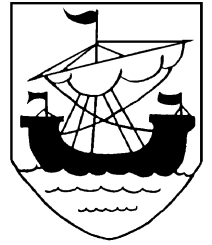


Canterbury Tales



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

January, 2019

From The Rector

New Year's Resolutions

Each year Christians, get **two** occasions to participate in a ritual of life amendment- New Year's and Lent.

I have probably preached at least one-too-many times at Lent that it doesn't have to be a time of 'giving something up,' it can be a time of 'taking something on.' New Year's Day for many, at a gut level, is different. It lends itself quite readily to the desire to give something up. Waking up with a hangover and watching football all day whether you care about the teams or not is a ritual of its own that manifests- 'I don't want to do that again!'

But here's the point I want to make: as we walk this journey of inviting God into our lives, the amendments get easier. The lessons build on one another and the learning becomes more profound. It becomes less and less about me and more and more about us. Things that once were hard to let go of, become memories and as we look back, sign posts on the journey that show us that God is very close.

As we think of what we might behold in this new year, I invite you to review your past, in the way only you can- at a soul level. How has God been present with you on your journey?

What might it be like if we could all see that together? Does not our faith, and the faith of all, points to the mystery that there is something both within and beyond us that if we can tap into it can make us greater than the sum of our parts? And whether we are of faith or not, do we not all know this hope in our souls, and know that others do as well?

Of course we run into trouble when we try to articulate it. It is by definition numinous and beyond words.

But the God of miracles and the life force continue to make all things new. In our lives and in creation. May it be so for you, for us all in the coming year.

Happy New Year.

John+

Anselm's Angels

*Lots and lots of wings aflutter at
682 Michael Lane this month:*

The Youth Sunday service was amazing due to our wonderful St. Anselm's youth: Preacher, **Katheryn Dunn**; Ushers: **Liam Perry, Palmer Hightower, Allen Zhang, Harry Barnato**; Lector: **Lee Seletzky**; Prayer Leader: **Nathan Pearce**; Soloist: **Annis Gong**; Oblation Bearers: **Harry Barnato, Palmer Hightower**; Acolytes: **Nathan Pearce, Frances Barnato**; Coffee Hosts: **Liam Perry, Dale & Allen Zhang and Katheryn Dunn**.

Thank you to **Sara Nelson** for coordinating the Advent Festival Breakfasts and all the wonderful people who helped: **Jane House, Wynne Bacon, Zoe Hekmaty, Michael Hollinger, Marcia Ellicott, Cindy Eisenberg, Liz Sutton, Naomi Chamberlain- Harris, Anne Brown, Abby Perry, Ann Burns, Sara Swimmer, Sheila Gorsuch, Sheila Riedy, Susan Hahn, Sylvia Williams**.

A big thank you to **Yvonne Grace** for coordinating and delivering our donations to VESTIA's Holiday Helpers program. We were able to contribute several boxes of gifts!

The choir for the joyous music during Lesson & Carols—**Andrew & Caroline Huddart, Caroline Merrill, Vicki Pappas, Cathy Witkay, Annis Gong, Barbara Thornton, Don Helmholz, Tom Pappas**.

continued on page 2

Upcoming Events in January

1	Tue		NEW YEAR'S DAY
2	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
5	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		5:00 p.m.	Epiphany Party
6	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
7	Mon	12:15 p.m.	Michael Lane Preschool Board Meeting
8	Tue	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Minister Meeting
9	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
12	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
13	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Christian Formation Commission Mtg.
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
14	Mon	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
		7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
16	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		2:30 p.m.	Property Commission Meeting
19	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
20	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:30 a.m.	Confirmation Class
21	Mon		MLK DAY – Church Office Closed
23	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
26	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
27	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:30 a.m.	Confirmation Class
			Canterbury Tales Deadline
30	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study

**HAPPY NEW
2019
YEAR**

Anselm's Angels (continued from page 1)

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, Marian Mulkey, Anne Brown, Eva Woo, Nathan Pearce, Kelsey Witkay, Dale Zhang**
- Lector: **Kelsey Witkay**
- Ushers: **Cindy Eisenberg, Paul Witkay, Doug Merrill**
- Musicians: **Gail Burnett, Tom Pappas, Marc Levine**
- Choir: **Annis Gong, Don Helmholtz, Vicki Pappas, Cathy Witkay**
- Pageant Coordinators: **Courtney and Kelsey Witkay**
- The many children and parents who participated in the annual Christmas Pageant.



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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

In my graduate school program, I studied economics, quantitative analysis and systems theory for use in analyzing natural resource usage and environmental health for developing natural resource management policies. An important thing we learned about dynamic systems (those that change through time) is that cause and effect can often be separated by long distances and long periods of time. Carbon emissions 100 years ago from coal burning in Europe led to climate change in this century and extreme weather patterns in North America. Furthermore, global warming in the last few centuries is melting the permafrost in arctic lands and releasing the methane gas trapped in the frozen earth there, which, itself increases global warming. This kind of “vicious cycle” is called a positive feedback loop.

It’s easy for people to continue polluting in their daily routines because they don’t see the effects of their actions right away or nearby. I think the systems theory metaphor applies to how God works in our world. When we pray for something, we don’t usually see the results of our prayers immediately or in the same room. I’ve noticed that praying for someone’s health sometimes results in a cure within days or weeks, but not minutes or hours. To my great delight, when I pray for guidance, I sometimes notice that a helpful thought occurs to me within minutes! This brings me to a Bible passage that encourages our patience when we need God’s help. It is from Isaiah, chapter 40, verse 31: “Those who look to the Lord will win new strength, They will grow wings like eagles; They will run and not be weary.”

Gerry Starr

From Deacon Naomi

I recently found this article to pass along:

Wield the Power of Words Wisely

By Alice Wu (writer and an Anglican, based in Hong Kong)

I recently found myself really missing those “good old days” — like when everyone’s biggest worry was the Y2K millennium bug. Today, a lot of us are suffering from outrage fatigue. The atrocious, the horrendous and the outrageous happen on a daily basis. By just wagging the tongue, toxic words are spread at an incredible speed.

A tweet can bring down companies, undo years of carefully calibrated diplomacy, erase decades of human progress in civility and reverse the goodwill and incredible efforts of generations of peacemakers to bring the world to the cusp of World War III. The world has been dictated by senseless, hateful and nonexistent words (“covfefe,” anyone?)

It’s easy to get caught up in what was said. And in today’s world, where lying and assaults on facts are expected daily, it gets exhausting: too much evilness. . . all of which leaves us overwhelmed, cynical and hopeless.

Indeed, it’s not the size of the “nuclear button” that matters. Jesus, in the Gospel according to Matthew, reminds us of what truly matters:

“Listen and understand: It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles. . . What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander” (Matt.15:10b-11, 18-19).

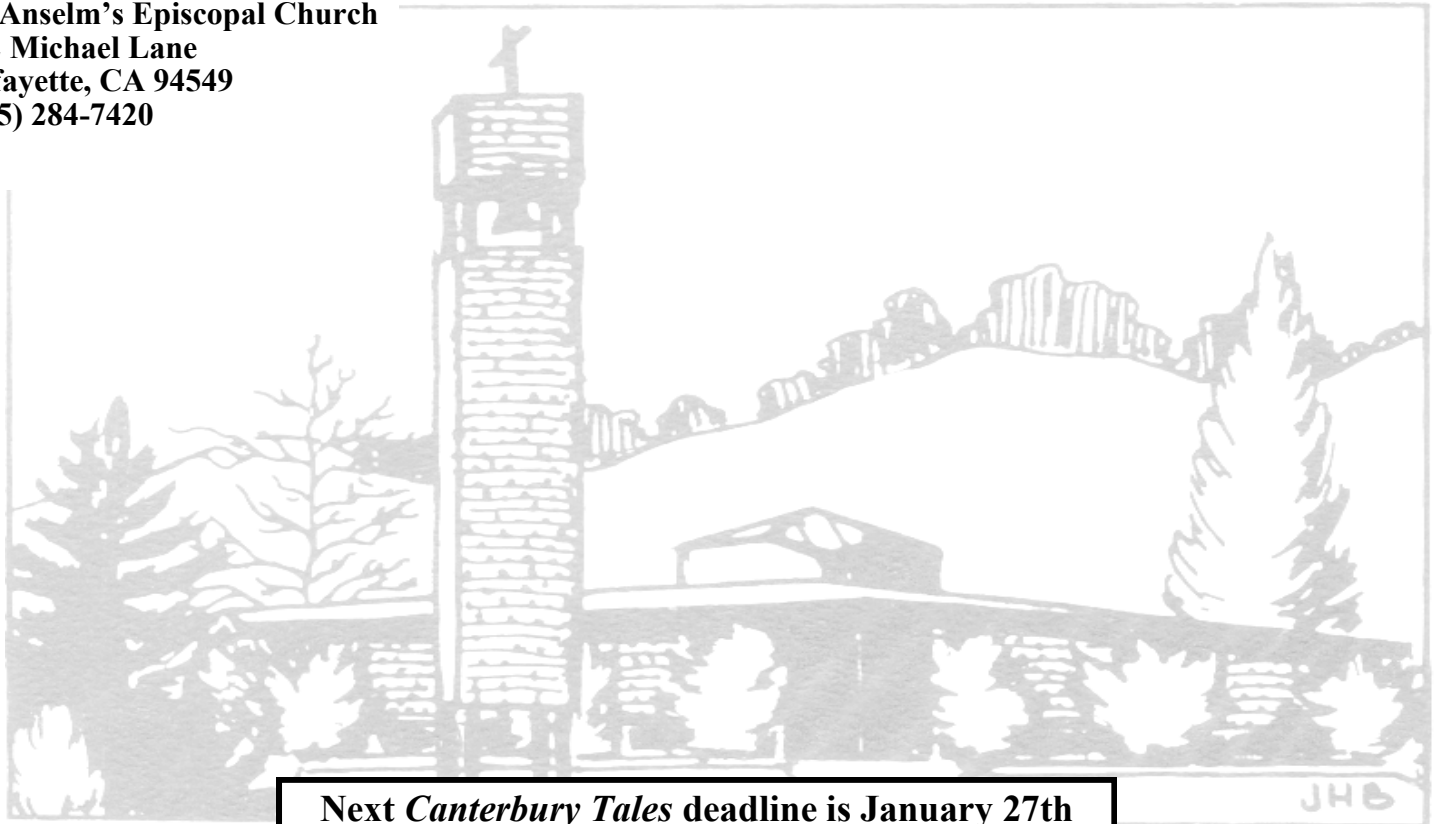
It may be true that people, especially politicians, would say anything to get “support,” whether it is to get “likes” and “shares” or pander to their base, even if that means resorting to the language of the hateful and ignorant. But the truth is that it’s the heart of the person with the toxic tongue that is vile, for “How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire by hell” (James 3:5b-6).

Instead of dousing the fire, the Bible tells us that our words, can, indeed, do much more: “that your words may give grace to those who hear” (Ephesians 4:29).

Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, who had been in seclusion for five months with the husband who had been temporarily silenced because of her “unlikely” pregnancy, spoke beautiful words when her pregnant cousin Mary came to her. Elizabeth had every reason to be but was not bitter. Elizabeth had every reason to seek validation but focused on the Lord. And her words inspired Mary’s response – the Magnificat.

Every time we speak – in person, on social media, etc. – we have a choice. We can choose to be shackled by deliberate hatred, deliberate fear and deliberate ignorance, and be a prisoner of anger, resentment and bitterness. Or we can choose to follow Elizabeth’s example, using our words to build others up and inspire.

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Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is January 27th

All About January

The 1st month of the year brings us New Year's Day, MLK day, and the excitement of new beginnings.

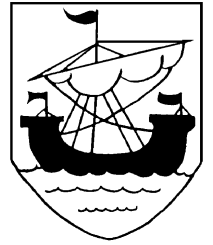
In the Gregorian calendar, the calendar that most of the world uses, January is the very first month of the year. The name January came from a Roman god Janus. According to Roman legend, in 700 B.C., the ruler Numa Pompilius added January to the end of the 10-month Roman calendar. When it was added, Pompilius gave 30 days to January. However, Romans later made January the first month of the year. Moreover, in 46 B.C. Julius Caesar added one more day to January and that's why there are 31 in January today. January was known as the wolf month to the Anglo-Saxons because in winter, wolves came into the villages to search for food. It is the coldest month in the northern half of the world, nature is quiet and the birds travel less. However, in the southern half of the world, January is the warmest month. During this time, unlike the northern half of the world, animals are active and plants are growing.

More fun facts about January:

- ♦ January's gem is garnet which represents constancy.
 - ♦ The zodiac signs for January is Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) and Aquarius (January 20 - February 18).
 - ♦ National Blood Donor Month
 - ♦ National Braille Literacy Month
 - ♦ National Hobby Month
 - ♦ National Soup Month
-

Canterbury Tales

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



February, 2019

From The Rector

Crab Feed

Our annual crab feed will be held on Saturday evening February 23rd beginning at 5:30. Beverages, bread, salad, pasta and all-you-can eat crab included. Price is \$45 per adult, \$15 per person 14 and under. Payment in advance.

We are usually sold out or close to selling out every year, so if you are interested, sign up in Jackson Hall or by calling Cathy in the office.

Watch Out for Vandalism

Over the past several months we have had some cases of vandalism. A door was kicked in, a door lock was tampered with and a table in Jackson Hall was marred. We can all do our part in preventing vandalism by ensuring that we lock doors when we leave. Please be vigilant!

John+



Anselm's Angels

Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.

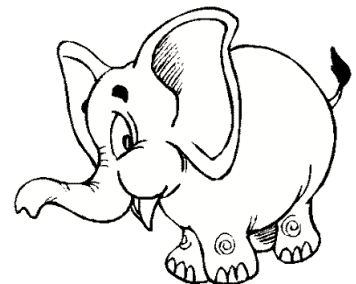
~ Ryonosuke Satoro

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

Coordinators—**Jane House & Chris Stone**

**"Wise Woman" - Shanda Young
Sheila & Norm Gorsuch, Pam
Green, Naomi Chamberlain-
Harris, Michael Hollinger, Sara
Nelson, Vicki Pappas, and the en-
tire clean-up brigade!**

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



INTERFAITH OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN

I belong to an interfaith women's circle. We meet once a month. In my group there are 3 Muslim women, 4 Jewish women, and 2 Christians. We're looking for another one or two Christians. Our circle was organized by Neighbor to Neighbor, which is part of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County.

I first heard about these interfaith circles when we had the panel of Muslim speakers at our Lenten Series in 2016. Gail Clarke, Avon Wilson, and I asked if we could join. At that time, there was quite a long waiting list, so by the time there was space, I was the only one able to join. It's been a rich and connecting experience. We share about our faiths and our personal lives. I've gotten to know a lot about the other religions and also now have several good friends. One of my Muslim friends came to our Christmas Eve service this year.

Neighbor to Neighbor is looking to expand and create more circles. With that in mind, they have scheduled a meeting this coming Monday for women interested in learning more about the circles and perhaps applying to join one. Members of existing circles will share our experience.

When/Where: 7 PM Monday, February 4th at Temple Isaiah Adult Lounge

If you are interested, or want to join, but cannot attend, you can e-mail marambata@yahoo.com. You can also talk to me in coffee hour, e-mail me at annechalfantbrown@gmail.com or phone me. My cell phone # is: 925-788-0664. I will be attending the meeting, so if you want to go and to carpool, let me know.

Anne Brown

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY IS HERE!

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 3rd**, 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



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Sunday, February 17th
following the 10:00 a.m.
service**

- 2018—A Year In Review
- Elections:
 - * Vestry Class of 2022
 - * Diocesan Deanery Delegates
 - * Deanery Alternates

*All are encouraged to
attend!*

*Your participation 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 Cathy (in the office) by February 11th. Thanks.



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WOMEN'S RETREAT – 2019

I have some exciting news! We have a reservation at The Bishop's Ranch for October 25-27. As some of you already know, we needed to guarantee 10 participants in order to hold it. We've done that. We have 10 sign-ups and several strong maybe's, so we're off to a good start.

The Bishop's Ranch is in a beautiful setting near Healdsburg. There are views across the valley and lovely walking trails. The food is delicious. The last two times that we've been there, another church from San Francisco has also come. They are high energy, leading us all in singing grace before meals. On Saturday night they typically have some kind of country dance and invite us to join.

We will once again be in Harrison House, which has a cozy, home-like setting, with a kitchen, living room/dining room combination with a fireplace, where we have our meetings. Outside there's a porch, where we can sit. We will share bedrooms. The cost is \$264 for a double room and \$234 for a triple room. If you want to come, but can't afford it, we do have scholarship funds. Check-in time is 5 pm on Friday. We're responsible for our dinner on Friday night. The Ranch provides breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday, breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Check-out is early afternoon on Sunday.

We do not yet have a leader or a topic. However, my experience is that whoever leads or whatever the topic, what's important is the connecting energy among us that's always there. We pray, we share, we laugh. If you are new to St. Anselm's, it's the perfect way to get to know other members.

If you have questions or want to sign up as a "Yes" or a "Maybe", you can talk to me at coffee hour, phone or e-mail me. My cell phone # is: 925-788-0664. My e-mail address is: annechalfantbrown@gmail.com.

Hope to see many of you there!!

