

Announcement from the President of the Board of Directors Monterey Bay Zen Center July 3, 2018.

As President of the Board of Directors for MBZC, I would like to formally announce that Monterey Bay Zen Center has arranged with St. James Episcopal Church to set up a "full time" Zendo, library and meeting space in the Church's McGowan House in Monterey. Our official occupancy began July 1st, 2018.

For those of us who have practiced for many years with MBZC, expanding to a space that would allow us to have a Zen meditation room set up at all times and a library large enough to hold our complete collection of books has long been a dream. Earlier this year, a space became available at St. James Church's McGowan House that we believe can move us closer to achieving that goal. We have previously used space at the McGowan House for classes and other events including our annual sangha celebration, Under One Roof, and of course Brown Bag Zen meets in the St. James Sanctuary each Friday where St. James Rector, Jeff Kohn, is an active participant.

Rev. Jeff is allowing us to utilize the space at the McGowan House on a month to month basis so we may see if our community has the interest, energy, activities and resources to maintain this practice place. Costs for this expansion, fees to reserve this space for our ongoing use and purchase of necessary supplies for a new Zendo and Library, exceed our budgeted fundraising for this year. Rather than waiting to build up our cash flow before taking this next step, the Board of Directors has approved use of funds from the Katherine Thanas Bequest – funds earmarked to provide us with the necessary financial support to take this step when the opportunity arose.

So far, two events have been held at the new space: a cleaning day and an informal sitting to put some "zazen energy" into the main room which eventually will be set up as a full time Zendo.

Our plan is to continue all existing MBZC activities at the Cherry Center and all of our other venues. We will be updating the community as events are organized for the new space, and welcome volunteers who wish to help with the work to get the Zendo and Library set up and open for business. If you would like to know more about volunteer opportunities, please contact me at mbzc.pres@gmail.com.

This expansion is both scary and exciting for those of us who have been spearheading the effort. We'd love whatever time, experience, ideas, and donations of supplies and money you are able to provide to support this expansion of our community and offerings of the Dharma.

Looking forward to seeing you soon at the McGowan House!

Jana Clark