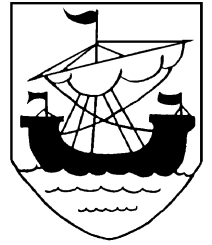


# Canterbury Tales



The Newsletter of St. Anselm's Church, Lafayette, California

January, 2017

## *From The Rector*

### An End of The Year Reflection

No hyperbole here- EVERY year at this time there are those stories about the Best and the Worst. Be it films, television series, books, sports teams- there is a list to be made. We have the Man of the Year, and as the calendar turns to the new year- the first baby born. And because it tends to be a slow week for most folks between Christmas and New Years, there is a lot of time for reflection on the events of the last year.

Or not. There is plenty of football.

We write the first check in January, and have to remind ourselves to write "2017" instead of "2016" in the check ledger. After a couple of checks, we have made the adjustment.

Whatever the best and the worst of any given year, whoever the teams in the Bowl games, however many checks it takes to adjust, it gets to be a pretty expected routine. Names change, dynamic stays the same.

And therein lies the contrast. There was one night, in one year where the dynamics changed.

To commend this event the measuring of time changed. (A.D. replaced B.C., C.E. replaced B.C.E.) But that change, though momentous, was merely symbolic, an arrow pointing to the greater change- humanity began to understand just how close divinity resided.

How do we know this?

Can you hear it? Of course not- it is silent.

Can you see it? Of course not- it is invisible.

Can you speak it? Of course not- it is deeper than words.

Can you schedule it? Of course not- it happens outside of time.

And yet- you can feel it. And when you feel it, it sets to music what you hear, fires with brilliance what you see, turns the words you can speak into poetry, and stops time dead in its tracks.

Whether received as belated or not, Merry Christmas!

John+

## *Anselm's Angels*

Here are all the wonderful people who helped with the Advent Festival Breakfast:

**Naomi Chamberlain- Harris, Pam Green, Inge O'Neill, Sally Morrison, Gerry Starr, Liz Sutton, Sheila Gorsuch, Sara Nelson**

Clean Up:

**Liz Sutton, Ann Burns, John Sutton**

Many thanks for all the help. You are the BEST!!!!

The choir for the joyous music during Lesson & Carols—**Andrew & Caroline Huddart, Gail Clarke, Carol Fontana, Don Helmholtz, Vicki Pappas, Barbara Thornton.**

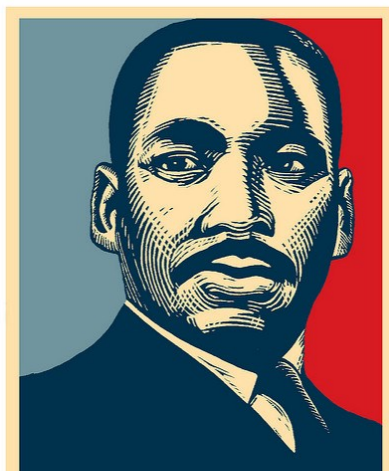
Thanks to **Virginie Descamps** for organizing a successful Outreach Sunday.

To all who helped enhance our Christmas services:

- **The Altar Guild**—For the beautiful decorations in the Sanctuary
- At the Altar: **John Sutton, Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Katheryn Dunn, Calvin Sherwood, Steve Masterson**
- Lector: **Vicki Pappas, Steve Masterson**
- Ushers: **Sylvia Williams, Dick White, Paul Witkay, Peter Grace, Doug Merrill**
- Musicians: **Gail Burnett, Duane Nelsen, Tom Pappas, Jim Armstrong**

## *Upcoming Events in January*

1	Sun		<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>
3	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
4	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
6	Fri	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Meeting
7	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		5:30 p.m.	<b>Epiphany Party</b>
8	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
9	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
11	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
12	Thu	12:15 p.m.	Michael Lane Preschool Board Meeting
14	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
15	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
16	Mon		<b>MLK DAY—The Church office will be closed.</b>
18	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		2:30 p.m.	Property Commission Meeting
21	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
22	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Inquirer's Group
			<b>Canterbury Tales</b> Deadline
25	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
28	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
29	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal



***I HAVE A DREAM***

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Editor:  
Carol J. Fontana

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8 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
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(Nursery and Sunday School)

**St. Anselm's Staff**  
The Rev. John Sutton, Rector  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Carol Fontana, Office Manager

## **The Senior Warden**

“A New Year has tiptoed in.  
Let’s go forward to meet it.  
Let’s welcome the 365 days it brings.  
Let’s live well with love in our hearts towards God and all people.  
Let’s walk through its corridors with praise songs on our lips.” – Anusha Atukorala

May God bless each of you with prosperity, good health and happiness in 2017.

Cathy Witkay

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## ***YOUTH GROUP***

I've been brain-storming with John how St. Anselm's might offer programs for youth, when we don't have a critical mass of youth group aged kids (middle school & high school). One idea we thought we'd try is to piggy-back on Church of the Resurrection's (399 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill) program. My friend Whitney Wilson is the Minister of Formation for Children, Families, and Youth there and she said that was absolutely fine. Whitney said the Youth Group draws from several high schools (Las Lomas, Acalanes, College Park, De La Salle, Carondelet, etc. + their middle school feeder schools), so someone coming from another parish would definitely not feel like an "outsider." Please let me know if you have any questions, or other suggestions for how we might better serve the youth of St. Anselm's.

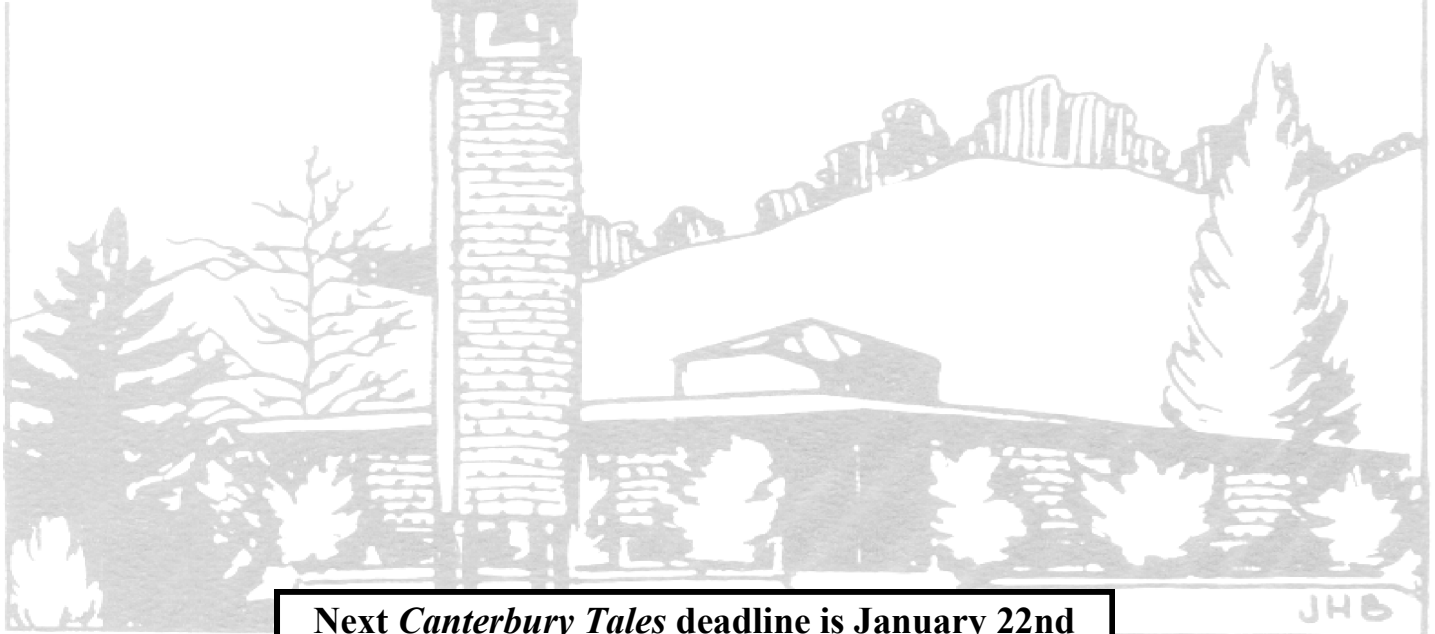
Upcoming dates for Church of the Resurrection Youth Group: Jan 22; Feb 26; Mar 19; Apr 23; May 7.

I will forward details for each event as the date approaches (& try to include in weekly bulletins).

Steve Masterson  
Masterson\_steven@yahoo.com

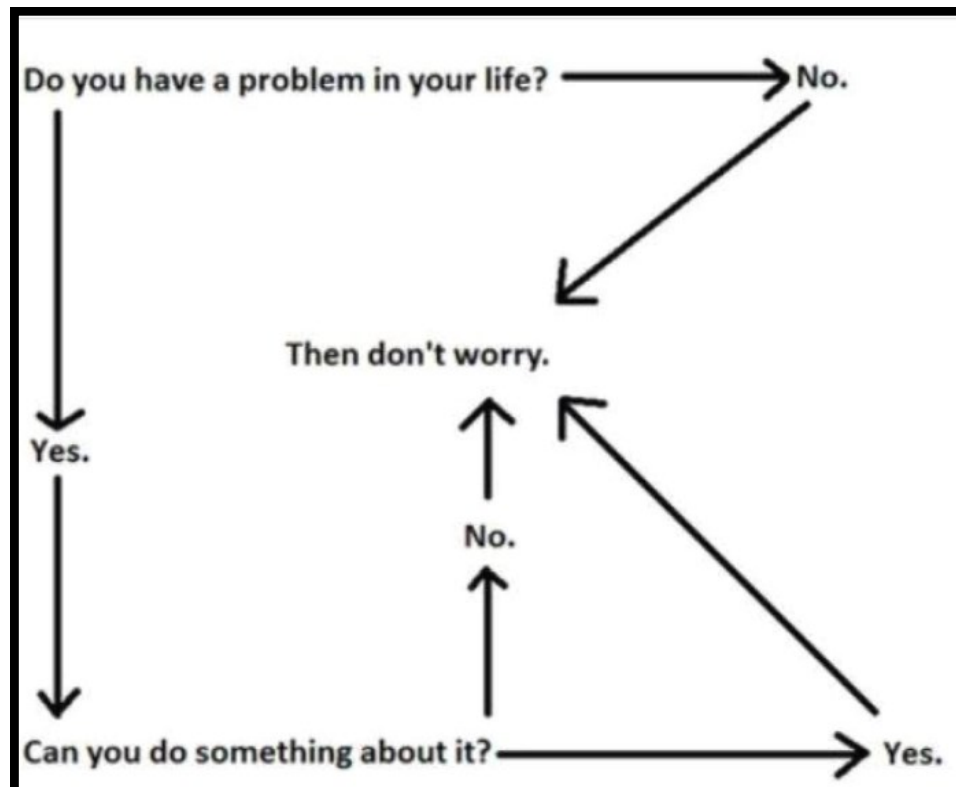
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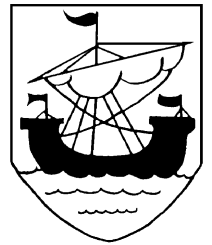
Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is January 22nd

### *Thoughts for 2017:*



# Canterbury Tales

The Newsletter of St. Anselm's Church, Lafayette, California



February, 2017

## *From The Rector*

### **Watching It Pour Down!**

Want to see how we are doing on putting a dent in the drought? Here are a couple of websites you might find of interest:

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/resapp/getResGraphsMain.action>

On this website, the State of California keeps track of daily changes in water volume at the State reservoirs. They have been filling up very nicely of late, even in Central California where we need it most.

<http://weather.sfgate.com/auto/sfgate/geo/precip/index.html>

Daily updates on rainfall totals for major Bay Area and Northern California cities.

<http://gismap.ccmmap.us/FloodControl/Hydrology.html>

For real time local Contra Costa rain gauges and daily results, this is the site for you.

It has been about two years now that we have kept a plastic bucket in the shower. We have used it to capture the cold water as the water heats up, and the gray water while showering. Then that water has been used to flush the toilet.

I put the bucket outside a couple of days ago. I feel pretty confident that we are exiting the drought. But while I won't be using that bucket to flush the toilet, I still plan on taking a Navy shower. With the sudsy soap bars from Costco, it is just as effective. And I save time as well as water. I do think we will replant our back lawn though.

This January rainfall has been a true godsend, and I am thankful for God's providence.

John+

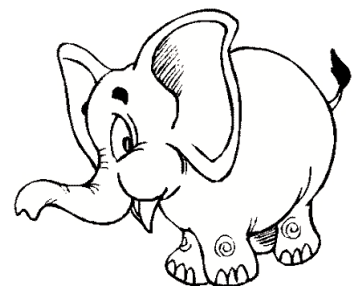


## *Anslem's Angels*

The Epiphany Party was, again, a fun-filled event. Many thanks to all who helped:

**Sheila Gorsuch**, Coordinator  
**Shanda Young**, "Wise Woman"  
**Wynne & Gary Bacon & their granddaughter, Gail & Art Clarke**, Norm Gorsuch, Vula Gutman, Michael Hollinger, Steve Masterson, Sally Morrison, Sara Nelson, Vicki Pappas, Sally Roberts, Gerry Starr, John & Liz Sutton, Al & Sara Swimmer, Marty Watson, Chris & Peggy Young.

And thanks to all who attended with yummy treats and interesting "white elephants".



## CRAB FEED ALERT!

Our annual Crab Feed will be on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet is in Jackson Hall. Cost: \$40/adult; \$15/children (12 and under). Mark your calendar and save the date!



## 2017 PARISH DIRECTORY

If you've made any changes to your contact information, please update this with Carol in the office.

There will be a new directory issued in March.

Thank you.

## LENTEN SERIES

The Christian Formation Commission is pleased to announce that we have engaged a speaker for this year's series, Dr. Carol Miles, who is a Presbyterian minister and teacher of biblical studies.

In her words, she will "introduce us to recent significant shifts in the field of biblical studies that have opened the door for new ways of reading and interpreting the Bible. After identifying a series of paradoxes that define the nature of sacred texts, we will consider the promise of contemporary literary approaches, feminist and liberation theologies, and postmodernism to yield readings of Scripture that are critical, credible, and compelling."

The series will be held on four consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning on March 7th. As always, there will be a soup and salad supper before the program begins.

Talk with Anne Brown if you have any questions.

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Sunday, February 26th  
Following the 10:00 a.m.  
service**

- 2016—A Year In Review
- Elections:
  - \*Vestry Class of 2020
  - \*Diocesan Deanery Delegates
  - \*Deanery Alternates

*All are encouraged to  
Attend—your participa-  
tion is important*

## ANNUAL REPORTS

If you are the Chair of a commission, committee, guild or group, and have something new and exciting to report, please have your Annual Report to Carol (in the office) by February 15th. Thanks.

## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY IS COMING!

For the last several years, the youth of St. Anselm's have been participating in Souper Bowl Sunday, a program that raises funds to fight hunger locally. On Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup>, our youth will once again be collecting donations for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County. **We want to raise a record amount this year! Father John will match donations up to \$1,000 from his discretionary fund for donations made on Super Bowl Sunday.** To contribute, just bring cash and put it in the soup pot after the service, or make a check out to St. Anselm's and write "Souper Bowl Sunday" on the memo line.



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### St. Anselm's Staff

The Rev. John Sutton, Rector  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Carol Fontana, Office Manager

## *The Senior Warden*



*G'day mate!*

*Paul & Cathy just returned from their trip to New Zealand and are still re-acclimating to California time. No worries, though, as she will return for our February issue of Canterbury Tales.*

## ***MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL***

The children were very excited to be back at school last month, but I had the distinct feeling that the parents were even happier!

We started off with hair and eye charts so they could connect with each other and see how they are the same and different on the OUTSIDE.

We were immersed in winter activities, rain and snow. We placed yogurt containers in the sand area to collect rain and then we brought them in and measured how much rain was collected. One of my favorite activities was freezing animals (plastic polar bears, penguins, walruses and seals) in a block of ice and then "rescuing" them using salt which melted the ice.

Additionally we made bird feeders, using a bagel spread with shortening and rolled in bird seed. We then placed them around the church property and had fun checking them every day. The children become so excited when their feeder showed signs of activity.

Welcome back everybody!

\* \* \* \* \*

## ***FROM OUR PRESCHOOLERS:***

Our Mon-Wed-Fri students were asked the questions, "What is a president and what does a president do?". Here are a few of their responses:

A president makes the place a better place.

Of course he's a good guy, a bad guy couldn't be president.

The President is like a problem solver.

He flies on Air Force One (that's a bit of an odd name, isn't it?).

You have to be a grown-up.

They vote.

Lives in the White House.

I have no idea what a president does.

They're in charge of a town.

They put people in prison.

Go on T.V.

Give speeches.

I couldn't have said it better!

Kim Olson

Director

---



## *Upcoming Events in February*

1	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
2	Thu		<b>Groundhog Day</b>
3	Fri	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Meeting
4	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
5	Sun		<b>SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
6	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
7	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
8	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
11	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		5:30 p.m.	<b>CRAB FEED</b>
12	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
13	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
14	Tue		<b>Valentine's Day</b>
15	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
18	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
19	Sun		<b>Canterbury Tales Deadline</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:30 a.m.	Christian Formation Commission Meeting
20	Mon		<b>PRESIDENTS' DAY—The Church office will be closed.</b>
		11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
22	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		2:30 p.m.	Property Commission Meeting
25	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
26	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Inquirer's Group
		11:30 a.m.	<b>PARISH-WIDE ANNUAL MEETING</b>
27	Mon	12:15 p.m.	Michael Lane Preschool Board Meeting



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**Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is February 19th**

## ***GROUNDHOG DAY***

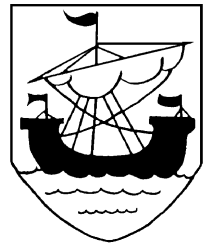
The celebration began as a Pennsylvania German custom in southeastern and central Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries. It has its origins in ancient European weather lore, in which a badger or a sacred bear is the prognosticator, as opposed to a groundhog. It also bears similarities to the Pagan festival of Imbolc (the seasonal turning point of the Celtic calendar, which is celebrated on February 2 and also involves weather prognostication), and to St. Swithun's Day on July 15.

The first documented American reference to Groundhog Day can be found in a diary entry, dated February 4, 1841, by Morgantown, Pennsylvania, storekeeper James Morris: "Last Tuesday, the 2nd, was Candlemas day, the day on which, according to the Germans, the Groundhog peeps out of his winter quarters and if he sees his shadow he pops back for another six weeks nap, but if the day be cloudy he remains out, as the weather is to be moderate."

Groundhog Day was adopted in the U.S. in 1887. Clymer H. Freas was the editor of the local paper *Punxsutawney Spirit* at the time, and he began promoting the town's groundhog as the official "Groundhog Day meteorologist". The largest Groundhog Day celebration is held in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, with Punxsutawney Phil. Groundhog Day, already a widely recognized and popular tradition, received widespread attention as a result of the 1993 film *Groundhog Day*.



# Canterbury Tales



The Newsletter of St. Anselm's Church, Lafayette, California

March, 2017

## *From The Rector*

### **Lent Can't Get Here Quick Enough**

Yesterday I was eating lunch in a restaurant that had a sports talk show on the television. Like many of these shows, there is a headline at the bottom of the screen that stated what they were discussing. The headline read "Did Durant to Westbrook assist save basketball?"

If you aren't an NBA follower then you might not know that there has been a lot of publicity around Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook. The former superstar left the latter in Oklahoma City to join the Warriors. A lot of effort has gone into manufacturing controversy between the two.

There was speculation as to whether or not West All Star coach Steve Kerr would let the two play at the same time. He did. In the first quarter the two former teammates were on the court together. Westbrook passed to Durant, and Durant no-look passed back to Westbrook for a beautiful jam. They were all smiles afterwards, and fist pumped each other at the other end of the court.

It was a beautiful give-and-go, notable not for controversy but for its power and grace. How one speculates that it may or may not have saved basketball is beyond me. I can think of another sport that needs saving a whole lot more than basketball right now, but I wonder: Why has hyperbole become the flavor of the day in the media today?

I don't want to dwell on this too much. But it is hard not to. When everything becomes a life-or-death matter, nothing becomes a life-or-death matter. Where is proportionality and what happens to a society that is conditioned to forget that it exists?

Lent is a time for self-reflection and quiet. If you are anything like me, you want that quiet this year more than you have in the past. Quiet time can help us get our bearings back. Besides the physical refreshment it provides, it can help us to clear our minds. I can't think of a better antidote for the noise out there than focused, disciplined prayer and contemplation.

This Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> is Ash Wednesday. We will have services at noon and seven p.m. This article will end with a line from how that service opens:

*I invite you in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.*

Yours in Christ,  
John+

## *Anslem's Angels*

*Be yourself, everyone  
else is already taken.*

*Oscar Wilde*

Thanks to all who contributed to the **Souper Bowl** collection and to those who stood outside with soup pots in hand. We donated \$2,709 to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano!

The Crab Feed was a huge success with thanks to the many hands who participated:

**Coordinator: Michael Hollinger**

**Set-up: Sara Swimmer, Don**

**Helmholz, Art Clarke, Peter**

**Grace**

**Spaghetti: Jim Morrison, Walter**

**Blount, Michael Hollinger**

**Salad: Foster, Preston, Jordon &**

**Carter Lipscomb**

**Crab: John McGraw**

**Bread: John Sutton, Rand Havers, Sally Roberts**

**Check-in: Preston & Jordon**

**Lispcomb, Gerry Starr**

**Servers: Liz Sutton, Debbie Havers**

**Clean-up: Doug Merrill, Sara Nelson, Zoe Hekmaty, Al Swimmer, Toph Hollinger & Crew**

Welcome to our new Vestry members, the class of 2020: **Michael Hollinger, Caroline Huddart, Joan Martin and Elaine Sherwood.** Congratulations to our new Senior Warden, **Sylvia Williams** and our new Junior Warden, **Elaine Sherwood.**

Congratulations to our new Deanery Delegates: **Cindy Eisenberg, Norm & Sheila Gorsuch and Chris Stone** and to our new Deanery Alternates: **Paul Harris, Jane House, Julie & Gerry Starr.**

## LENTEN SERIES 2017

### *Not Your Sunday School Book: Reading the Bible in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

It's hard to dispute that we live in "interesting times." The Bible offers us guidance and inspiration to live according to our faith and values, yet understanding and applying Biblical teachings in a modern context is often challenging.

