially so for the youth mentors.

Vestry meeting continued with a look forward for 2019. We had a report on the Appreciative Inquiry meetings held with several ministries. Discussion then ensued about continuing this practice into next year.

We received an update on current pledges, which indicate a decline in income next year. This will necessitate expense cuts of about \$75,000. With only two areas where cuts are possible (staffing and Social Justice Outreach) there was discussion about how to find the right balance. Kathy, Ken, Liz, Pat & Lauren will work with Wilma to consider new staffing configurations. Vestry passed a resolution asking the Finance committee to develop a draft budget that preserves at least 5% of pledge income for social justice/outreach programs. Vestry then approved a new "View" publishing schedule reducing the frequency to about 6 times per year. Kathy mentioned briefly the potential to expand our solar array through private donations; Ken reported that

congregations which often lead to lasting friendships in our wider Episcopal Church as you do the vital work of the Diocese. Sound interesting? The Vestry will be asking for people who are interested in serving to stand for election. Talk to a vestry person and express your interest soon.

Gratitudes: We give special thanks for ...

- The time together at the St. Jude's Men's Getaway in September.



- Our once-again St. Francis worship service with furry, gilled, and feathered creatures, great and small.



- The wonderful participation in our October welcome lunch, coordinated by Judy Bailey and Shanie George and hosted by Kathy and Don Disney.



- Meaningful All Saints/All Souls worship services with special music from the Karen Buck and Mattias Baumhof.

- All those who purchased chili from the Youth Group fundraiser.

- *"This was my first time leading something large at St. Jude's [the Harvest Dinner]. I think the event turned out lovely and successful. I am thankful for so much support and guidance from so many people including Jean Chandler, Margot Jacobsen, Kathy Yates, and Ken Foot. I want to share a special thank you to everyone who brought food and helped with food distribution. The event couldn't have gone so well if we didn't have the many volunteers to help with set up and clean up. Mark and I are so thankful for the support and help with this event. Thank you."* Karen LeBlanc



- Matt Cameron, who has been facilitating Appreciative Inquiry conversations with several ministries in hopes of offering us a resource for ongoing ministry feedback and sustainability. The ministries selected to be in the pilot groups are those in the caring and worship areas.

- This year's convention delegates: Susan Davenport, Mary Jo Doherty, Wren Gray-Reneberg, Mary Hultquist, Linda Morris, Kathy Yates, Lisa Carpenter, Karen LeBlanc, Matt Matthews, Margot Jacobsen.

- The faithful volunteers who prepare the View for mailing: Margot Jacobsen, Linda Iimura, Opal Hebson, Janice McShurley (Jean's daughter) Jean Chandler and Karen Leasure (not pictured). They are often joined by others. It's easy to see they enjoy chatting as much as anything. Thank you for keeping the USPS in business!



- The many people who donated time and energy on the Classroom Courtyard demo day.

Goodbyes and Hellos

In the past six weeks, we have said some big goodbyes to people who have been a constant presence in our life at St Jude's, giving of themselves, their gifts and skills, and loving us as we love and live together in community. Our hearts are full of love and gratitude.

- **Susan Davenport and Scott Siebers**, both on altar guild and coffee hosts, while Susan baked the best cookies! Susan was also the clerk of the vestry, and coordinator of the altar guild and coffee hosts.

- **Tam Tran**, of our nursery staff, worked seventeen years, caring for St. Jude's children during services and events. She saw many of our youth grow from babies, to children, to young adults. We wish her well as she moves to the east coast to care for elderly parents.

- We also said goodbye to **Erika's daughter, Melinda (Christy)** who substituted in the nursery and moved away this fall for college.

- **Linda and Michael Morris**, left for Oregon right after church on their last Sunday at St. Jude's. Linda was at St. Jude's for fifty years. She coordinated the Godly Play ministry for children, communications for the diocese and to the wider community, was a delegate to diocesan convention since the diocese began thirty-five years ago and much more. Michael was the music director at St. Jude's for over five years.

- **We have also shared the excitement of "hellos"** to our community and, with much gratitude, into new leadership positions. Linda's tasks have been taken on by a large number of volunteers, including Mary Lyn Azar, Beth Leonard, Kathy Disney, Mary Hultquist, and Donna Araiza. We welcome Elena Lamp as the new clerk of the vestry, Peter and Cheryl Corless as coffee hosts coordinators, Connie Erickson and Louise Marriott, who now oversee the altar guild.

- **Karen Buck and Mattias Baumhof** and their family are new members of St. Jude's and recently shared their musical gifts with us, leading worship in Laura's absence on All Saints/Souls and Reign of Christ Sundays.

- We also welcome new nursery staff **Andy Estrada and James Donnelly**, bringing our nursery team back up to full staffing.

- **And we are introducing a new rhythm (calendar) for the View newsletter.** The following 6 issues will now be published on an annual basis for Advent/Christmas, Annual Parish Meeting, Lent, Easter/Pentecost, Summer, and Financial Promise Season. We hope this new rhythm will better match your readership interests, behind-the-scenes organizational time, and our faith life together.