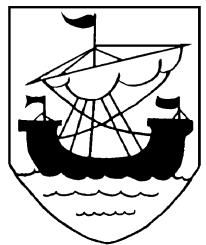


Canterbury Tales

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



May, 2021

From The Rector

A poem for Mother's Day by poet laureate Billy Collins:

The Lanyard

The other day I was ricocheting slowly off the blue walls of this room, moving as if underwater from typewriter to piano, from bookshelf to an envelope lying on the floor, when I found myself in the L section of the dictionary where my eyes fell upon the word lanyard.

No cookie nibbled by a French novelist could send one into the past more suddenly—a past where I sat at a workbench at a camp by a deep Adirondack lake learning how to braid long thin plastic strips into a lanyard, a gift for my mother.

I had never seen anyone use a lanyard or wear one, if that's what you did with them, but that did not keep me from crossing strand over strand again and again until I had made a boxy red and white lanyard for my mother.

She gave me life and milk from her breasts, and I gave her a lanyard. She nursed me in many a sick room, lifted spoons of medicine to my lips, laid cold face-cloths on my forehead, and then led me out into the airy light and taught me to walk and swim, and I, in turn, presented her with a lanyard. Here are thousands of meals, she said, and here is clothing and a good education. And here is your lanyard, I replied, which I made with a little help from a counselor.

Here is a breathing body and a beating heart, strong legs, bones and teeth, and two clear eyes to read the world, she whispered, and here, I said, is the lanyard I made at camp. And here, I wish to say to her now, is a smaller gift—not the worn truth

that you can never repay your mother, but the rueful admission that when she took the two-tone lanyard from my hand, I was as sure as a boy could be that this useless, worthless thing I wove out of boredom would be enough to make us even.

John+

Anselm's Angels

"Opportunities to find deeper powers within ourselves come when life seems most challenging."

A big thank you to:

Chris Young for serving as our official cameraman and Zoom expert to make sure we all have access to Sunday services. And as if that's not enough, **Chris** has become a regular during the week catching up on many maintenance tasks. Thank you!

Sara Nelson for making weekly bank deposits.

Sylvia Williams and **Joan Martin** for prepping the sanctuary for Easter Sunday and decorating the altar with lilies.

Our April virtual lectors and LEMs which also included our Maundy Thursday & Good Friday services: **Anne Brown, Sheila Gorsuch, Peter Grace, Palmer Hightower, Caroline Huddart, Judy Peak, Julie Rinkenberger, Liz Sutton** and **Eva Woo**. Also, a big thank you to **Judy Peak** for making these arrangements each week.

Shanda Young for her weekly updates from Contra Costa County Health Services about the COVID-19 vaccine status..

John Sutton and **Marian Mulkey** for arranging ex-con Sheldon Gooch's presentation of his Easter story and commitment to Restorative Justice and prison reform.

NEW ZOOM LINK

We have had to update our Zoom links for the remainder of 2021. Therefore, please use the link below for our live stream services beginning Sunday, May 2, 2021. For your convenience the new Meeting ID and passcode are printed in red below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81429075627?pwd=dmo3Q2xLM1BzbkhjVldkNzNVODNKdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 2907 5627

Passcode: 962809

COVID-19 VACCINE & TESTING UPDATED FOR CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

All people ages 16 and older who live or work in Contra Costa County are now eligible to get vaccinated through Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS). People under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to their appointment. Eligible residents may request a vaccine appointment through the county by filling out an [online form](#) or by calling 833-829-2626. Also, as the County has reassigned staff to speed up vaccine distribution, COVID-19 testing appointments will be limited. Appointments are prioritized for people with COVID-19 symptoms and first responders. If you are experiencing symptoms, please call (844) 421-0804 for an appointment.

If you would like help in getting the process started for your vaccine, please email Shanda Young at shanda.young@cchealth.org, and include the following information (this will help expedite the sign up process): Name, Date of birth, Cell Phone Number and Home Address. You may also call or text Shanda at (925) 324-9413.

VENMO ACCOUNT INFORMATION

St. Anselm's continues to maintain a Venmo account (search @st-anselems) so you can transfer funds directly to the church via your smart phone. If you would like instructions on how to do so, please email Cathy Witkay at cathy.w@stanselms.ws. Alternatively, you can always donate by sending a check to the church. The mailing address is: 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549 Thank you!

THANK YOU ANDREW & CAROLINE

We bid a fond farewell to our long-time music directors on April 11th and blessed their cross-country journey to their new home in Washington, DC. Before they left, Andrew recorded processional hymns and service music for the remainder of 2021 and Caroline copied and organized many pages of copyrighted music. We will miss you both and hope you'll visit occasionally.