At this year's Lenten Series, Rev. Dr. Carol Miles, a theological educator, former campus minister and former professor at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, will introduce us to new ways of reading and interpreting the Bible that are critical, credible, and relevant for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. An engaging speaker and skilled facilitator, Dr. Miles will help us take a fresh, energized look at Biblical study.

We will gather on four consecutive Tuesday evenings (**March 7, 14, 21 and 28**) for soup and salad at 6 p.m. followed by presentation/discussion beginning promptly at 7 p.m. Please join us for fun, fellowship, and fresh insights!

Sign-up sheets will be available after services beginning February 26. Questions may be directed to Anne Brown ([annechalfantbrown@gmail.com](mailto:annechalfantbrown@gmail.com)) or Marian Mulkey ([marianmulkey@comcast.net](mailto:marianmulkey@comcast.net)) of the Christian Formation Commission.

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Youth of St. Anselm's will be serving pancakes, sausage and orange juice Tuesday night, Feb. 28th, at the church. We will start at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 and all proceeds will go to the Food Bank.



**GO WILD!**

***Daylight Savings Time Begins on  
Sunday, March 12th***

***Remember to turn your clocks  
AHEAD one hour on  
Saturday, March 11th***

## SOCK COLLECTION

Dear St. Anselm's Family,  
It's that time of year again when deacons collect new white warm socks for our homeless brothers and sisters. I will be collecting new, white sport-type socks for our folks at Trinity Center from March 6th to Palm Sunday, April 9th. There will be a basket in the back of the church designated for socks. Periodically during Lent I will be delivering our socks to the folks at Trinity Center. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,  
Deacon Naomi



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Carol Fontana, Office Manager

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## **The Senior Warden**

It's hard to believe that this is my final article to you as Senior Warden. I have been honored to serve in this capacity; as well as in serving as a member of the Vestry for the past three years. It has been a pleasure serving St. Anselm's and I've enjoyed the added benefit of getting to know other members of the parish better.

This past year has been a very busy one for the St. Anselm's community. Our commitment to outreach and Trinity Center has grown exponentially while we continue to support our various ministries within our own community. We have been able to make needed repairs to our physical plant. And most of all, we continue to grow as a caring community through gaining knowledge about Islam and supporting our LGBT neighbors.

As I've stated many times this year: I am so proud to be a member of St. Anselm's.

Cathy Witkay

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## ***MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL***

Our music teacher, always gets a laugh when I let her know what we have been doing in class so that she can prepare a lesson that is related to our current focus. She laughs because I always give her about 3-4 different themes! But that is just the way we roll at Michael Lane. The children have so many interests that pop up and then we have seasonal themes that we address. Currently these seasonal themes are winter, snow, rain, the Lunar New Year, seasonal food for snacks, Valentine's Day.... If it seems disjointed at times be confident that we are always working on the basics with the children: social and emotional confidence, respecting one another, problem solving, critical thinking, imagination, pre-literacy with an emphasis on rhyming, math skills, physical development, social studies and most of all being engaged and happy at school.

Every year there are interests that we choose to delve into more deeply. We do this as a five step process: Watch, Ask, Provide, Enrich, Sustain. This year we have been exploring ramps and chutes as many of the children were building ramps at the beginning of the year. The past two weeks we played with balls, tubes and ramps by moving the balls with hair dryers. (Of course that led us into more activities with balls. We have set up a sort of ball painting course using paddles to move the balls). Additionally, Peg Matson made an incredible chute for our indoor sand table filling it with wood pellets.

All the children have been extremely interested in rolling up paper into tubes. We channeled that intense interest of making things with paper and tape by helping the children make structures with paper. We will be doing origami with the children so that they can see that things can be constructed with paper without tape.

Kim Olson

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## ***RECIPE OF THE MONTH***

We are trying something new in the Canterbury Tales. On a monthly basis we will publish what we are calling the "Recipe of the Month". Where do the recipes come from? Anyone in the Parish is welcome and encouraged to submit as many recipes as they desire.

Here are some guide lines: Recipes must be easy to prepare for anyone with basic cooking skills, must not take too long to prepare (say 20 minutes or less), be aimed at the diner meal, be such that left overs for 1-2 nights will be available, and of course must be nutritious and good tasting.

Thanks in advance for your participation. Please submit your recipes to Dick Orear at [rcorear@gmail.com](mailto:rcorear@gmail.com) or by mail to Dick at 237 Overhill Road, Orinda, CA 94563.

This month's Recipe was submitted by George Wasson

What you need:

- Skinless, boneless chicken pieces of your choice
- Hidden Valley Ranch dressing (not diet)
- Lemon-Pepper spice
- Basket of Mushrooms

Preparation:

- Wash mushrooms and trim
- Sprinkle chicken thoroughly with Lemon Pepper spice
- Place chicken in baking dish, add mushrooms, and cover completely with generous amount of Ranch dressing. Cover with aluminum foil and put in oven set at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

A nice side dish that goes well with this is rice mixed with green peas.

Enjoy this great recipe and thanks George for telling me about it.



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## *Our Ongoing Muslim Connections*

This time last year we were in the midst of our Lenten Series, a study of Islam. The grand finale was a panel of five Muslims, who spoke to us about Islam and answered our questions. At the end of the evening, several of us on the Christian Formation Commission and two of the women panelists expressed an interest in staying in touch.

Some of the resulting connection has been personal, as when we were invited to a breaking-the-fast meal during Ramadan at the home of one of the women. Other connections have been institutional, through the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County and also San Damiano Monastery and Retreat Center, where there is an active interfaith ministry.

The Interfaith Council (which, by the way, is the organization that runs Winter Nights) created an Advent service, honoring Mary, at Lamorinda Presbyterian Church, attended by Christian, Jewish, and Muslim women, including Gail Clarke and myself.

On February 3, the Interfaith Council arranged a Ring of Solidarity at the Walnut Creek Islamic Center. Gail Clarke and I went. There were about 300 people there, including Senator Steve Glazer, Assemblywoman Catherine Baker, and NBC News. Two Presbyterian pastors spoke, as well as several rabbis, Muslims, and a Native American. The energy was loving and connecting. Speakers stressed our common humanity, that there are no “others”, including those with whom we differ politically. One speaker quoted Martin Luther King “Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that.”

San Damiano has put on two retreat/workshops for Muslims and Christians. I attended the one on January 22, which was about Mary, as seen in both faiths. Did you know that Muslims revere her and that there is a chapter in the Koran about her? I didn't.

The next Muslim/Christian retreat will be Sunday, March 5, from 9-4. The theme will be “Reaching to the Next Spiritual Level through Forgiveness”. Gail Clarke, Sara Nelson, and I are registered and would love for any of you to join us. More information is in the Sunday bulletin and also a flyer in Jackson Hall.

San Damiano's Br. Mike Minton has also offered to take any of us to a Friday service at the mosque in San Ramon. We haven't yet taken him up on it.

The two women that were on our panel, Maram and Maimoona, who invite us to these events, are always happy to see us, expressing their gratitude to us for being there. While they don't talk much about it, they do acknowledge that there is anxiety in their community these days. Therefore, I see this as a ministry of support and connection for us as Christians, as well as nourishing our spiritual growth.

If you want to be informed of future events, please let me know, so I can contact you.

Anne Brown.

Email address: [annechalfantbrown@gmail.com](mailto:annechalfantbrown@gmail.com).

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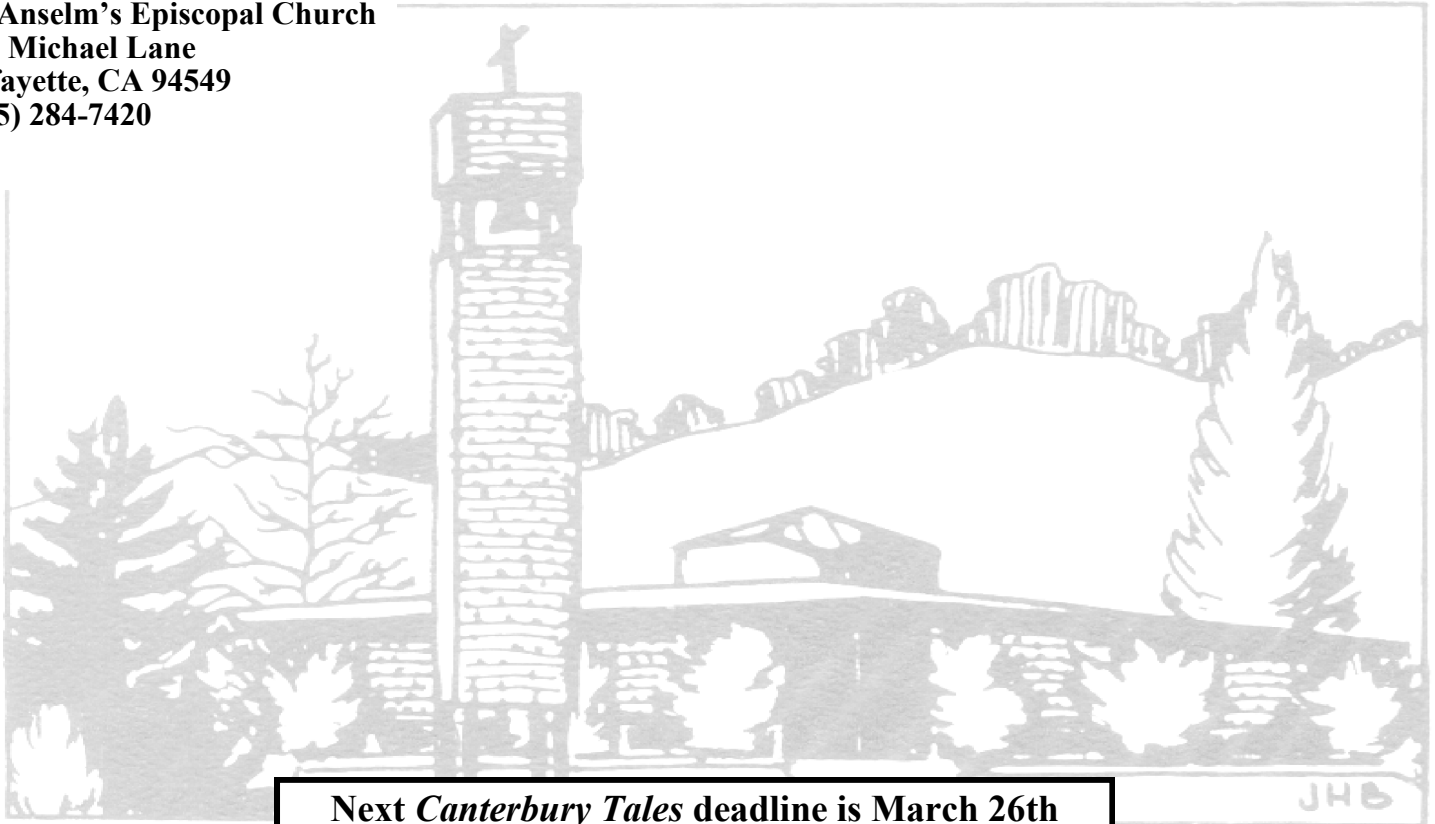
## Upcoming Events in March

1	Wed		<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>
		9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		Noon	Service with Imposition of Ashes
		7:00 p.m.	Service with Imposition of Ashes
3	Fri	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Meeting
4	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
5	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
6	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
7	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
		6:00 p.m.	Lenten Series
8	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
11	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
12	Sun		<b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
13	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
14	Tue	1:00 p.m.	Senior Ministry Team Meeting
		6:00 p.m.	Lenten Series
15	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		7:00 p.m.	Property Commission Meeting
16	Thu	6:30 p.m.	Contra Costa Deanery Dinner at Resurrection, Pleasant Hill
18	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
19	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
20	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
21	Tue	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Series
22	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
25	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:00 a.m.	<b>Work Party</b>
26	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Inquirer's Group
			<b>Canterbury Tales Deadline</b>
27	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
28	Tue	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Series
29	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		12:15 p.m.	Michael Lane Preschool Board Meeting





St. Anselm's Episcopal Church  
682 Michael Lane  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 284-7420



Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is March 26th

## *Victory Garden of Life*

### *Plant Four Rows of Peas*

- *Presence*
- *Promptness*
- *Preparation*
- *Perseverance*

### *Plant Three Rows of Squash*

- *Squash gossip*
- *Squash indifference*
- *Squash criticism*

### *Plant Five Rows of Lettuce*

- *Let us be faithful to duty*
- *Let us be unselfish and loyal*
- *Let us obey the rules*
- *Let us be true to our obligations*
- *Let us love one another*

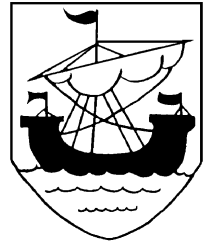
### *No Garden is Complete without Turnips*

- *Turn up for meetings*
- *Turn up with a smile*
- *Turn up with new ideas*
- *Turn up with determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile*



# Canterbury Tales

The Newsletter of St. Anselm's Church, Lafayette, California



April, 2017

## *From The Rector*

### **Very Encouraging**

For the last several years we have had live speakers for the Lenten Series. It seems to be a very good formula- attendance has risen from a high of about 20 in years past, to this year when we have averaged over 30 folks.

This year's speaker was The Rev. Dr. Carol Miles. Carol is an ordained Presbyterian minister and was a professor at a seminary. She taught us things we should consider in reading the Bible, and how it is holy. Thinking outside the box, Carol has offered us ideas to expand our understanding of the Bible, and to bring the words to life.

As the one person in the congregation who needs to dig deep into Scripture every week, I am particularly thankful to Carol, and to the many parishioners who have attended her lectures. One of the greatest joys of my vocation is to be 'required' each week to study the Bible in depth. The adage '*you get out of it what you put into it*' applies to so many things we do in life, but the thing about Scripture is that any one, and I mean any one (who can read), can get something out of the Bible. You don't have to be able-bodied or of a certain age. You don't have to be able to afford it, or have a certain degree. Wherever you are in your life, if you engage those words from the depths of your being, they can jump to life and speak back to you as you search for their meaning for you. That's what makes them holy.

I am grateful to Carol for what she has given us; and to the many folks who have come out this year to the Lenten series to receive her words. In so doing, you have given your Rector great joy.

Yours in Christ,

John+

## *Anselm's Angels*

*Imagine if trees gave off WIFI signals, we would be planting many trees! Too bad they only produce Oxygen!*

Thanks to all who helped out with our most successful Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper ever: **Susan Barnes & Katheryn Dunn** for doing all the shopping and helping out after attending to other commitments. **Foster, Preston and Jordan Lipscomb**- feverishly mixing, flipping and serving sausages and perfectly done pancakes. **Julie Rinkenberger, Dale & Alan Zhiang** and friend, **Tawny**, setting and cleaning tables. **Abby & Liam Perry**- setting tables too, making fruit salad and helping the cleanup crew. **Julie Hullverson, Harry & Francis Barnato** and friend, **Jo Jo**- collecting money and helping out all around. **\$205 was raised for the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano!**

Our Lenten season was solemnly begun with our traditional Ash Wednesday services. Thanks to the **Altar Guild** for preparing the ashes and transforming the sanctuary with the Lenten cross and purple drapes.

The Lenten Series was very engaging and well-attended again this year. Thanks to all who prepared the suppers that were enjoyed by all: **Anne Brown, Sally Fischer, Vula Gutman, Ina Merrill, Marian Mulkey, Sara Nelson & Vicki Pappas**. And thanks to **Hema Harichandran & John Sutton** for the set-up and the many others who assisted with clean up.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Sunday, April 9**  
**PALM SUNDAY** 8AM & 10AM

**Thursday, April 13**  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY** 7PM

**Friday, April 14**  
**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE** NOON

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** 7PM

**Sunday, April 16**  
**EASTER SUNDAY** 8AM & 10AM

## COFFEE HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

Once again, a big thank you to all who have hosted the 10 o'clockers' coffee hour throughout the past months. There are some great opportunities for resourceful bakers and/or TJ's shoppers in the coming weeks/months. The sign-up sheets are in the kitchen awaiting your name[s]. Please take a moment to find a date that suits your schedule at any time during 2017. It would be appreciated by all.

If you have any questions contact Sara Swimmer, who has offered to manage this part of our Parish Life program. She can be reached at [saraswimmer@comcast.net](mailto:saraswimmer@comcast.net). Everyone in the congregation will thank you for your support!



## NEW DIRECTORY

The new Parish Directory is now available!! Copies will be in the church and in Jackson Hall for pick up.

Please limit yourself to one copy.

## ANGELS cont.

Many thanks to **George Wasson** for his service as our Pledge Administrator and to **Sara Nelson** for assuming the role.

Many thanks to **Cindy Eisenberg** (8 o'clock parishioner) who created a beautiful photo book to commemorate the 2017 Crab Feed. Please take a look. It is in the Parish Hall.

Our first Work Party of the year got off to a great start. Many hands make light work: **Walter Blount, Anne Brown, Art Clarke, Sheila Gorsuch, Pam Green, Michael Hollinger, Foster & Preston Lipscomb, Doug Merrill, Roy Merrill, Marian Mulkey, Sara Nelson, Dick Orear, Vicki Pappas, Gordon Repp, John Sutton & George Wasson**

## EASTER EGG HUNT

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt following the 10:00 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.

Special guest appearance by the big rabbit himself!



*Canterbury Tales* is the monthly newsletter of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA  
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web site: [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

Editor:  
Carol J. Fontana

**Sunday Services:**  
8 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
(Nursery and Sunday School)

**St. Anselm's Staff**  
The Rev. John Sutton, Rector  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Carol Fontana, Office Manager

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## **The Senior Warden**

Greetings to my St. Anselm's family! I am so honored to be your Senior Warden for 2017. I look forward to working with Father John, Naomi, my fellow Vestry members and parishioners as we continue to make St. Anselm's a unique place to worship, serve, and learn.

During a recent Vestry meeting, we went over the Parish calendar for the year. Looking at the list of events, I was impressed by the creativity and dedication of our clergy and parishioners, who work tirelessly to make St. Anselm's an active and caring community. The outreach, service and Christian formation events hold special significance for me. They are wonderful opportunities for us to come together to provide support for those who are struggling through difficult times, to expand and examine our outlook on the world, and to have some jolly good times raising money to help other organizations do their good work.

I never cease to be amazed at all that is accomplished by this small but mighty congregation. Being even a small part of these events brings so much richness to my life. I invite everyone to participate to the extent you are able, and to share in the joy that service, learning, and fellowship can bring.

As I was poking around on the Internet, looking for some ideas for this article, I came across this quote. Since Easter is fast approaching, I think it is fitting, and speaks to the spirit and dedication of St. Anselm's:

“The joyful news that He is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, make the sacrifice.”

- Henry Knox Sherrill, 20th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

Wishing you a blessed Easter with family and friends,

Sylvia Williams

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## ***WOMEN'S RETREAT: MAY 5-7***

The Women's Retreat is typically a weekend of opportunity – opportunity for quiet and reflection, to open ourselves to God's work in us and God's will for us. It's an opportunity to focus on ourselves, free from our usual distractions and obligations. It's an opportunity for sharing, with the closeness and insights that come from that. It's also an opportunity to get to know each other better and to have fun together. It's an opportunity for those of you new to the parish to make friends.

Our leader this year will be our own Katie McGovern. She hasn't settled on a theme yet. She's still exploring several possibilities. Whatever it is, however, Katie will encourage us to go deep, as well as maintaining her light touch.

This year's retreat will be at Mercy Center in Burlingame. The grounds are beautiful and should be particularly so at the beginning of May, after all our rains. In our free time, there is a labyrinth to walk, as well as a book and gift shop to visit. Or – you can walk with friends or just sit and talk or take a nap.

The weekend will start at about 5 pm on Friday and end after lunch on Sunday. If you want to come for Saturday only, that will be from 9 am until 5 pm.

The cost for the whole weekend is \$300. and for Saturday only is \$65. If the price is too high for your budget, please let us know. We have scholarship funds available, thanks to a bequest from a former parish member. Also, that's why we do bake sales!! So, please don't let that be your reason not to attend.

If you have questions, want more information, or want a scholarship, please get in touch with me, Anne Brown. My e-mail address is: [annechalfantbrown@gmail.com](mailto:annechalfantbrown@gmail.com).

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## ***RECIPE OF THE MONTH***

This month's recipe was submitted by **SHEILA GORSUCH**. Thank you Sheila for your submission and taking time to send it. Remember folks anyone in the congregation is welcome and encouraged to submit their recipes. Below Sheila's recipe we have printed the general guidelines for submitting recipes for this program.

### **TUNA CAKES**

What you need:

- 12 oz. can of tuna in water, drained/flaked
- 1/3 cup mayo
- 6 oz chicken stuffing mix
- 1 cup shredded cheese (type cheese your choice)
- 1 TS sweet pickle relish
- 1 carrot shredded
- 3/4 cup water

Preparation:

- Combine all ingredients
- Using Tupperware, or any thing that will form burger size patties, make 6 cakes from your mixture
- Refrigerate at least 15 minutes
- Place cakes on sprayed cookie sheet
- Set broiler on high and top rack 6" below broiler
- Cook 6 minutes per side

Remove let cool serve and enjoy

## ***RECIPE SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES***

Here are some guide lines: Recipes must be easy to prepare for anyone with basic cooking skills, must not take too long to prepare (say 20 minutes or less), be aimed at the diner meal, be such that left overs for 1-2 nights will be available, and of course must be nutritious and good tasting.

