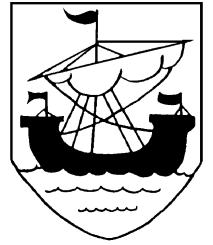


# Canterbury Tales



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

June, 2021

## From The Rector

### We're Back!

Yesterday's Pentecost service was one like no other. It really didn't hit me until the liturgy started. For fourteen months there have been no congregational responses. It was wonderful to have a shared liturgy *in the church!*

Chris Young and Cathy Witkay put in extra effort to make it happen. We were approved for reopening on Thursday afternoon, and by Friday we were all ready, with social distancing and safety protocols in place.

There were some minor glitches, and we are still figuring out how we will coordinate a remote and an in-church gathering. But I have to say, the social distancing and mask wearing didn't impact us too much.

Paul Witkay surprised everyone by delivering individual containers of coffee and baked goods after the service, and we had a congenial and safe visit in the courtyard.

I know that many of us would like to return to the schedule of two services at 8 and 10 a.m. All 10 o'clockers should know that independent of Andrew and Caroline's move, we will not likely be having music any time soon as singing in church is likely to be one of the last things allowed before a return to normal. The vestry and choir are considering next steps for the music program.

In the short term, the barrier to returning to our former schedule is that there are presently mandated cleaning requirements between services which basically make doing so a non-starter. However, as with social distancing, mask-wearing and gathering indoors for shared meals, if things continue to progress well, those mandates will hopefully be lifted soon.

If you are on the fence about coming back to church, I encourage you to give it a try. You might be surprised, like I was, at just how much you have missed church.

John+

## The Bishop is coming to St. Anselm's!

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Marc will be making his biennial visitation to St. Anselm's. Due to safety concerns, the Bishop will not be able to be with us in person. However, he will offer the sermon and participate in the 9 a.m. liturgy remotely. And at 11:30, we will regather for an address from the Bishop, and the opportunity to ask him questions. The Zoom invitation for the 11:30 a.m. gathering is below:

Zoom Link for 9:00 AM Service  
Meeting ID: 814 2907 5627  
Passcode: 962809

Zoom Link for 11:30 AM Q&A with Bishop Marc  
Meeting ID: 848 3771 8653  
Passcode: 530637

## Anselm's Angels

A big thank you to:

**Chris Young** for his tireless work as our official cameraman and Zoom expert. An especially big thank you to Chris for researching, installing and configuring the new camera and sound system to provide our remote participants with an even better visual experience going forward!

**Sylvia Williams** and **Sally Fischer** for prepping the sanctuary for in-person services and **Sara Swimmer** for the beautiful floral arrangement on Pentecost Sunday.

Our May virtual lectors and LEMs : **Wynne Bacon, Marian Mulkey, Sara-Anne Nelson, Vicki Pappas, Liz Sutton** and **Allen Zhang**. Also, a big thank you to **Judy Peak** for making these arrangements each week and organizing the new list of volunteers who will serve in these roles as we return to in-person services.

**Sara Nelson** for making weekly bank deposits.

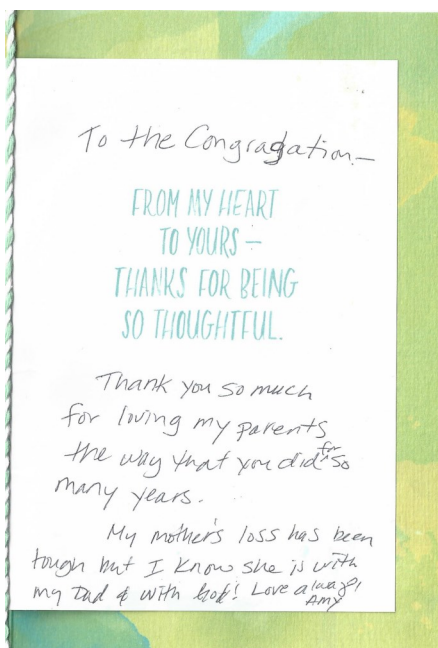
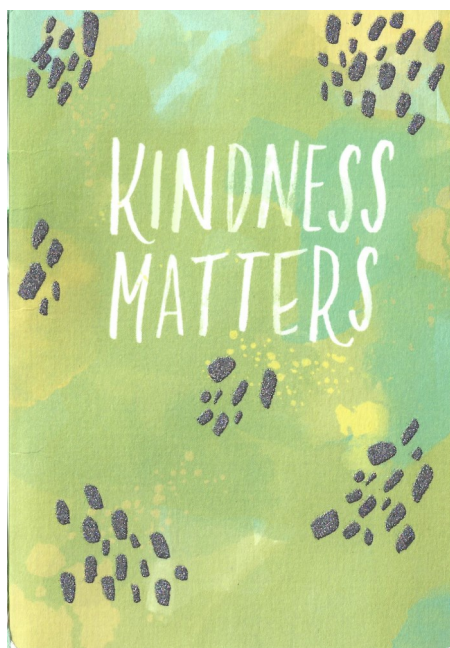
**Shanda Young** for her weekly updates from Contra Costa County Health Services about the COVID-19 vaccine status.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Now that in person services have resumed, flower donations are now available through the end of 2021. Each week the Altar Guild provides beautiful flowers for our church. By making a \$45 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. Please contact Cathy Witkay at [cathy.w@stanselms.ws](mailto:cathy.w@stanselms.ws) with your selected date(s) and dedication.