Anne Brown

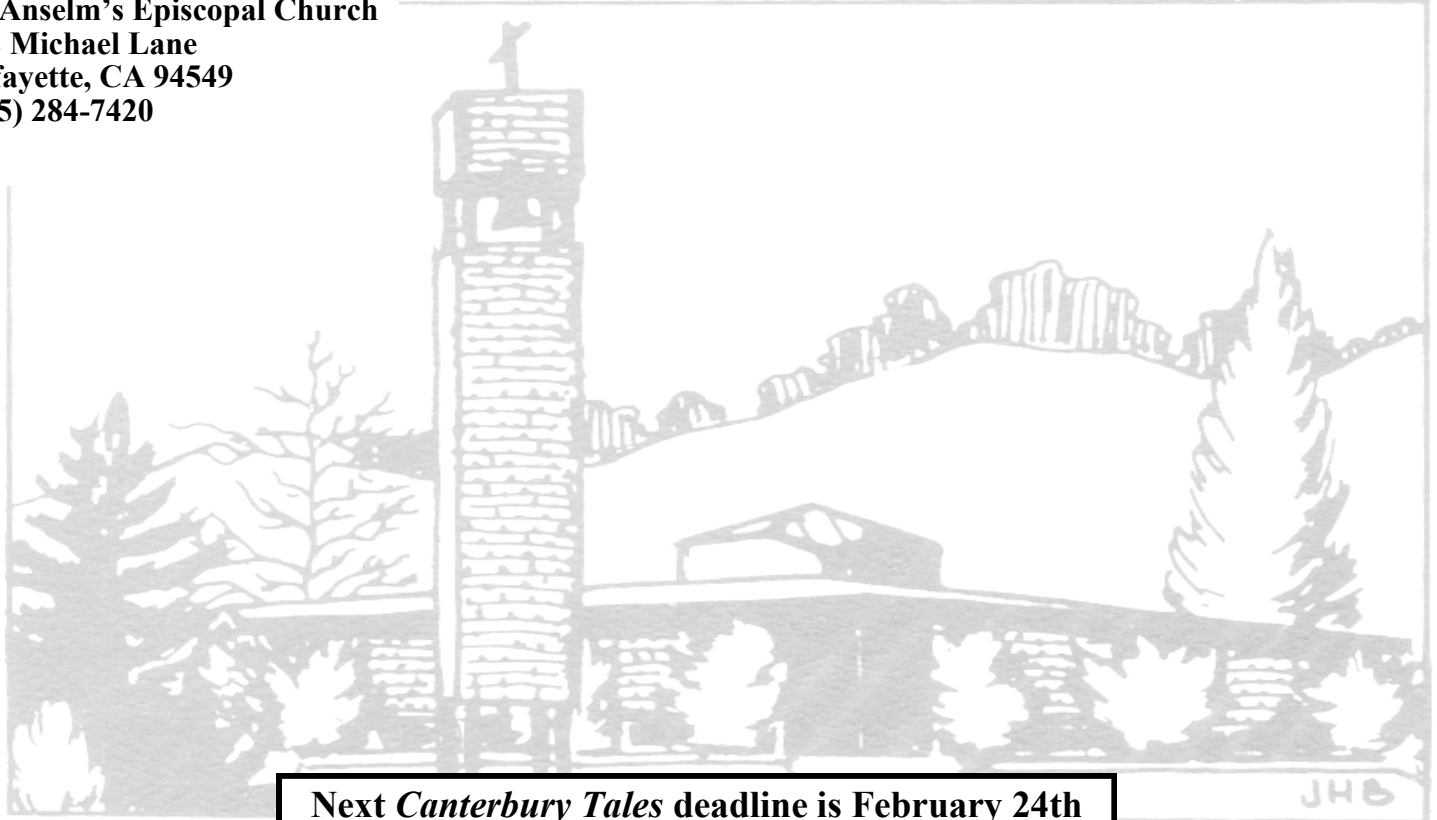


Upcoming Events in February

3	Sun	SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY
		9:15 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m. Cancer Support Group
4	Mon	12:00 p.m. Michael Lane Preschool Board Meeting
5	Tue	10:00 a.m. Stephen Minister Meeting
		12:15 p.m. Grief Support Group
6	Wed	9:30 a.m. Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m. Contemporary Bible Study
9	Sat	9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m. Bridge Group
10	Sun	9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
		11:45 a.m. Confirmation Class
11	Mon	7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting
13	Wed	9:30 a.m. Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m. Contemporary Bible Study
		2:30 p.m. Property Commission Meeting
17	Sun	10:00 a.m. Baptism – Eloise Susan Fitzsimmons
		11:30 a.m. PARISH-WIDE ANNUAL MEETING
18	Mon	PRESIDENTS' DAY – Church Office Closed
20	Wed	9:30 a.m. Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m. Contemporary Bible Study
23	Sat	9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
		5:30 p.m. CRAB FEED
24	Sun	9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
		11:45a.m. Confirmation Class
		Canterbury Tales Deadline
26	Tue	6:30 p.m. Michael Lanza Presentation – Preschool
27	Wed	9:30 a.m. Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m. Contemporary Bible Study

*Happy
Valentines
Day*

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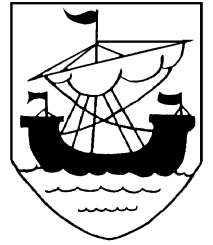


Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is February 24th

Do you know where *Valentine's Day* came from? How it became so popular? Was it always about love and good feelings? Here are some interesting *facts* you might not know.

- The most popular theory about Valentine's Day's origin is that Emperor Claudius II didn't want Roman men to marry during wartime. Bishop Valentine went against his wishes and performed secret weddings. For this, Valentine was jailed and executed. While in jail he wrote a note to the jailor's daughter signing it "from your Valentine."
- In Victorian times it was considered bad luck to sign a Valentine's Day card.
- About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year. This makes it the second largest seasonal card sending time of the year.
- Many believe the X symbol became synonymous with the kiss in medieval times. People who couldn't write their names signed in front of a witness with an X. The X was then kissed to show their sincerity.
- Richard Cadbury produced the first box of chocolates for this holiday in the late 1800s.
- The red rose was the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love.
- 189 million roses are sold in the U.S. on this day.
- Teachers will receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.
- 220,000 is the average number of wedding proposals on Valentine's Day each year.
- Every Valentine's Day, the Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet.

Canterbury Tales



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

March , 2019

From The Rector

Inside Out. Outside In.

When I was in high school the three best teachers I had were gay men. Two of them lived together in a high rise by Lake Merritt. They never told me, I just knew. During morning recess, I used to hang out with them in the classroom. They were my friends.

After I graduated from high school there were many seminal moments that united the gay community. Shared anger over the murders of Harvey Milk and Matthew Shepard. Collective grief of those lost to AIDS. Shared joy in marriage equality. I don't know if my three friends spoke to their students about any of these events. I am nearly certain that by virtue of who they were, they continued to be extremely effective advocates to everyone that gay people deserve full acceptance.

This month our Lenten series will be focusing on LGBTQ issues. The letters stand for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning. For some of us this community represents 'the other.' And yet they are not. They are people among us, fellow parishioners who have a story to tell, and it is a Christian story. In the Lenten spirit of introspection, I invite you as you read this article into a first exploration: can you make time to be with us on four successive Tuesday evenings beginning on March 12th to come and hear what the journey of some members of the LGBTQ community has been like? It will be a tangible way of exploring just how broad God's reach is in making his word become flesh.

I am aware that this exploration can be fraught with the peril of politics.

After 9/11 I was approached by a couple of parishioners about placing the American flag in the sanctuary. With some reluctance, I agreed. We had been attacked and the flag offered strength to the grieving.

Two and a half years ago after a gunman murdered 49 people and injured 53 more in his attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando, we draped a rainbow banner over the railing of our staircase on Michael Lane. We have continued to do so during the month of June when the shootings occurred and when Gay Pride week occurs. For me, the original statement we made when we mounted that flag in 2016 continues to this day- we are not a place that sanctions violence against anyone. And we are a place where we continue to explore how we can broaden our reach to include those who have not only been targeted, but marginalized.

But I am grounded in a realization- there is no flag under the banner of heaven that in seeking to unite cannot also serve to divide. Symbols made with the best of intentions, even crosses, crescents and stars are crafted

Anslem's Angels

*"Start by doing what's necessary;
then do what's possible; and
suddenly you are doing the
impossible." ~ Francis of Assisi*

Thanks to all who contributed to the **Souper Bowl** collection and to **Preston & Jordan Lipscomb** and **Liam Perry & Allen Zhang** who stood outside with soup pots in hand. We donated \$2260.56 to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano!

Welcome to our new class of 2022 Vestry members: **Peter Grace, Alex McDonald, Keith Pearce,** and **Eva Woo.** Congratulations to our new Senior Warden, **Caroline Huddart.**

Congratulations to our new Deanery Delegates: **Cindy Eisenberg, Jane House, Chris Stone** and **Liz Sutton** and to our new Deanery Alternates: **Sara Nelson & Gerry Starr.**

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

Coordinator: Michael Hollinger
And his many helpers: **Gary & Wynne Bacon, Lindsay Brown, Laura D'Anna, Bob Eddy, Cindy Eisenberg, Sally Fischer, Norm Gorsuch, Don Helmholtz, Jane House, Lori Lipscomb, Sara Nelson, Arthur & Evan Powers, Sally Roberts, Gerry Starr, Chris Stone, John Sutton, Sara Swimmer. Paul & Cathy Witkay and Eva Woo.**

continued on page 3

2019 LENTEN SERIES

Welcoming LGBTQ People Within Our Faith Community

This year's Lenten Series (**March 12, 19, 26 and April 2**) will focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) people and the faith community. Personal stories and lived experience will be our primary focus.

On March 12, parishioner Shanda Young will provide context based on her professional and personal experience. On March 19 we will welcome community member Jorge Flores to share how his identity and interactions with church and faith communities have unfolded. On March 26 we will continue to hear stories and discuss relevant historical and cultural context. During the final session on April 2, we will explore how St. Anselm's might more fully realize its ministry to the LGBTQ community.

Each night begins at **6:30 p.m.** with a simple soup and salad supper. Program will begin promptly at 7 p.m. and end by 8:30 p.m. Dinner is provided and an offering to benefit the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties is invited.

Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall; please let us know if you will attend so we can plan food and seating accordingly. We welcome volunteers to provide soup, or bread and salad, for about 25 attendees. Questions can be addressed to Anne Brown (annechalfantbrown@gmail.com) or Marian Mulkey (marianmulkey@comcast.net) of the Christian Formation Commission.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

The youth of St. Anselm's will be serving pancakes, sausage and orange juice on Shrove Tuesday, March 5th in Jackson Hall. The supper will begin at 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 and all proceeds will go to the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano Counties.



TRINITY CENTER GALA: SAVE THE DATE

The Trinity Center "Night of Hope" will be held on Thursday, May 16, at Boundary Oak in Walnut Creek from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. This is the fifth annual Spring Gala for the Trinity Center, which is a key part of their annual fundraising efforts. Your support will help provide housing, employment, meals, temporary shelter, substance abuse and mental health treatment, showers, laundry, and more. St. Anselm's will be organizing a table at this great event; please contact John Powers (johntpowers@gmail.com) to participate.

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 10th to Palm Sunday, April 14th. 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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St. Anselm's Staff
The Rev. John Sutton, Rector
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon
Cathy Witkay, Office Manager

The Senior Warden

Welcome to our new Senior Warden Caroline Huddart. Since she just assumed this role last week, we've given her this first month off from her *Canterbury Tales* article. So watch for her introductory message in April!

(Continued from page #)

Rector continued. . . .

with human hands, and thereby subject to understandings that have limits. It is ironic that in our time, a rainbow flag of inclusion can actually serve to divide. I heard a podcast recently where a woman said, "Everyone of us has a voice that can be heard even if we have to shout to do so!" Except on airport runways, my experience has been that the louder you shout the less people listen.

I am willing to deal with the phone calls left on the answering machine to 'Take that flag down. Churches are not supposed to be involved in politics.' (Yes, we have received that call.) And I welcome the possibility that any LGBTQ person might see in such a flag an invitation to a community in which they would be welcome. My concern is more internal, to those in our fold who honestly struggle to fully accept others. We all have a history, including one of scriptural interpretation, and we don't know how that history might make it harder for another to share an inclusive view.

As a straight white male who in every way comes from a background of privilege, I am aware of what that privilege accords me. In the church, it accords me the trust of others like me. When I preach the gospel, and as long as I stick to the gospel, they will walk with me as I share my view. There are times when I see the honest and pained struggle on the faces of those who are with me on this path and may not agree with what I am saying. In the church, that one moment, that one expression is worth more than a thousand votes in a polling place. Behind it I see Jesus smiling back at me saying, 'He's with us too.'

Our brothers and sisters speaking from the margins tell us that we have all been created by God and in some ways we may not yet recognize, and created differently. Holy Scripture does too. We are called to seek to expand our view, and to meet people where they are so others can as well. How we do that, how we listen and speak is where the world gets healed.

Three high school teachers inspired me. I admired them, shared brotherly love with them, and to this day I am grateful to them. Gentlemen - Thank you for everything you taught me. Everything.

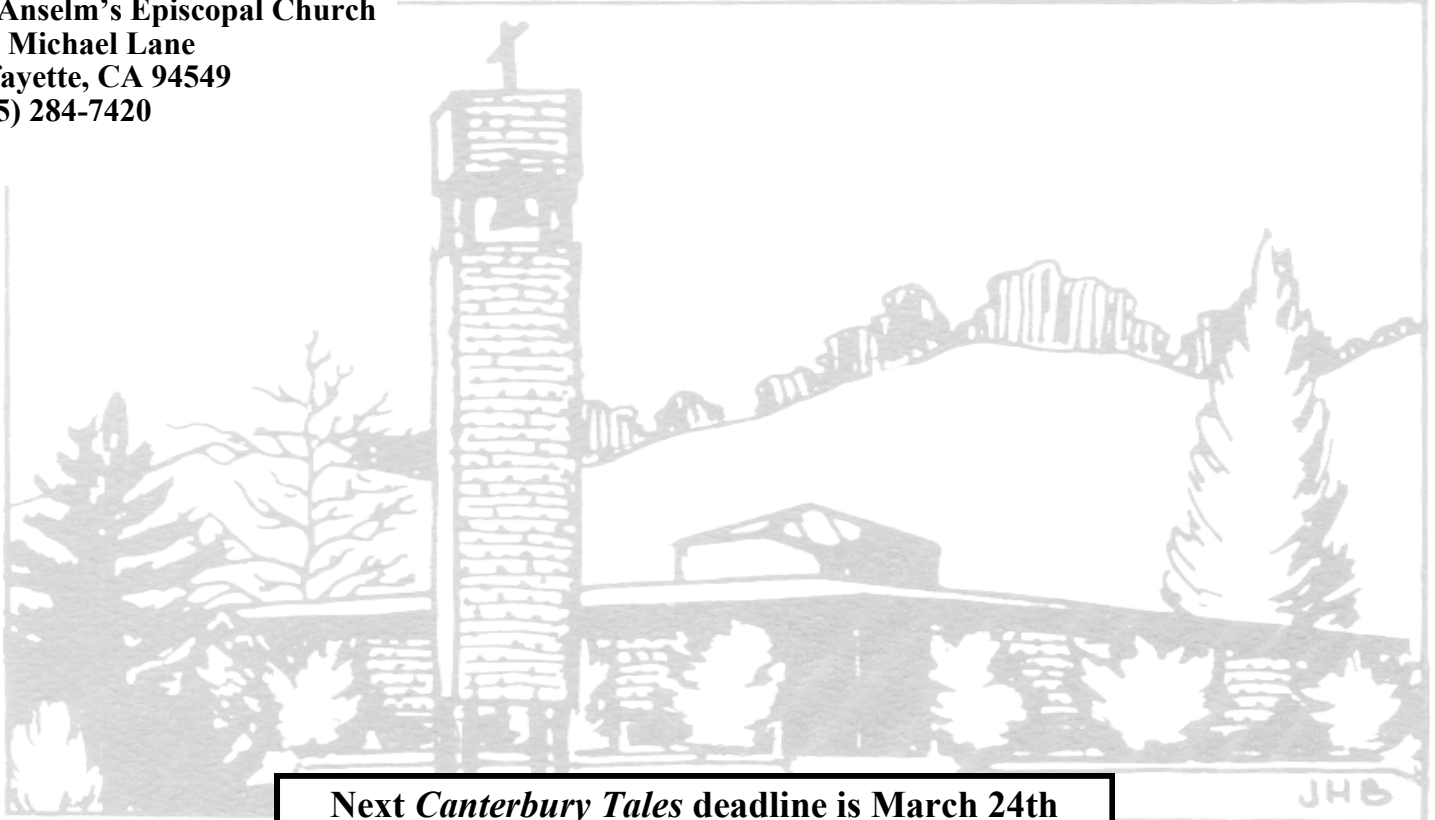
John+

Upcoming Events in March

2	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
3	Sun		YOUTH SUNDAY
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Youth & Parent Meeting
5	Tue	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Minister Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
6	Wed		ASH WEDNESDAY
		9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		Noon	Ash Wednesday Service
		7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
9	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
10	Sun		Daylight Savings Time Begins
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
		11:45 a.m.	Confirmation Class
11	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
12	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
		6:30 p.m.	Lenten Series
13	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		2:30 p.m.	Property Commission Meeting
16	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
17	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:45 a.m.	Confirmation Class
19	Tue	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Series
20	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
23	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
24	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
			Canterbury Tales Deadline
26	Tue	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Series
27	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
30	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Work Party
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal



St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
682 Michael Lane
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Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is March 24th



- It's Daylight Saving Time, not "savings" time.
- Benjamin Franklin did not invent it. Though in 1774 he did suggest getting people up earlier as a way to save money on candles.
- It was first implemented during World War I as a way to save energy for war production. It was also referred to as "war time."
- Hawaii and Arizona (except for the Navajo Nation) do not observe it.
- It's used in over 70 countries around the world, though dates and times vary.

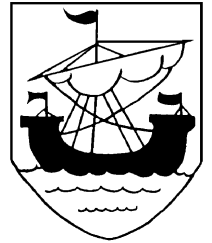
So remember.

*Daylight Savings Time Begins on
Sunday, March 10th*

*Turn your clocks
AHEAD one hour on
Saturday, March 9th*

Canterbury Tales

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



April, 2019

From The Rector

Belonging, Then Believing

A couple of days ago, I listened to this amazing podcast:

<https://player.fm/series/out-loud-lgbt-stories-of-faith-2364011/ep-103-kelsey-davis-and-showing-up-to-our-community>

The Rev. Kelsey Davis who was interviewed is an Episcopal priest who works for the Diocese of El Camino Real, our neighbor to the south. Her title is Curator of Emerging Communities.

Kelsey is an articulate and thoughtful woman, and I recommend the podcast to all. She said something during the podcast, that I and other members of the Christian Formation Commission were struck by. She suggested that as the church moves forward, the way to define community should be by thinking of ourselves as a community of belonging first, then a community of believing.

I was struck by what she said not only because I agree with her, but because she drew the contrast with such clarity. I have seen this dynamic unfolding for some time, right here at St. Anselm's.

Several years ago, we explored the Nicene Creed in our Lenten Series. In the last session, participants wrote down what in the Nicene Creed they actually believed. We agreed on one thing, and one thing only: *We believe*. Even that was not unanimous; one person said that they did not believe, but they knew someone in the community did, so they were okay with that. I wondered what might a creed of belonging look like. First of all, it would not likely be a creed. Creed in Latin is literally a statement of belief. The first two words, "We believe" translate to "Credimus" in Latin. It would need to be something that didn't get us stuck in our head, but that could reach down to our heart and our deep longings.

So I went ahead and put one together. I invite you to do the same, because I think there is value in the exercise, both in terms of clarifying our beliefs, but also in trying to grasp why it matters to you. As your priest, I found a way long ago to interpret Mary's virginity, and both Jesus's divinity and resurrection so I can recite the Nicene Creed, truly believing what I am saying. The translation to the right, "A Song for the Longing" captures this in a spirit of belonging, which is where I think we are being called.