Thanks in advance for your participation. Please submit your recipes to Dick Orear at [rcorear@gmail.com](mailto:rcorear@gmail.com) or by mail to Dick at 237 Overhill Road, Orinda, CA 94563.

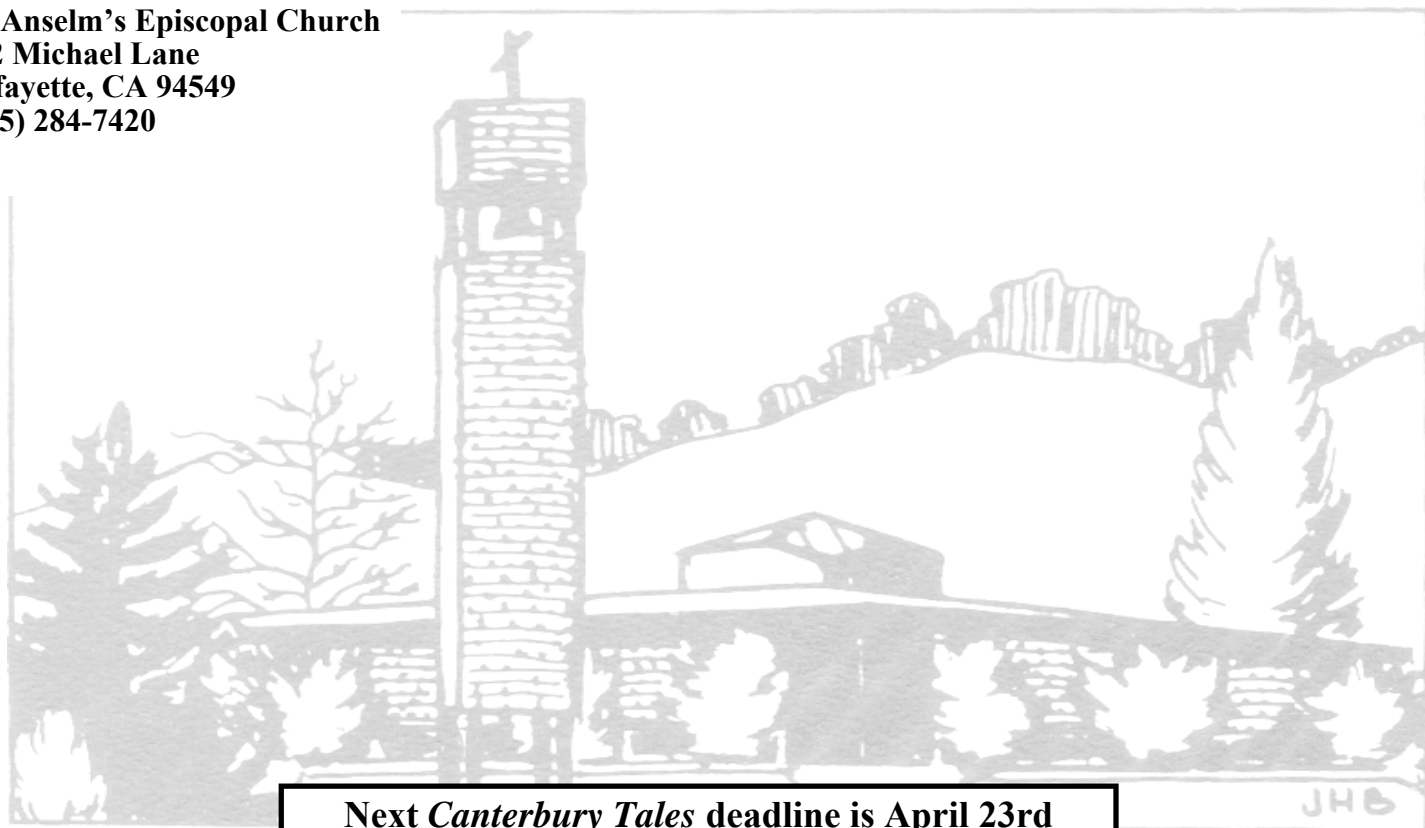


## *Upcoming Events in April*

1	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
2	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
3	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
4	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
5	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
6	Thu	5:30 p.m.	Harvest Festival Planning Meeting
7	Fri	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Meeting
8	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
9	Sun		<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class
10	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
12	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
13	Thu		<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>
		7:00 p.m.	Evening Service
14	Fri		<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
		Noon	Service
		7:00 p.m.	Service with Stations of the Cross
15	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
16	Sun		<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:00 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
17	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
19	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		2:30 p.m.	Property Commission Meeting
22	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
23	Sun		<b>Tools of Hope Sunday</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Inquirer's Group
			<b>Canterbury Tales deadline</b>
24	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
26	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
30	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal



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**Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is April 23rd**

## ***MOTHER EARTH—THE ONLY HOME WE HAVE!!***

### ***EARTH DAY—APRIL 22nd***

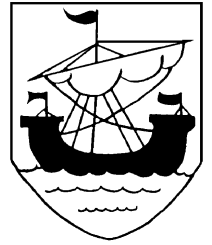
Earth Day aims to inspire awareness and appreciation for earth's environment. Earth Day is usually celebrated with outdoor activities performing acts of service to the earth. Typical ways of observing Earth Day include planting trees, picking up roadside trash, conducting programs for recycling and conservation, using recyclable containers for snacks and lunches. Some people are motivated to circulate petitions calling on governments for stronger safe-guards to curtail global warming and reverse environmental destruction. This year on Earth Day go outside, no matter what the weather, enjoy the tonic of fresh air, connect with the soil, and commune with nature!

### ***NATIONAL ARBOR DAY—APRIL 28th***

It has been over 135 years since J. Sterling Morton founded Arbor Day. His simple idea of setting aside a special day for tree planting is now more important than ever. On Arbor Day, people are encouraged to plant and care for trees. A wide range of events are organized to promote Arbor Day. These often include communal tree planting ceremonies, exhibitions and educational activities highlighting trees and their importance to local communities and the planet as a whole and open days at garden centers. So let's gather together and celebrate the importance of trees!

***We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children.  
American Indian Proverb.***

# Canterbury Tales



The Newsletter of St. Anselm's Church, Lafayette, California

May, 2017

## *From The Rector*

### **A Very Good Life Lived By A Very Good Man**

Thank you to all my wonderful flock who have shown such support to me, Liz and Kate after my father died three weeks ago.

In the twenty months since entering hospice care, dad got out of his bed once. And yet, in that time he did not suffer and had wonderful care from the woman who grew to become his good friend Mele Lasike.

Mele, Laukau and Pau are now looking for their next engagement and I could not recommend them more highly. Mele's phone number is 650-669-2896. If you have a loved one, or know of someone who does, Mele will treat that person not only with respect, but with love.

Over the last twenty months, we thought we were going to lose Dad on a number of occasions. And he would bounce back every time. You'd think we would have been conditioned not to be surprised, but after all the scares, the timing of his death WAS a surprise.

Knowing that Dad wanted to make his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday, I would let him know how near the date was. He had been drinking ½ to one bottles of Ensure a day, not much at all, prior to the countdown, and then he increased to two to three bottles a day. So when we got the call, eleven days before he would have turned 95, we were indeed surprised.

Dad had a good sense of humor. And his last words to me were a joke. He died on a Tuesday, and the Thursday before I was at his house. I was wearing a light red colored sweater, and he was pointing at it. I could tell he was trying to say something, so I put my ear next to his mouth. He faintly whispered, "My sweater." Mele went into his drawers, found his orange and red sweater to assure him that I had my own red sweater.

Every day I went over there, I knew the day would come. And I counted my blessings to be there for my father to care for him in a way that no one else could. We do get an opportunity to give back. As every parent knows there is no greater joy than caring for a child. I found it once again, in being the child who was able to care for his father.

God speed Dad.

John+

## *Anslem's Angels*

*What do we live for, if it is not to  
make life less difficult for each other?*

— George Eliot, *Middlemarch*

A big thank you to all who helped  
to make the Holy Week services  
special:

- The Palm Sunday Passion readers: **8 o'clockers—Gary & Wynne Bacon, Anne Brown, Cindy Eisenberg, Jane House & Chris Stone and Dharmini Harichandran! 10 o'clockers—Sheila Gorsuch, Don Helmholtz, Caroline & Andrew Huddart, Jim Morrison, Inge O'Neill, Vicki Pappas, Judy Peak and Dick White!**
- Maundy Thursday: Lector—**Judy Peak**; Usher—**Doug Merrill**
- Good Friday: Lectors—**Vicki Pappas** and **Deacon Naomi**; Ushers—**George Wasson** and **Doug Merrill**.
- Easter Sunday: the **Altar Guild** for the beautiful Easter lilies, the **Choir** at 10 o'clock for the joyous "Alleluias!", and all who attended and helped make this a true celebration of the Resurrection!

A big thank you to **Sara Nelson** for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt and, once again, bringing the bunny.



## ***SEND OFF FOR CAROL & OLIVIER***

We will be bidding aloha to our Office Manager Sunday, May 21 at 11:15, immediately following the 10 o'clock service. Plan to join us as we honor Carol and her husband, Olivier, as they move on to the next chapter of their lives, in their home at Lake Tahoe. Carol has been the administrative heart and soul of St. Anselm's for nearly twenty years and we want to give her a great send-off. There are sign-up sheets in Jackson Hall for this potluck. We are asking that your "price of admission" be 24 finger foods – heavy appetizers or desserts, which should be brought to the kitchen before the service. We hope that 8 o'clockers will be able to join the festivities even though it might mean staying around, coming back or even attending both services!

Please put your pen to the paper and help us get this show on the road.

## ***Upcoming Events in May***

1	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
2	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
3	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
5	Fri	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Meeting
5-7	Fri-Sun		Women's Retreat at Mercy Center
7	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
8	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
10	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
13	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
14	Sun		<b>Mother's Day</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
15	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
17	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
20	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
21	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:15 a.m.	Send-off Party for Carol & Olivier
			<b>Canterbury Tales Deadline</b>
22	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		5:30 p.m.	Harvest Festival Committee Mtg.
24	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		12:15 p.m.	Preschool Board Meeting
28	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Inquirer's Group
29	Mon		<b>Memorial Day</b>
			<b>The office will be closed.</b>
		11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
31	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga

## ***THANKS TO ST. ANSELM'S FAMILY***

Dear Members of St. Anselm's family,

My deepest thanks for the socks you provided for our Homeless friends at Trinity Center. When I delivered them I could see how much they were going to be appreciated. In case you didn't know... collecting socks for the homeless in the Bay Area during Lent has been a project of the deacons of this Diocese for many years and it has been my honor to be a part of this tradition. Thank you again.

Blessings,  
Naomi

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Editor:  
Carol J. Fontana

### **Sunday Services:**

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
(Nursery and Sunday School)

### **St. Anselm's Staff**

The Rev. John Sutton, Rector  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Carol Fontana, Office Manager

## *The Senior Warden*

This year I took a late spring vacation in Calaveras County, figuring that the winter storms would be gone, but the temperatures would still be cool and comfortable. However, as my vacation week approached, the storms were still rolling through. Rain and snow were in the forecast for much of my vacation week but I was not going to complain, given how water-starved we have been for the past five years.

On the drive across San Joaquin county and up into the foothills, I was dumbstruck at how lush and green the landscape was. Springs, creeks, and ponds were overflowing. The grass was waist-high and wild flowers were starting to pop. It seemed like a miracle after so many years of drought.

When I reached the Stanislaus National Forest, I was dumbstruck by another sight: wide swathes of the forest had died off due to drought and bark beetle infestation. I had read about this disaster in the newspaper, but seeing it firsthand tied my stomach in knots. As I drove into the development where my rented cabin was located, loggers were everywhere, felling and hauling away the dead timber on the cabin lots. It was an overwhelming operation, set in motion by CalFire and the US Forest Service, in an effort to reduce the danger of wildfires.

The first morning of my stay, I headed out early to get in a walk before the rain started and it was still sunny. I had to detour several times on my route because the roads were closed due to logging activity. Eventually I wound my way to an area that had already been cut and cleared. Many of the lots had lost 90% of their timber.

I saw a woman standing in the almost-bare yard of her cabin and stopped to chat. I commented that she must be devastated at the loss of so much timber, and I hoped she was holding up OK. She got a little teary-eyed and agreed that it was difficult: almost like losing a loved-one. But, it was nice to have more sunlight inside the cabin. Then she pointed out the pine seedlings, about ten inches tall, scattered all across the yard. They had sprouted a few days after the dead timber had been cleared and the sun had been able to shine through. Now she was thinking about how to thin the crop so they would thrive. It would take decades to recover, but the forest had already started its comeback.

This spring we are blessed to see examples of a great miracle all around us: the renewal of God's creation. Where there had been drought and devastation, the gifts of abundant rain and sunlight have brought new life. Let's all do our best to take care of this magnificent creation.

"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing."

- Isaiah 35:1.

Wishing you a spring filled with hope and renewal,

Sylvia Williams

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This month's recipe was submitted by **WYNNE BACON**. Thank you Wynne for your submission. Below Wynne's recipe we have printed the general guidelines for submitting recipes for this program. Please, folks, send me recipes! I'm all out of new ones.

### TEXAS HASH

What you need:

- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 large green pepper, chopped
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 pound ground beef
- ½ cup uncooked rice
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tsp chili powder
- 1 large can diced tomatoes

Preparation:

Sauté chopped onion and pepper in oil. Add ground beef and cook until mixture falls apart. Add remaining ingredients. Cover and continue cooking on low heat until rice is done. An alternative way to cook is to put entire mixture in a casserole dish, cover and bake in oven until rice is done, about 45 minutes @ 375 degrees. (*Dick: I chose this alternative cooking method and it worked very well.*)

A very tasty one-dish meal and a big plus is that it will last more than one night. You should try it.

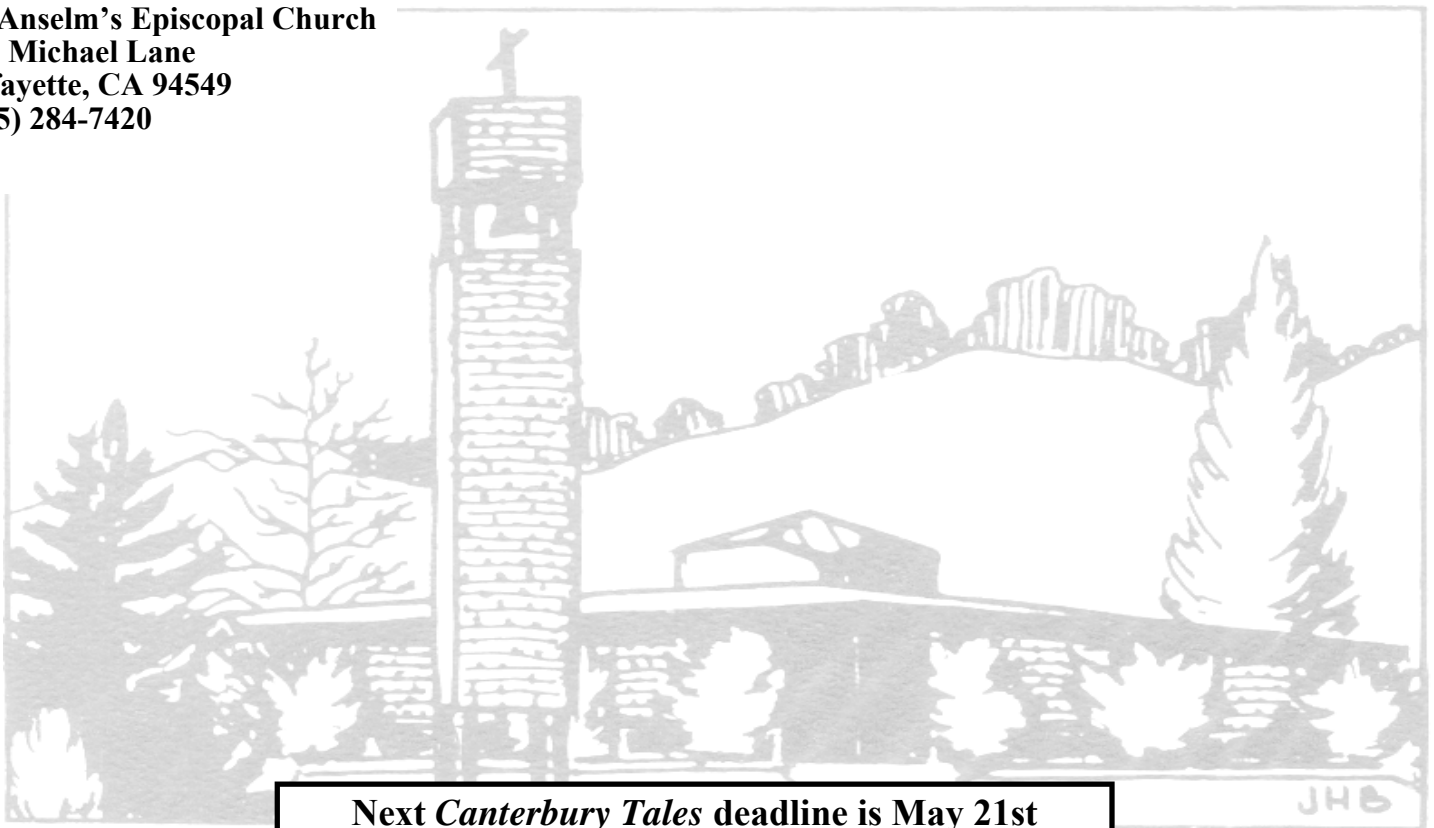
## RECIPE SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

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Thanks in advance for your participation. Please submit your recipes to Dick Orear at [rcorear@gmail.com](mailto:rcorear@gmail.com) or by mail to Dick at 237 Overhill Road, Orinda, CA 94563.



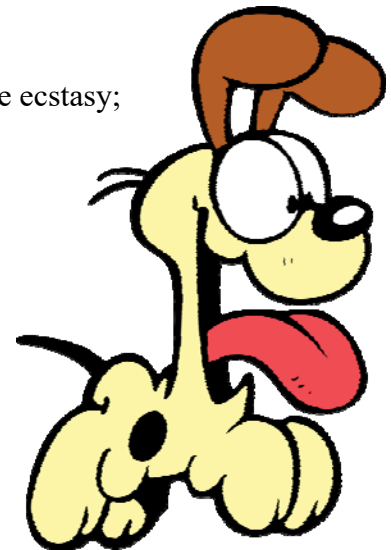
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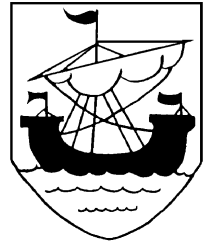
**Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is May 21st**

*If a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:*

- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them;
- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride;
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy;
- Take naps;
- Stretch before rising;
- Run, romp, and play daily;
- Thrive on attention and let people touch you;
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do;
- On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass;
- On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree;
- When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body;
- Delight in the simple joy of a long walk;
- Be loyal;
- Never pretend to be something you're not;
- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it;
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.



# Canterbury Tales



The Newsletter of St. Anselm's Church, Lafayette, California

June, 2017

## *From The Rector*

### Several Long Journeys- The Facts

Liz and I returned from Copenhagen yesterday, and we both finished the book we wanted to read. The trip is not the journey I will be talking about. The journeys in the books are, and their journeys are much longer.

While clearing out Dad's house two weeks ago, I picked up a book. It is entitled I Will Fight No More Forever, and chronicles the events before, during and after the conflict between the Nez Perce tribe and the U.S. Army in 1877. This topic is near and dear to my family, for two reasons. My father's maternal grandfather Oscar Long fought in the battle of Bear Paw Mountain, where Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce surrendered. The other story is the great injustice of the conflict in which that ancestor was engaged.

Though he never wore a uniform, Chief Joseph was arguably the greatest 'american' general and leader in the field that ever lived. He led his warriors to clear victories against superior forces and eluded the U.S. Army for months, traveling 1,700 miles with his entire tribe, including women and children. The tactics of the Nez Perce are studied at West Point to this day, and praise for the dignity of the tribe and the man is understood not only through the long lens of history, but was by the very men who opposed him on the field in his time.

Stories of this campaign were passed from my great-grandfather Oscar Long to my father, from my father to me. My family is very proud of the courage that Lieutenant Long displayed on that fateful day at Bear Paw Mountain, but like the story of his courage, Dad also passed along stories of the ambivalence our soldiers felt at the time. One story I remember was a letter written by a soldier who said he and his comrades would fire at the same time as none wanted to know whose bullet felled the brave.

Dad's other grandfather was also in a life or death situation with a different tribe of Native Americans. In his case, he and his entire family's lives were saved by them.

Dad's paternal grandfather was Ernest (Ernie) Sutton. When Ernie was a boy, his father's crops were wiped out by locust and he and his family headed west. Their wagon was stopped in its tracks by an early winter, and a tribe of high plains Indians literally saved the lives of Ernie and his family. They shared their teepee with the stranded migrants and allowed them to winter over with them. They fed them. They kept them warm. Ernie never forgot this grand kindness, and many years later he was able to give back from his prosperity to a different destitute tribe. The Hopi Indians made him a blood brother.

(Continued on page 5)

## *Anselm's Angels*

*We're all just walking  
each other home!*

*~ Ram Dass*

A big thank you to all who helped this past month!