**VENMO ACCOUNT INFORMATION**

St. Anselm's continues to maintain a Venmo account (search @st-anselms) 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](mailto:cathy.w@stanselms.ws). For those who are attending in-person services, a locked collection box is available inside the sanctuary. Alternatively, you can always donate by sending a check to the church, The mailing address is: 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549 Thank you!

**A NOTE OF GRATITUDE FROM BILL & SUE MILLER'S DAUGHTER, AMY****MEMORY LANE – THE LOSSNERS**

Some of you who were at St. Anselm's in the 70's and 80's will remember Mike and Susan Lossner and their children, Stephen, Michelle and David. They have been true world travelers, having lived in many different locations thanks to Mike's job with Bechtel, including Australia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, New York, Georgia, and, of course, Lafayette, CA. We have kept up our friendship with them over the years with many phone calls, several visits, and Marty and Mike have enjoyed fishing together in Alaska on three (3!) different occasions. It is with profound sadness that I tell you that Susan passed away on May 15<sup>th</sup>. She and Mike had recently moved to Ohio to be near their daughter, Michelle. She is a wonderful, caring woman, and she was able to be with her Mom in those last few months. Mike is currently living in a Memory Care facility nearby. We keep up with them on a regular basis, so if you want any contact information, I will be happy to give it to you. The best to all of you as we all continue our journeys through life!

Sally and Marty Fischer

*Canterbury Tales* is the monthly newsletter of

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

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web site: [www.stanselms.us](http://www.stanselms.us)

Editor: Cathy S. Witkay

In- Person & 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

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## **The Senior Warden**

Rambling thoughts of gratitude from the Sr. Warden.

There is excitement in the air as we continue to see positive results from increased vaccination rates and vigilance in adherence to the guidelines of our county and CDC.

I can't believe we actually had our first in-person/zoom service in May. I had bets placed with friends that we would regather after July 4th, a bet that I happily lost! Gratitude to everyone at St. Anselm's! For those who worked behind and in front of the scenes to make our Sundays special. The pictures of VIPs in the pews, the warm welcome from our wonderful Deacon on Zoom whenever we signed in, our amazing videographer, insider information from the Contra Costa Health Department and our wonderful rector who never missed a beat delivering amazing sermons to a computer screen and a bunch of photos in the pews.

It's no secret that I am now on staff at Grace Cathedral. I like to tell everyone there that I belong to St. Anselm's, a small church in Lafayette with a BIG HEART! -- Yes, I told Bishop Marc that last weekend and he is very excited to join us on June 6! Honestly, I am so grateful to be a member of St. Anselm's. We really do have a big heart. When we reflect on all the outreach programs and activities it's truly amazing how much we accomplish with a limited staff and dedicated volunteers. Inclusivity is a way of being for us here at St. Anselm's. We always find ways for anyone who desires to volunteer to do so.

I'm really looking forward to connecting more with everyone as we continue to re-gather. Dibs on hosting the first coffee hour when it is safe!!

Eva Woo

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### **NEWS FLASH! OUR FALL WINTER NIGHTS DATES**

St. Anselm's is scheduled to host the Winter Nights families in Jackson Hall from October 11 until October 25 this year. Right now it's looking like our co-host for the second week will be the LDS church in Danville.