Thanks Kelsey.

John+

(Continued on page 5)

Anslem's Angels

"Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others."
- Booker T. Washington

Another Youth Sunday service was amazing due to our wonderful St. Anselm's youth: Preacher, **Hallie Orear**; Ushers: **Liam Perry, Allen Zhang**; Lectors: **Jordan Lipsomb** (8 AM), **Palmer Hightower** (10 AM); Prayer Leader: **Dale Zhang**; Soloist: **Annis Gong**; Oblation Bearers: **Frances Barnato, Harry Barnato**; Acolytes: **Katheryn Dunn, Lee Seletzky**; Coffee Hosts: **Frances & Harry Barnato, Liam Perry, Dale & Allen Zhang** and **Palmer Hightower**.

Thanks to all who helped out with our most successful Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper ever: **Susan Barnes & Katheryn Dunn** for doing all the shopping; **Harry Barnato** the griddle master; **Liam Perry** scramble egg maker extraordinaire; **Francis Barnato** centerpiece creator & donation collector and **Allan Zhang** for pitching in where needed. Thank you also to the adult supervisors: **Julie Hullverson, Abby Perry, Julie Rinkenberger** and **Liz Sutton**. **\$231 was raised for the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano Counties!**

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. Thanks to **Vicki Pappas, Judy Peak**, and **Doug Merrill** for filling the roles of Lectors and Usher.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday, April 14
PALM SUNDAY

8AM & 10AM

Thursday, April 18
MAUNDY THURSDAY

7PM

Friday, April 19
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

NOON

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7PM

Sunday, April 21
EASTER SUNDAY

8AM & 10AM

EASTER LILIES



Help decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday by donating an Easter Lily. The order/dedication forms available in the service bulletin or contact Cathy Witkay in the office. The deadline for these dedications is Tuesday, April 16th. The cost is \$15 per plant. Please make your check out to the St. Anselm's Altar Guild.

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 continue to collect new, white sport-type socks for our folks at Trinity Center until Palm Sunday, April 14th. There is a basket in the back of the church designated for socks. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,
Deacon Naomi



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!



Canterbury Tales is the monthly newsletter of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA
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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

I've been around St. Anselm's long enough now that most of you have heard the story about how the Huddart family arrived at the church, but as this is my introductory piece as Senior Warden, I hope you'll bear with the re-telling.

We arrived in Lafayette in the summer of 1995. Andrew worked for Reuters at the time and we were moving from New York. He had originally been sent there from the U.K. for a 6-week assignment when Eleanor and Gabriella (now 28) were 2 ½ years old. It was now 2 years later and Andrew had a new position in San Francisco. Hence, we were looking for a new home, a new school for the girls and a new church. I was about 8 months' pregnant with Edward (now 23) so we were truly a family in transition.

Our first visit to St. Anselm's was not on a Sunday so everything was closed. We knew in advance it would be the church we would join as it was the closest Episcopal church to our house and church shopping wasn't a concept we Brits understood. One attended the local parish church and just made the best of it! As we drew up in the car we were a little confused (I think one of the girls expressed the opinion that we were mistaken and this wasn't a church after all). We looked for windows to see inside but at the time the planting around the church was much higher than it is today and we had to crawl on our knees to take a look. We must have looked as bizarre as the church did to our traditional English (and more recently "New English") eyes.

We were a little concerned that the Sunday services would be equally out of our comfort zones. Nevertheless, we took the plunge and found the liturgy was almost the same as at our churches in New York and in the U.K. St. Anselm's was initially an anchor of familiarity in a new world and it quickly became a huge part of our family's life. It was our village in which we were able to grow, both literally and spiritually; where we were welcomed and received without judgment.

Now that our children are grown, I am so glad to see new families joining the church and young people becoming involved in leadership on Youth Sundays and in the church community. I am happy they are benefitting from the community as we did, and that all the members of St. Anselm's benefit in return from the youthful energy, perspective and insight they offer us. Nurturing young families is, after all, how a community not only grows but flourishes.

Caroline Huddart

MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL

The children at Michael Lane have been busy, as usual, over the last weeks playing in the rain, finding slugs, celebrating Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. But I must say the most recent highlight for our school was the event we hosted February 26 in the Parish Hall. Mike Lanza, author of the book *Playborhood: Turn Your Neighborhood Into A Place for Play*, gave a thought provoking presentation. Lanza is on a mission to encourage parents to reduce scheduled activities for their children and provide the time and environment for their children to participate in unstructured play with children of all ages. If you would like to know more you can check out his blog at Playborhood.com. This was the first time Michael Lane has hosted an event at which many people attended from outside our school population. Very exciting for us! We had about thirty people attending. I feel very fortunate that St. Anselms allowed us to put on the event.

We are now in the midst of accepting students for next fall. At this point we have filled all but three spots. This year school will commence August 26 instead of after the Labor Day weekend. This is a change we have made in order to line up more closely the Lafayette School District calendar. Summer, as we once knew it, exists no more!

Kim Olson
Director

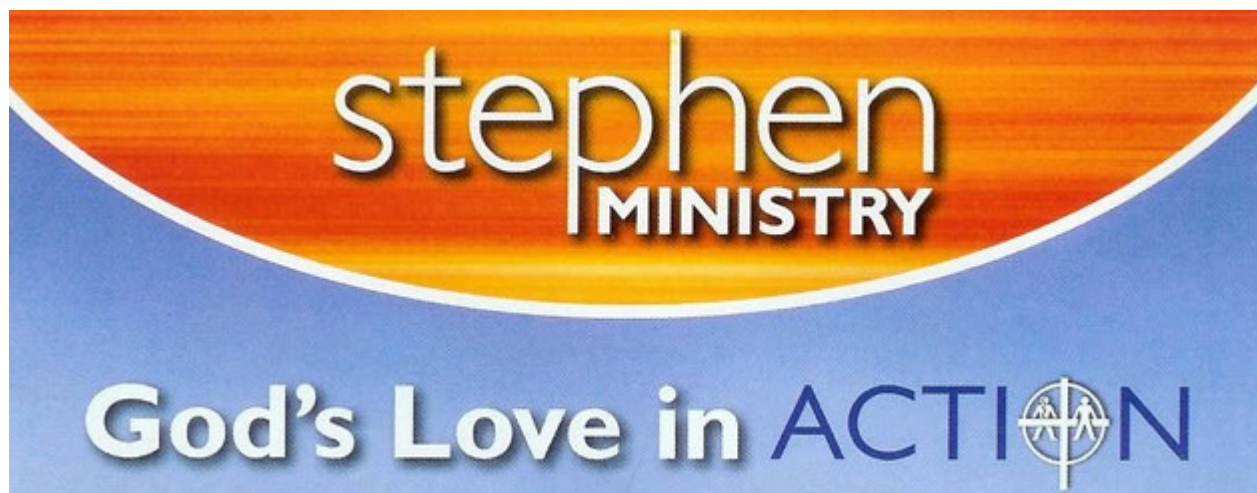


Stephen Ministry

Vicki Pappas, our Stephen Minister Leader recently asked Gene Bozorth, a long time member of St. Anselm's who recently retired from Stephen Ministry, to share some of her experiences as a Stephen Minister. A Stephen Minister is a trained Christian Care Giver who meets regularly with a person experiencing a difficult time in his or her life. The Stephen Minister helps by being a compassionate and confidential listener, providing emotional and spiritual support and in this way, shares Christ's love with the Care Receiver. We at St. Anselm's so appreciate Gene's great service as a Stephen Minister, both for her Care Receivers as well as for being a supportive caring person in our Stephen Ministry Supervision groups.

Gene wrote the following:

MJ Young was the Stephen Leader when I joined the group. We Stephen Ministers were educated for about eight months on how to be confidential listeners. We were taught to never give direct advice and to tell our care receivers if we had knowledge of resources that might help their situation. Over the years I was indeed fortunate to be with four different care receivers who had totally different issues. I will tell you of one for whom I was a Care Giver for more than 10 years, which is an unusually long time, but it totally affected my own life. I began each week preparing myself with quiet thoughts and some prayer before I went to visit her each week. I was able to read to her for a few years since her vision was failing. We talked about her life and she told me things that she had never told her family. She was a well-educated person who even wrote a book that was published about her family. Due to her vision loss she lost the ability to drive and moved to a very fine room in a care facility. I never heard her complain. She fortunately had great family support. I visited her a bit less often since there were medical issues with my own husband. She taught me about how to live life gracefully while losing your vision. I certainly learned more from her than she did from me. I was there just before she died. I realized how important it was to be there to the very end. My Care Receivers have all had different issues and I hope I have made a difference in their lives. For sure they have made a big difference in mine This is one great group of men and women who devote time to others as confidential listeners and we hope we have made their lives more comfortable again by our love and kindness.



(Continued from page 1)

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man. For our sake
he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver
of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A Song for the Longing

We sense your holiness beyond our knowing
and experience the sacred force that is active in all
creation. It is in all of us, and we can know it together.

The love which sparked our community was
manifested in the life and teachings of Jesus.
He was human. He was nurtured and formed to see
pain in the world, and to respond to it with
uncompromising love.

He searched for you. He fathomed your wisdom, and
brought you to us in stories that continue to lead us
into deeper engagement with you and our world.

In his complete dedication to you, in his willingness to
suffer and forgive, he revealed your presence,
and the place where God and humanity meet.

We strive to follow him, knowing that as we do, we
can find him among us.

We see you in the searching of all your children and
your creation. We see your hand in the unfolding of
history, and exhort the Christ spirit first revealed to
Jesus' followers to guide us and your creation today
in the church and beyond.

With gratitude and humility, we gather to invoke your
presence, and to be led by your spirit once again.

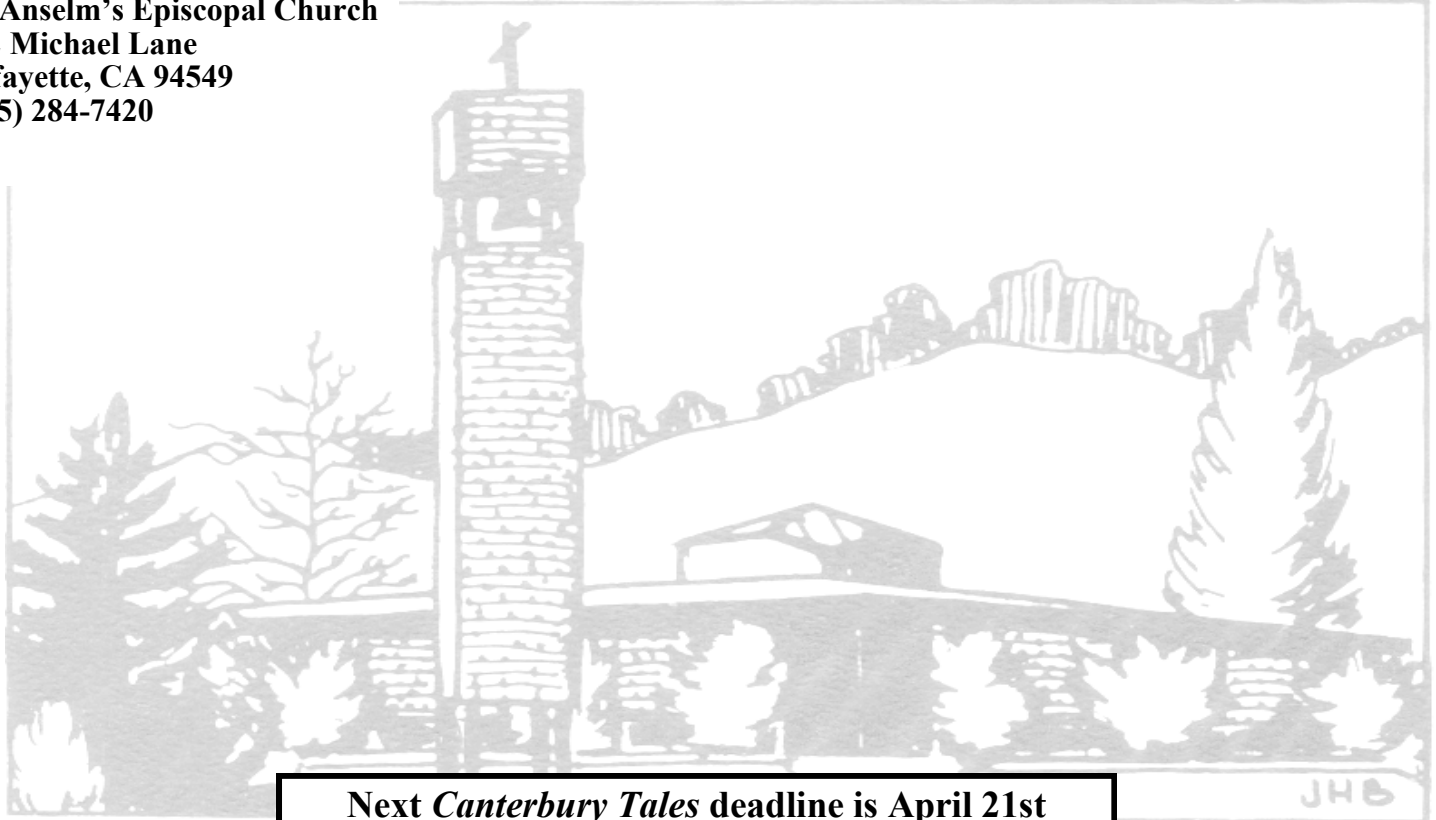


Upcoming Events in April

2	Tue	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Minister Meeting
		12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
		6:30 p.m.	Lenten Series
3	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
6	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
7	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
10	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
11	Thu	12:00 noon	Preschool Board Meeting
13	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
14	Sun		PALM SUNDAY
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
17	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
18	Thu		MAUNDY THURSDAY
		7:00 p.m.	Evening Service
19	Fri		GOOD FRIDAY
		12:00 Noon	Service
		7:00 p.m.	Service with Stations of the Cross
20	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
21	Sun		EASTER SUNDAY
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:15 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
			Canterbury Tales Deadline
22	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
24	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		2:30 p.m.	Property Commission Meeting
28	Sun		TOOLS OF HOPE SUNDAY



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Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is April 21st

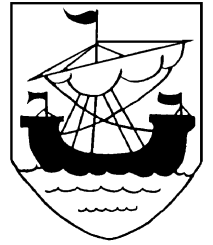
Welcome April!

The 4th month of the year brings us April Fools' Day, Earth Day, and the chance for more rain. Here are just a few interesting facts you may not know about April.

- ♦ There is uncertainty of how this month got its name; however, it has been suggested that it may come from the Latin word "aprilis" meaning "to open," or it may come from Aphrodite, the Greek name for the goddess of love.
 - ♦ It is the fourth month of the year in the Gregorian calendar and is one of four months to have 30 days. The month was originally the second month of the Roman calendar until King Numa Pompilius added January and February around 713 BC.
 - ♦ April's birthstone is the diamond. Its birth flowers are the daisy or the sweet pea.
 - ♦ In the United States, a list compiled by the Social Security Administration in 2009 found April to be the 353rd most popular girls' name.
 - ♦ It is International Guitar Month. It is also the national month for poetry, mathematics awareness, volunteers and Arab-American heritage.
 - ♦ The average global land and ocean temperature for April in the 20th century was 13.7°C.
 - ♦ April starts on the same day of the week as July in all years.
 - ♦ The Internal Revenue Code of 1954 established April 15 as the tax day we all know and loathe.
 - ♦ Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes.
-

Canterbury Tales

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



May 2019

From The Rector

Expanding Horizons

For a while now, the Diocese of California has been conducting a capital funds drive to strengthen the ministry of the Episcopal Church in the Bay Area and ensure its future.

Saint Anselm's will be participating in this fund drive. On May 19th, a representative from the Diocese will be with us at services to talk about the campaign and what is envisioned for the diocese as we move forward. Two weeks later, during Youth Sunday, we will gather to make our gifts to the Diocese.

There is so much that we have to be grateful for in the Episcopal church, truly, truly grateful. Please join me in reflecting on this and considering how you can say 'I love you too' to the larger church in your giving.

John+



Anselm's Angels

The Lenten Series was very engaging and well-attended again this year.

Thank you to the coordinators: **Anne Brown** and **Marian Mulkey** and to all who prepared the suppers that were enjoyed by all: **Anne Brown, Sally Fischer, Vula Gutman, Doug Merrill, Marian Mulkey Sara Nelson, Vicki Pappas, Judy Peak, Liz Sutton, Sara Swimmer, Eva Woo, and Shanda, Chris & Peggy Young.** Thanks also to **Sheila Riedy John Sutton** and the many others who assisted with set up and clean up.

Thank to everyone who attended our Shrove Tuesday and Lenten Series events. Your contributions totaled \$958 to the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano Counties!

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

The Palm Sunday Passion readers: **Sheila Gorsuch; Don Helmholtz; Palmer Hightower, Andrew Huddart, Vicki Pappas, Dick White and Dale Zhang.**

- Maundy Thursday: Lector—**Judy Peak**; Usher—**Doug Merrill**
- Good Friday: Lectors—**Judy Peak** and **Sheila Gorsuch**; Ushers—**George Wasson** and **Doug Merrill.**
- Easter Sunday: the **Altar Guild** and **Sara Swimmer** for the beautiful Easter lilies and flowers, the **Choir** at 10 o'clock for the joyous "Alleluias!" and all who attended and helped make this a true celebration of the Resurrection!

continued on page 2

Anselm's Angels (continued from page 1)

A big thank you to **Sara Nelson** for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt and once again, bringing Eric the bunny. Special thanks to **Diane Brown** and **Allen & Dale Zhang** for assisting with the set up.

Our first work party of 2019 was a success and your Office Manager is thrilled with the fresh coat of paint in the office! Many thanks to: **Walter Blount, Norm Gorsuch, Michael Hollinger, Martin Jones, Don Liddle, Foster Lipscomb, Doug Merrill, Gordon Repp, John Sutton and George Wasson.**

Thank you also to **Sara Nelson, Sheila Gorsuch and Zoe Hekmaty** for cleaning up the kitchen after the many Lenten and Easter activities.

Our **TOOLS OF HOPE** collection raised \$175 to support communities in need. Thanks to all who contributed.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Sunday — June 2nd
Work Party — June 8th
Harvest Festival — October 12th
Women's Retreat — October 25th—27th



THANKS TO THE ST. ANSELM'S FAMILY

Dear Members of St. Anselm's family,

Many thanks to all of you who contributed new socks for the homeless at Trinity Center. I made four trips to Trinity Center with all of your great contributions and was met each time by the most grateful group of folks. They asked me to give you their blessings and thanks.