- Once again the Women's Retreat was a spiritual respite for all who participated. Thanks to **Anne Brown** and **Katie McGovern** for once again coordinating this event.
- Our **TOOLS OF HOPE** collection raised \$420 to support communities in need. Thanks to all who contributed.
- **MOTHER'S DAY** was a festive occasion thanks to the efforts of the **Altar Guild** for providing roses for our moms. Thank you to **Steve Masterson** for the Mimosa's and the efforts of his team including **Peter Grace, Paul Witkay, Kelsey Witkay, Jim Morrison** and **Kelvin Booty**.
- We said "Aloha" to Carol and Olivier Fontana in style with a beautiful luncheon reception thanks to the efforts of **Sheila Gorsuch, Michael Hollinger, Sara Nelson, Eva Woo, Sara Swimmer, Cathy Witkay, Vicki Pappas** and all the parishioners who contributed to the delicious potluck lunch!

Dear St. Anselm's family,

It's hard to believe that it's been 19 years since I came to St. Anselm's from Kelly Temporary Services. The time, as they say, has flown.

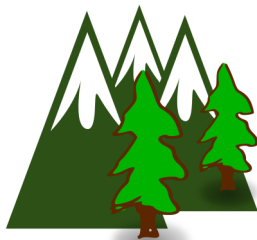
There have been many changes over the years - the transformation of the sanctuary, the renovations to Jackson Hall, the installation of the Columbarium and opening up of the Memorial Garden. I've watched children grow up, some now with children of their own and I've said good-bye to many lovely souls.

But some things haven't changed. St. Anselm's is still the warm community that welcomed me so long ago. Your generous spirit is overwhelming and the care you feel for our neighbors and each other is evident.

Thank you for my lovely send-off! That was unexpected and awesome! Both Olivier and I really appreciate all the good wishes. We are looking forward to our new adventure but will truly and deeply miss you.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your "Church Lady".

Carol



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
FOR THESE  
UPCOMING EVENTS**

Work Party — June 24th  
Opportunity Fair — September 24th  
Harvest Festival — September 30th

## **OFFICE CHANGES**

The following office changes will be effective Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

Office Hours:  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Email Address:  
cathy.w@stanselms.ws

## **No August Canterbury Tales**

Our next issue of *Canterbury Tales* will combine both July and August.

The deadline for submission of articles and notices for that issue will be June 25th.

*Canterbury Tales* is the monthly newsletter of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA  
Phone: (925) 284-7420  
e-mail: cathy.w@stanselms.ws  
web site: www.stanselms.ws

Editor:  
Cathy S. Witkay

**Sunday Services:**  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**St. Anselm's Staff**  
The Rev. John Sutton, Rector  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Cathy Witkay, Office Manager

## **The Senior Warden**

Late spring is always a time of transition. Proms and Senior Balls mark our teenagers' passing into young adulthood, decked out in slinky gowns, tuxedos and limousines. We attend graduations of every stripe, from pre-school to graduate school. Wedding invitations arrive in the mail. The real estate market explodes as families sell their homes and move to new locations so the kids can settle into their surroundings before the next school year begins.

This year is certainly no exception for me. Within the past few weeks, a good friend has passed away and another has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Several friends in our congregation are moving away to start new chapters in their lives. On the career front, two long-time coworkers have retired, my department has undergone a major reorganization, and the new management team has ended the telecommuting program. Soon I will rejoin the hordes of commuters trudging into an office building each morning.

Change is hard, and as I get older, the changes seem to come at me more rapidly. I find myself thinking of the title of a popular musical from the sixties: *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off*. If only the solution were that simple! Thankfully, I have far better sources of strength and inspiration for coping with my transitions: my family, my friends and my faith. I am truly blessed to have the support and strength that comes from being part of the St. Anselm's community. I am grateful for all of you.

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

- Philippians 4:6-7

Sylvia Williams

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## ***Stephen Ministry***

As a member of our church and a Stephen Minister, I would love to share with you an example of our work. Recently I was able to connect my care receiver to a program run by Contra Costa County. This program is supported by a national and county organization, NAMI (National Association Mental Illness) that gave her more education and another support group where she could have a better understanding of her concerns. She enrolled and received a very coveted place in a program: "Family to Family". She reported that it was a blessing and she was thankful for the experience that has proved helpful in finding peace and happiness in her family.

The above is just one example of the Christian-based loving care that Stephen Ministers have been trained in their six months education. Our job is to listen confidentially and to assist when needed. We attend classes during the year to continue our learning and meet regularly with guest speakers on related subjects.

Sara Swimmer, Stephen Minister



*If you are interested in having the help of a Stephen Minister who has gone through 50 hours of training to learn to be a faithful, consistent, confidential listening care giver, please contact Father John or Vicki Pappas, Stephen Leader. Also, maybe you would make a great Stephen Minister! Please contact Father John or Vicki to find out more.*

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## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This month's recipe was submitted by **ANNE WARD**. Thank you Anne for your submission. Below Anne's recipe we have printed the general guidelines for submitting recipes for this program. Please, folks, send me recipes! I'm all out of new ones. *Dick Orear*

### ALL PURPOSE – ANYTIME TREAT

#### What you need:

- 8-12 slices extra thin white bread
- ½ lb bulk sausage
- 12 oz sharp cheddar cheese grated
- 4 eggs
- 3 cups milk

#### Preparation:

- Do this the day before you need it
- Trim crusts from bread, lightly butter bread
- Sauté sausage
- Place six slices of bread in greased 9 X 10 baking dish
- Spread ½ of sausage and cheese on first layer of bread
- Place remaining slices of bread and cheese
- Slightly beat eggs and milk
- Pour eggs over bread until milk comes to the top
- Refrigerate uncovered overnight
- The next morning bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour

### RECIPE SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

Here are some guide lines: Recipes must be easy to prepare for anyone with basic cooking skills, must not take too long to prepare (say 20 minutes or less), be aimed at the diner meal, be such that left overs for 1-2 nights will be available, and of course must be nutritious and good tasting.

Thanks in advance for your participation. Please submit your recipes to Dick Orear at [rcorear@gmail.com](mailto:rcorear@gmail.com) or by mail to Dick at 237 Overhill Road, Orinda, CA 94563.





(Continued from page 1)

## Rector cont.

I am grateful to both of my parents for making me aware of the life stories of my ancestors. More than giving me a sense of place, it empowered me to learn from their lives, and to continue their legacy. I know of no better way in which this truth is conveyed than in this clip from the film Amistad:

[https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search;\\_ylt=AwrT6V4tqxlZDtIA2ysnnIlQ?p=amistad+speech+fathers&fr=yhs-mozilla-001&fr2=piv-web&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-001#id=1&vid=e195f082fe6136e4318de89daafde6ff&action=view](https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search;_ylt=AwrT6V4tqxlZDtIA2ysnnIlQ?p=amistad+speech+fathers&fr=yhs-mozilla-001&fr2=piv-web&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-001#id=1&vid=e195f082fe6136e4318de89daafde6ff&action=view) (Note: Please cut and paste this entire link into your web browser address bar to view the clip.)

The stories of our ancestors are gifts, and treasures that we forget at our peril. When we forget our stories, we become insensitive to the stories and the struggles of others. And at that point communities break down and mobs rise up.

Like many other stories in our history, the story of the Nez Perce is a story of a people being cheated, and a lack of moral fortitude in Washington to oppose vested, powerful interests. What separated the Nez Perce from many other such stories was the dignity with which they engaged their enemies. Though there were young braves who conducted egregious crimes along the way, they were individual acts not sanctioned by the tribe. The Nez Perce held certain things as sacred- their land, the neutrality of non-combatants, their word. And those values crossed borders.

Kate took a class this semester in Copenhagen on the Holocaust. Her teacher was adamant in describing the treatment of Native Americans by our country as genocide. While knowing the history of the United States was long, complex and engaged with many tribes, reading the accounts of how soldiers deliberately fired low into the teepees of the Nez Perce at the Battle of the Big Hole, knowing women and children were sleeping there, the word genocide does not seem such a stretch.

Nor is it a stretch for us today to acknowledge the battle continues. In the end, Chief Joseph was never able to return to his sacred homeland to worship his God in his way. And today, an oil pipeline stretching across sacred tribal lands is still treated as a matter of dollars and cents, and not as a violation of the sacred.

The journey to right the wrongs of the past and present continues, with no end in sight. Because facts alone won't get us there. Sanctity never quite fits on a balance sheet and the movement of the soul is slow work.

But to the beleaguered who long for justice, the endless battle points to another journey, a journey to truth. Next issue I will write about the book Liz finished on our trip. It is the greatest book I have ever read that is not called the Bible, and in it, answers are found.

John+



## *Michael Lane Preschool*

We continue to be busy at Michael Lane as the year finishes up, our last day, unbelievably, is June 8. But we have a quick turn around and begin four weeks of Summer school June 13!

If you happen to go into the preschool, you will notice our newly established library. The children have been dictating stories in book form and illustrating their short stories. We explained to them that all books need a title, author and sometimes, an illustrator. Stories, of course, need to have a beginning, middle and end. The books will remain in class until the last day of school.

The MWF children have been playing "hotel," a First World theme, that's for sure. This came about as many of the children are constantly packing bags and going on trips. It became apparent that some were going to hotels. So we set up a desk for children to sign in, pay and request what type of room they needed, single or double. It is pretty funny as many of the children seem to know a lot about services they want, as I said, a First World theme. We have even posted photographs of Kim's and Rebecca's recent hotel trips. Coincidentally, our hotel has a library.

It has been another fun year at Michael Lane and we look forward to a new beginning in September. We are almost at full enrollment for the coming year with only one two-day-a-week spot available. We are also fortunate to have all staff members returning!

Kim Olson  
Director

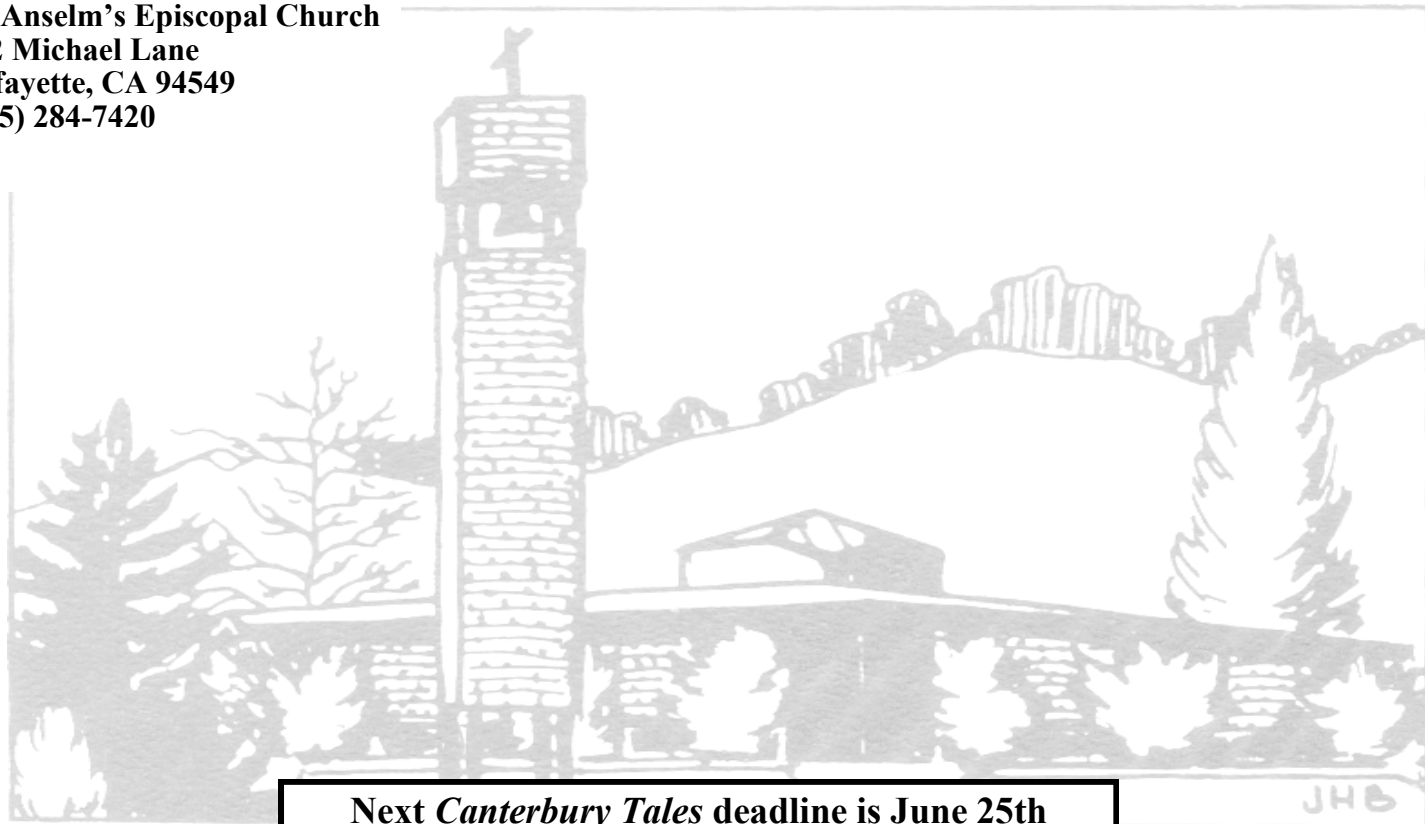


## *Upcoming Events in June*

2	Fri	10:30 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Meeting
3	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
4	Sun		<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
5	Mon	11:15 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
6	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
7	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
10	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
11	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
12	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
14	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
15	Thu	5:30 p.m.	Deanery Dinner hosted by St. Giles
		6:00 p.m.	Property Commission Mtg.
17	Sat	noon	Memorial for Zook Sutton
18	Sun		<b>FATHER'S DAY</b>
19	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		5:30 p.m.	Harvest Festival Committee Mtg.
		7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
21	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
24	Sat	9:00 a.m.	<b>Work Party</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
25	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Inquirer's Group
			<b>Canterbury Tales Deadline</b>
26	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
28	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga



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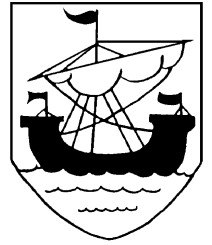
Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is June 25th

## **FOR OUR FATHERS – DID YOU KNOW.....**

- ⇒ Census data shows there are more than 70.1 million dads in the U.S. About a third of them are married with kids under 18.
  - ⇒ Two million fathers are single.
  - ⇒ The amount spent on Father's Day is still less than what Americans spend on Mother's Day -- \$21 billion.
  - ⇒ Father's Day is the fourth-biggest day for sending greeting cards, after Christmas, Valentine's Day and Mother's Day, according to the Greeting Card Association.
  - ⇒ About 20 percent of Father's Day cards are bought for husbands.
  - ⇒ More than 214,000 men are stay-at-home dads.
  - ⇒ Thailand's Father's Day is celebrated in December, on the birthday of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Everyone wears yellow.
  - ⇒ On Father's Day in Germany, men drink all day at beer gardens.
-

# Canterbury Tales

The Newsletter of St. Anselm's Church, Lafayette, California



July / August, 2017

## From The Rector

### Which story do you prefer?

In my last Canterbury Tales article, I laid the groundwork for this article, with the intent of writing about what I think is the best book I have ever read. I stated that there were lessons in the book that could lead us beyond fact to truth. After further reflection I realized that while that has been my experience, it may very likely not be yours.

A friend and her book group just read this same book. She told me that half the group loved the book. The other half didn't get it. A big part of the problem for those who didn't like the book was the use of *magical realism*.

Wikipedia defines magical realism as:

“a [genre](#) of [narrative fiction](#)...that, while encompassing a range of subtly different concepts, expresses a primarily realistic view of the real world while also adding or revealing magical elements.”

It is those magical elements that often are the stumbling blocks for folks reading the genre. You can be reading about something mundane and then jump into an unbelievable world of fantasy. For some it just doesn't make sense.

So what is the book? *The High Mountains of Portugal*, written by Yann Martel in 2016. Many will remember Martel as the author of *The Life of Pi*. It was the hip book to read about fifteen years ago.

Through a creative and nuanced telling of a story, *Pi* differentiated between truth and fact with supreme beauty and depth. In this latest book, with the same artistry as in *Pi*, Martel describes the spiritual evolution of the soul's journey to God. He does so through three stories, each related to the other. They are named *Homeless*, *Homeward* and *Home*. Each is a tale of grief and how one deals with it. There is interplay between the three stories, through the imaging of creation (risen apes) and where the creatures are in respect to the cross. Themes are developed that indicate a path toward redemption on both sides of the curtain. It is at once heart-breaking and profoundly beautiful.

Martel's use of magical realism in the book is fairly minimal. Through his luminous craft, his interwoven stories perform the magic.

And that has been the power of Scripture from the earliest times.

No one five hundred years ago would have insisted that the Bible be taken

(Continued on page 3)

## *Anselm's Angels*

I am Summer, come to lure you  
away from your computer... come  
dance on my fresh grass, dig your  
toes into my beaches.

~ Oriana Green

A big thank you to all who helped this  
past month!

- Our “readers in tongues” on Pentecost Sunday: **Dharmini Harichandran, Hema Harichandran, Andrew Huddart, Janet Nadol, Patricia Pellicer, John Sutton and Dick White.**
- **Sara Nelson** was the brains behind the hugely successful idea of having sliders, hot dogs, soda and beer to help us honor St. Anselm's Dads on **Father's Day**. Sara carried through on all the shopping and cooking for our celebration. Thanks also to the team that helped make the event possible **Sally Fischer, Sheila Gorsuch, Marian Mulkey and Cathy Witkay.**
- Thank you to two parishioners who responded to our recent volunteer requests: **Sally Fischer**, our new Trader Joe's shopper and **Jon Martin** who will record Sunday sermons while Doug Merrill is in Minnesota this summer.
- Thank you to **Doug Merrill, Walter Blount, Gordon Repp and Michael Hollinger** for serving as ushers at the Memorial Service for Zook Sutton.
- Many thanks to all who came out to participate in our summer Work Party: **Walter Blount, Bob Eddy, Pam Green, Norm Gorsuch, Sheila Gorsuch, Michael Hollinger, Doug Merrill, Ina Merrill, Roy Merrill, Sara Nelson, Dick Orear, Vicki Pappas, Gordon Repp, John Sutton, George Wasson and David Watson.**

## WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?

People are increasingly asking "Why all the construction cones, yellow tape, and ditches on the west side of the church?" The short answer is "It's an irrigation system redo." There's more to the story, of course. Earlier this year, Admiral's Choice (AC) was hired to develop a lighting upgrade for the church courtyard and parking lot. The first part of its work included mapping the church's electrical circuitry, which included the irrigation-system circuits, which involved some digging. This led to the discovery of many irrigation system inefficiencies, including broken and leaking pipes, failed and ancient control valves, and a system greatly in need of reorganization. So AC is fixing all that, providing a centralized flow-control system, and extending lines to areas that might be landscaped in the future. The irrigation upgrade has priority, as hot weather is approaching. AC hopes to finish it in June. When it's completed, AC will resume work on the courtyard/lighting project.



## VASES

If you took a flower arrangement home following Paul Lazarus' memorial service on May 20th, please return the vase to the kitchen.

Thank you! Sara Swimmer



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH: SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

Each issue of Canterbury Tales features a "recipe of the month." This month two recipes are featured on page 6. If you would like to submit a recipe for future issues, here are some guidelines:

- Recipes must be easy to prepare for anyone with basic cooking skills.
- Recipes must not take too long to prepare (say 20 minutes or less).
- Recipes must be aimed at the diner meal and be such that leftovers for 1-2 nights will be available; and, of course. . .
- Recipes must be nutritious and good tasting.

Thanks in advance for your participation. Please submit your recipes to Dick Orear at: [rcorear@gmail.com](mailto:rcorear@gmail.com) or by mail to Dick at 237 Overhill Road, Orinda, CA 94563.

## HELP WANTED

The Parish Life Commission would like to thank everyone who has hosted the 10 o'clockers' coffee hour during the past months. However, there are still some great opportunities for resourceful bakers/hosts in the coming weeks/months. The sign-up sheets are in the kitchen awaiting your name[s], so please take a moment to find a date that suits your schedule during 2017. Coffee hour questions may be directed to Sara Swimmer at [saraswimmer@comcast.net](mailto:saraswimmer@comcast.net) or 925-216-9890.

## ALTAR GUILD NOTES

Opportunities to donate altar flowers during 2017 are still available! Each week the Altar Guild provides beautiful flowers for our church. By making a donation you can have these flowers dedicated to the memory of a loved one, in honor of a family member or simply to the glory of God. The sign up chart and donation cards are located near the side door of the church (toward the garden).

And for those of you who would like to be more involved in the worship service without having to stand up in front of the whole congregation — try the Altar Guild! Once per month you and your teammates meet on Saturday morning to prepare the Sanctuary for Sundays' services. On Sunday, you clean up after the service. There is always an experienced member on hand to help out. All are welcome; parents who want their children to know more about the Episcopal service can create a family team. The Altar Guild meets monthly, on the first Sunday of the month (except July and August) between services. Contact Sally Morrison at [jdsb.morrison@gmail.com](mailto:jdsb.morrison@gmail.com) or 925-482-0267 for more information.

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Editor:  
Cathy S. Witkay

**Sunday Services:**  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**St. Anselm's Staff**  
The Rev. John Sutton, Rector  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Cathy Witkay, Office Manager

## *The Senior Warden*

When I was six years old, a little boy who lived down the street decided that his primary form of entertainment would be tormenting me. Every encounter with him involved teasing me about my clothes, making fun of whatever game I was playing, and variations on mangling the pronunciation of “Sylvia”. I complained to my mother, and she told me to ignore him. From my perspective, that was no answer to my problem, but I did my best to follow her direction. However, one day my tormentor pushed too far and I cut loose with a string of insults directed at his level of intelligence. My mother happened to come out of the house at that very moment and I was busted. Appropriate punishment followed, including a long lecture that boiled down to: I don’t have to like him, but I *must* at least be civil to him. Rudeness toward anyone would not be tolerated. I was expected to be kind and respectful even when others were not so nice to me.