As long as I've been involved with Winter Nights, St. Anselm's has been the first church on the schedule each year. This is because we had the smallest parish hall and could house only 5-6 families. This year we're the second church on the schedule. Walnut Creek Friends Church has an even smaller parish hall, with room for only 4 families. I'm sad that we won't be the first ones welcoming and setting the tone this year, but pleased that more churches are stepping up to be involved.

On Easter Sunday, because of being fully vaccinated, I was able to get together with some of my family for the first time in over a year. I felt such joy! Last Sunday I sat in a pew at St. Anselm's for the first time in over a year. More joy! I'm imagining that, as I help to unload the truck, unpack the tents, and welcome the guests on October 11, I will feel the same joy. I so missed that connection in March when all we could do was drop off meals.

Closer to the time of our hosting, Eva Woo will be in touch with you about volunteering by helping with set-up, bringing a home-cooked casserole or salad, setting out breakfast supplies, playing games with the kids, and lots else. The rewards will far outweigh the work, I promise.

Anne Brown

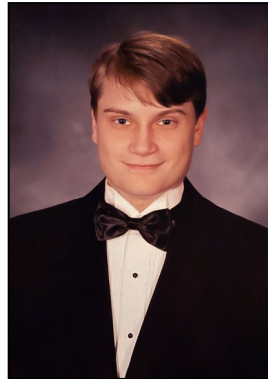
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## *Congratulations 2021 St. Anselm's Graduates!*



William Grace  
BS, Marketing  
Elon University



Benjamin Hart  
Monte Vista High School Graduate  
attending Diablo Valley College  
in the fall



Gillian Hart  
BA, Late Antique-Medieval Studies  
& French  
Scripps College



Preston Lipscomb  
San Ramon Valley High School  
Graduate  
attending San Diego State  
University in the fall  
as a business major



Laynie Masterson  
Las Lomas High School Graduate  
attending San Diego State  
University in the fall



Nathan Pearce  
Campolindo High School Graduate  
attending the University of Arizona,  
 Eller School of Management  
in the fall



Gabe Slavitt  
Acalanes High School Graduate  
attending NYU in the fall  
as a liberal studies major



Dale Zhang  
Campolindo High School Graduate  
attending the University of Washington  
in the fall as a biochemistry major

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## ***SCHEDULE OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS***

**June 1<sup>st</sup> — Grief Support Group** will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Father John at [suttonj@comcast.net](mailto:suttonj@comcast.net).

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> and each Wednesday in June -- Morning Prayer** will be led by Deacon Naomi via Zoom at 9 AM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> and each Wednesday in June -- Evening Bible Study** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. To be invited, email Cathy Witkay at [cathy.w@stanselms.ws](mailto:cathy.w@stanselms.ws).

**June 6<sup>th</sup> — Bishop Marc's Visit to St. Anselm's**. Bishop Marc will virtually visit St. Anselm's and deliver the homily during the Sunday service. Following the service, he will deliver remarks and participate in a Q&A session at 11:30 AM via Zoom. See page 1 for the Zoom link.

**June 7<sup>th</sup> — Vestry** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. Vestry members will receive an email from Father John with the meeting link.

**June 13<sup>th</sup> -- Cancer Support Group** will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at [jrpmmaggie@hotmail.com](mailto:jrpmmaggie@hotmail.com).

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## **MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL**

We did it!

As I write this letter, Michael Lane Preschool has 2 more days left in our school year. Not only did we manage to keep our school open during this worldwide pandemic, we never had to close due to a COVID-19 outbreak AND we are ending the year with 28 children in our program, up from 19 when the school year began. To say I am grateful and proud is an understatement.

Thank you to St. Anselm's Parish for waiving our rent for the year. This generous gesture has allowed us to end our school year on solid fiscal footing.

Two wonderful parents are rolling off of our Preschool Board - Steve Chou (Treasurer) and Laura Kelly (Secretary). We are so grateful for their years of service. I'd like to welcome Carly Starnitsky as our new Secretary and Lauren Clark as our new Treasurer. Both have jumped into their roles with enthusiasm. These new members will join Joan Martin, John Sutton, Peg Matson, and myself.