Blessings,
Naomi



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

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

As I am writing this during the month we celebrate Easter, I decided to look into the method for calculating the date. It's something I have been curious about but have never researched – and I discovered it's far more complicated than I had thought.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus' death and resurrection happened at the time of the Jewish feast of Passover, which was celebrated on the fourteenth day of the first month. The first month of the Jewish calendar began at the spring new moon so the fourteenth day was the day of the first full moon after the spring equinox.

Some churches began to observe Easter on the day of Passover itself while others on the Sunday that followed it, and by the end of the 4th century there were four different methods for calculating the date. At the Council of Nicaea, a unified solution was attempted (but was unsuccessful) whereby all churches would celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox. Since the 10th century there have been some fifteen failed attempts to agree on a common date.

The situation was complicated further in the 16th century when the Gregorian calendar superseded the Julian calendar to accommodate the fact that the astronomical year - the time the earth takes to make its journey round the sun - is not exactly 365 days. However, the Orthodox churches continue to use the Julian calendar to calculate the vernal equinox - which is currently running 13 days behind the Gregorian.

In 1928 the British government passed the Easter Act calling for Easter to be fixed for practicality on the Sunday following the second Saturday in April - but it needed the unanimous agreement of all the Christian churches. Whilst the majority of Protestant Churches accepted the proposal and the Orthodox Church indicated it was open to a fixed date as long as it remained a Sunday, it took until 1990 for the Catholic Church to agree.

Fast forward to 2016, with still no common, let alone fixed date for Easter. Talks were initiated between Pope Francis, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, Coptic leader Pope Tawadros and the leader of the Orthodox Church, Patriarch Bartholomew. At that time Mr. Welby said he hoped an agreement would happen at some point "between five and ten years' time".

Stay tuned for an update in 2021...

Caroline Huddart

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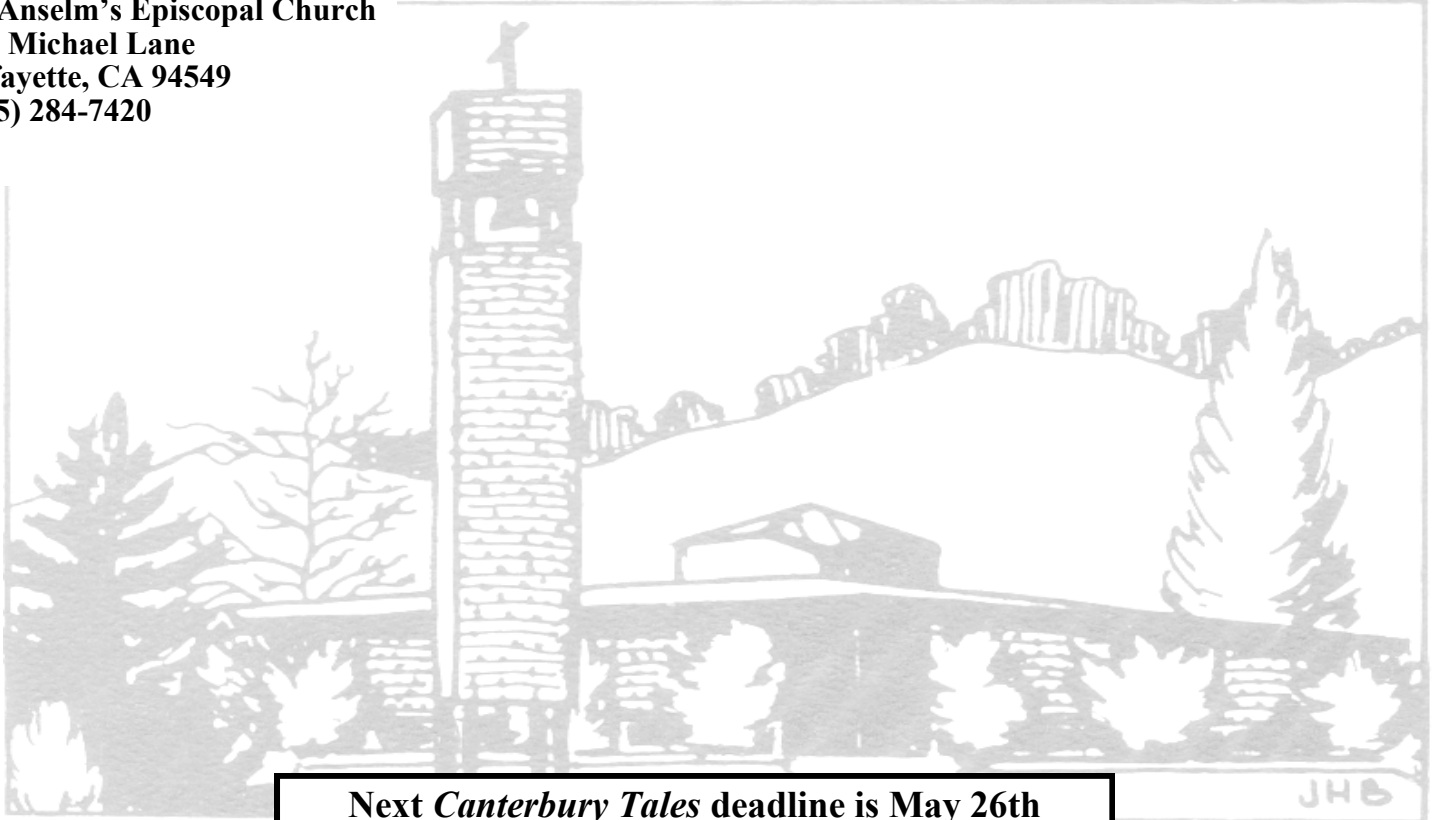
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12102278/Easter-date-to-be-fixed-within-next-five-to-10-years.html>

Upcoming Events in May

1	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
4	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
5	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:45 a.m.	Newcomer Luncheon
7	Tue	11:00 a.m.	Stephen Minister Meeting with the Grief Support Group
8	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
11	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
12	Sun		Mother's Day
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
13	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
15	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
18	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
19	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
20	Mon	12:00 noon	Preschool Board Meeting
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
25	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
26	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
			Canterbury Tales Deadline
27	Mon		Memorial Day – The Church Office will be closed
29	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study



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



Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is May 26th

Why Go to Church?

Thank you to Vicki Pappas for sharing the following:

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time, I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

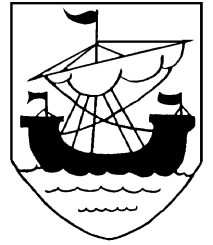
When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank god for our physical and spiritual nourishment! If you cannot see God in all, you cannot see God at all!

B.I.B.L.E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

Go on! Forward this to people who are dear to you and trust God.

Canterbury Tales

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



June, 2019

From The Rector

St. Anselm's - An Open and Affirming Community

You may notice more color on our sign as you enter the driveway of St. Anselm's. Julie Barnato and her two children Frances and Harry painted a pride flag per my request there, and they did a great job.

At the last vestry meeting, and following the discernment process of our Lenten series, the vestry voted unanimously to paint a flag on our sign. We also voted to put a statement at the top of our website homepage that states we are "an open and affirming community."

As we heard the experiences of our LGBTQ brothers and sisters of faith, it became clear to our membership, that that statement, and the pride flag send a clear message to those seeking a church community that they are welcome at a church. When we heard their struggles to continue engaging in faith communities that taught they were 'unclean,' many of us were moved to the understanding that the church needs to do more than say we are welcoming. We need to say we are welcoming to those who identify as LGBTQ. No other group has more systematically been beat down by church teachings, and displaying the flag and an uncompromising statement of inclusion is doing our part to try to right that wrong.

Personally, I find it a supreme irony that some of the very, very few so-called 'pummeling' statements that are used to exclude LGBTQ people were written by Paul. These cherry-picked statements were written by Paul the man, a man who was of his time, and yet had a far greater message and a timeless vision that was of a community living into the Christ spirit alive in the world, that cleanses all of us. He writes about that a lot, and we can see through the centuries how that understanding has moved the church forward as a new creation.

John+



Anselm's Angels

*"As we let our own light
shine, we unconsciously
give other people
permission to do the same."
~ Nelson Mandela*

Thanks to **Sara Nelson**, we welcomed 26 of our newest parishioners with a festive Cinco de Mayo luncheon. Special thanks to the many folks who helped make it a special event: **Lindsay Brown, Norm & Sheila Gorsuch, Vula Gutman, Michael Hollinger, Julie Rinkenberger, Jill Schon, Lee Seletzky, John Sutton, Kelsey Witkay, Eva Woo, JP Zhang** and the many commission & guild representatives who spoke at the event.

MOTHER'S DAY was a festive occasion thanks to the efforts of the **Altar Guild** for providing roses for our moms. Thank you to **Peter Grace** for supplying the many goodies and **Paul, Courtney & Kelsey Witkay** for hosting a special coffee hour featuring mimosas.





CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ST. ANSELM'S 2019 GRADUATES!

Alden Pearce — Campolindo High School, attending Ringling College of the Arts in Sarasota, Florida in the fall.

Alexander Grace — BA, International Studies, Miami University

Nate Morrison — BS, Electrical Engineering, Colorado School of Mines

Molly Nelsen — BS, Anthrozoology, Carroll College, Helena, Montana



FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

To honor the dads on Father's Day, June 16th, we are planning to provide "manly" finger foods (e.g. pigs in a blanket, pizza bites) for the 8 o'clockers AND the 10 o'clockers, after their respective services. Signup sheets are in Jackson Hall. Also, Sara Nelson will be out of town, so she's also looking for a point supervisor to direct the activity that Sunday. Please contact Sara if you can help — 876-9841 or saneson85@hotmail.com.

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to the following members of St. Anselm's who were confirmed at the Eco-Confirmation held at Middle Harbor Shoreline Park in Oakland on May 4th.

Palmer Hightower
Hallie Orear
Shanda Young



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Work Party — June 8
Harvest Festival — October 12
Women's Retreat — October 25--27

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 23rd.

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

I'm going to start with a confession. When it was announced that the diocese was holding a fundraising campaign my initial reaction was "well, that's one charitable request I'm going to be able to pass up guilt free." As a generous nation (in Gallup's 2018 survey the U.S is now 4th in the world after Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand... pause for thought there; references at the end) Americans are invited to contribute to so many of our friends', families' and churches' favorite charities that it seems we now have to prioritize and evaluate each request before jumping in wholeheartedly every time.

However, the guilt-free feeling didn't last long. As senior warden my role is to support Father John and I didn't want to let him down. Fortunately, when he wrote about the campaign in last month's Canterbury Tales then spoke on the subject a couple of Sundays ago he was able, in his always eloquent way, to stir a nugget of enthusiasm in me. I was glad, too, to hear that representatives from the diocese were going to speak at our Sunday services as well. I listened attentively and as they were speaking my hope grew. I began to see that it wasn't just a request for money to go into some dry, Episcopalian administrative fund. By the end of their talk I was further on the road towards enthusiasm. Their passion for the good that could be achieved both locally and in the rest of the world was contagious.

Finally, I worked dutifully through the reading materials the diocese had prepared. Alleluia! I really could get behind the campaign. Local initiatives to address the root causes of poverty in the Bay Area - yes! Supporting climate change initiatives here and abroad - yes again! Helping to build our congregations - well that is something we've been struggling with ever since I joined St. Anselm's. These are just a sample of multiple areas where our donations will make an impact.

If your reaction has been like mine, you weren't able to hear the diocesan representatives and your reading materials are still sitting in the "to-do" pile, I encourage you to pick them up and take a look. Even at a time and in a place where there is so much opportunity to give, I think you will be inspired by the areas our Episcopal Church has chosen to focus its efforts on in this campaign.

Caroline Huddart

References:

<https://borgenproject.org/top-five-most-generous-countries-in-the-world/>

<https://news.gallup.com/opinion/gallup/245192/generous-countries-world.aspx>



The Junior Warden

Welcoming and Affirming!

St. Anselm's has completed a Lenten Series on the LGBTQ community with personal stories from parish members and individuals from neighboring communities. With this we have opened up further discussion of how we can show that we, as a faith community, are welcoming and affirming of all. Each of us may be in a different spot as to whether we, family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances are a part of the LGBTQ community or are questioning. As representatives of our members, the Vestry is exploring and implementing ways that we can share our welcome so that others may know we are a caring and accepting community. Thus far we are taking steps to display the Rainbow and Transgender Flags in the window of the room next to the church office, gathering information on how our signage might incorporate a rainbow symbol and approaching the PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), the Rainbow Community Center and the Center for Human Development to offer St. Anselm's as a location that they may consider as an option for meetings should they need a new or additional location. We would also like to provide education and support resources in our church library and from individuals who are able to share their experiences. As your Junior Warden, I invite you to share your ideas. As a parent of a Gay son who is my oldest child, I would be happy to individually share with you my experience should you be traveling a similar road.

Joan Martin

MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL

Another year has come to a close at Michael Lane. It is always bittersweet at this time of year as we have to say goodbye to so many children, and some years, such as this year, there are a lot of children who are moving on. We will be saying goodbye to 13 children, 11 will be starting kindergarten, and two others will be attending other schools. Happily, despite this rather big exodus we are almost full for the next calendar year with only 3 spots left to fill!

School will begin earlier for the 2019-2020 calendar year with a start date of August 27 for the children. The staff will be busy prepping the classroom mid-August.

Have a wonderful summer,

Kim Olson
Director



WINTER NIGHTS UPDATE

What has been a very successful year for the Winter Nights program will be ending on June 3rd. As of the beginning of May, there were 7 families, 32 guests, 12 adults, 20 children and 5 babies, one of which was born while her parents were in the program. Now almost all of them have found permanent housing.

All parents needing work have been helped to find it. For instance, the father of 5 kids found a new job, and his wife was returning to work in fast food.

The tutoring program was particularly successful this year with two first and second graders, who were badly behind, due to frequent absence from school. The tutors have helped them catch up and be at grade level.

The Parking Lot Program, which many of us supported with donations, went through the end of April. Families, couples, and individuals with cars were able to park their cars in the parking lot of a participating church. They would spend the night. In the morning, they were given breakfast. There were also showers available. A baby was also born to a couple in that program, who then were moved into a church, along with the other families in Winter Nights.

The current goal of Winter Nights is to expand the program so that it covers all the months of school, not just the months of winter. Because the program typically costs \$952./night, this ambitious goal has required some serious fund-raising. I will speak more about that at another time.

Although they were not able to raise enough funds to cover the entire school year, they do have enough to start in September, rather than October. Therefore, our time this fall will run from Monday, September 9 until Monday, September 23. Eva Woo will be in touch with you later about all the volunteer opportunities.

Meanwhile, thanks to all of you who have volunteered in the past and to all of us, who give up Jackson Hall for the two weeks that the families are with us.

Anne Brown

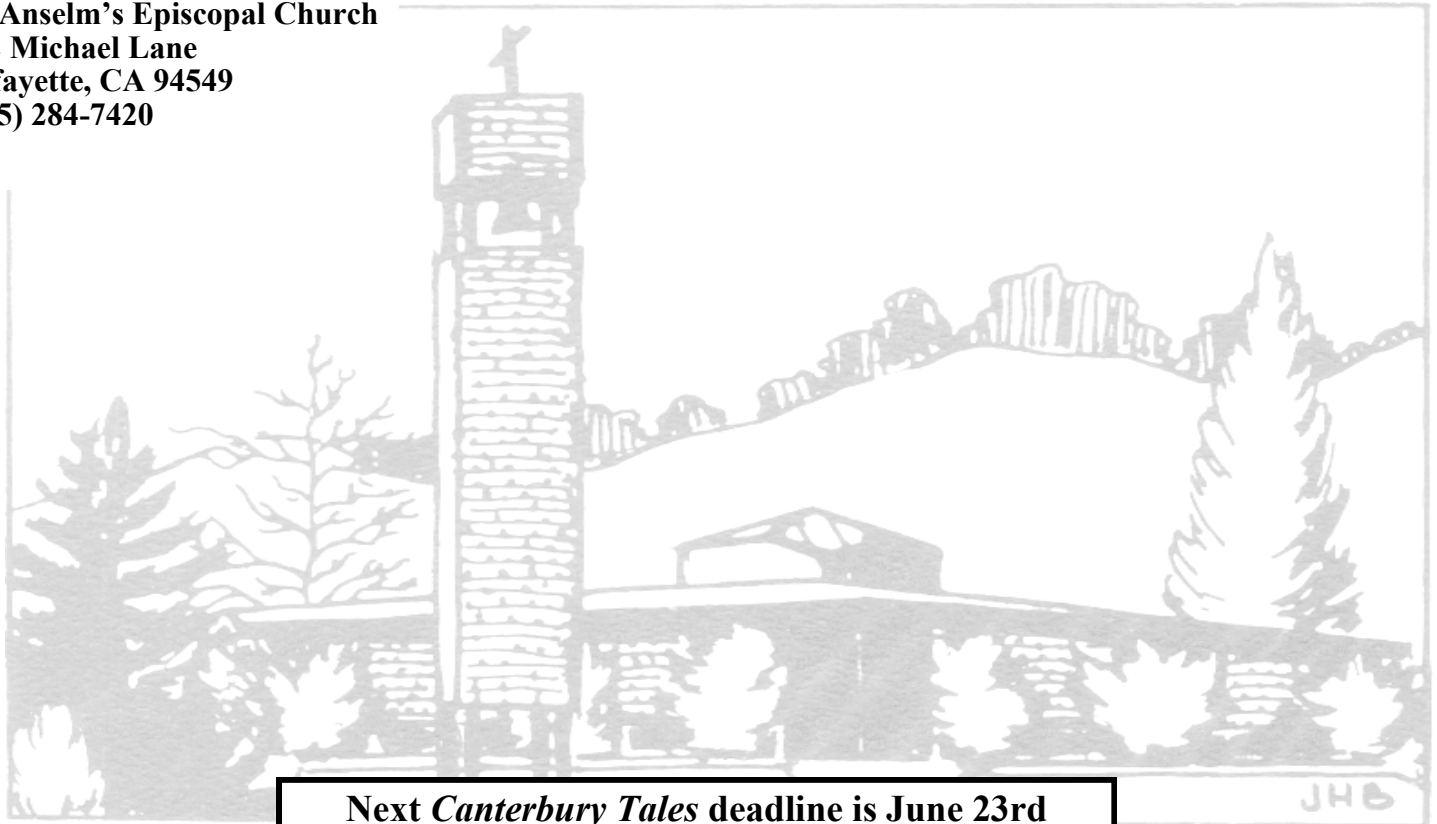


Upcoming Events in June

1	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00 a.m.	Confirmation, Grace Cathedral
2	Sun		Expanding Horizons Sunday
			Youth Sunday
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
4	Tue	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Meeting
		12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
5	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
8	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Work Party
			Choir Rehearsal
9	Sun		Pentecost Sunday
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00 a.m.	Baptism – Dale Zhang
10	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
11	Tue	11:30 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Luncheon
12	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
15	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
16	Sun		Trinity Sunday
			Father's Day
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:00 a.m.	Father's Day Celebration
		11:15 a.m.	Father's Day Celebration
19	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
20	Thu	7:00 p.m.	Deanery Meeting @ St. Timothy's, Danville
22	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:00 a.m.	Marriage Blessing – Marc Lee & Roseanna Conlon
23	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
			Canterbury Tales Deadline
26	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
29	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal



St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
682 Michael Lane
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Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is June 23rd

Thank you to Sheila Gorsuch for sharing the following:

This notice can now be found in all French churches:

En entrant dans cette église, il est possible que vous entendiez l'appel de Dieu.