You can imagine that I am now mystified by the lack of civility that has become commonplace at all levels of our government and throughout our society. It seems that some people go out of their way to be disrespectful to others, or even cruel, while expressing a point of view or promoting a cause. Civility seems to have dropped out of our collective consciousness. Katherine Ward’s sermon on Trinity Sunday really struck a cord with me. She asked: “Where is the love?” Where is the mutual respect and trust that God instilled in us when he created us in his image? A little humility, an open mind, and an honest and respectful exchange of ideas will achieve far more than an indignant tirade. I wish I could have understood that as a frustrated six-year old. And I pray that our country finds its way back to a place of mutual respect, trust and civil discourse.

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.”  
*Micah 6:8*

Sylvia Williams

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## **RECTOR cont.**

literally. Its power, its holiness was not dependent on its factuality, but on its truth. In the repeated tellings, the evolving understanding of individual believers matured as they walked their own faith journeys through life. They came to know the deeper meanings of virgin births and resurrections. They identified their own long desert experiences and knew what it meant to come home. And most of all, they knew what it meant to get Jesus off the cross.

It is just as true today.

In closing, for those who remember it, a quote from *The Life of Pi*:

*Pi: So which story do you prefer?*

*Writer: The one with the tiger. That's the better story.*

*Pi: Thank you. And so it goes with God.*

*Writer: It's an amazing story.*

John+

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## Celebrate your Harvest. Join the Festival.

After last year's blockbuster fundraising with close to \$54,068 raised for Trinity Center, our work for 2017 is well under way. The Annual Harvest Festival will be held on September 30th starting at 5 PM. The Harvest Festival Team is putting together an amazing list of silent and live auction items with more games and activities to raise as much money as possible and to have a fun evening for all.

All proceeds go to Trinity Center to provide support for those in our community that have no roof over their heads. Every dollar spent at the Harvest Festival goes to help the homeless in Contra Costa. This year we will have an expanded outreach to add even more dollars to help Trinity Center and its mission. Here's how you can help in addition to attending the dinner:

**Live & Silent Auction:** You can offer up wines, antiques, collectibles, condos and timeshares, meals, gift baskets, services and other items for the silent and live auctions. If you have such an offering, please contact John Powers.

**If you Can't Attend:** The Harvest Festival is a full congregation event and isn't just for one night and those who attend. It is our single biggest fund raiser each year. So, if you can't attend, please consider making a contribution in advance of the event by writing a check to St. Anselm's with a note "TC Contribution?". This can be dropped into the collection any Sunday, mailed to or dropped off at the church office. Let's get 100% congregation involvement.

**Matching Money:** Make a pledge or cash donation now to be matched by others the evening of the event. This will help us to double your contribution and it's all tax deductible! If you are interested, see either Father John, Marty Fischer or John Powers!

**Volunteer:** Trinity Center is always in need of help with services at the center, seeking gifts and supporters and enlisting the support of the local community. If you are interested, please see John Powers or Marty Fischer.

With last year's net gift of over \$54,000, we have a real challenge...let's beat that in 2017! More on how you can help will follow in the weeks and months ahead.

Marty Fischer  
Chairman, HF Committee

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## OCTOBER WOMEN'S RETREAT

Dear Women of St. Anselm's,

We have been invited by the women of St. Matthew's, San Mateo, the church where our Lindsay Hills is the associate rector, to join them at Bishop's Ranch for their biennial retreat.

Bishop's Ranch is a serene and beautiful setting, overlooking the Sonoma Valley, with many hiking trails. It's the perfect place for relaxation, restoration of body and spirit, and connection with others.

I urge any of you who are new to St. Anselm's to come. Our women's retreats are the perfect way to get to know other women in our congregation. Those of you familiar with Lindsay know that she leads retreats with depth, energy, and fun.

**Dates:** Friday, October 20 – Sunday, October 22 (2 nights and 5 meals)

**Cost:** \$204., with \$102. deposit due at time of enrollment. The balance is due in September. As always, there are scholarship funds available, so please do not make your decision on the basis of affordability!! The checks should be made out to St. Catherine's, with "retreat" on the memo line.

**Contact Persons:**

- ◇ Anne Brown (after July 4<sup>th</sup>) – phone: (925) 788-0664 or e-mail: [annechalfantbrown@gmail.com](mailto:annechalfantbrown@gmail.com)
- ◇ Marian Mulkey – phone: (925) 284-4224 or e-mail: [marianmulkey@comcast.net](mailto:marianmulkey@comcast.net)

We are available to answer questions, take deposit checks, etc.

Lindsay thinks there will be space for eight of us from St. Anselm's, so sign up soon, if you want to go.

With love and anticipation,

Anne Brown



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This month's recipe was submitted by **DOUG MERRILL**. Thank you Doug for your submission. General guidelines for submitting recipes for this program may be found on page 2. Please, folks, send me recipes! I'm all out of new ones.

### JOE'S SPECIAL

Joe's special is an old, traditional dish that's delicious and very quick and easy to prepare. I used to go to New Joe's in San Francisco to get it. Then I discovered I could make it myself at home. Goodbye New Joe's.

**Ingredients:** ½ lb. ground turkey or beef, salt, pepper, olive oil, 1 chopped garlic clove, 4 eggs, 1-1/2 cups frozen spinach.

### Procedure:

Beat 4 eggs, add a pinch of salt and pepper. Set aside.

Thaw 1-1/2 cups of frozen spinach under mild heat. Set aside.

Add 1 tablespoon olive oil to a frying pan, then sauté ½ lb. of ground turkey, pinch of salt and pepper, 1 chopped garlic clove until meat is tan, stirring all the time.

Add 1-1/2 cups of thawed spinach, stir, cook until spinach is soft.

Add 4 beaten eggs, cooking while stirring, Add salt and pepper to taste.

Heat until the mixture is almost set. Turn off the heat and let the mixture sit there for a few minutes.

There you go! Add a salad or vegetable, you've got a meal fit for a king!

## BONUS RECIPE

Thank you Sally Morrison for sharing your Derby Pie recipe (AKA: **Chocolate Bourbon Pecan Pie** — *Southern Living, May 2006*)

Hands-on Time: 15 Min., Total Time: 2 Hrs. 15 Min., Serves 6-8

### Ingredients:

1 9" deep dish pie pan and single crust. Can be purchased or your favorite recipe.

1½ cups chopped toasted pecans, save a few whole pecan halves for decoration

1 cup (6 oz.) chocolate chips (semi sweet or milk)

1 cup dark corn syrup

½ cup granulated sugar

½ cup firmly packed light brown sugar

¼ cup bourbon or water

4 large eggs

¼ cup melted unsalted butter

2 teaspoons plain white cornmeal (or polenta)

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

½ teaspoon table salt

### How to Make It

1. Preheat oven to 325°F. Fit piecrust into 9" deep dish pie plate, fold and crimp edges. Sprinkle pecans and chocolate chips evenly onto bottom of crust. (Reserve the full pecans)
2. Stir together corn syrup and next 3 ingredients in large saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Cook, stirring constantly, 3 minutes. Remove from heat.
3. Whisk together next 4 ingredients. Gradually whisk ¼ of hot corn syrup mixture into egg mixture, add tempered mix to remaining hot corn syrup mixture, whisking constantly. Pour into prepared piecrust. Decorate top with reserved nuts.
4. Bake at 325°F for 55 minutes or until set; cool pie completely on wire rack (about 1 hour.)
5. Serve plain or with vanilla ice cream or bourbon flavored whipped cream.

## *Upcoming Events in July*

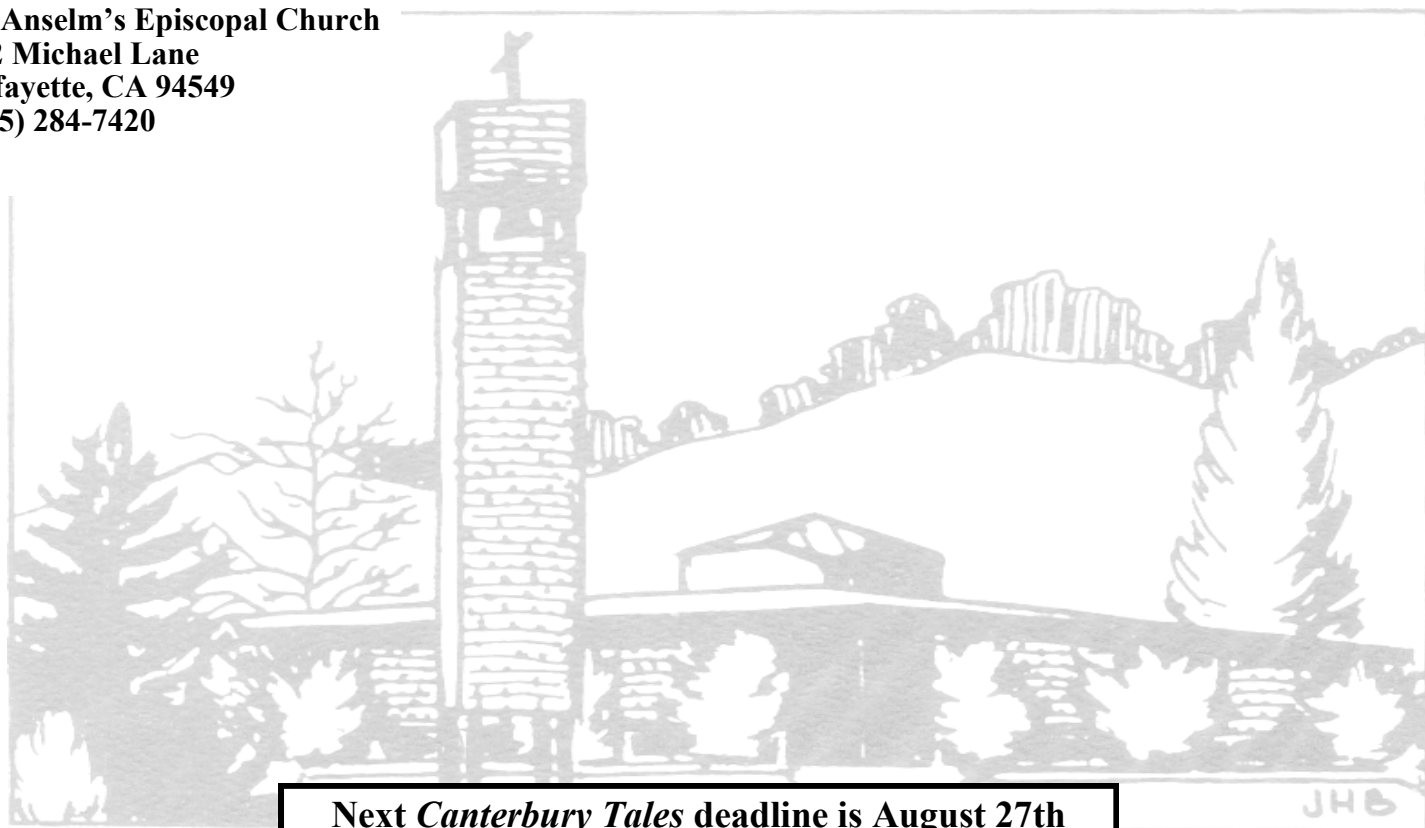
1	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
2	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
3	Mon	<b>Office Closed – July 3- 7</b>	
		11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
4	Tue	<b>Fourth of July</b>	
5	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
8	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
9	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
10	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
11	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
12	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		7:30 p.m.	Property Commission Mtg.
		8:30 p.m.	Parking Lot Lighting Simulation
15	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
16	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class
		11:30 a.m.	Christian Formation Commission Mtg.
17	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
19	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
22	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
23	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
24	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		5:30 p.m.	Harvest Festival Committee Mtg.
26	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
29	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
30	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
31	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study

## *Upcoming Events in August*

2	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
5	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
6	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
7	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
12	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
13	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
14	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
16	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
19	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
20	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
21	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
23	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
27	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	<b>Canterbury Tales Deadline</b>		
28	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
30	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga



St. Anselm's Episcopal Church  
682 Michael Lane  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 284-7420



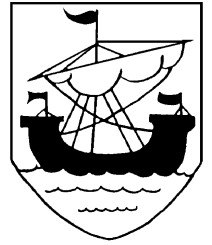
Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is August 27th

## Fun Facts About Summer

- ⇒ **The Dog Days of Summer** refers to the weeks between July 3rd and August 11th. They are named after the Dog Star (Sirius) in the constellation of Canis Major. Ancient Romans and Greeks blamed Sirius for the extreme temperatures, drought, sickness, and discomfort that came in late summer.
- ⇒ **One of the more annoying parts of summer** are mosquitoes, which have been around for 30 million years. It's said they can find warm-blooded mammals from 100 feet away.
- ⇒ **July is the month when the most ice cream is sold in the US.** That's why it's National Ice Cream Month. Americans eat an average 20 quarts of ice cream a year. Vanilla is the most popular flavor, with chocolate coming in a distant second.
- ⇒ **Popsicles were accidentally invented** by an 11-year-old boy in San Francisco in 1905. He left a glass of soda sitting outside and by the next morning the soda had frozen. He began selling them at an amusement park in New Jersey. In the U.S., cherry is the number 1 flavor.
- ⇒ **Grills are widely popular among Americans.** The Hearth, Patio and Barbeque Association says that nearly 97% of Americans use their grills yearly.
- ⇒ **In the United States, over 650 million long-distance summer trips are made.** The 5 most popular summer vacations are 1) beach/ocean (45%), 2) a famous city (42%), 3) national parks (21%), 4) a lake (17%), and 5) a resort (14%).
- ⇒ **Before the Civil War, schools did not have summer vacation.** In rural communities, kids had school off during the spring planting and fall harvest while urban schools were essentially year-round. The long summer holiday didn't come about until the early 20th century.

# Canterbury Tales

The Newsletter of St. Anselm's Church, Lafayette, California



September, 2017

## *From The Rector*

### Fighting Over Religion

In 1873, President Ulysses Grant decreed that no white settlers would encroach on the lands of the Nez Perce in their tribal homelands in the Wallowa Valley, in northeastern Oregon. Though it represented a reprieve for the Nez Perce, the tribe would be forced into reservations four years later.

After the order was signed, commissioners from the United States government arrived in the Wallowa Valley to organize an agency for the Indians. Chief Joseph, the head of the Nez Perce, was told by one of the commissioners that the government could provide schooling for his people. Chief Joseph told the commissioner he did not want the white man's schools.

"Why do you not want schools?" the commissioner asked.

"They will teach us to have churches," Joseph answered.

"Do you not want churches?"

"No, we do not want churches."

"Why do you not want churches?"

"They will teach us to quarrel about God," Joseph said. "We do not want to learn that. We may quarrel with men sometimes about things on this earth, but we never quarrel about God. We do not want to learn that."<sup>1</sup>

Ten years after this statement by Chief Joseph, my great-grandfather learned this lesson firsthand while teaching underprivileged children at a mission in a Chicago slum. As background, the lives of Ernie Sutton's family were saved by a Blackfoot Indian tribe when an early winter halted their move westward. The tribe allowed them to winter over with them on the High Plains. Ernie and his family ended up staying there three years with only the Blackfeet as their neighbors. Ernie was a boy at the time.

Here is the account of his signing on with a fellow boarder to teach Sunday school:

"One Sunday morning (he) invited me to accompany him to witness the process of reforming humanity after arriving in its crude state. Becoming interested, I was later induced to try my hand at the work. My first assignment was bedding down a herd of young mavericks of many breeds, most of them foreign. I was supposed to give them a dose of the scripture as prescribed by the International Sunday School Lesson Leaf, a printed help to the proper understanding of the gospel. These were in universal use all over the land and if Jonah was having his run-in with the whale in one Sunday School he was having the same trouble in every other Sunday School.

(Continued on page 4)

## *Anselm's Angels*

*"Some of the best memories  
are made in flip flops."*

*~ Kellie Elmore*

Our angels were busy again this summer!

- Thank you to **Sara Nelson** and **Sheila Gorsuch** for coordinating the farewell reception for Elaine Sherwood.
- **George Wasson** who graciously ushered at the memorial service for Laura Neilley.
- Thank you to **Pam Green** and **Sara Nelson** for reading the collects during our Morning Prayer service.
- Ongoing thanks to **David Watson** for resealing and striping the parking lot!
- Thanks also to **David Watson** for cleaning up much of the grounds, pruning trees and removing overgrown plants.
- **Joan Martin** for graciously volunteering to help with the Monday morning counting while **Sara Nelson** took a well-deserved vacation!

## OPPORTUNITY FAIR COMING ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

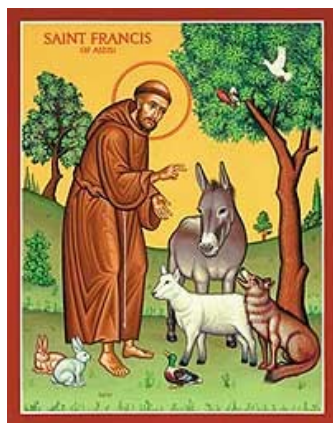
New to St. Anselm's? Want to know about activities that you might participate in?

On a ministry team/guild/commission that could use some new members?

On Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup>, St. Anselm's will be holding an Opportunity Fair. After both services, tables will be set up in Jackson Hall to allow our parishioners to learn more about how they might serve in the church and beyond.

If you would like to reserve a spot for your activity, please contact Cathy Witkay in the office no later than September 18<sup>th</sup> so that we can reserve your ministry team a spot. You should bring a sign that states your activity, and have someone to staff your table location. If you would like to include posters/photos - all the better!

Questions? Contact Father John.



### *Blessing of Animals*

*The annual Blessing of Animals will be on October 1st during both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services.*

*All companion animals are welcome!*

## ALTAR GUILD

For those of you who would like to be more involved in the worship service without having to stand up in front of the whole congregation — try the Altar Guild!

Once per month you and your team-mates meet on Saturday morning to prepare the Sanctuary for Sundays' services. On Sunday, you clean up after the service. There is always an experienced member on hand to help out. All are welcome; parents who want their children to know more about the Episcopal service can create a family team. The Altar Guild meets monthly, on the first Sunday of the month (except July and August) between services.

Contact Sally Morrison at [jdsb.morrison@gmail.com](mailto:jdsb.morrison@gmail.com) or 925-482-0267 for more information.



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH: SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

Each issue of Canterbury Tales features a "recipe of the month." This month two recipes are featured on page 6. If you would like to submit a recipe for future issues, here are some guidelines:

- Recipes must be easy to prepare for anyone with basic cooking skills.
- Recipes must not take too long to prepare (say 20 minutes or less).
- Recipes must be aimed at the dinner meal and be such that left overs for 1-2 nights will be available; and, of course. . .
- Recipes must be nutritious and good tasting.

Thanks in advance for your participation. Please submit your recipes to Dick Orear at: [rcorear@gmail.com](mailto:rcorear@gmail.com) or by mail to Dick at 237 Overhill Road, Orinda, CA 94563.

**Canterbury Tales** is the monthly newsletter of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA  
Phone: (925) 284-7420  
e-mail: [cathy.w@stanselms.ws](mailto:cathy.w@stanselms.ws)  
web site: [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

Editor:  
Cathy S. Witkay

**Sunday Services:**  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**St. Anselm's Staff**  
The Rev. John Sutton, Rector  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Cathy Witkay, Office Manager

## *The Senior Warden*

For the past couple of days I have been glued to the Weather Channel and CNN, watching anxiously as Hurricane Harvey hit the coast of Texas then stalled just inland, dumping a foot or more of rain every 24 hours. I have friends in Houston and Galveston, and was fretting for their safety. Thanks to Facebook and text messaging, I was able to confirm that they had evacuated and were safe, staying with relatives.

As I watched the TV coverage, one of the reporters repeatedly showed scenes of the main street in Dickinson, Texas. This small town had been surrounded by water from a flooded bayou and was virtually cut off from the rest of the county. As the story developed, the scenes progressed from an empty flooded street, to a flooded street crowded with recreational water vehicles filled with people being rescued by their neighbors. Government agencies were overwhelmed, so “citizen rescuers” were using everything from canoes to fishing boats to help anyone who was stranded. Skin color or ethnicity was not important. Saving another human life was all that mattered.

After weeks of the TV news constantly reminding me that there is a lot of social division and anger in our country, the sight of neighbor selflessly helping neighbor gave a much-needed boost to my faith in people, and in US citizens in particular. Here’s hoping we all catch that spirit of service to one another, hold on to it, and earnestly strive to live by it.

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”  
- *Peter 4:10*

Sylvia Williams



### ***RECIPE OF THE MONTH***

This month’s recipe was submitted by **ZOE HEKMATY**. Thank you Zoe for your submission and taking time to send it. Remember folks, anyone in the congregation is welcome and encouraged to submit their recipes. Below Zoe’s recipe we have printed the general guidelines for submitting recipes for this program.

#### **ALMOND COOKIES**

##### What you need:

3 cups finely ground almonds (blanched almond flour from Trader Joe’s works well)  
2/3 cups light brown sugar  
pinch of salt  
2 large egg whites  
½ tsp. vanilla extract  
¼ tsp. almond extract  
Slivered almonds for decoration

##### Preparation:

Mix ground almond, sugar and salt together in a bowl. Beat egg whites, vanilla and almond extract together lightly. Add to ground almond, blending together until dough forms into a ball. Wet hands lightly and roll mixture into small balls (size of walnut). Place cookies on baking sheet, lined with greased parchment paper. Decorate each cookie with a slivered almond. Bake in oven at 350°F for 15-20 minutes until golden brown. Cool and store in a tin lined with grease-proof paper.