This plaque is now mounted on the front of the choir pews in the sanctuary in honor of Andrew & Caroline.

Canterbury Tales is the monthly newsletter of

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
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Phone: (925) 284-7420

e-mail: cathy.w@stanselms.ws
web site: www.stanselms.ws

Editor: Cathy S. Witkay

Virtual Sunday Service:
9:00 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

May is Asian Pacific Heritage month.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants. A rather broad term, Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

As an immigrant from Hong Kong, my parents wanted us to blend in with our new country. We came here because it was considered the land of opportunity. Even today, my Mother still calls America, "Gum-San" which means Golden Mountain. I was raised Buddhist but went to Catholic School. I would have been mortified if kids knew I ate dinner with chopsticks, burnt incense to honor my dead ancestors or spoke Chinese.

Growing up in San Francisco, contributions of Asians in America was never part of our school curriculum. Sure, there were mentionings of Asians running laundry services during the gold rush, and the opium dens in Chinatown whenever we studied the California Gold Rush. It wasn't until I was in college where I minored in Asian American Studies did I learn about the contributions of Asians in America and the struggles they endured.

Here are a few..

Bing Cherry - cultivated by Ah Bing for horticulturist Seth Lewelling in 1875. Mr. Bing who immigrated to the US went back to visit his family in China in 1889, but was not allowed to return due to the Chinese Exclusion Act.

St. Helena, CA - a lot of the winery infrastructure , wine caves, rock walls were, farming was performed by chinese laborers who were expelled from the gold mines.

The Chinese Exclusion Act was a United States federal law signed by President Chester A. Arthur on May 6, 1882, prohibiting all immigration of Chinese laborers. This was not repealed until 1943 and when repealed only allowed 105 chinese to emigrate annually.

As part of recognizing Asian Pacific Heritage month, I encourage everyone to spend a little time to learn more about the rich history and culture of Asians. My hope is that through this education, this will contribute to the de-escalation of violence towards my fellow people.

Eva Woo

Michael Lane Preschool Update

All is well at Michael Lane Preschool. This month we built volcanoes in the sand and even made them erupt! Since the children love building in the sand and playing with the dinosaurs, this was a lot of fun. Another new project for us is that we are collecting bread tags to be recycled to help fund a wheelchair for a child in need. This has led to books on bodies working differently, and even rolling each other in real wheelchairs.

All of our staff has now received our 2nd vaccine, and I know I speak for all of us when I say that we are so grateful Michael Lane has been able to remain open during the pandemic. Our outdoor classroom has been serving us well and we have only moved into the Parish Hall to get out of the rain once (to date)!

Wishing you all a lovely spring ahead,

Holly Higgins

ST. ANSELM'S REOPENING

The vestry met recently to discuss reopening the church for worship. The following provides a synopsis of our general consensus. We have not set a date yet for reopening. Zoom services will continue when we do. An eight-person committee was formed. The group is tasked with developing a reopening plan to submit for approval to the Diocese, in accordance with the guidelines they have provided to us.

A broad overview of what indoor church worship will initially look like:

- There will be one service at nine a.m.
- There won't be singing.
- Masks are to be worn at all times, with the exception of during reception of communion, which will be offered, both bread and wine. The procedure for communion will be modified for safety and to minimize personal contact.
- Social distancing of six feet will be required at all times. Members of the same "bubble" may be closer.
- There will be no coffee hour.

There are quite a few other details that we discussed relating to safety that aren't outlined in this notice.

What We Need From You

The timing of reopening will have a lot to do with the responses we receive from the members of the congregation. There are many unknowns at this point, but your response will help us:

Name: _____ Family Members: _____

Please check the appropriate response, with the number of family members per response:

With the current restrictions, I would attend in-church worship at the earliest possible date.

I want to wait a while before returning to in-church worship (several weeks/couple of months).

I won't return to worship until all restrictions are lifted.

Please email Cathy Witkay at cathy.w@stanselms.ws as to what you plan to do in regards to attending in-church services, based on what we are outlining.

As stated before -- Zoom services will continue to be an option, even after restrictions are lifted. And we intend to do everything we can to make the worship experience in the church safe.

SCHEDULE OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS

May 2nd -- Cancer Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at irjpmaggie@hotmail.com.

May 4th – Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Father John at suttonj@comcast.net.