Par contre, il n'est pas susceptible de vous contacter par téléphone.

Merci d'avoir éteint votre téléphone.

*Si vous souhaitez parler à Dieu, entrez, choisissez un endroit tranquille et
parle lui.*

Si vous souhaitez le voir, envoyez-lui un SMS en conduisant.

Translation:

It is possible that on entering this church, you may hear the Call of God.

On the other hand, it is not likely that he will contact you by phone.

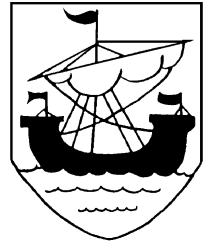
Thank you for turning off your phone.

If you would like to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place, and talk to him.

If you would like to see him, send him a text while driving.

Canterbury Tales

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



July / August, 2019

From The Rector

Summertime Reflection

Like the school year, the church year scales down in the summer. We don't close, but the activity slows. It is a good time to reflect on the past year, and this year I reflect back on a very good year at St. Anselm's. Some of the highlights since my last report at the Annual Meeting in February:

- Multiple Youth Sundays inspired our members
- Youth confirmation classes resulted in multiple confirmations and a baptism
- The choir added two youth members and a youth guitarist
- A newcomer luncheon was held to welcome our new members
- New memorial garden ironwork was installed, and security improved in Jackson Hall
- Our Lenten series brought in inspiring speakers of the LGBTQ community and we are now an open and affirming congregation

With strong lay leadership, St. Anselm's is thriving.

As we relax into our vacations and a summer schedule, we do so with momentum intact as St. Anselm's continues to grow in so many ways.

And we couldn't do it without you. Thank you!

John+



Anselm's Angels

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

Many thanks to all who came out to participate in our summer Work Party: Co-Leaders: **Gordon Repp & Martin Jones, Walter Blount, Sheila Gorsuch, Michael Hollinger, Foster Lipscomb, Preston Lipscomb & Lexi, Don Liddle, Doug Merrill, Sara Nelson, Arthur Powers, Evan Powers, Julie Rinkenberger, George Wasson, Dale Zhang & JP Zhang.**

Another Youth Sunday service was amazing due to our wonderful St. Anselm's youth: Preacher, **Preston Lipscomb**; Ushers: **Liam Perry, Allen Zhang**; Lector: **Palmer Hightower**; Prayer Leader: **Katheryn Dunn**; Communion Anthem Duet: **Lee & Nelson Seletzky**; Guitarist: **Allen Zhang**; Oblation Bearers: **Lee & Nelson Seletzky**; Acolyte: **Dale Zhang**; Coffee Hosts: **Orear & Barnes-Dunn families, Dale & Allen Zhang, Liam Perry.**

Our "readers in tongues" on Pentecost Sunday: **Dharmini Harichandran, Hema Harichandran, Andrew Huddart, Vicki Pappas, Dimitri Seletzky, John Sutton, Elisabeth Ward, Dick White, Cathy Witkay and JP Zhang**

We honored our St. Anselm's dads on Father's Day with "manly appetizers" thanks to **Ann Burns, Jane Dawkin, Sheila Gorsuch, Marian Mulkey, Sara Nelson, Vicki Pappas, Sheila Riedy, Liz Sutton and Sara Swimmer.**

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Reaffirmation of Vows service for Roseanna Conlon & Marc Lee: **Michael Hollinger, Sara Nelson, Peter Grace & Sally Fischer** who set up Jackson Hall; **Doug Merrill & Gordon Repp**, ushers; **Eva Woo**, chalice bearer; and musicians **Andrew & Caroline Huddart** and the **St. Anselm's choir.**



CONGRATULATIONS TO ONE MORE ST. ANSELM'S 2019 GRADUATE!

Trevor Holoch — BA, Literature (concentration in creative writing)
with a minor in education from UC Santa Cruz

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to Katheryn Dunn
who was confirmed at the Eco-
Confirmation held at Grace Cathedral on June 1st.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Work Party — September 21st
Opportunity Sunday—September 29th
Harvest Festival — October 12th
Outreach Sunday — October 20th
Women's Retreat — October 25th-27th

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE...

Altar Guild—September 8th
Cancer Support Group— July 7th & August 4th
Grief Support Group—July 9th & August 6th
Vestry—July 15th & August 26th



Canterbury Tales is the monthly newsletter
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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

As with most people who attend a small church like St. Anselm's, I play a variety of roles. Other than acting as Senior Warden this year, I have shared the job of Music Director with my husband, Andrew, for quite a few years. As you can imagine, Church music is close to my heart.

We grew up singing hymns every morning of the school year, as did every child in the U.K., where there is no separation of church and state. We learned the tunes by ear because our hymnals provided the words only, so by the time we left school those tunes were ingrained in our minds and hearts forever. If you look around the church on any given Sunday you may find the lustiest singers of our congregational hymns are those members who were brought up in Britain.

Ann Burns - one of those members above - lent me a book many years ago. The note in the front, dated 8/3/2003, requested that it be returned "eventually". (If you'd like it back, Ann, please let me know.) "A Hymn Companion: Insight into 300 Christian Hymns" by Frank Colquhoun, gives a fascinating glimpse into the history of many of our favorites.

Here are some excerpts:

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" was written by Charles Wesley in 1739 and put to Felix Mendelssohn's music in the mid 19th century. As a Jewish composer, Mendelssohn may not have been too happy to have the words of a Christmas carol set to one of his tunes, particularly as he specifically requested that the music, written for a festival celebrating the invention of the Gutenberg printing press, should never be used for sacred purposes as it was too "cheerful for sacred words."

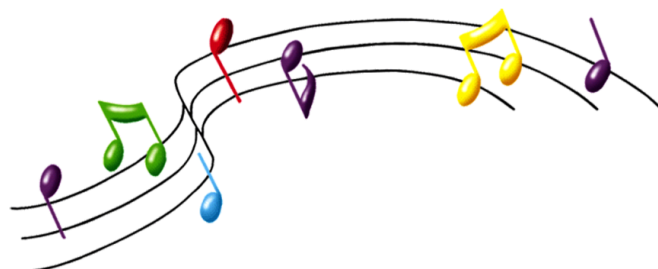
"Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory" was written by the abolitionist Julia Ward Howe in December 1861, six months after the outbreak of the Civil War. She was attending a review of Union troops and heard them singing "John Brown's Body". Someone remarked to her that such a fine tune deserved better and more permanent words, which she took as a challenge. By the next day she had completed the hymn. It was published in the Atlantic Monthly in February, 1862, with the title "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", alluding to the struggle for the abolition of slavery, echoes of which can be found throughout.

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor", which we sing every Palm Sunday, was written by St. Theodulph in 820 CE. The original Latin version consisted of 39 verses so the congregation could process outside the church before entering for the service. We have lost most of those but some of you may remember processing round the parking lot of St. Anselm's on Palm Sundays in earlier years. Maybe I should seek out all those extra verses and reinstate the tradition!

As you can tell from the title of the book, there are 297 more wonderful tidbits of background information on our hymnody, however owing to space constraints I will have to leave you in anticipation for these until a later date. In the meantime, I encourage you to sing out heartily during our 10:00 Sunday services.

P.S. We could use a few more choir members. All volunteers welcome.

Caroline Huddart





Celebrate your Harvest. Join the Festival.

After last year's blockbuster fundraising with over \$54,000 raised for the Trinity Center winter shelter program, our work for 2019 is getting under way. The Annual Harvest Festival will be held on October 12th starting at 5 PM. The Harvest Festival Team is putting together an amazing list of 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 during the cold wet months. 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 raffle and live auctions. If you have such an item, please contact John Powers (johntpowers@gmail.com).

If you Can't Attend: The Harvest Festival is a full congregation event and isn't just for one night for 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 "HF 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!

Bring Friends: The Harvest Festival is a great time to invite a friend or another couple who can afford to help, especially people who are tuned into the homeless issue. They might even share our beliefs and get involved.

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 2019! More on how you can help will follow in the weeks and months ahead.

Marty Fischer
Chairman, HF Committee
mfsford@earthlink.net or 247-4192

Upcoming Events in July

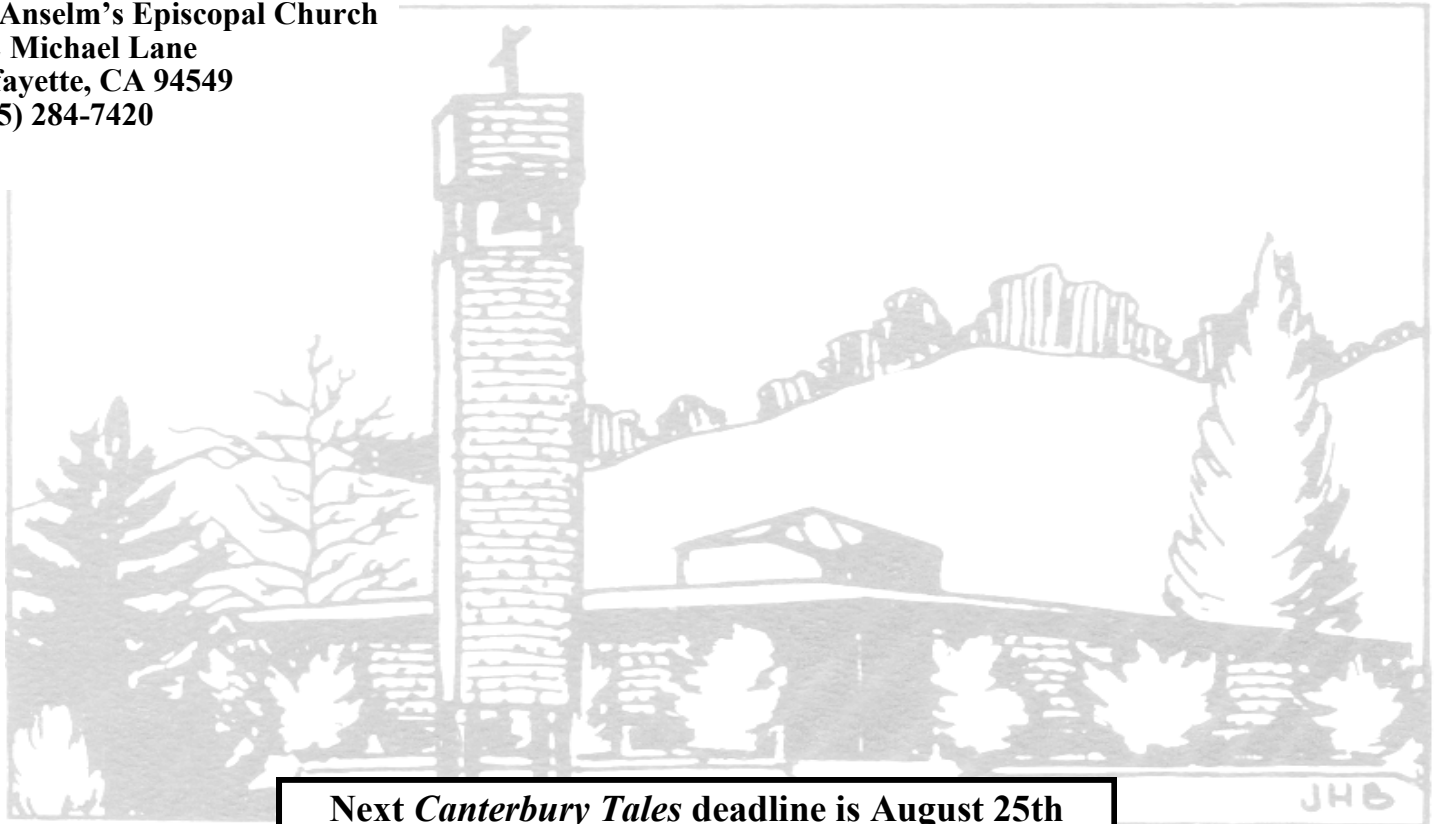
1	Mon	Office Closed – July 1-5	
3	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
4	Thu	Fourth of July	
6	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
7	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
9	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
10	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
13	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
14	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00 a.m.	Baptism — Emilia Vera
15	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
17	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
20	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
21	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:30 a.m.	Christian Formation Meeting
24	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
27	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
28	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
31	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study

Upcoming Events in August

3	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
4	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00 am.	Baptism – Norah Fong
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
6	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
7	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
10	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:00 a.m.	Memorial Service for Harold Mason
11	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
14	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
17	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
18	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
21	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
24	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
25	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		Canterbury Tales Deadline	
26	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
		7:00 p.m.	Michael Lane Preschool – Parent Orientation
28	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
31	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal



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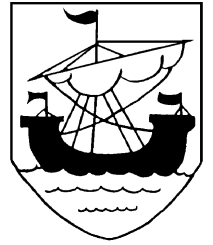
Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is August 25th

Fun Facts About Summer

- ⇒ 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%).
 - ⇒ A ubiquitous summer treat is watermelon. Watermelon is part of the cucumber, pumpkin, and squash family and consists of 92% water. On average, Americans consume 15 pounds of watermelon annually.
 - ⇒ 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.
 - ⇒ Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Americans eat over 7 billion hot dogs.
 - ⇒ 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.
 - ⇒ Grills are widely popular among Americans. The Hearth, Patio and Barbeque Association says that nearly 97% of Americans use their grills yearly.
 - ⇒ In the summer heat, the iron in France's Eiffel Tower expands, making the tower grow more than 6".
 - ⇒ Scientists argue that summer babies are significantly more likely to suffer from mood swings than babies born in other seasons.
-

Canterbury Tales

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



September, 2019

From The Rector

So Long Harold

Not too long after I arrived at St. Anselm's an elderly widower called me to tell me he was going to remarry, and asked me to marry him and his fiancée. I told him I would love to, but we would have to do pre-marital counseling. He had been married 45 years in his previous marriage. There was a silence on the other end of the phone. Then a gruff: "I could teach you a thing or two about being married!"

He was right of course.

Yesterday we said farewell to Harold Mason, who had been associated with St. Anselm's for nearly fifty years. When I first arrived at St. Anselm's, Harold and his wife Marian were a fixture at the church. They were both people of science -- Harold had been a chemical engineer, Marian a medical doctor. And they were people of deep faith.

Harold's son Chuck shared at the memorial how when Harold was a boy he developed a love for astronomy. As agile as Harold's mind was, and he was always learning new things until the day he died, he recognized the limitations of the mind, and was able to step beyond knowing into awe. I can imagine that ability may have started like it does with so many of us— looking at the stars and asking ourselves, 'What is beyond?'

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote:

In the hour of vision, there is nothing that can be called gratitude, nor properly joy. The soul raised over passion beholds identity and eternal causation, perceives the self-existence of Truth and Right, and calms itself with knowing that all things go well. Vast spaces of nature, the Atlantic Ocean, the South Sea, — long intervals of time, years, centuries, — are of no account. This which I think and feel underlay every former state of life and circumstances, as it does underlie my present, and what is called life, and what is called death.

I wonder if Harold's wondering as a boy became enraptured wonder when he died. There is something in what Emerson articulates that speaks to us at a profound level not beyond, but beneath knowing. It whispers to us that 'we will know fully, as we have been fully known.'

John+

Anselm's Angels

*"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."*

~ John Wesley

Thanks to all who graciously assisted at the vow renewal service for **Roseanna Conlon & Marc Lee**. Ushers: **Doug Merrill** and **Gordon Repp**, Chalice Bearer: **Eva Woo**; Jackson Hall set up: **Sara Nelson** and **Michael Hollinger** and the members of the **St. Anselm's Choir**.

Thanks to those who assisted at the memorial service for **Harold Mason**. Ushers: **Doug Merrill** and **Dick White**; Chalice Bearer: **Judy Peak** and Jackson Hall set up: **Arthur Powers**, **Evan Powers** and **Sara Nelson**.



OPPORTUNITY FAIR COMING ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

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 29th, 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 23rd 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.

MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer! I just returned from a European vacation, the highlight of which was seeing my son Julian, for those of you who remember him, and my granddaughter Zoe. Peg, Rebecca, Colleen and I will soon be back at school prepping for another year at Michael Lane Preschool. We are happy to report that we are starting the year with full enrollment! We will have seven families who are new to the school. The children will be starting earlier this year in order to better match up with the schedule of the Lafayette School District. Our first day is August 27! Our Family Social is August 21 and Parent Orientation is August 26.

See you soon,
Kim



OFFICE HOURS ARE CHANGING

Effective Wednesday, September 11, 2019 the church office hours will be:

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

YOUTH SUNDAY

Be sure to join us on Sunday, September 8th for our next Youth Sunday when our youth members will perform many of the major functions of our worship service typically performed by our lay adult parishioners.

FOOD BANK

Did you know that St. Anselm's can make it easier for you to donate to the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano? Bring your dry goods in unbreakable containers to church and put them in the basket just inside the door of the church, to the left. The basket is taken to the altar by the ushers at the same time as the collection plates; the contents are then transferred to the huge barrel in the cloakroom area of Jackson Hall, until there is enough to warrant our Office Manager making a call to have the items picked up. This is another way we can expand St. Anselm's ministry and you can personally help the homeless and others in need.

Canterbury Tales is the monthly newsletter of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA
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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

I was having dinner with a past editor of the Contra Costa Times last week and asked if he had any ideas for my next Canterbury Tales article. He first wanted to know my thoughts and I suggested “new beginnings” as it was the start of the new school year. His eye roll could be seen across the restaurant. “I would be asleep after the first line” was his response. “You need to write about gun control.” My initial reaction was to back away quickly from such a thorny subject but he was right, of course: we all need to be talking about gun control.