## RECTOR cont.

These cut-and-dried lessons were monotonous and uninteresting and, no doubt, contributed to the unrest. The first Sunday this class came charging into the room where I was supposed to corral them, they bellowed, kicked and carried on like a bunch of two-year-olds turned loose in the spring. One-half my time was taken in rounding them up and quieting them down so I could talk. Then I began telling of some of my experiences among the Indians, hoping later to take up the spiritual part of the program. But they became so interested in the Indians that, before I was aware of it, they were called back to the main room for dismissal.

Each Sunday the lesson began by telling a little more about Indians until it occupied all my time; the Lesson Leaf went by the board. However, I did try to inculcate some religious teaching by explaining the Indians' religious belief and philosophy of life. News of the innovation in teaching the gospel spread and membership in the class increased; boys deserted other teachers for the one on ethnology. It was not long before this class, once the most unruly in the school, became the model of deportment.

One Sunday morning we had a visitor, a small, weazened chap with a high forehead, popping blue eyes, a little puckered mouth and mutton chop whiskers. He wore a black cutaway coat, grey striped trousers, a standing paper collar, black bow necktie and gaiters with elastic in the sides. I had seen him before as he softly glided down the aisle with a small basket on the end of a stick collecting pennies from the children, a contribution supposed to be a part of their religious training.

Realizing he had come to watch, I put forth my best efforts and the class responded nobly. When time came for adjournment I felt the day had been a grand success. I was really satisfied. After the milling mob had scrambled back into the main room where the benediction was to be pronounced before services ended, my caller said he would like to have a few minutes private conversation with me. Now that official recognition was to be given, I was pleased. But this self-esteem was doomed to be short-lived because the way he started the interview I knew all was not well.

He blew his top at the start by saying, "Young man, never before in my whole experience in religious work have I been so shocked and humiliated as during the time I have been in this room. At times it was almost impossible for me to contain myself, here in this house of God listening to you poisoning the minds of these innocent children. You calmly told of the heathenish rites of vile creatures, comparing them to our own Christian services which you should have known was sacrilegious. Don't you know all those pennies so freely given by our dear children, together with much larger sums contributed by the brothers and sisters of the congregation, are used to carry the words of our beloved Savior to those benighted pagans? Yet you sat there and told of barbarous customs and heathen rites within the sacred precincts of our holy church. I am amazed beyond words to express."

His talk was so far from what I had expected that, for a moment, I didn't know what to say. Finally he was told I had done what I thought best, keeping the boys quiet and interested, and I was sorry my efforts had not been to his liking. Instead of accepting this explanation in the spirit of Christian forgiveness he started currying me again, ending by saying, "You have not only made yourself conspicuous but have desecrated the house of God by the way you have carried on." At this remark I lost my head and blew up. I told him he didn't know what he was talking about and so far as I was concerned he could go to hell and get somebody besides me to teach his damned class, I was through. Immediately (sic) I said this I was sorry because I was not really a rowdy, but he somehow got my goat.<sup>2</sup>

...For this and many, many other reasons, I sure wish I had known Ernie Sutton.

<sup>1</sup> Chief Joseph, "An Indian's Views of Indian Affairs." *North American Review*, Vol, 128, 1879, p. 426

<sup>2</sup> Sutton, Ernest, "A Life Worth Living." Trail's End Publishing Co., Inc. Pasadena, Ca. 1948, pp. 240-242 (copy in UCLA Library archives)



After last year's blockbuster fundraiser with over \$54,000 raised for The Trinity Center Winter Homeless Shelter, it's time to get into high gear for 2017. The Annual Harvest Festival will be held on September 30th starting at 5:30 PM. Marty Fischer and his team are putting together an amazing list of silent and live auction items combined with games and activities to raise as much money as possible and to have a fun evening for all.

All proceeds go to Trinity Center's Winter Homeless Shelter to provide support for those in our community that have no roof over their head. Every \$20 we raise assures a homeless person one day and night of housing and meals. Here's some ways you can help:

**Live & Silent Auction:** We need items! You can donate wines, antiques, collectibles, condos and timeshares, meals, gift baskets, services and other items for our congregation's silent and live auctions. If you have such an offering, please contact John Powers or Marty Fischer.

**Sign Up For December 9th Italian Dinner:** Join us at 5:30PM on December 9th for a celebration of our gift to Trinity Center and a delicious dinner of Antipasto, Minestrone Soup, Pasta, Chicken Picata and fresh vegetables, Italian Wines, Beer and soft drinks followed by a selection of Italian Desserts. Just \$60 per person, \$25 for children 12 and under.

**Matching Money:** Make a pledge or cash donation now of \$500 or more to be matched by other donations the evening of the event. This will help us to double your contribution and it's all tax deductible! If you are interested see either Father John, Marty Fischer or John Powers!

**Help At The Event:** We need Teenager help to set-up and run the event itself. Teenagers eat free if you work the event. If you can help out, please see Sara Nelson or Foster Lipscomb.

**Not Coming? Donate Now:** This is our annual major fundraiser. If you can't attend, please consider a donation now.

*Complete the form on page 6 to tell us if you can help!*



## **Here Is How You Can Make The Harvest Festival Help Trinity Center and the Area Homeless**

- 1) Attend the Dinner (\$50 per person, \$25 for Children 12 or younger):

Count me in: \_\_\_\_\_; # of People \_\_\_\_\_  
Your name

- 2) Sign Up for The December 9th Italian Dinner (\$60 per adult, \$25 for Children 12 and under:

Count me in: \_\_\_\_\_; # of People \_\_\_\_\_  
Your name

- 3) Have John Powers call me. I want to contribute the following item (s) for the silent or live auction:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My phone number is \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) I want to work at the event in the games booths or during dinner (teenagers only)! Have Marty Fischer or Foster Lipscomb contact me at

Name; \_\_\_\_\_

My phone number is \_\_\_\_\_

- 5) I can't attend the event but will mail or drop off a check to the church office or collection plate made out to "St. Anselm's Church" and note on the memo line "TC Contribution".

- 6) I want to make a special matching dollar contribution of \$500 or more. Please have Father John contact me to discuss this important contribution that can double my help to Trinity Center.

Name; \_\_\_\_\_

My phone number is \_\_\_\_\_

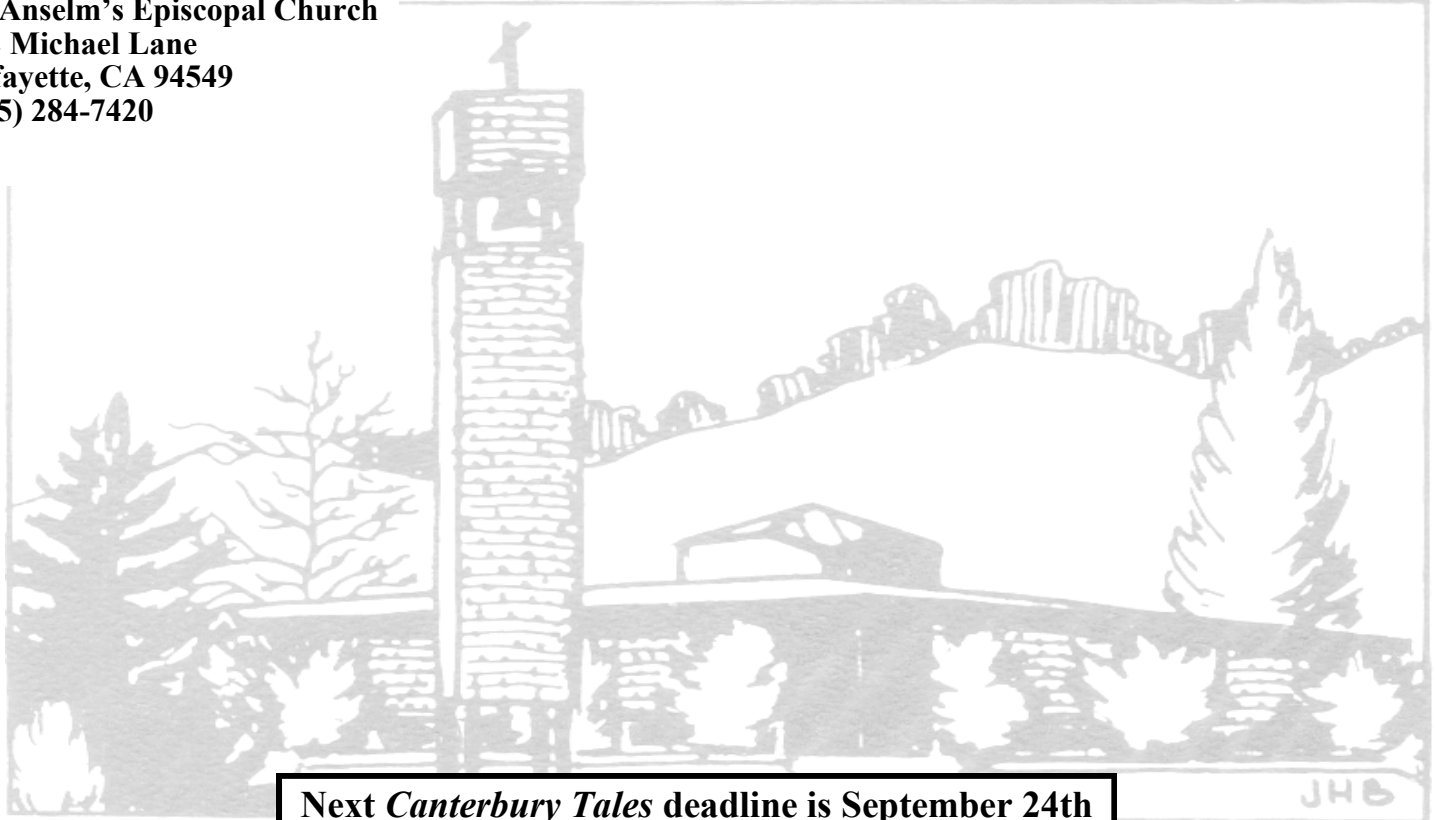
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## *Upcoming Events in September*

- |    |     |   |
|----|-----|---|
| 3  | Sun | 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal                           |
|    |     | 9:15 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting                       |
|    |     | 11:30 a.m. Cancer Support Group                     |
| 4  | Mon | <b>Labor Day – The Church Office will be closed</b> |
| 5  | Tue | 12:15 p.m. Grief Support Group                      |
|    |     | 7:00 p.m. Preschool – Parent Orientation            |
| 6  | Wed | 9:30 a.m. Hatha Yoga                                |
| 8  | Fri | 10:00 a.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting                 |
| 9  | Sat | 2:00 p.m. Memorial for Pete Parrish                 |
|    |     | 6:00 p.m. Bridge Group                              |
| 10 | Sun | 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal                           |
|    |     | 11:30 a.m. Christian Formation Commission Mtg.      |
| 11 | Mon | 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Bible Study                 |
| 13 | Wed | 9:30 a.m. Hatha Yoga                                |
|    |     | 12:15 p.m. Preschool Board Meeting                  |
|    |     | 7:00 p.m. Property Commission Meeting               |
|    |     | 8:30 p.m. Parking Lot Lighting Demonstration        |
| 16 | Sat | 9:00 a.m. <b>Work Party</b>                         |
|    |     | 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal                           |
| 17 | Sun | 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal                           |
| 18 | Mon | 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Bible Study                 |
|    |     | 5:30 p.m. Harvest Festival Committee Mtg.           |
|    |     | 7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting                            |
| 20 | Wed | 9:30 a.m. Hatha Yoga                                |
| 23 | Sat | 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal                           |
| 24 | Sun | <b>Opportunity Fair Sunday</b>                      |
|    |     | 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal                           |
|    |     | 9:15 a.m. Inquirer's Group                          |
|    |     | <b>Canterbury Tales Deadline</b>                    |
| 25 | Mon | 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Bible Study                 |
| 27 | Wed | 9:30 a.m. Hatha Yoga                                |
| 30 | Sat | 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal                           |
|    |     | 5:00 p.m. <b>Harvest Festival</b>                   |



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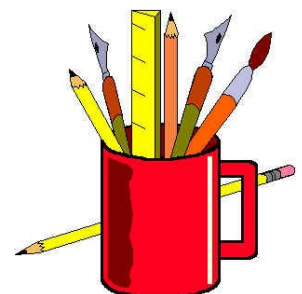


**Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is September 24th**

## IF STUDENTS WROTE THE BIBLE:

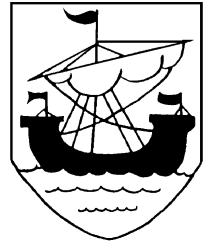
- ◆ Instead of God creating the world in six days and resting on the seventh, He would have put it off until the night before it was due and then pulled an all-nighter.
- ◆ The Last Supper would have been eaten the next morning--cold.
- ◆ The Ten Commandments would actually be only five--double-spaced and written in a large font.
- ◆ New edition would be published every two years in order to limit reselling.
- ◆ Forbidden fruit would have been eaten because it wasn't cafeteria food.
- ◆ Paul's letter to the Romans would become Paul's email to [abuse@romans.gov](mailto:abuse@romans.gov).
- ◆ Reason Cain killed Abel: they were roommates.
- ◆ Reason why Moses and followers walked in the desert for 40 years: they didn't want to ask directions and look like freshmen.

*Happy Back-To-School!*



# Canterbury Tales

The Newsletter of St. Anselm's Church, Lafayette, California



October, 2017

## *From The Rector*

*My letter below is part of the Sanctuary Discussion package that is at the entrance to the church and is available for you to take home and read.*

If you are reading this you have made the decision to engage at some level in the process of discernment as to whether or not the Episcopal Diocese of California, and the Episcopal Church in the United States should become a sanctuary to those who are facing deportation to their native countries.

For some of us, engagement of this topic will make us realize how different our life experience has been from those who live among us as resident aliens. But we may miss the fact that there may be those who sit right next to us in church, who though they may look like us, have also had very different experiences in their lives. They may see things in a profoundly different way than we do.

In discussing matters that have a political aspect in the outside world, we can sometimes be drawn into emotional responses. We see this in the prevailing political discourse in the United States right now, and the first casualty is so often not the truth, but the ability to hear what others are saying.

Bishop Marc has invited us to participate in a "prayerful discussion" on the subject of Sanctuary. For this dialog to bear fruit, that discussion first starts between us and God. We can beseech God in prayer to be present with us and others as we discuss matters, and that the sacred may transform how we communicate. We can beseech God to open our ears to hear the other, our hearts to listen to the urging of the Spirit, to untie our tongues to voice what we are feeling, with the confidence that what we say will be welcomed in a spirit of love.

On October 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be meeting after services in the church. We call it a sanctuary. And here is our opportunity to contribute collectively to making the place where we sing hymns, engage the word of God, and commune with our loving creator, a bigger kind of sanctuary- one where we can engage to determine where we are called individually and collectively to address this issue before us.

Thank you for coming to this table!

John+

## *Anselm's Angels*

*"Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits."*

— Samuel Butler

- The final Work Party of 2017 was well attended! Thanks to all who came out: **Walter Blount, Bob Eddy, Michael Hollinger, Roy Merrill, Dick Orear, Robert Parrish, Gordon Repp, Julie Rinkenberger, John Sutton, Sara Swimmer, George Wasson, Allen Zhang, Dale Zhang and J.P. Zhang.**
- **Roy Merrill and George Wasson** who graciously ushered at the memorial service for Pete Parrish.
- The wonderful bakers who contributed cakes for the Cake Walk as part of the Harvest Festival kickoff: **Susan Barnes, Sally Fischer, Zoe Hekmaty, Sally Morrison, Marian Mulkey, Maureen Nelson, Julie Rinkenberger, Cathy Witkay and Eva Woo.** A very special thank you to **Sally Fischer** for envisioning the event and coordinating its success!
- **Pam Green** who graciously opened her home for a special Contemporary Bible Study Group viewing of "God On Trial."

## MARY MAGDALENE

### **The great female presence at the birth of Christianity: “the apostle to the apostles”**

Dr. James Pellicer, who, with his wife, Patricia, comes to the 10 o'clock service, has offered to do a series of talks on Mary Magdalene. James is retired from teaching at Hunter College in New York. He has studied Mary Magdalene extensively and written a book about her.

In his talks, he will examine references to Mary Magdalene in the four Gospels, as well as in the Nag Hammadi, a series of Gnostic Gospels, discovered in Egypt in 1945. Besides discussing what can be discerned from those readings about her life and her relationship to Jesus, he will talk about her in the context of Jewish society of that era, where women's roles were very restricted. Jesus, through his ministry, was changing that. Apparently, the apostles, by and large, were not on board with that. Then, Pope Gregory I, 590-604, declared that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute. James ties that pronouncement in with the restricted role of women in churches until recent times. There was not space for a strong, devoted, courageous woman, such as she.

Any of you who have read *The DaVinci Code*, as I have, are probably wondering, “Were she and Jesus married?” I'm hopeful that we will get the answer to that, at least from James' point of view, through his careful and thorough scholarship.

I have read James' written version of his first talk in the series. It was fascinating, an exciting read. I can hardly wait for the series to begin. What I most appreciated, besides James' careful scholarship, was the dimensionality that emerged through both the deeper discussion of who Mary was in the few Gospel references to her and also in the view of her through the lens of culture and society.

The schedule is as follows:

**Sundays, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, and 19, starting at 11:30 am in the Jackson Hall conference room. Each talk will go for about an hour.**

I hope to see many of you there, to receive this generous gift from James. In the write-up of his first talk, he shares his motivation for doing this scholarship. “This study of Mary has been done out of love for a person so close to the Savior, a genuine representative of the role of a real Christian, and a model for women, created by Jesus for the new era.”

Thank you, James, for your generosity of spirit – and time.

Anne Brown  
Director, Christian Formation



*Canterbury Tales* is the monthly newsletter of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA  
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web site: [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

Editor:  
Cathy S. Witkay

**Sunday Services:**  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**St. Anselm's Staff**  
The Rev. John Sutton, Rector  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Cathy Witkay, Office Manager



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## **The Senior Warden**

We have a unique, and important opportunity presented to us by Bishop Marc in his request for us to consider and provide feedback on whether the Diocese of California should become a “sanctuary diocese”. Implementation of any diocesan policy regarding deportation of unauthorized immigrants, whether it is to offer sanctuary or not, is bound to have an impact on how the Diocese interacts with the communities where we live. And it will have an impact on how our communities view the Episcopal Church.

I don't mind sharing that I am having a tough time with this request. I am a person who likes to get the facts, make an evaluation, come to a decision and move on. I may eventually change my mind if I determine my initial decision was not sound, but *indecision* is just not the way I roll. In this case, I have not been successful in coming to any conclusions regarding the question of becoming a sanctuary diocese. I have read articles, studied statistics, watched documentaries on TV, discussed the subject with colleagues, and still I am at a loss.

I look forward to hearing what my fellow parishioners think, and feel, on this subject. Please do take the time to read the sanctuary diocese materials and attend the discussion sessions on October 15 and 22. Please pray for personal guidance and for God to be present as we have these discussions. Pray that God will allow us to hear, understand, and respect what our fellow parishioners are saying so that we can come to the best course of action for St Anselm's.

Sylvia Williams

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## ***Michael Lane Preschool***

The week before last I swatted a yellowjacket inside the classroom, in front of the children. This is something we never do as we always tell the children that spiders and insects have a right to live outside, we catch them and release them outside when we find them inside the classroom. But a yellowjacket swarming menacingly in the classroom, I had no choice. So this presented a dilemma, compounded by the fact that we have several yellowjacket traps outside. So we decided to teach the children how important bees are and that we never kill honey bees. We talked about how bees are the only insects which make a food for people! I had honey for snack one day and brought in a honey comb to show the children. We attempted to paint honey comb pictures. We talked about how the hive is set up with the queen and male and female bees, and bees only sting once and then they die whereas yellowjackets sting multiple times. We played a game outside with flowers attached to the fence: a bee flies out, smells the flower, flies back to the nest and does a dance which communicates to the other bees where to go to collect pollen. We also did a smell matching game where the Queen bee held a particular smell and other bees (children) had to find the Queen whose scent matched the smell they were given, thus finding their correct hive. Lastly, we have learned a chant, Where are the Bees?

So, if you want to know something about bees ask your child.