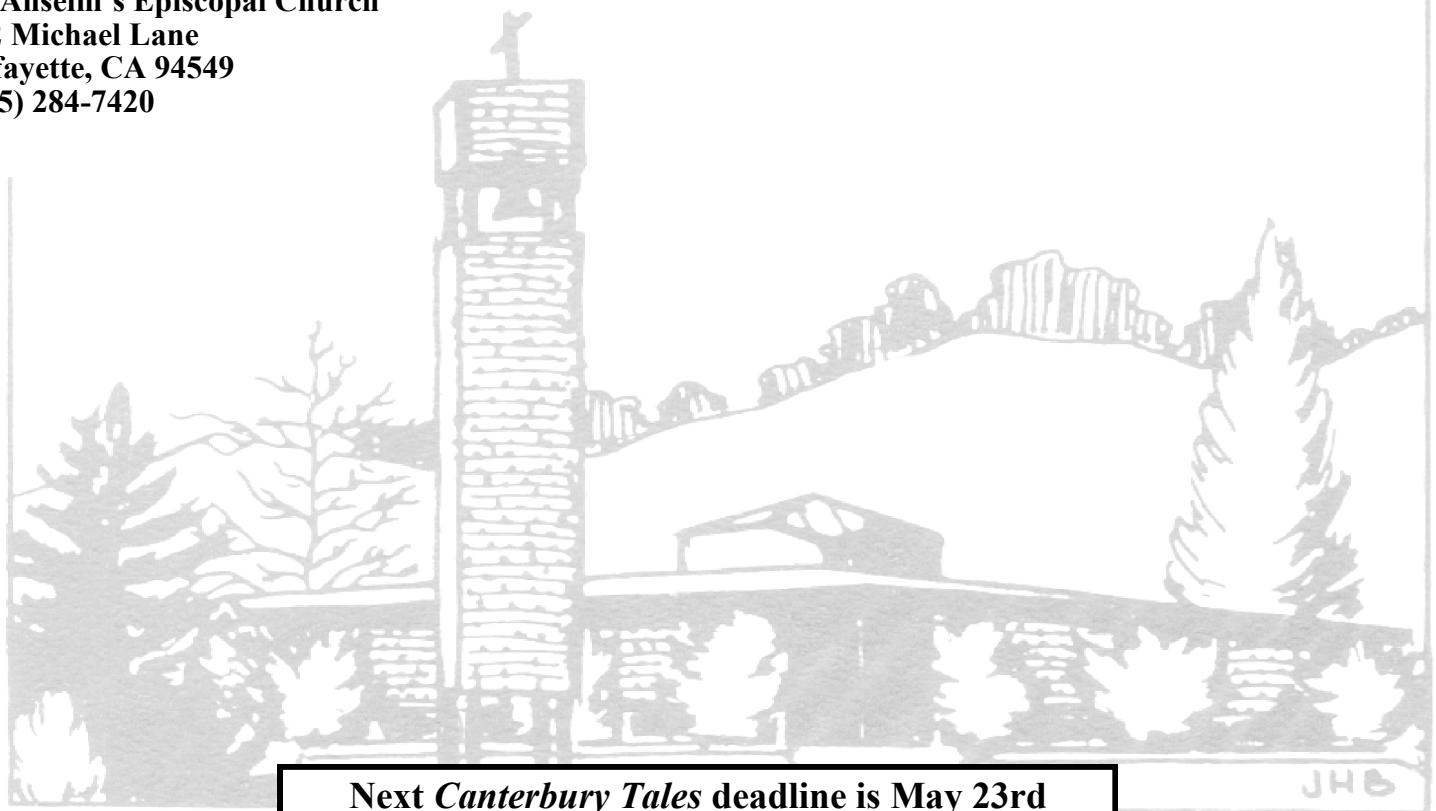
May 5th and each Wednesday in May, -- Morning Prayer will be led by Deacon Naomi via Zoom at 9 AM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

May 5th and each Wednesday in May-- Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. To be invited, email Cathy Witkay at cathy.w@stanselms.ws.

May 10th, Vestry will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. Vestry members will receive an email from Father John with the meeting link..



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Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is May 23rd

Top Ten Reasons Ash Wednesday Is Better Than Christmas

10. No braving the malls looking for Lent gifts
9. No pressure to send "Merry Ash Wednesday" cards
8. No explaining why using chi-rho isn't 'X-ing Jesus out' of Lent
7. No fundamentalists fighting cultural wars by putting 'Jesus resisting temptation in the wilderness' displays on public property
6. No celebrity holiday albums
5. No Ash Wednesday sitcom specials
4. No saccharine email forwards about the 'true meaning' of Ash Wednesday
3. No tacky Ash Wednesday sweaters
2. "Remember You Are Dust And To Dust You Shall Return" extremely difficult to use in consumer marketing strategies
1. Nobody ever says. "Ash Wednesday is really about the children."

Dave Barnhart in *First Things*, 2010