Since 1990 Gallup has asked Americans whether laws governing the sale of firearms in the U.S. should be made stricter, less strict or kept as they are. In October 2018 61% of Americans supported stricter gun laws. In another Gallup poll, in December 2018, 66% of Americans said it was “extremely” or “very” important that Congress and the White House deal with the issue of gun policy in the following year. However, in July 2019 only 1% said guns were the number-one problem facing the country so, although public opinion is generally moving toward gun control, it has not yet been dramatic or consistent enough for politicians to act on it.

Fortunately, organizations of which we are a part are contributing to the discussion and, hopefully, helping the movement towards change. In March 2019 the Episcopal Church released its policies on gun safety and reform. In August 2019, the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County’s web page provided a link to the Interfaith Peace Project’s powerful statement made in the wake of the shootings in Gilroy, El Paso and Dayton (see links below).

It is reassuring that our Church and local interfaith group are making stands but what can each of us do personally? We can support grassroots organizations such as Every Town for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action and Sandy Hook Promise so that our national politicians feel compelled to act... and we can make sure we don’t balk at discussing gun reform whenever the opportunity arises.

Caroline Huddart

References:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/ogr/episcopal-church-policies-gun-safety-and-gun-reform>

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/how-views-on-gun-control-have-changed-in-the-last-30-years/>

<http://interfaithccc.org/not-one-more-a-statement-from-fr-tom-bonacci-and-the-interfaith-peaceproject/>

WOMEN’S RETREAT

This year our Women’s Retreat will be at Bishop’s Ranch in Healdsburg from October 25th to 27th.. For those of you unfamiliar with the setting, beauty and serenity are good descriptors. It is on a plateau overlooking a valley, with hills on the other side. There are lovely trails for hiking among trees. The food is delicious. We have our own house, with comfortable rooms, a kitchen, living room with fireplace, and a patio.

We have not yet settled on a theme for this year’s retreat, though we have a number of ideas to choose from. What I have always found to be the most important for me at the retreats is the time away, time in which to focus on me, my heart and spirit, my connection with God, away from the busyness of my everyday life. I also appreciate how my connection and friendship with other women from St. Anselm’s have deepened over the years. For any of you new to St. Anselm’s, this is a good opportunity to get to know fellow women parishioners.

The retreat is also fun - sharing, laughing, knitting, crocheting, free time, happy hour (We are Episcopalians, after all!). We share this weekend with a high energy San Francisco church, St. Gregory’s. We see them at meal-times. They sing grace, as well as other songs. They have a dance program on Saturday night, which they invite us to. It’s usually something like line-dancing, with a leader/teacher, making it easy for us all to participate.

The costs are as follows: \$264/double room or \$234/room with 3 or more beds. There are scholarship funds available, so please do not make your decision about coming on the basis of cost!!

I will soon be putting a sign-up sheet in Jackson Hall. If you have questions or want to know more, please e-mail me: annechalfantbrown@gmail.com. My cell phone number is: 925-788-0664.

Hope to see many of you there!!

Anne Brown

WINTER NIGHTS

St. Anselm's will be hosting homeless families through the Winter Nights program from Monday, September 9 until Monday, September 23. Our guests will be with us about a month sooner than usual, because the Winter Nights program is trying to expand to cover the entire school year. That way, children who are homeless can concentrate on school rather than experience the insecurity and embarrassment of living on the streets or in cars. Winter Nights is hoping, by next year, to have raised enough money to do that.

Eva Woo has put, in the Sunday bulletin, a list of the tasks for which we need volunteers, along with the dates when we need them. We need volunteers to do supply shopping on the day before our guests arrive and others to help set up tents the day they arrive. We need breakfast volunteers to serve and clean up and dinner volunteers to bring a main course, salad, dessert and to clean up. We like to have a Greeter from St. Anselm's to welcome them back at 5 pm every day and also to provide snacks. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Eva. Her cell phone for calling or texting is: 925-876-9435. Her e-mail is: eva94549@gmail.com.

The program has both paid and volunteer tutors. Tutoring is another volunteer opportunity, if you are interested. The tutoring is very important and effective. One little boy, who was in the program last year, had missed school so often that, although he was supposed to be in second grade, was just at kindergarten level. By the end of his stay in Winter Nights, he was at grade level!

Winter Nights also has a paid staff member who works with the parents to find jobs and housing. Of the 17 families served this past year, 7 found homes during the year and another 6 were helped after they left the program in the summer.

I encourage any of you who are interested to volunteer. Over the years, it has been a very rich experience for me, talking with the parents, playing with the kids, getting to know them, appreciating their courage, intentionality, and faith, despite the difficulties that they have been and are experiencing. All my stereotypes about homeless people have disappeared in the face of the reality of who these people are.

St. Anselm's will provide the meals and service for the first week that our guests are with us. The Latter Day Saints church in Danville will take over in the second week.

As is usually the case, Winter Nights has a wish list. Needed right away are new sleeping bags and new pillows. Big 5 will give discounts on the sleeping bags. Kohl's has a good price on the pillows.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, as well as Eva. My e-mail address is: annehalfantbrown@gmail.com. My cell phone number, for calling or texting is: 925-788-0664.

Anne Brown





Celebrate your Harvest. Join the Festival.

After last year's blockbuster fundraising with over \$54,000 raised for the Trinity Center winter shelter program, our work for 2019 is getting under way. The Annual Harvest Festival will be held on October 12th starting at 5 PM. The Harvest Festival Team is putting together an amazing list of 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 during the cold wet months. 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 raffle and live auctions. If you have such an item, please contact John Powers (johntpowers@gmail.com).

If you Can't Attend: The Harvest Festival is a full congregation event and isn't just for one night for 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 "HF 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!

Bring Friends: The Harvest Festival is a great time to invite a friend or another couple who can afford to help, especially people who are tuned into the homeless issue. They might even share our beliefs and get involved.

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 2019! More on how you can help will follow in the weeks and months ahead.

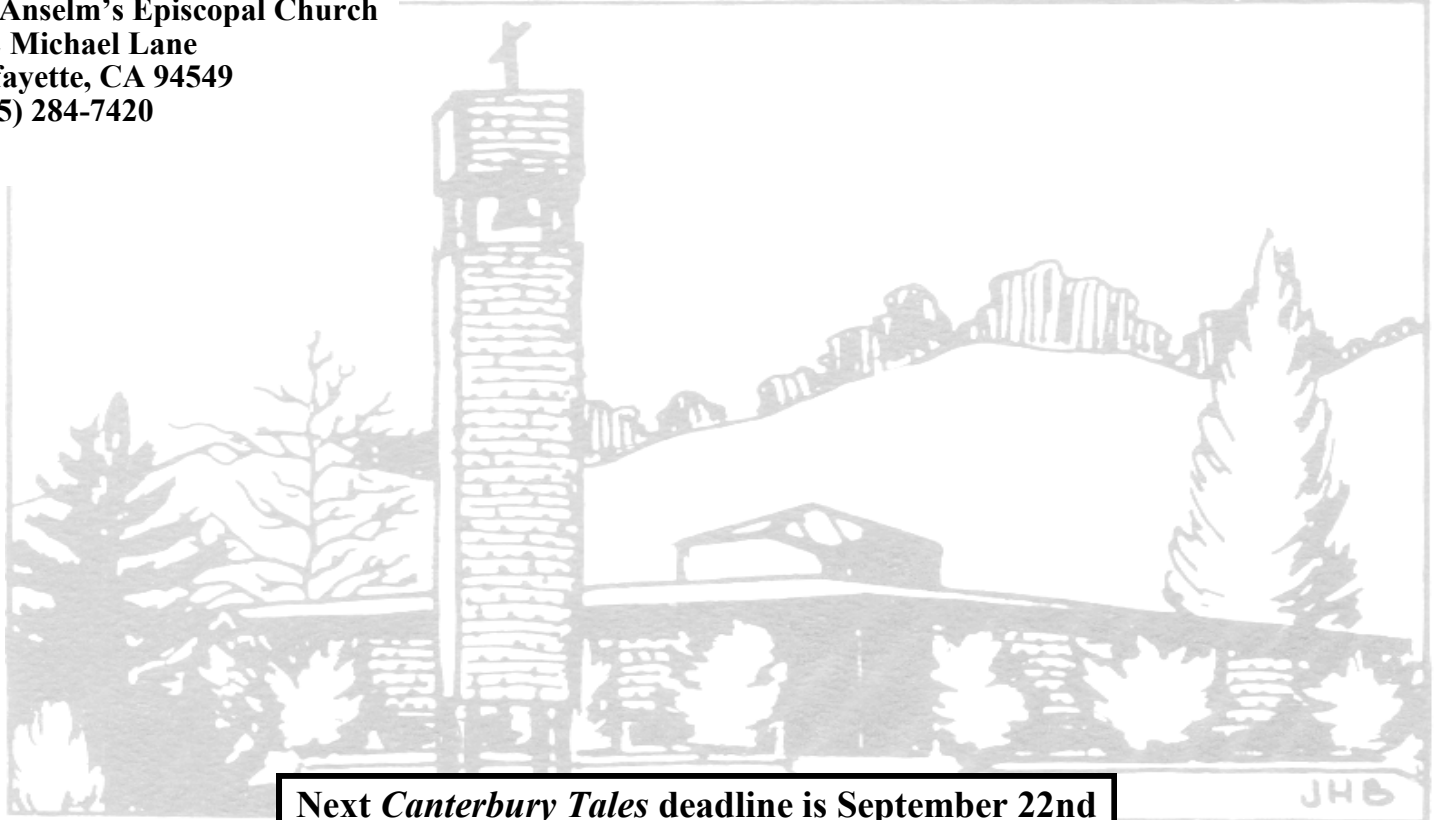
Marty Fischer
Chairman, HF Committee (mfsford@earthlink.net) or 925-247-4192

Upcoming Events in September

1	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
2	Mon	Labor Day – The Church Office will be closed	
3	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Michael Lane Preschool Board Meeting
4	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
5	Thu	5:00 p.m.	Deanery Meeting @ St. Anselm's
7	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
8	Sun	YOUTH SUNDAY	
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
9-23	M-M	WINTER NIGHTS	
10	Tue	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Minister Meeting
11	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
14	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
15	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
18	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
21	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
22	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		Canterbury Tales Deadline	
23	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
25	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
28	Sat	9:00 a.m.	WORK PARTY
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		7:00 p.m.	Michael Lane Preschool Parent Social
29	Sun	OPPORTUNITY FAIR SUNDAY	
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal



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



Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is September 22nd

Just a few back-to-school thoughts to ponder. . . .

"Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school." — Albert Einstein

"On the first day of a college you will worry about how will you do inside the college and at the last day of a college you will wonder what will you do outside the college." — Amit Kalantri

"The difference between school and life? In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson." — Tom Bodett

"You learn something every day if you pay attention." — Ray LeBlond

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows." — Sydney J. Harris

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." — Nelson Mandela

"We don't stop going to school when we graduate." — Carol Burnett

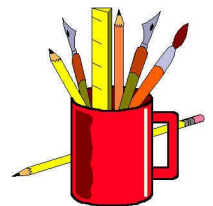
"Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today." — Malcolm X

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere." — Chinese Proverb

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn" — Benjamin Franklin

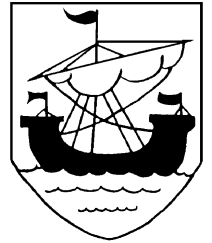
"I've got a theory that if you give 100 percent all the time, somehow things will work out in the end." — Larry Bird

"The first day of school: the day when the countdown to the last day of the school begins." — unknown



Canterbury Tales

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



October, 2019

From The Rector

Welcome Back!

We are well into the Fall swing, with a full schedule of activities at St. Anselm's!

Winter Nights

Many thanks to **Eva Woo** and **Anne Brown** for their strong leadership once again of the Winter Nights program. Year in and year out, these two facilitate the transition of those entering the program for the first time. We often don't have as many residents as other churches, but St. Anselm's sets the tone each year for the program. The hospitality, behind-the-scenes hard work and commitment of these two ladies working in concert with the staff of Winter Nights lets our guests know how valued they are to us. And they set the example that so many, many of you follow as you give of your time to our friends in need.

Harvest Festival

As I write this there are only a couple of spots open for the event on the 12th of this month. But the matching funds of \$10,000 are still out there waiting for you to consider if you want to contribute to Trinity Center's expanding ministry.

Speaking of that, **Donna Colombo**, Executive Director has been named as the 2019 East Bay Philanthropy Awards *Judge's Award* Honoree. There will be a breakfast at the Blackhawk Museum on November 7th to recognize her. This is so wonderful on two fronts:

Donna has done the heavy-lifting getting Trinity Center from an idea to a vital ministry

Throughout the County, the need is being recognized, addressed and supported

Thank you Donna and congratulations!

It looks like St. Anselm's hitched its wagon to a star several years ago, and this part of our ministry is flourishing well beyond Burton Valley!

(Continued on page 3)

Anselm's Angels

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

Winter Nights was another success due to many volunteers: **Eva Woo, Sara-Anne Nelson, Anne Brown, Trevor Holoch, Doug Merrill, Michael Hollinger, Sally Roberts, Barbara Thornton, John Sutton, Marian Mulkey, John Powers, Abby Perry, Liam Perry, Sheila Riedy, Sara Swimmer, Al Swimmer, Amy Orear, J.D. Orear, Halie Orear, Andy Orear, Caroline Huddart, Andrew Huddart, Susan Barnes, Katheryn Dunn, Elisabeth Ward, Palmer Hightower, Dimitri Seletzky, Nelson Seletzky, Lee Seletzky, Sheila Gorsuch, Norm Gorsuch, and last, but not least - Buddy Dunn-Barnes and Miss Smarti Pants Brown.**

Another Youth Sunday service was amazing due to our wonderful St. Anselm's youth: Preacher, **Palmer Hightower**; Ushers: **Liam Perry, Harry Barnato**; Lector: **Dale Zhang**; Prayer Leader: **Katheryn Dunn**; Soloist: **Annis Gong**; Guitar: **Allen Zhang**; Acolytes: **Frances Barnato, Nelson Seletzky**; Coffee Hosts: **Elisabeth Ward, Palmer Hightower, Dale & Allen Zhang, Liam Perry, Harry & Frances Barnato, Katheryn Dunn.**

Many thanks to all who came out to participate in our summer Work Party: **Walter Blount, Sheila Gorsuch, Trevor Holoch, Doug Merrill, Sara-Anne Nelson, Gordon Repp, Julie Rinkenberger, Genevieve Silva, Dana Snider, George Wasson, David Watson, Eva Woo, Allen Zhang, Dale Zhang & JP Zhang**

OUTREACH SUNDAY

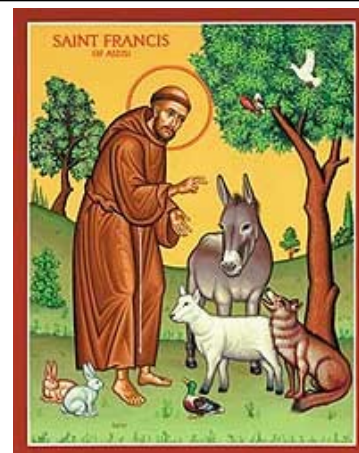
Sunday, October 20th is Outreach Sunday.

Be sure to come by Jackson Hall and indicate your preferences among the charities we support. After both the 8 o'clock and 10 o'clock services that day, you'll get to view the poster boards, created by the charities, and "vote" with tickets to determine what percent of our outreach funds will go to each of the charities.

All individuals will be given tickets to distribute — this means our young people too! Please come and participate.

Upcoming Events in October

2	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
3	Thu	12:15 p.m.	Michael Lane Preschool Board Mtg.
5	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:00 a.m.	Memorial Service for Paul Harris
6	Sun		Blessing of the Animals Sunday
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
		11:30 a.m.	Christian Formation Commission
8	Tue	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Minster Meeting
		12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
9	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
12	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		5:00 p.m.	HARVEST FESTIVAL
13	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00 a.m.	Acolyte Commissioning
14	Mon		Columbus Day – Church Office Closed
16	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
19	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
20	Sun		OUTREACH SUNDAY
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
21	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
23	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
25-27	F-Su		Women's Retreat, Bishop's Ranch
26	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
27	Sun		Blanket Sunday
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
			Canterbury Tales Deadline
30	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
31	Thu		ALL HALLOWS' EVE



Blessing of Animals

The annual Blessing of Animals will be on October 6th during both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services.

All companion animals are welcome!

NEW DIRECTORY

It's time for a new Parish Directory. If you've had any changes in your contact information (address, phone, e-mail, etc.) please advise Cathy Witkay, cathy.w@stanselms.ws.

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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

The theme for our 2019 stewardship campaign is “Oasis in a Stormy World”. I’m not sure who the credit should go to for this idea but it is an interesting one, especially for a church situated in a drought-vulnerable location!

The world has definitely felt stormier of late - both physically and metaphorically - and although we are lucky to live in an area where we are affected more by the metaphorical, its impact should not be underestimated. Political division is rife, the effects of climate change can no longer be ignored and social disparities are starkly evident around us. St. Anselm’s is, for many of us, a shelter where we can escape from the storm and retreat into a comfortable, reassuring environment.

However, our church is more than a mere shelter, which is as it should be. St. Anselm’s is not just a place for us to take refuge from troubling issues: it is an “oasis” where we are revitalized to go out into the stormy world and address them. Each week we are inspired by the spiritual leadership of Father John and Deacon Naomi, supported by our shared beliefs, strengthened by our differences and, as members of a loving community, motivated to work towards improving the world around us.

During our stewardship campaign this year please reflect on how much you treasure this oasis here in Lafayette and rely on it for sustenance in a stormy world.

Caroline Huddart

From the Rector (continued from page 1)

Upcoming events to calendar

October 6 th -	Blessing of the Animals
October 12 th -	Harvest Festival
October 13 th -	Acolyte Recognition
October 20 th -	Outreach Sunday
October 25-27 th -	Women’s Retreat (almost sold out)
November 3 rd -	Loyalty Sunday

John+



Stephen Ministry in Action

Did you know that our church has “Care Givers” called Stephen Ministers who are ready and willing to help people who are hurting or going through a crisis? St. Anselm’s Episcopal Church participates with a consortium of churches including Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church to help those who are suffering from a crisis such as divorce, death of a spouse, illness or disability, job loss or other difficulties. Stephen Ministers are men and women who have received 50 hours of training to learn to be confidential, faithful, Christian listeners. Stephen Ministers meet with their “care receiver” once a week for an hour to be there, to listen and pray with a person who is hurting.

If you would like to know more please contact Father John or Vicki Pappas, Stephen Leader: vrpappas@gmail.com.