Kim Olson, Director

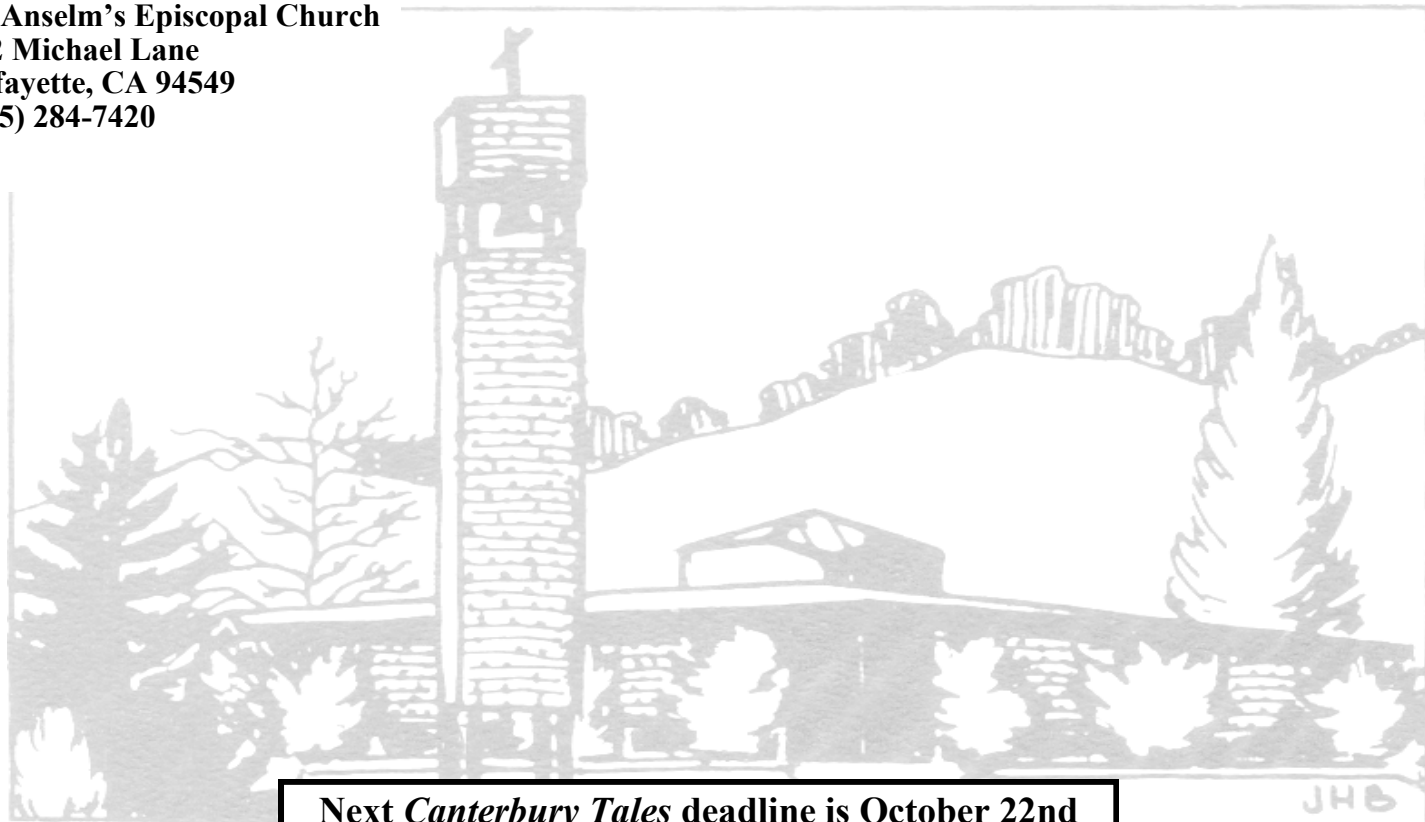


## Upcoming Events in October

1	Sun		<b>Blessing of the Animals Sunday</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
2	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
3	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
4	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
6	Fri	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Meeting
7	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
8	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00 a.m.	Baptism – Taylor Alexander
9-23	M-M		<b>WINTER NIGHTS</b>
9	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
11	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		2:30 p.m.	Property Commission Meeting
14	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
15	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Sanctuary Diocese Meeting
		10:00 a.m.	Acolyte Commissioning
		11:15 a.m.	Sanctuary Diocese Meeting
16	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
18	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		12:15 p.m.	Preschool Board Meeting
20-22	Fri-Sun		Women's Retreat at Bishop's Ranch
21	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
22	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Inquirer's Group
		9:15 a.m.	Sanctuary Diocese Meeting
		11:15 a.m.	Sanctuary Diocese Meeting
			<b>Canterbury Tales Deadline</b>
23	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
25	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
28	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
29	Sun		<b>Blanket Sunday</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:30 a.m.	Mary Magdalene Talk
30	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
31	Tue		<b>ALL HALLOWS * EVE</b>



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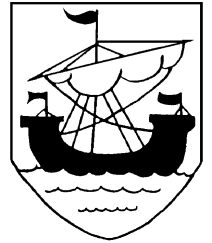
**Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is October 22nd**

### *Just a bit of Halloween Trivia. . . .*

- In the United States, the first citywide celebration of Halloween was in Anoka, Minnesota in 1921.
- Orange and black are Halloween colors because orange is associated with fall harvest and black is associated with darkness and death.
- Over \$1.5 billion is spent on costumes each year and more than \$2.5 billion on other Halloween paraphernalia.
- Chocolate candy bars top the list as the most popular candy for trick-or-treating with Snickers first.
- About 50% of adults dress up for Halloween.
- Black cats were once evil omens thought to be spirits of witches, or a witch's familiar who protected their powers.
- Over 10% of pet owners dress their pets in Halloween costumes.
- 90% of parents admit to sneaking goodies from their kids' Halloween trick-or-treat bags.
- The tradition of making Jack O' Lanterns to ward off evil spirits is thousands of years old. Jack o' Lanterns originated in Ireland where people placed candles in hollowed-out turnips to keep away spirits and ghosts on the Samhain holiday.
- Halloween was brought to North America by immigrants from Europe, who celebrated the harvest around a bonfire, shared ghost stories, sang, danced, and told fortunes.



# Canterbury Tales



The Newsletter of St. Anselm's Church, Lafayette, California

November, 2017

## From The Rector

### A Gridiron Liturgy of Discontent and Hope

On the rare occasion when a performer flubs the lyrics of the National Anthem we are stunned. The song is our secular sacrament. No surprise then that there is such rancor over our hymn to the flag being placed in the balances opposite the right to protest at sporting events.

Four years before Francis Scott Key penned his paean to freedom, the U.S. census revealed that 16% of the population was enslaved. What some of us believe to be history others know to be myth. Our experiences of justice today occupy a wide plain. And at the same time, the flag for most Americans continues to symbolize our best hope for the future.

Great art has the ability to bring light to more than one truth. The brilliance of the Vietnam War Memorial is that it honors the dead and sheds light on the pain of the living. It speaks over 58,000 extensions of human experience in one stark and moving statement.

The Star Spangled Banner became our National Anthem in 1931, a time when this nation faced a great internal challenge as one. Could there be in the words, coupled with a simple act of observance, a message that breathes unity into our time of division?

The closing two verses ask:

*does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

It is a two part question. Players answer 'no' to the first part in kneeling, and simultaneously answer 'yes' to the second as they risk being cut from the team. But it is the question, and the ability to question that unites everyone gathered under the stadium's flag.

And here is how that unity might be realized: Protesters stand up for the last two verses.

In the simple act of standing up, before the probing last 19 words, one could show that he and his protest are an integral part of that living vision that we have never realized, but continue in every age to strive toward.

Is it possible that a raised note of discord could bring new harmony to an old composition? Is it possible that in a simple gesture coupled with a beloved song we might all come to know a deeper symphony? A symphony that could assure us that our banner is strongest when it waves.

John+

## *Anselm's Angels*

*A huge thank you to the  
many angels among us  
this month.*

### Harvest Festival

Marty Fischer, John Powers, Sara Nelson, Foster Lipscomb, Sally Fischer, Jim & Sally Morrison, Anne Brown, Al & Sara Swimmer, Michael Hollinger, Sally Roberts, Jill Schon, Norm Gorsuch, Paul Witkay, Arthur & Evan Powers, Marian Mulkey, Preston & Jordon Lipscomb, Kathryn Dunn, Dale & Allen Zhang, Julie Rinkenberger, Gerry Starr, Laura McInerney, Sylvia Williams, Shanda Young and a cast of thousands!

### Winter Nights

#### **From St. Anselm's Congregation:**

Eva Woo, Anne Brown, John McGraw, Michael Hollinger, Sally Roberts, Doug Merrill, Al Swimmer, Dale & Allen Zhang, JP Zhang, Julie Rinkenberger, Cindy Eisenberg, Barbara Thornton, Sally Fischer, Peggy Matson, Marian Mulkey, Caroline Huddart, Susan Barnes, Richard Dunn, Jim Morrison, Joni Pearce, Dharmini Harichandran, Abby Perry, Vula Gutman, Sara Swimmer, Sara Nelson, Ina Merrill and Sheila Craig.

#### **From the Community:**

Greg Rodolari, Tamra Brown, Cristell Conanan, Alice Cheng, Gina Mickas, Angela Lucas, Sharon Doi, Elizabeth Newton, Tina Ninh, Rachel Kean, Boy Scout Troop 243, and the Wapnick Family Law Firm. And members of the following churches who covered the second week: Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Antioch; Christian Science Church, Pleasant Hill; Neighborhood Church, Walnut Creek; and United Methodist Church, Walnut Creek.

A huge thank you to our wonderful quilter **Sara Nelson** for the beautiful quilt she made for John McGraw.

## CELEBRATE AGAPE

Like many of you reading this, the first question that came to my mind was, what is agape? One of the best descriptions of agape is familiar to all of us and heard at many weddings in the reading of 1 Corinthians 13. "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." However, there is a deeper message here that Paul is conveying which is: love is an action, not an emotion. And the greatest expression of spirituality is love.

As we proceed with our Stewardship Campaign this year, Celebrate Agape, we need to stop for a moment and reflect on our spirituality and ministry. Are we just going through the motions? Do we give our time and charity just because it is expected and the right thing to do? Or should we look inward to a deeper place and find the love in our actions? As stated in 1 Corinthians 13 verse 3, "If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."

In consideration of 2018, we invite you to give with love. Let's celebrate Agape together!

Foster & Lori Lipscomb

## SANCTUARY DISCUSSIONS

On two successive Sundays last month, following both services, members of the congregation gathered to discuss becoming a Sanctuary Diocese and a Sanctuary Church, (the National Episcopal Church.) Two resolutions to this affect were presented for consideration by the Diocesan Convention on October 28<sup>th</sup> which prompted the discussions. Before the meetings, a committee was formed and led by Jim Morrison. Research was made available to parishioners to aid the discussions.

The first Sunday we discussed a passage from the Bible relating to how we are guided by Scripture in dealing with foreigners in our land. We also shared experiences with undocumented immigrants. The second Sunday we discussed the policies as proposed. We asked questions, stated concerns and shared more experiences.

St. Anselm's parishioners were invited to vote and the results were as follows:

Resolution #1, Sanctuary Diocese: 31 (61%) for, 20 (39%) against  
Resolution #2, Sanctuary (National) Church: 29 (57%) for, 22 (43%) against

Both resolutions passed at the Diocesan Convention.

I was very impressed by the respectful way in which the discussions were conducted. I was also struck by the depth of consideration that took place.

Many thanks to Jim Morrison and the members of the Sanctuary Committee who worked hard to provide a framework for this successful engagement.

John+

## VETERAN'S RECOGNITION SUNDAY

We will be honoring our veteran's on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to be included please provide your name, rank, branch of service and when/where you served to Cathy in the office by Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. (If you've been previously listed you don't need to call in again).



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Editor:  
Cathy S. Witkay

**Sunday Services:**  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**St. Anselm's Staff**  
The Rev. John Sutton, Rector  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Cathy Witkay, Office Manager

## *The Senior Warden*

Thanksgiving has always been a bit of puzzlement to me. It lives in a gray area between religious holiday and government-mandated observance. It is based on the belief in a divine Creator and is a day set aside for us to thank that Creator for our many blessings. A proclamation by the executive branch of our government designated Thanksgiving as a national holiday, yet a basic principle of our government is the separation of Church and State. How can the government mandate a religious observance? It is intended to be a faith-based celebration, yet turkey and football are the centerpieces of our festivities. No saints, nor prophets, nor miracles to be found. I am not quite sure how to fit Thanksgiving into one of those neat, mental compartments that allow me to keep my life in order.

I consulted the great oracle of the Internet to see if I could find enlightenment. I found that there are a lot of people who share my conundrum and discovered a wide variety of interesting thoughts regarding Thanksgiving. I share a few of them here, and invite you to contemplate them as you celebrate the day with your families and friends.

From "The Essence of Thanksgiving" by Reverend Charles Henderson: "A traveler from Mars, looking down upon millions of homes across America this Thanksgiving morning might easily be confused. For the sight of all those faces, those wide eyes, those expressions of wonder and delight as the turkey is brought to the table might lead our Martian visitor to the hasty conclusion that we gather each year to worship the turkey goddess."

From President Lincoln's Proclamation of Thanksgiving: "We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people."

From journalist and historian Ray Stannard Baker: "Thanksgiving is the holiday of peace, the celebration of work and the simple life... a true folk-festival that speaks the poetry of the turn of the seasons, the beauty of seedtime and harvest, the ripe product of the year - and the deep, deep connection of all these things with God."

From Erma Bombeck: "Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence."

Wishing you a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!

Sylvia Williams

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## COFFEE HOSTING 2018

Thanks to all who responded to our request for you to sign up for TWO hostings in 2018. We are now working on a spreadsheet to assign hosts for the first six months, in much the same way that ushers, greeters, lectors are scheduled. When complete this calendar will be emailed to you as well as being available on the usual clipboard in the Jackson Hall kitchen. As with those other schedules, if the assigned date is not going to work for you, please accept responsibility for trading with someone else -- then "reply all" [and add the Office Manager who needs to know for the bulletin] with the new dates so that everyone knows "who's on first"!

Coffee Host Management Committee: Sheila Gorsuch, Maureen Nelson, Sara Nelson, Sara Swimmer.





## Michael Lane Preschool

I want to share with you our Billy and Susie story which we did with both classes, and do every year, during the first weeks of school. It is a finger play about two children who live next door to one another. One day Billy comes out of his house looks up the street, down the street and across the street and doesn't see anybody so he goes back inside his house. The next day Susie does the same thing. On the third day they both come out of their houses and when they both look across the street at the same time they see each other! They are excited to meet, introduce themselves and decide to play but just at that moment their parents call them to go to school. They sadly tell one another that they can't play. Then Susie mentions that she has to go to Michael Lane Preschool. Billy excitedly shares that he is going to MLP as well and they realize that they can play together at school. They get in their cars and off they go. We did this first as a simple finger play, then we enacted the story with puppets. Next, two teachers acted out the story in front of the children (MWF class only). Finally (again, MWF class only), the children had turns, if they so desired, acting out the story in front of their peers at Group Time.



*Kim Olson with Susie & Billy*

"Puppet" Billy and Susie will appear every once in a while during the year during class discussions at Group Time.

Kim Olson  
Director

## WOMEN'S RETREAT – BISHOP'S RANCH

Weekend before last, ten of us gathered at Bishop's Ranch for a retreat. We had been invited by the women of St. Matthew's in San Mateo, where Lindsay Hills is the Associate Rector. The weather and setting were beautiful, and we took some long walks. We had deep shares. Maureen Nelson, who is new to our parish, brought some books on meditation and prayer across many faiths. Congregants from the Church of St. Gregory of Nyssa in San Francisco were there also. They had hired someone to teach Balkan line dancing on Saturday evening and invited us to join them. All in all, it was a weekend of depth of faith, fun, and exercise.

The Ranch is in Healdsburg, Sonoma County. It was spared in the fires, but there was evidence of them all around. On the way up and back, we could see burned fields and hills on both sides of 101 – even a guard rail that had melted with the heat. I think it became most real for many of us when we went to the Sunday service at the chapel. The priest spoke about her involvement in rescue and clean-up and centered her sermon around that. Between the lessons and sermon, she invited any of us to comment. One person spoke who had lost his home and was staying at Bishop's Ranch. Another couple, living in a retirement community, had been evacuated. They were later able to return. Another spoke of the whole experience.

Bishop's Ranch is providing shelter and housing for a number of staff, family, and others who have lost homes or had to be evacuated. They had to cancel one week of retreats because of the fire danger. Both the sheltering and cancellations have cut into their reserves. They are asking for donations to help cover expenses. If you would like to contribute, you can donate online to their annual fund or if you want to do it the old-fashioned way, you can send a check to Bishop's Ranch, 5297 Westside Rd., Healdsburg, CA 95448.

Pam Green has looked into how any of us who want to can donate time and energy. She has found a volunteer organization in Sonoma County that can put you in touch with groups of volunteers. The site is [www.volunteernow.org](http://www.volunteernow.org). When the website comes up, click on Volunteers at the top of the page. That takes you to a list of opportunities, including Sonoma County Fire Relief. The American Red Cross is also organizing volunteers. If you want to help, I suggest getting in touch with Pam and maybe a group of us can go.

Anne Brown

***F.Y.I. – The next Women's Retreat is scheduled on April 20-22, 2018  
at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville.***



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## WINTER NIGHTS

Winter Nights was very successful this year. Jackson Hall was full, with six tents, holding six single moms and ten children, ranging in age from eleven months to twelve years. They were a very sweet group, both polite and fun. Moms and children thanked us a lot, sharing how stressful it is being homeless and how relieved and grateful they were to have shelter. Two of the moms had jobs, but couldn't find affordable housing.

One little three-year old boy turned four on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The Antioch Seventh-Day Adventists were hosting that night. They heard that he loves the Thomas the Train so got him a cake with one on it. He was thrilled. John McGraw was having dinner with two of the moms and shared that his birthday was coming up that Friday. He said he wasn't supposed to eat cake, so they ordered cupcakes and asked me to get some balloons, giving him a big surprise. I was so touched that they would do that, a concrete example of the gratitude they kept expressing.

The time was not without difficulty. A couple of the little ones had runny noses and some got upset stomachs. One of the moms was so sick with stomach pain and nausea that the staff person called 911, and she was taken to emergency. Winter Nights then got a motel room for her and her child for a couple of nights.

Another difficulty, not for the guests, but for us, as hosts, was that St. Matthew's Lutheran, which has taken over the meals, etc. for the second week for several years, decided to house the families themselves in March. Winter Nights wasn't able to find one church to take over. Instead there were four churches, taking turns, and needing more help than usual. They also didn't do breakfast, which meant that our breakfast team had two weeks on the job. I'm really grateful to Michael Hollinger and John McGraw who stepped up to help with that.

Eva Woo, as usual, was in charge of the run-up, getting volunteers to unload the truck, set up tents, cover the meals, and to greet the guests every evening. Something I've come to appreciate about her volunteer vision is that she thinks and goes outside the box – the box being St. Anselm's. Besides her family, who prepares a Chinese dinner every year on Sat. night and teaches how to make wontons, Eva has recruited two other groups of friends to prepare a dinner two different nights. They typically say the experience was meaningful and that they want to come back again. I love that she spreads the word, through doing this, about who we are as a parish and how the homeless are as persons. Eva also has always involved Boy and Girl Scout troops, in setting up the tents and in helping with meal preparation. The young people typically engage with the children, learning early that homeless persons are human beings, not "the Other".

Finally, I want to thank all of us, for the welcoming generosity of spirit so typical of St. Anselm's. We see it when new folk come to church and we saw it with our guests. Even if you were not involved in direct volunteering, you did give up access to Jackson Hall for two weeks, so THANK YOU! Our guests expressed their gratitude on a card, which is in Jackson Hall. Read it!

Anne Brown

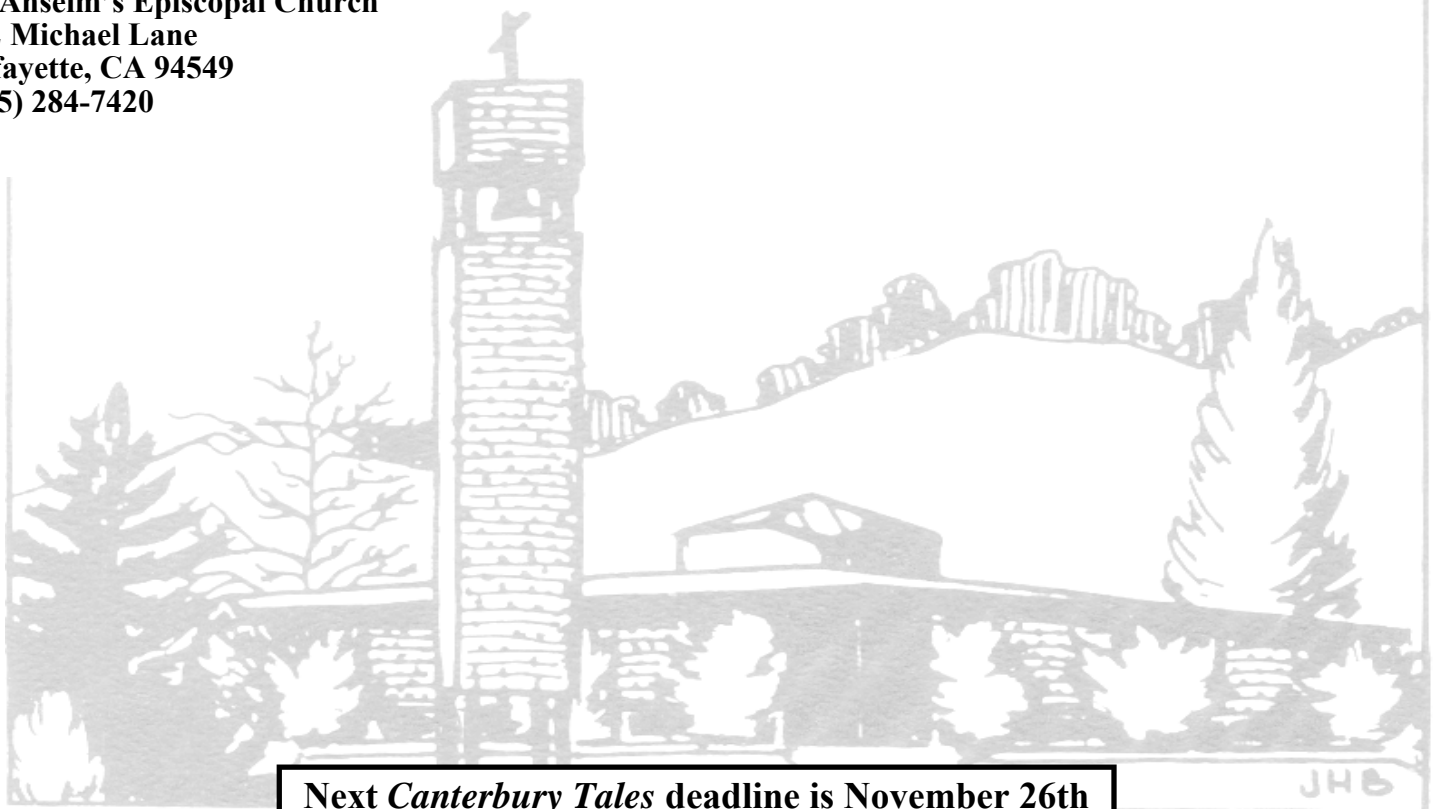


## *Upcoming Events in November*

1	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
4	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
5	Sun		<b>End Daylight Savings Time</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		10:00 a.m.	Baptism – William Weaver
		11:30 a.m.	Mary Magdalene Talk
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
6	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
7	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
		7:00 p.m.	Christian Formation Commission Meeting
8	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		6:30 p.m.	Property Commission Meeting
10	Fri	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Meeting
11	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
12	Sun		<b>Loyalty Sunday</b>
			<b>Veteran's Recognition Sunday</b>
		9:00 a.m.	<b>Stewardship Breakfast</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:30 a.m.	Mary Magdalene Talk
13	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
15	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
16	Thu	6:30 p.m.	Deanery Meeting, St. Mark's, Crockett
18	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Work Party
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
19	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00 a.m.	Baptism – John & Dean Bowersmith
		11:30 a.m.	Mary Magdalene Talk
20	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
22	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
23	Thu		<b>Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed</b>
26	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Inquirer's Group
			<b>Canterbury Tales Deadline</b>
27	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
29	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga



St. Anselm's Episcopal Church  
682 Michael Lane  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 284-7420



Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is November 26th

## ***STEWARDSHIP BREAKFAST***

*Sunday, November 12th  
Jackson Hall  
9:00 a.m.*

This is an opportunity for parishioners from both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services to come together to recognize the progress our St. Anselm's community has made during the past year and simply enjoy coming together as a community.