Michael Lane will be offering 3 weeks of summer camp this year which will run the first 3 weeks of June. We are welcoming back some alumni, current students, and a few younger siblings to our completely full program.

Finally, a big thank you to Peg Matson and Kim Olson who have helped keep this school growing and thriving this year.

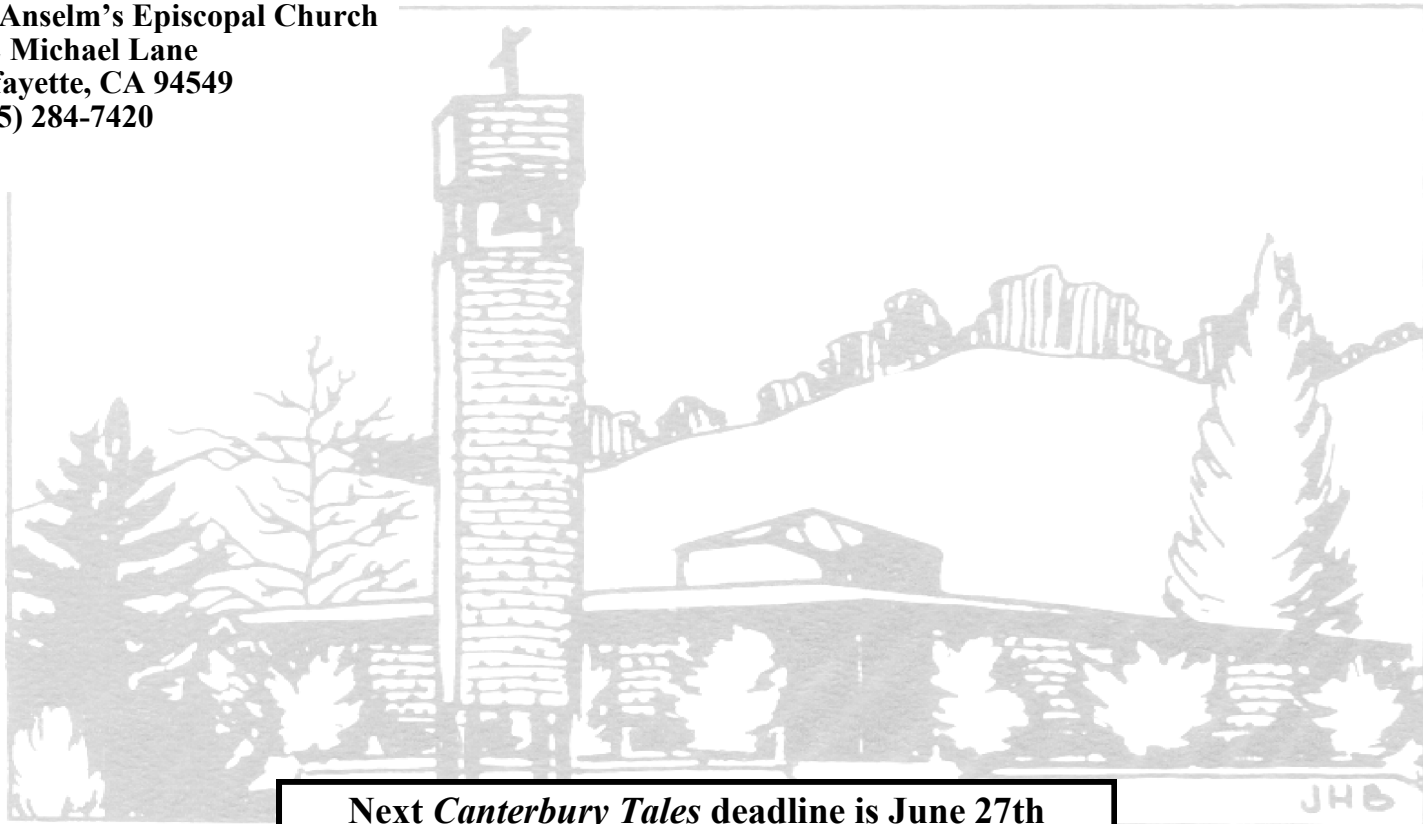
I hope everyone has a wonderful summer with less masks and more gatherings!

Fondly,

Holly Higgins  
Director

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Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is June 27th