OUT OF THE WILDERNESS: A WEEKEND OF RENEWAL AND REFRESHMENT

The St. Anselm's Women's Retreat will be October 25-27 at The Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg. Wherever we may be in our life and faith journeys, the weekend will afford opportunities to reflect on and renew our commitments to spiritual health and community life.

We are thrilled to welcome the Reverend Jocelynn Hughes of the Diocese of Northern California as our retreat leader. Jocelynn has been an ordained Episcopal priest for 15 years. She has worked in parish ministry in southern California, in campus ministry at U.C. Davis, and has facilitated retreats with people of all ages. She is married, a mom of three and is currently working on a Doctor of Ministry degree focused on Church Leadership and Community Engagement at Emory University

Our theme, "Out of the Wilderness," is grounded in the words of the prophet Isaiah:

Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

Over the course of the weekend, we will share our stories, unpack the meaning of scripture, engage in creative expression, go for walks in the beautiful Bishop's Ranch setting, and worship together. There will also be time for pure fun: we have social hours, we catch up with old friends and make new ones, and sometimes we join another group for line dancing.

The cost for the weekend, including meals, is \$264 for a double room or \$234 for a room with 3 or more beds. Scholarship funds are available so please do not let cost be an obstacle.

Please join us! Our women's retreats are always meaningful, memorable times. Sign-up sheets are in Jackson Hall. For more information see Anne Brown, annechalfantbrown@gmail.com or 925-788-0664 or Marian Mulkey, marianmulkey@comcast.net.

MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL

We began the year with a finger play about Billy and Susie. One day Susie comes out of her house, looks up the street, down the street, and across the street and doesn't see anybody so she goes back inside his house. The next day Billy does the same thing. The third day they both come out of their houses and when they look across the street they see each other, introduce themselves and decide to play. But, unfortunately, just when they decide to play their parents call them to get into their cars to go to school. Happily, the children find out that they both are going to Michael Lane Preschool so they are able to play together there! We first told the story as a simple finger play (our thumbs are Susie and Billy). Then we told the story using puppets. Next, teachers act out the play with the third teacher as narrator. Finally, the children have the opportunity to act out the story at Group Time. The funny thing is, when the children act out the story they look up towards the ceiling and down towards the floor when looking "up and down the street". Check out the pictures on our website.

We also just finished our annual "layer painting" activity. The first day children finger paint on the table with yellow paint and make a print. The following day blue, third day red, making prints on the original yellow papers. When all is said and done the children might have a painting with purple, green, orange, yellow, red and blue. Primary colors 101!

Kim Olson
Director



WINTER NIGHTS 2019: ANOTHER YEAR. . .OFFERING SHELTER, KINDNESS AND HOPE

Thanks to everyone at St. Anselm's for your support of our annual Winter Nights rotational shelter program. By now our families are off to their next home for another 2 weeks. Because Jackson Hall is considered smaller than other congregations we get to be the first 2 week shelter every year. The first 2 weeks are actually very important weeks. Families enter the program from the streets for the first time. Many new Winter Nights supervisory staff are also starting their first day with us. This is where we are here to enable both groups to work as a unit to support each other. Working together to share duties of keeping their temporary home clean, watching out for each other's kids and hopefully.. .(ha!) weaning off of fast food through the nourishing homemade meals you all provide.

Because it is always a small group of families at the beginning and St. Anselm's is such a welcoming community, those families relax, get to know each other, and obviously feel safe and "seen" as the okay people that they are. The kids also get to know each other and play. They, then, provide a welcoming atmosphere for new families as they come in.

Every year, it is with heavy hearts that Anne and I work on Winter Nights. Every year, different circumstances arise (economics, social policies, etc.) that bring homeless families and seniors to Winter Nights. I'm over the notion that someday this will not be necessary..

This year Winter Nights hit home for a bunch of us in Lamorinda. A local mom noticed a mom pushing a shopping cart in Concord with 2 young kids. . .appears that she was homeless and was going to meet up with someone across town with kids in tow to collect the last \$20 she needed to pay for her motel for the night. They had been living in a car which didn't run and was towed due to expired plates. This Lamorinda mom gave them a ride to their destination and what cash she had in her wallet and then drove home and.. .cried. But. . .something happened here. Through her network of friends, money was raised to purchase a car, they also pooled donations to pay for additional nights of motels. . .enough nights to keep them housed until we were able to get them into Winter Nights.

YOU all played a part in this! By letting us take over the kitchen and Jackson Hall for 2 weeks. The donated sleeping bags, pillows, the meals you prepared and served, all made a difference. This mother's journey is just beginning. She is now in the program and the bright smiles from her kids as they run around and play with others says it all.

Winter Nights is not just a place to eat and sleep. . .oh, no. . .that's just the basics. This program offers resources through counseling and outreach to help our guests get back on their feet. Every guest family has to prepare a 30 day plan and must adhere to it. Sounds strict and callous, but that is necessary. Old habits die hard. . .there are habits besides external circumstances that lead folks down a slippery path.. Winter Nights wants to change them, but it does require commitment from all parties.

So. . .I no longer pray every year that we don't have to open Winter Nights for another season. I now pray that our guests stick with the program and take opportunity of the resources to end the cycle that brought them to where they are today.

So. . .I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Muah!

Eva Woo





The Harvest Festival is a dinner and auction event held each year that helps Trinity Center fund their Winter Shelter Program which provides shelter and food for up to 50 people per night over the cold, wet winter months. The Harvest Festival Dinner Event evening starts at 5 PM on October 12th with a fair-like atmosphere of meeting friends, socializing and trying your luck at several games of skill and luck including a ring toss, golf putt, bean bag toss and wheel of prizes, offering local dinners and other prizes to winners. This is followed by a dinner and auction event. The Harvest Festival is hosted by St. Anselm's Church in Lafayette. All net proceeds go to Trinity Center. Here's how you can participate and help fund the Winter Shelter Program.

Attend the Event

Seating is limited and the event only has a few seats left as of October 1. The cost is \$50 per person and you can sign up after church or by emailing donnac@trinitycenterwc.org or Marty Fischer at mfsford@earthlink.net.

Win a Cruise

Buy raffle tickets and win a 7-day Holland America Line cruise to Alaska, the Caribbean, Mexico or Canada/ New England or many other prizes including dinners and other items. Tickets are \$5 each, 12 for \$50 or 25 for \$100. Buy tickets after services on October 6th or email John Powers at johnpowers@gmail.com. You can also purchase them at the dinner event. Winners will be announced at the event or notified by phone call.

Matching Money Challenge

A generous St. Anselm's parishioner has put up \$10,000 to be matched by contributions. To help out, you may write a check to St. Anselm's Episcopal Church and footnote it "HF Matching." Just drop it in the collection plate on Sunday, mail it, drop it off at the church office or hand it to Father John, Marty Fischer or John Powers.

Bid for Live Auction Items

You can place maximum bids on several of the fabulous live auction items (a list of some items can be found on page 7) even though you won't be attending. Just email Marty Fischer mfsford@earthlink.net and he will send you a complete list of items along with offsite bidding instructions. See the wonderful opportunities to win a great item and help Trinity Center shelter the homeless over the cold, wet winter months.

Fabulous Harvest Festival Auction Items



Disneyland Trip for 6

Enjoy the Magic Kingdom with family or Friends. includes lodging at WorldMark Resort June 6-12th, 2020 for up to 6 people just minutes from the Park, complementary transfers, pools, sauna and recreational facilities.

Gourmet Italian Dinner for 8

A fabulous 7 course dinner served at the Orinda Heritage Estate, Bien Venida owned by Trinity Center Board Member, Dave Stewart and wife Marty. This includes matching wines selected by your evening guest host, Philip Goodband, internationally noted wine expert and Master of Wine.



Klay Thompson Signed Jersey



Team-Signed Shark's Jersey



Christmas Week 2019 at Incline Village. Sleeps 6



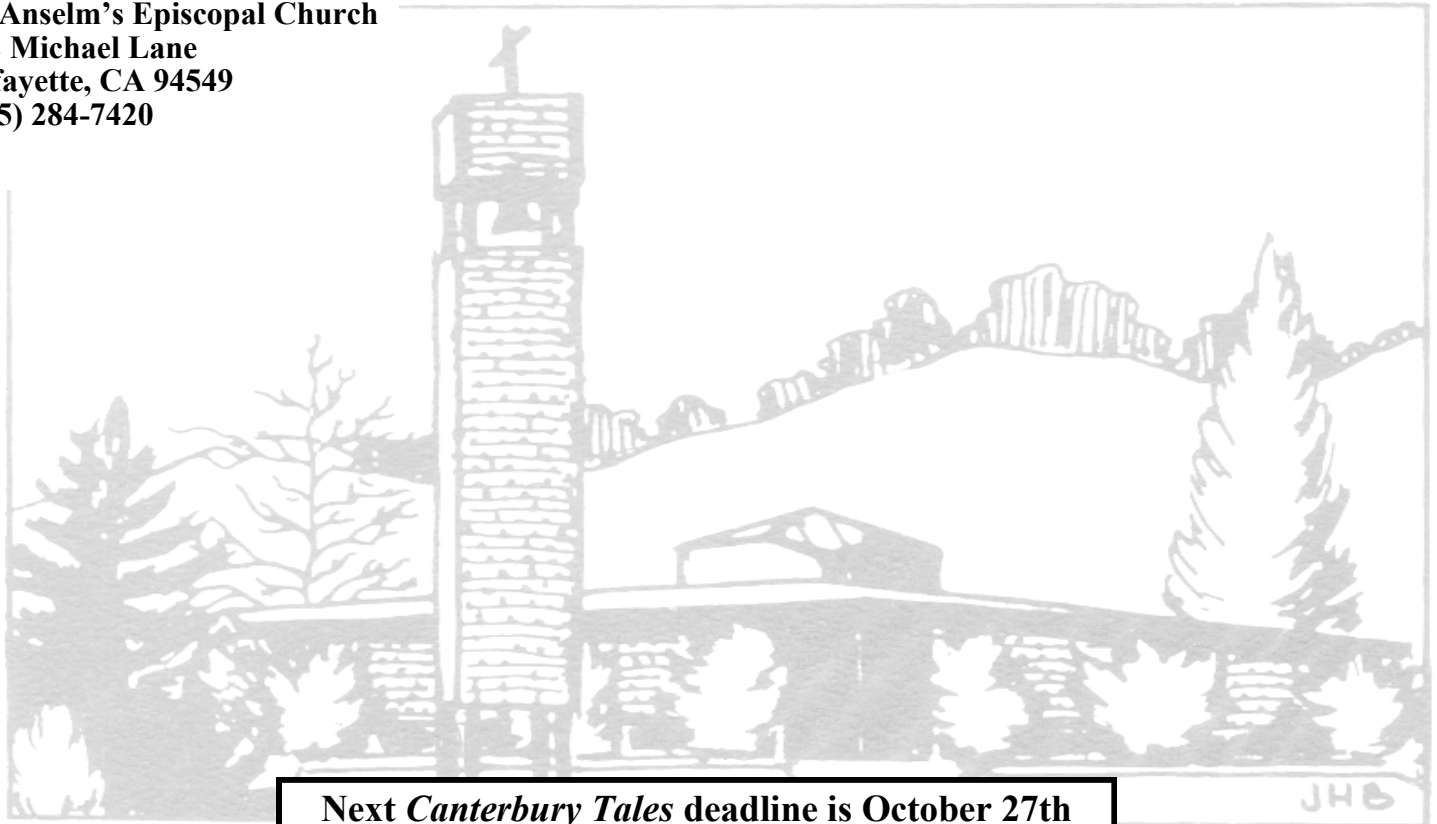
Make "It" in Las Vegas 3 days for 4 People



And Many More Great Live Auction Items

Beautiful Persian Rugs from Adib's
Wine Basket, Commissioned drawing of Your Pet
Weekend Home in the Gold Country, Quilts
Landscape Design Consulting and more!

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



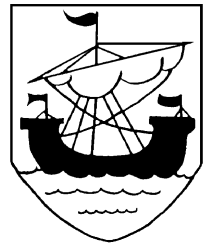
Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is October 27th

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, 2019

From The Rector

Diocesan Update

Your deanery representatives attended the Diocesan Convention at Grace Cathedral on October 25th and 26th.

Our awareness was expanded as we heard presentations by indigenous peoples of North America. The Rev. Mary Frances Crist shared her story as an ancestor of the Blackfoot Nation. Dr. Delphine Red Shirt, an ancestor of the Lakota Sioux nation shared the history of Native Americans in North America. And Andrew Galvan, curator of Mission Dolores and a native San Franciscan who can trace his lineage back ten generations in San Francisco, shared the history of his tribe and the true natives of San Francisco, the Ohlone tribe.

Their stories were not only informative, they were very moving.

While those presentations were sobering, the presentation by Bishop Marc via video from his home was uplifting. He shared the story of his recent stroke, and how quickly he received treatment, which if it didn't save his life, greatly mitigated the damage from the stroke. He spoke with his normal eloquence, gestured with his hands, and appeared to manifest no damage from the stroke. His doctor told him he was in the top one percent of functionality for those who have suffered strokes. It showed.

In addition to these presentations, we conducted the business of the Diocese. One resolution that passed will affect St. Anselm's. It addresses "Single-Use Non-Biodegradable Plastics." Bottom line - we'll be drinking tap water going forward at the church as opposed to bottled water.

We are all being encouraged in the resolution to do the same. The reason? Creatures of land and sea are dying because of plastic waste. The resolution can be found on page 75 of this document:

https://diocal.org/sites/default/files/media/PDF%20Docs/2019_DioCal_convention_booklet-rev.pdf

A couple of years ago, Liz and I were in Greenville, Mississippi where the water comes out of the tap gray, sometimes brown. Our water utility EBMUD provides some of the purest water in the world. A cup and a faucet are all we need to be refreshed. Alternatively, we could buy a bottle of water from Fiji, (yes, there is a brand that sells Fijian water in North America) whose cost to the environment has to be stunning.

The history of humanity as stewards of creation leaves a lot to be desired. We continue to put the interests of our tribe above the interests of others. We neglect our duty to preserve other species. Science is now making us aware that consequences are near. Are there things in your life that could be changed to help? As people of faith we can bear witness through our actions to the ability of humanity to change course for the good of the whole.

John+

Anselm's Angels

*"Words are never warm
and tender enough to ex-
press one's appreciation of
a great kindness."*

~ Helen Keller

Harvest Festival:

A "cast of thousands," led by Marty Fischer helped make this year's Harvest Festival another success with over \$42,000 raised.

Blessing of the Animals: We were pleased to welcome many fur babies on October 6th. Thank you to those who contributed to the \$496 contribution made to ARF.

Thanks to those who assisted at the memorial service for **Paul Harris**.
Ushers: **Doug Merrill, Peter Grace and Sylvia Williams**; LEM: **Sara-Anne Nelson**; Chalice Bearer: **Judy Peak**, Organist: **Andrew Huddart**, the **St. Anselm's choir** and Jackson Hall set up: **Evan Powers, Sheila Gorsuch and Sara-Anne Nelson**.

We said a fond farewell to **Walter Blount**, and wished him well in his new home in Virginia, thanks to the efforts of **Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Doug Merrill, George Wasson & daughter** and **Abby Perry**.



2019 HARVEST FESTIVAL

This year's Harvest Festival set a new standard for St. Anselm's efforts to support Trinity Center.

Key to our success were the many volunteers who made everything possible. Sara Nelson assumed responsibility for decorations, set up, and accounting and was assisted by Sally Fischer, Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Lee Seletzky, Nelson Seletzky, Sara Swimmer, Cathy Witkay and Jill Schon. John Powers headed up the gift gathering with help from Anne Brown and Sara Swimmer, and sold raffle and game tickets. Sally Fischer helped out in just about every capacity and Laura McInerney created the graphics and signage. Evan Powers set up the tables in Jackson Hall, Father John helped in all things including buying beverages, Sylvia Williams provided dessert pick up and Cathy Witkay and Marian Mulkey provided accounting and check-in assistance. Prior to the event, Edee Allison made delicious Asian pear jam which she placed in decorated jars that sold very quickly at the event. During the event, Anne Brown helped at the check in desk, Foster Lipscomb headed the "Fun & Games," Paul Witkay managed the bar and Evan Powers filled in wherever he was needed, Shanda Young was once again our incredible MC and auctioneer. Dale & Allen Zhang, Harry & Frances Barnato, Jordan & Preston Lipscomb and Liam Perry representing our St. Anselm's youth helped out running games, and helped clean up under the supervision of Julie Rinkenberger. And of course, the team at Trinity Center including Donna Colombo, Victoria Briskin and Jenny Quijada helped out along the way.

Most importantly, thank you to all who gave generously, bought raffle tickets, funded needs, bid aggressively, provided items big and small and helped us raise a great deal of money for a much needed cause.

Marty Fischer, Harvest Festival Chairman



CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION

Dear St. Anselm's Family,

During the month of November, I would appreciate your saving some unused Christmas cards for me for my folks at Crestwood Behavior Center. This is the mental Health facility in Pleasant Hill where I volunteer. The consumers have told me how much they appreciate your kindness and generosity in remembering them. There are about 75 consumers at the facility and last year we were able to gift each person with two cards. You need not write anything on the card or envelope but if you did want to remember them with writing something, please only use your first name and that you are from St. Anselm's. My wonderful prayer group will help me by writing on the blank cards. If you will please bring the cards on any Sunday in November and leave them in the Church or Jackson Hall for me.

I am most appreciative of your help with this project.

With love and blessings,
Deacon Naomi



VETERAN'S RECOGNITION SUNDAY

We will be honoring our veteran's on Sunday, November 11th. 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 Wednesday, November 6th. (If you've been previously listed you don't need to call in again).



ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2019 altar flower donation chart is now 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).



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

I'm a big fan of podcasts and listen to at least one daily. My preference generally is for current affairs, medical/health updates or political analyses, but I recently discovered that the Episcopal Church has a weekly podcast: "The Way of Love" with Bishop Michael Curry. It is now in its second season and has a 5-star rating on Apple - no easy feat - so I added it to my subscription list.

The presenters of the podcast define the "way of love" as an "intentional commitment to practicing faith by following Jesus" encapsulated into seven practices: "turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, and rest." It sounds a bit dry, however it is anything but. Bishop Curry, in his charismatic but down to earth manner, tells stories and gives practical advice, and guest speakers from around the country illustrate how they are incorporating the seven practices into their daily lives and with their congregations.