*All are invited to attend.*



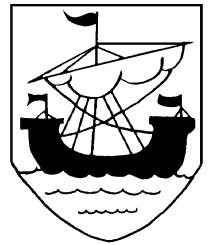
## ***IT'S TIME TO FALL BACK***

Daylight Savings Time ends on  
Sunday, November 5th at 2:00 a.m.

Remember to turn your clocks  
**BACK** one hour on Saturday  
evening.



# Canterbury Tales



The Newsletter of St. Anselm's Church, Lafayette, California

December, 2017

## *From The Rector*

### The New Church Year

In preparing for this Sunday's sermon, I read an article by Bishop William Willimon of the United Methodist Church.

Willimon writes:

*"Studies of church growth and decline show that congregations go through fairly predictable life cycles. There is the first decade when the congregation grows, attracting young members. Then the initial growth slows as the once-new members age. And with the aging comes a sense of comfort and permanence. But that sense of permanence is illusory. In reality, the congregation's experience of 'holding our own' is the first stage of decline, and decline is a prelude to death. An aging congregation stops reaching out, ceases to relate to its surrounding community, and ... the result is a weak institution on its way out."*

He wrote of a minister under his charge who inherited a church in decline. The new minister spent the first few months with her congregation listening to their stories, and learning how much the church meant to them and their families. After several months she reported to her congregation on "the future of our church:"

*"She admitted to the group gathered that for her first couple of months at the church, she was scared. 'I thought that we were going to be just another church that died. We've had so many in our denomination.'"*

*But then her voice picked up energy and enthusiasm as she announced, 'I now believe that my initial impressions were wrong. This congregation can have a future!' She then listed all of the positive strengths of the congregation, even in its present, weakened state, strengths that could be leveraged into new initiatives in ministry, new ways to reach new generations of Christians."*

*And then she uttered what many remembered as her most important statement that night. "But no renewal is possible, no future is in store for us without pain."*

Willimon concluded:

*"I wish I had time to tell all the good things that happened as a result of that meeting. The good news is that once-dwindling congregation did indeed work with God to have a future."*

So why am I telling you this story?

*(Continued on page 3)*

## *Anselm's Angels*

*"One kind word can warm three winter months."*

*~ Japanese Proverb*

Thanks to **Julie Rinkenberger, Zoe Hekmaty, Andrew Yao, Linda Chin and David Watson** for sharing their personal stories during our services. Thanks also to **Jim Morrison**, who introduced us to new recipes for our Loyalty Sunday Breakfast, and to **Steve Masterson, Doug Merrill and Paul Witkay** who so ably assisted Jim.

Our final work party of 2017 was well attended! Many thanks to : **Walter Blount; Sheila & Norm Gorsuch; Pam Green; Michael Hollinger; Foster Lipscomb; Joan Martin; John McGraw; Doug Merrill; Roy & Ina Merrill; Vicki Pappas; Julie Rinkenberger, JP, Dale & Allen Zhang; John Sutton, Al & Sara Swimmer; and George Wasson.**

One last Winter Nights thank you to **Jill Schon** for donating a sleeping bag and toiletries.

Special thanks to **David Watson** for painting the stairway to Michael Lane and updating our sign.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the various special collections over the past few months. We sent \$3620 to Episcopal Relief & Development for hurricane relief, \$1084 to the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California to aid fire victims and \$370 from our Blanket Sunday collection to Church World Service to aid in their on-going relief efforts!

## HOLIDAY HELPERS

Struggling families in Contra Costa County trying to make ends meet often don't have enough during the holidays. Through your kindness, you can be a part of helping to put a smile on a child's face and help ease the financial burden on the family this Christmas season. Please bring your **new, unwrapped gift for children or teens** to St. Anselm's no later than this **Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** and place them in the bin in Jackson Hall. Any questions may be directed to Abby Perry: [abbywperry@yahoo.com](mailto:abbywperry@yahoo.com).

## WOMEN'S INTERFAITH ADVENT SERVICE

Two years ago at our Lenten Series about Islam, two of the women panelists shared that they were part of an interfaith women's group of Muslims, Christians, and Jews that met monthly. Several of us women present said that we might be interested in joining a group. Three months ago I did join one of those Neighbor to Neighbor Interfaith groups. One of the things that we do is to organize an Advent Celebration. This year's will be held at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC), 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette on Thursday, December 7, from 7-8:30 pm, with refreshments and conversation to follow. The theme will be "Bringing Light into a Darkened World". Women from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim congregations will be sharing their insights through Scripture, music, poetry, and personal stories. I will be reading 1 Corinthians 13.

If you are interested in attending or have questions, you can get in touch with me, Anne Brown, 925-788-0664 or [annechalfantbrown@gmail.com](mailto:annechalfantbrown@gmail.com).

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Our annual Christmas Pageant will be at 5:00 p.m. on December 24th. All children are welcome to participate, including visiting relatives.

We need shepherds, angels, wise people and animals – we're even looking for Mary & Joseph.

There are no speaking parts but please arrive early (about 4:30 p.m.) to get into costume. Please contact Wynne Bacon, [thewynner@yahoo.com](mailto:thewynner@yahoo.com) if you have questions or want to reserve a specific role!

## ADVENT FESTIVAL SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Breakfast will be served following the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services on December 17th.

Let's take this opportunity to celebrate the season and to enjoy each others company.

If you would like to help by making an egg casserole please contact Sara Nelson at [saneson85@hotmail.com](mailto:saneson85@hotmail.com).

## ANNUAL REPORTS

**Attention: Commission / Organization Chairs** - If you have something new or exciting to share it's not too early to begin composing your annual report. Please submit it by the end of this year, via e-mail if possible.

Thank you.  
*Cathy Witkay*

## Christmas Services

Lessons & Carols	December 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.
Advent Breakfast		9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Christmas Pageant	December 24 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 p.m.
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Midnight Mass	December 24 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 p.m.
Caroling		10:30 p.m.



*Canterbury Tales* is the monthly newsletter of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA  
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Editor:  
Cathy S. Witkay

**Sunday Services:**  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**St. Anselm's Staff**  
The Rev. John Sutton, Rector  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Cathy Witkay, Office Manager

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## *The Senior Warden*

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Another year has cycled through and Advent is upon us. Each year I promise myself that I will keep my Christmas preparations simple and find time to observe the quiet and contemplative aspects of the season. And each year I pretty much fail in that endeavor. Things get unexpectedly crazy at work and the job eats into my personal time more than I had anticipated. I get carried away with decorating, baking and shopping. I accept two or three party invitations too many. Before I know it, it is Christmas Eve and I have not spent more than a few scattered minutes in quiet reflection.

This year I will try yet again to slow things down, and I have spent some time over the past few weeks seeking out readings that might help me focus on the miracle of Christmas, rather than the hubbub of getting ready for the secular Christmas celebrations. I found this passage in *A Pilgrim's Almanac* by Edward Hays that helped me see my busyness from a different angle and gave me some fresh motivation. Perhaps it will speak to you as well.

"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present.

"An old abbot was fond of saying, 'The devil is always the most active on the highest feast days.'

"The supreme trick of Old Scratch is to have us so busy decorating, preparing food, practicing music and cleaning in preparation for the feast of Christmas that we actually miss the coming of Christ. Hurt feelings, anger, impatience, injured egos—the list of clouds that busyness creates to blind us to the birth can be long, but it is familiar to us all."

Wishing you peace and joy at Christmas,  
Sylvia Williams

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*(Continued from page 1)*

### **Rector continued**

I will be retiring in the not-too-distant future. We are nowhere near the situation outlined in Willimon's story, but if we are not mindful and focused, you and your next minister may have to deal with some of what Willimon is outlining. I don't want to see that happen, and I am pretty sure you don't either.

St. Anselm's is a vital, loving, generous, inclusive and intimate community. We reach out to our homeless neighbors through the Winter Nights program and relate to our surrounding community through our support of Trinity Center. But in respect to expanding membership, we have gotten into that state that Willimon describes as "holding our own." When visitors show up, we are welcoming to them, but we are still relying on the hand of God to get folks into our church. We need to be more deliberate.

Are there new ministries St. Anselm's is being called to start? Is there an intersection of the needs of the community around us, and what we can provide, but aren't currently? We all know the many factors around us that are limiting church attendance, but we have something deeply meaningful to share. We have something life-changing to share. And this community, which I am blessed to serve is a beautiful manifestation of God's love. That is something stronger than all of those factors combined, if we are willing to bear witness to it.

In the coming year, I would like to engage with you in a discussion of where we are going, and how we can make this church the kind of church that is going to attract a priest full of love and energy to take St. Anselm's even further. Our renewal will not require great pain if we start now. In the last several years we have shown what we can do in purposefully coming together to relieve the suffering of the homeless. Let's all add to our 'To Do List' in this coming church year; "GROW ST. ANSELM'S."

John+

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## LOYALTY SUNDAY BREAKFAST CASSEROLE RECIPES 2017

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Jim Morrison's casseroles at this year's Loyalty Sunday Breakfast were a big hit. Since many of you asked for the recipes, Jim has graciously shared them. Jim doubled these recipes to feed the crowd at church.

### Croissant Breakfast Casserole (from NY Times)

1 lb. (about 7 large) fresh croissants, split lengthwise. The ones at Safeway are perfect since they are not completely cooked. If you buy crispy ones from a bakery, skip step one below.

7 scallions sliced thinly

¾ lb. sweet Italian sausage (buy bulk or remove casing)

2 teaspoons finely chopped fresh sage

8 large eggs

3 cups whole milk

1 cup heavy cream

8 oz. Gruyere cheese, grated (2 cups), see step 3 below

1 teaspoon kosher salt

1 teaspoon ground black pepper

1. Heat oven to 500 degrees, split croissants lengthwise and bake on cookie sheet (without crowding) for 3-4 minutes until browned (watch closely since they burn really easily), cool and cut into bite sized pieces with a serrated knife so as not to crush.
2. In large skillet over medium-high heat cook sausage and scallions until well browned (about 5-7 minutes), breaking up meat as much as possible, when done stir in sage, remove from heat and drain mixture on paper towels until cool.
3. In a large bowl, put sausage/scallions/sage, cheese and croissant pieces and thoroughly (but gently) mix with your hands. You can reserve some of the cheese to put on top before baking, but the croissants will puff up more if you don't.
4. In a separate bowl, pour eggs and beat well, then whisk in milk, cream, salt and pepper. I like to add a teaspoon of hot sauce or Aleppo pepper to the egg mixture, but you may not.
5. Grease a 13x9 baking dish with olive oil (make sure covered well), pour croissant mixture into dish and spread evenly. Pour custard evenly over mixture with a ladle. Cover pan with plastic wrap and push down gently on plastic wrap to be sure croissants are soaked with the liquid. Refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight.
6. When ready to bake, preheat oven to 350 degrees, remove plastic wrap when oven starts to preheat and let casserole warm up on the counter. Bake uncovered until firm to the touch (about 45 minutes). Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

### Apple Raisin French Toast Casserole (from Allrecipes.com)

1 cup brown sugar (light or dark, I used half a cup of each)

3 teaspoons ground cinnamon (put 1 tsp in apple/raisin mixture and 2 tsp in custard)

½ cup butter, melted

3 apples – peeled, cored and sliced thinly (I use granny smith apples)

1/2 cup raisins

1 loaf (1 pound) French baguette cut into 1 inch slices, maybe a little more (see 4 below)

6 large eggs

1 ½ cups whole milk

1 tablespoon vanilla extract

1. Grease 9x13 inch pan with vegetable oil (make sure covered well).
  2. In a large bowl mix together brown sugar, 1 tsp cinnamon and melted butter.
  3. Pour apple slices and raisins into sugar mixture and coat all evenly, pour into greased pan and smooth into one even layer. Some of the sugar mixture will not come off the sides of the bowl, and that is ok. (see step 5)
  4. Place bread slices on top of apple/raisin mixture until entire pan is evenly covered. I had to use a few extra pieces more than one baguette to get an even covering.
  5. In the same bowl, pour in eggs and beat well, then add milk, vanilla and 2 tsp cinnamon. Combine all thoroughly including whatever is left of the sugar mixture on the sides of the bowl. Pour custard evenly over mixture with a ladle. Cover pan with plastic wrap and push down gently on plastic wrap to be sure croissants are soaked with the liquid. Refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight.
  6. When ready to bake, preheat oven to 375 degrees and remove dish from refrigerator while oven is preheating. Remove plastic wrap and cover dish with aluminum foil that is not pressed down. Bake covered for 40 minutes, remove foil and cook uncovered 5 minutes more or until firm to the touch. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.
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**LOYALTY SUNDAY BREAKFAST CASSEROLE RECIPES 2017 — CONTINUED**

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**Sausage Hash Brown Breakfast Casserole (Morrison original)**

1 pound smoked sausage or Kielbasa, cut in half lengthwise and then sliced thin into half moons  
1 red onion cut in half and sliced thin  
1 30 oz. package of frozen shredded hash brown potatoes, thawed  
1 1/2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese (reserve 1/2 cup as described below)  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
1 teaspoon ground black pepper  
2 cups whole milk  
4 large eggs

1. Put frozen hash browns in refrigerator a day before to thaw.
2. Grease a large casserole thoroughly with vegetable oil and preheat oven to 350 degrees.
3. Warm a little vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium heat, then cook sausage and onion until well browned (about 7-10 minutes), discard some but not all grease. Cool mixture enough to handle in next step.
4. In a large bowl combine thoroughly with your hands hash browns, sausage/onion mixture and 1 cup cheddar cheese. When combined, turn mixture into greased casserole and smooth into a single layer.
5. In the same bowl, beat eggs well and whisk together with milk, salt and pepper. I like to add 1 teaspoon of hot sauce or Aleppo pepper to this mixture, but you may not.
6. Pour custard evenly over potato mixture with a ladle and push down gently to make sure mixture is evenly saturated. Smooth mixture again and then sprinkle remaining 1/2 cup cheese over top.
7. Bake uncovered until bubbling and golden brown, about 45 minutes. Casserole can be firm to the touch or looser depending on your preference. I like the casserole to be firm and the cheese to be browned on top. If done just right, the bottom and edges will be slightly browned as well.

*Feel free to substitute different cheese for sharp cheddar (queso fresco works well), substitute hot or sweet bulk Italian sausage for the smoked or add garlic, sliced mushrooms, green chili or anything else you like to the pan. All should be cooked and soft before combining with potatoes. Do not add tomatoes or other watery vegetables since custard will not set properly.*

*Leftovers of this will heat up well in the microwave on high for about a minute.*



## *Upcoming Events in December*

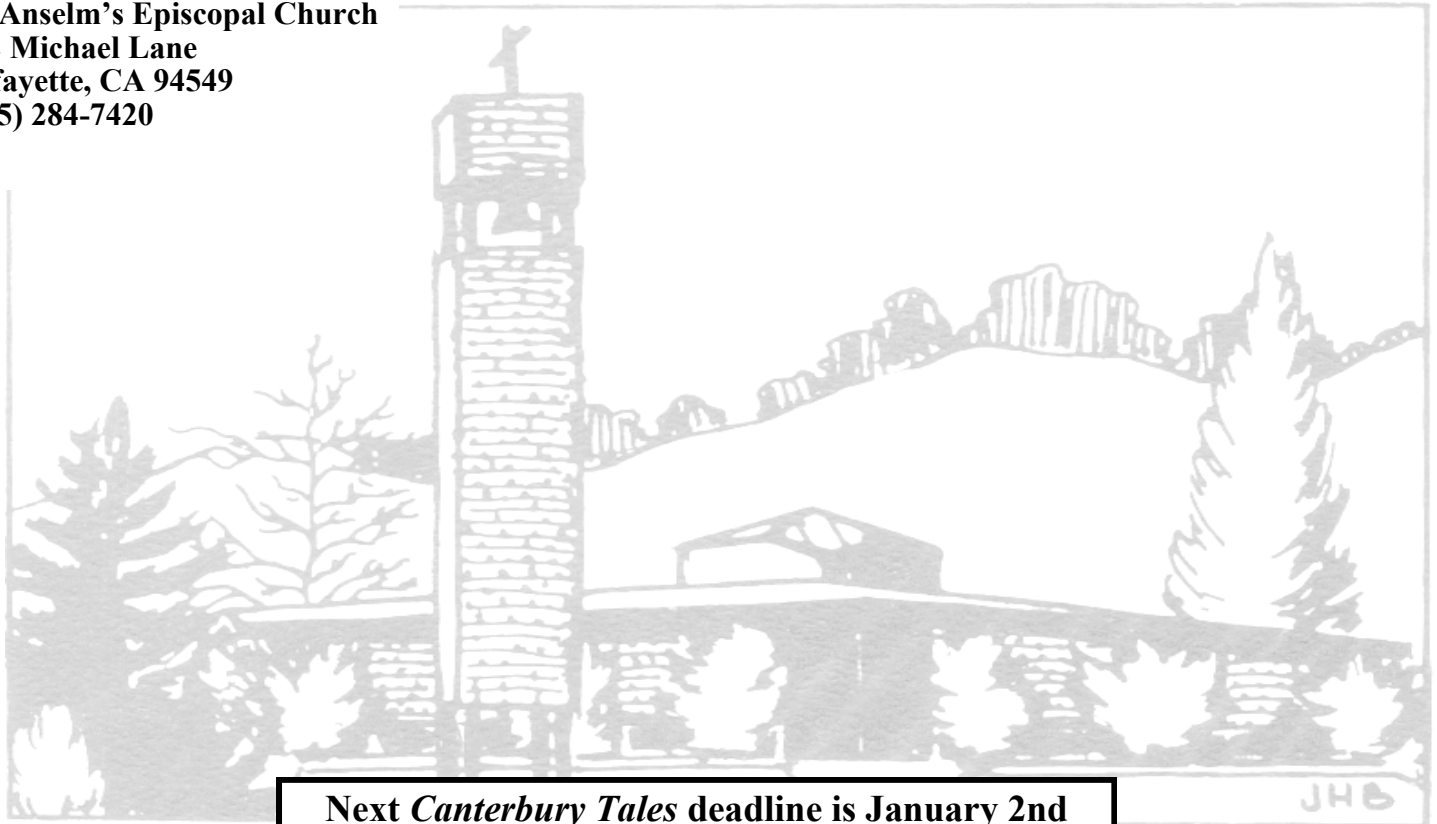
2	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
3	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
5	Tue	1:00 p.m.	<b>Holiday Helper Donation Deadline</b>
6	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
8	Fri	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Meeting @ Moraga CC
9	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		12:00 p.m.	Memorial for Betty ReShore
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
10	Sun		<b>Outreach Sunday</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class
		11:30 a.m.	Christian Formation Commission Meeting
11	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		7:00 p.m.	Vestry (2018 Budget)
12	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
13	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		12:15 p.m.	Michael Lane Preschool Board Meeting
		2:30 p.m.	Property Commission Meeting
16	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		2:00 p.m.	Memorial for Art Clarke
17	Sun		<b>Advent Festival Sunday</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class
		10:00 a.m.	Lessons & Carols
18	Mon	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting (tentative)
20	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
24	Sun		<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		5:00 p.m.	Christmas Pageant
		10:30 p.m.	Christmas Carols
		11:00 p.m.	Midnight Mass
25	Mon		<b>CHRISTMAS DAY – Office Closed</b>
27	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
31	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal

### **JANUARY**

1	Mon		<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY – Office Closed</b>
2	Tue		<b>Canterbury Tales Deadline</b>



St. Anselm's Episcopal Church  
682 Michael Lane  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
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**Next Canterbury Tales deadline is January 2nd**



*'Twas the night before Christmas  
And all through the house  
The puppies were squeaking  
An old rubber mouse*

*The wreath which had cheerfully  
Been hung on the door  
Was scattered in pieces  
All over the floor*

*The stockings so lovingly  
Hanging in rows  
Now boast of a hole  
In each of the toes*

*The tree was subjected  
To many bright eyed whims  
And now although splendid  
Is missing some limbs*

*I catch them and hold them  
Be good, I insist  
They lick me, then run off  
To find what they missed*

*And now as I watch them  
The thought comes to me  
That theirs is the spirit  
That Christmas should be*

*Should children and puppies  
Yet show us the way  
And teach us the joy that  
Should come with this day*

*Could they bring the message  
That's written above  
And tell us that, most of all  
Christmas is LOVE!!*