There have been fourteen episodes so far so, at around twenty minutes long, it is not a huge time commitment to catch up. The first season focuses on personal growth and the second on applying the seven practices "beyond the church walls." I'm sure I'm not alone in sometimes losing sight of the spiritual amidst the day to day busyness between Sunday church services, so I'm glad to have found an easily accessible, mid-week opportunity to explore it.

Carolyn Huddart

WOMEN'S RETREAT

As many of you already know, this year's Women's Retreat was affected by the wildfires. Our retreat was at Bishop's Ranch, which is near Healdsburg. Some were unable for health reasons to come and some unwilling to come, because of the fire danger in that area. Seven of us did go. Friday night we stood on the porch of the house we were in, looking across the valley at the hills beyond. We could see a line of flames on top of the furthest hill. It was the Kincadee fire, then about 20 miles away.

About 11 am on Saturday, we got word that the fire was headed towards Healdsburg and that Bishop's Ranch was part of a mandatory evacuation order. We packed quickly and left. On the way home on 101, feeling sad to have to retreat from our retreat, Sally Fisher, who was driving, reminded us that we were driving to our homes, not having to leave them. Thank you, Sally!

What we did have of the retreat was very connecting and enlightening. Our leader, the Rev. Jocelynn Hughes, was well-prepared with our chosen theme, *Out of the Wilderness*. She was thoughtful, in touch with spirit and heart. We took a look at where we have experienced, and maybe continue to experience the wilderness in our lives.

Leaving prematurely (for the retreat, not for the fire danger!) was sad. We have all agreed that we would like to continue and complete. Jocelynn has offered to meet with us again on a Saturday. Fr. John has offered Jackson Hall. We don't have a date yet, but I will let you know as soon as we do. We're hoping that not only those of us already on the retreat will come, but those of you who signed up but didn't come. There may also be some of you who would have signed up, but couldn't because of conflict with dates.

I want to thank especially Marian Mulkey, who was my co-coordinator. She was so helpful and efficient in the run-up, at a time when I had a full plate with other things. She also was realistic about the potential fire danger, suggesting that it might be a good idea to leave on Saturday night, because of the predicted wind gusts. As it turned out, of course, the decision was not ours to make.

Interested women, Stay tuned! I'll let you know when we have our Saturday date set.

Anne Brown

Upcoming Events in November

1	Fri	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Meeting
2	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
3	Sun		End Daylight Savings Time
			Loyalty Sunday
			All Saints' Sunday
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:00 a.m.	Stewardship Breakfast
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
5	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
6	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		2:30 p.m.	Property Commission Meeting
9	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
10	Sun		Veteran's Recognition Sunday
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Christian Formation Committee
13	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
14	Thu	6:00 p.m.	Deanery Meeting – Grace Church, Martinez
16	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
17	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
18	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
20	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
23	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Work Party
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
24	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
			Canterbury Tales Deadline
27	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
28	Thu		Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed

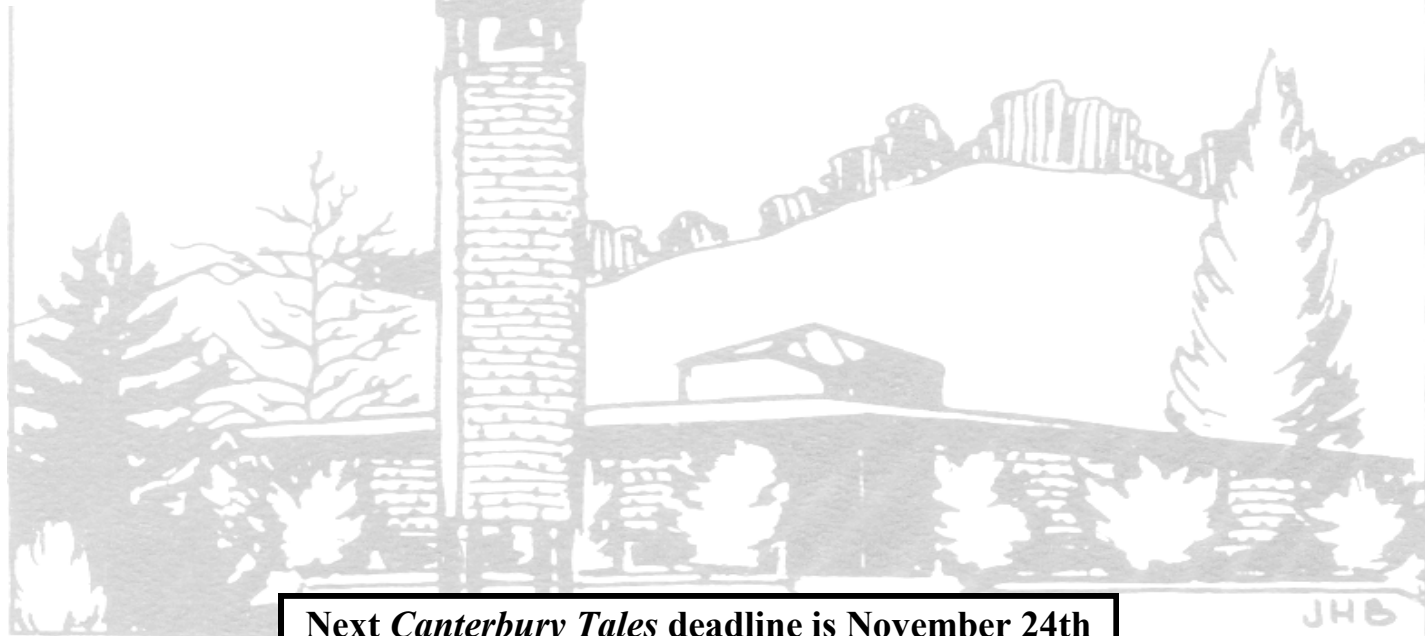
OUTREACH SUNDAY RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Outreach Sunday “voting” to determine the distribution of our \$20,000 of designated outreach funds. The following contributions were made on October 31st:

Bay Area Crisis Nursery — \$2,800
 Contra Costa/Solano Food Bank — \$3,800
 Interfaith Council of Contra Costa — \$2,000
 Loaves & Fishes — \$3,400
 Mobility Matters — \$3,600
 St. Dorothy's Rest — \$1,600
 STAND — \$2,800

And a big thank you to Joan Martin and Keith & Joni Pearce who distributed tickets and tallied the results!

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



Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is November 24th

IT'S TIME TO FALL BACK

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 3rd at 2:00 a.m.

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



STEWARDSHIP BREAKFAST

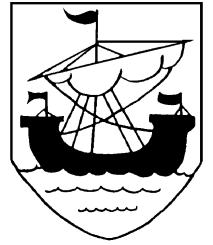
***9:00 a.m., Sunday, November 3rd
Jackson Hall***

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 while enjoying the goodies prepared by our Stewardship Commission chefs.

All are invited to attend.



Canterbury Tales



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

December, 2019

From The Rector

Frederick Buechner on Advent:

THE HOUSE LIGHTS GO OFF and the footlights come on. Even the chattiest stop chattering as they wait in darkness for the curtain to rise. In the orchestra pit, the violin bows are poised. The conductor has raised the baton.

In the silence of a midwinter dusk there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen.

You walk up the steps to the front door. The empty windows at either side of it tell you nothing, or almost nothing. For a second you catch a whiff in the air of some fragrance that reminds you of a place you've never been and a time you have no words for. You are aware of the beating of your heart.

The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.

The Salvation Army Santa Claus clangs his bell. The sidewalks are so crowded you can hardly move. Exhaust fumes are the chief fragrance in the air, and everybody is as bundled up against any sense of what all the fuss is really about as they are bundled up against the windchill factor.

But if you concentrate just for an instant, far off in the deeps of yourself somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world itself holding its breath.

- Originally published in Whistling in the Dark

John+



Anselm's Angels

"Kindness is like snow — it beautifies everything it covers"

~ *Kahlil Gibran*

Thanks to **Elisabeth Ward, Palmer Hightower, Don Liddle and the Seletzky Family** for sharing their personal stories during our services leading up to Loyalty Sunday. And a big thank you to **Peter Grace**, who served as master chef for our Loyalty Sunday Breakfast, and to **Yvonne Grace, Doug Merrill, Don Liddle, Foster Lipscomb, Eva Woo and Paul Witkay** who so ably assisted Peter.

Thank you to all who contributed to our Blanket Sunday collection.

The kitchen crew came through again and held a successful clean up/sort out/throw out. Many thanks to the fearless leader, **Sara Nelson** and helpers **Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Sheila Gorsuch, Vula Gutman, Joan Martin, Vicki Pappas, Julie Rinkenberger** and **Sylvia Williams**.

A very big thank you to **Joe Williams** and **Sylvia Williams** for braving the cold and rain to install security cameras throughout the property.



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 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, non-seasonal gift for children or teens to St. Anselm's no later than Sunday, December 8th and place them in the bin in Jackson Hall. Suggested gifts are listed on the flyers in the church and Jackson Hall - please no books, toy guns, knives, bow/arrows. Any questions may be directed to Abby Perry at abbywperry@yahoo.com.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2020 altar flower donation chart is now 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 signup chart and donation cards are located near the side door of the church (toward the garden).



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 Cathy at cathy.w@stanselms.ws 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 15th. If you would like to help by making an egg casserole, biscuits, muffins, or fruit salad, please contact Eva Woo at eva94549@gmail.com or Vula Gutman at vulag@comcast.net. Signup sheets are in Jackson Hall.

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

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

COFFEE HOSTS 2020

If you've hosted previously, you've already received an email asking you to sign up for a Sunday in the first six months of next year.

Please contact Sheila Gorsuch at sgtroodgrouch8@gmail.com so that we can complete the roster and publish before the Advent Festival comes around on December 15th. Thanks to all for volunteering -- see you during Coffee Hour! If you haven't hosted before, maybe this is your chance to help with a vital part of the St Anselm's calendar.

MIDNIGHT MASS

We regret to announce that there will be no music at Midnight Mass this year. This year's service will begin at 11:00 PM.



Canterbury Tales is the monthly newsletter of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA
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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

As we begin the month of December and start preparations for Christmas I thought it might be fun to explore Christmas traditions around the world. Many are similar to ours but there are numerous interesting variations. Here are some examples from Western and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia.

France

The French celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve. Children set out shoes near a fireplace for *le Père Noël* to fill with toys, nuts and sweets. Elaborate meals are served and traditionally include rabbit terrine, omelet with truffles, and *papillottes* (small chocolates wrapped in shiny paper).

During the French Revolution many churches closed and nativity scenes were prohibited so people began making *santons* - small nativity scene figurines made of terracotta and painted with bright colors or dressed in miniature clothes - to be displayed at home. There are more than 50 different *santons* representing not only the Holy Family but also traditional village characters such as the local baker, vegetable seller and scissors' grinder. Today, *santons* are still an important symbol of Christmas, particularly in the region of Provence, and fairs are held in December for people to buy more figures for their displays.

Poland

Poland has a number of Christmas traditions and superstitions: one custom is to break and give a Christmas wafer made of flour and water (*oplatek*) to loved ones. Legend has it that animals can talk at a certain moment on Christmas Eve and that sheaves of wheat, rye, hay or straw placed under tables will bring good crops or fortune. This practice is also a reminder of the modest environment in which Jesus was born.

Santa Claus generally appears on December 6th, the feast of St Nicholas, but Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and St. Stephen's Day (December 26th) are all celebrated too.

Mexico

From December 16th until Christmas Eve, children across Mexico take part in *posada* processions, dressed in costumes to re-enact the story of Joseph and Mary looking for a place to stay before Jesus' birth. On Christmas Eve, most Mexicans attend church masses and celebrate with traditional family dinners of *tamales*, Christmas Eve salad (*ensalada de Noche Buena*) and dried salted codfish (*bacalao*).

Children receive presents from baby Jesus (rather than Santa Claus) on Christmas Eve and also at the Epiphany on January 6th.

Angola

The Angolan population is majority Christian so Christmas is widely celebrated with traditional church services. Home decoration is generally limited to a nativity scene but Christmas trees and stockings are becoming more widespread, and, in the cities, large shops are decorated with lights.

The traditional Angolan Christmas dessert is a *Bolo Rei*, owing to Angola's historical connection with Portugal. *Bolo Rei*, meaning "King Cake", was introduced to Portugal in the 19th century. It is crown-shaped and eaten specifically on January 6th, the "Day of Kings" but also during the entire holiday season. It traditionally contains a trinket and a dried broad bean hidden somewhere in the cake. The person to find the trinket in their piece will have good luck for the year, but the person with the dried broad bean has to buy the *Bolo Rei* the next year.

The Philippines

Filipinos mark September 1st as the beginning of their countdown to Christmas. Known as the "Ber Months", this traditional period of preparation precedes the world's longest Christmas season.

continued on page 4

Upcoming Events in December

1	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
3	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
4	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		2:30 p.m.	Property Commission Meeting
6	Fri	11:00 a.m.	Stephen Minister Meeting
7	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		2:00 p.m.	Silva-Guadarrama Wedding
8	Sun		Holiday Helper Donation Deadline
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:30 a.m.	Harvest Festival Debrief
9	Mon	12:15 p.m.	Preschool Board Meeting
		7:00 p.m.	Vestry (2019 Budget)
11	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
14	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
15	Sun		Advent Festival Sunday
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Advent Festival Breakfast
		10:00 a.m.	Lessons & Carols
		11:15 a.m.	Advent Festival Breakfast
16	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting (tentative)
18	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
22	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
			Canterbury Tales Deadline
24	Tue		CHRISTMAS EVE
		5:00 p.m.	Christmas Pageant
		11:00 p.m.	Midnight Mass
25	Wed		CHRISTMAS DAY – Office Closed
29	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal

The Senior Warden *(continued from page 3)*

From December 16th to Christmas Eve a novena of dawn masses (*Simbang Gabi*) are celebrated. Folk belief holds that anyone attending all nine masses will be granted a special wish from God. Christmas Eve is celebrated with a midnight mass and the traditional *Noche Buena* feast, and some families will also open presents at this time. The *Misa de Gallo* is celebrated on Christmas Day and is usually one of several masses that all family members, including non-churchgoers, attend.

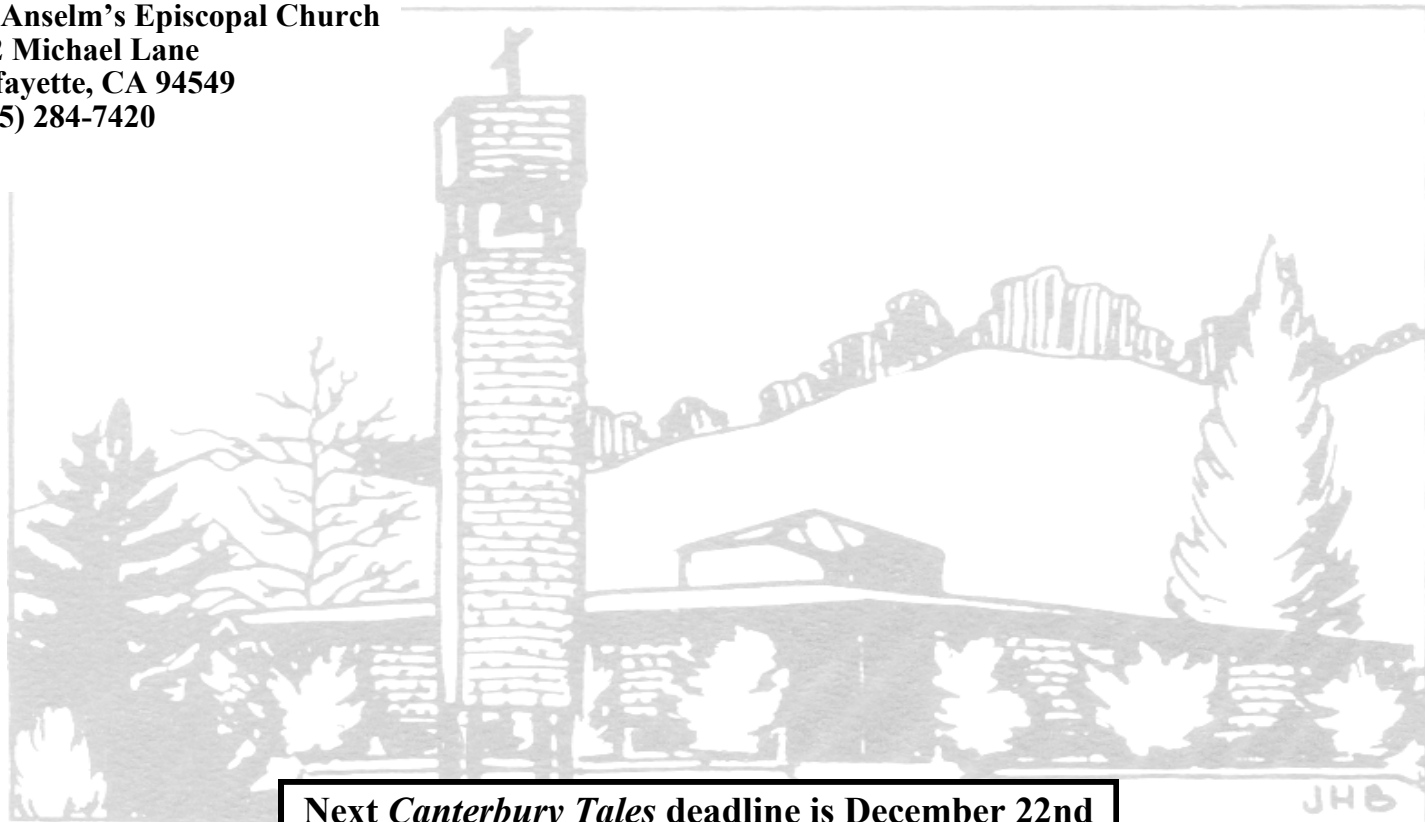
At the Feast of the Epiphany children leave their shoes out by a window or door so that the three kings can leave small gifts inside them. This is now the official end of Christmas. However, in older traditions Christmas lasted until Candlemas (the Feast of the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of the Baby Jesus at the Temple) which marked the end of a 40 day "Christmastide" corresponding to the 40 days of Lent.

After this whirlwind tour of Christmas traditions around the world, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a joyful Christmas season here, celebrating with your own traditions, both at St. Anselm's and at home with your families.


Caroline Huddart

Links: <https://www.aportugueseaffair.com/bolo-rei-the-cake-of-kings/>
<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/common/christmas-day>
<https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/angola.shtml>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_in_the_Philippines

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Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is December 22nd



Christmas Services

Lessons & Carols	December 15th	10:00 a.m.
Advent Breakfast		9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
Christmas Pageant	December 24th	5:00 p.m.
Midnight Mass	December 24th	11:00 p.m.

