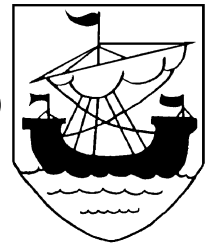


Canterbury Tales



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

February, 2022

From The Interim Rector

Forward Together

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."
Henry Ford

Henry Ford, the founder of Ford Motor Company who perfected the assembly line technique for mass production, built his company around teamwork. He gathered together workers with a wide spectrum of talents and gave them a vision and a process. He also gave them an extremely competitive wage (\$5.00 per hour, revolutionary at the time). He wanted his employees to be able to afford the cars they were producing and considered this their "stake" in the company and its profits. As a result, Ford transformed the automobile from a luxury toy to a mainstay of American society. At the heart of his company's success was the ability of his workers not just to work together, but to move forward together. "If everyone is moving forward together," he said, "then success takes care of itself."

But "forward together" is more than a business strategy. In our work as the Church, it is the only way to move. God has brought us together in community, given us a vision of the kingdom and calls us to move forward together to make it so. That, in a nutshell, is why we are here.

There are two parts to "forward together." The first, of course, is "forward." As I write this, we are only a few weeks into this time of transition and, in many ways, are still getting our legs underneath us as we adapt to life without John Sutton at the helm. We have also had to re-suspend in-person worship due to the lightening-fast spread of the Omicron variant of Covid. Both of those may feel like backwards or, at best, sideways moves, but they are not. Despite, and perhaps because of these challenges we are moving forward in our understanding of who we are as a community, of worship, of why we are here, of what is important, of service, and of how we can each contribute to the mission and ministry of this place. We are moving forward in our preparation for the next leg of the journey with a new rector.

The second part of "forward together" is *"together."* We are on this journey as a community, and every person who is part of this community is important, valued, and necessary. Just as Henry Ford gathered together workers with a wide spectrum of gifts and talents, so has God. (Perhaps that is where Ford got the idea). We all have a stake in this place, and now is not the time for any of us to sit on the sidelines and wait to see what happens. So, I encourage each of you to discover anew how and where you would like to be a part. In my short time here I have already been amazed at the vast array of gifts and talents present here.

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." But we do not measure success in same way that the world does. We measure success by the positive difference we make in the world around us, by

Anselm's Angels

"Extraordinary things are always hiding in places people never think to look."

~ Jodi Picoult

A very big thank you to the following parishioners who helped St. Anselm's stay connected and operating during our recent suspension of in-person services.

Chris Young for continuing to serve as our Zoom expert to make sure we all have access to Sunday services — especially while visiting family in Seattle!

Our January virtual lectors and Lay Eucharist Ministers: **Anne Brown, Peter Grace, Palmer Hightower, Marian Mulkey, John Powers** and **Allen Zhang**. Also, a big thank you to **Judy Peak** for making these arrangements each week.

And to the St. Anselm's community for being flexible during these unprecedented times.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Sunday, February 6th
immediately after
the 9 AM service**

Both in-person & via Zoom

- 2021—A Year In Review
- Elections:
 - * Vestry Class of 2025
 - * Diocesan Deanery Delegates

All are encouraged to attend!

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Sunday, February 13th is the Super Bowl, and as we have in years past, St. Anselm's will be taking a collection to support the work of the Contra Costa and Solano County Food Bank. We plan to return to having our youth collect donations at the main door after church on the 13th, and the need is as critical as it ever has been. The church will match all donations up to \$500 as in years past.



If you plan to attend the service via Zoom, you may still participate by sending a donation by Venmo (please email Cathy Witkay at cathy.w@stanselms.us if you need instructions), or simply writing a check to St. Anselm's with "Souper Bowl Sunday" on the memo line. Our mailing address is 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549.

MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL UPDATE

Happy New Year!

It has been a very exciting start to our school year! Under the guidance of our amazing parent doctor team, we have moved our school exclusively outdoors to help children and staff stay healthy. This has allowed us to easily explore the themes of ice and snow - making snow, painting with colored ice, smashing ice with mallets, reading lots of books on animals in snow, trying on skis and ice skates, wearing winter clothing, and more!

I am currently giving many tours and collecting applications for the 2022-2023 school year. We have had 3 new children start school this month to fill up our school to capacity with 17 children attending per day. Here's to a 2022 filled with joy and learning!

Holly Higgins. Director

COURTYARD COFFEE HOSTS

For those folks who have been attending in-person services, we have been holding coffee hour in the front courtyard. At this time, we are looking for volunteers to host coffee hour during the first half of 2022. Thanks to Joni Pearce, we now have a SignUpGenius form to streamline hosting signups.

If you are willing to help out, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044bada722a2f85-coffee> and select a date or dates that will work for you. Thank you!!!

OUTREACH SUNDAY RESULTS – 2021

The following are the results of the parishioner allocations of the \$20,000 designated outreach fund for 2021.

Bay Area Crisis Nursery — \$3,600
 Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano — \$4,800
 Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County -- \$1,000
 Loaves & Fishes of Contra Costa — \$3,200
 Mobility Matters — \$2,200
 St. Dorothy's Rest — \$1,200
 STAND! — \$2,200
 VESTIA — \$1,800

LENT MADNESS: WHO WILL WIN THE GOLDEN HALO?

Lent Madness is a fun, yet serious (and free) Lenten devotion offered by Forward Movement Publications, and an engaging opportunity to learn about the women and men who make up the Church's Calendar of Saints. In a manner similar to NCAA Basketball's March Madness, 32 saints are pitted against each other in a tournament-style bracket battling, ultimately, for the Golden Halo. Each pairing is open for a period of time in which participants (you) may vote for the winner. Fill out your bracket ahead of time and then see how your favorite saint fares.

This is a great way to learn more about the people on whose shoulders we stand, but about whom we may know little. For more information, and to participate, go to <https://www.lentmadness.org/bracket>.

Canterbury Tales is the monthly newsletter of

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 web site: www.stanselms.us

Editor: Cathy S. Witkay

In-Person & Virtual Sunday Service:
 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

St. Anselm's Staff
 The Rev. Kathy Trapani, Interim Rector
 The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon
 Cathy Witkay, Office Manager

The Senior Warden

Writing our new Chapter together...

I'm going to start this Canterbury Tales article with the last paragraph from the Annual Report I just submitted: "As we look forward to 2022 and beyond, we are entering a new chapter for St. Anselm's. My prayer to us all is that we reflect on all the good we experienced through God's grace through the years, gather strength from our loving community and work together to write our new chapter. "

On Zoom and in-person service I can't help but think about how much St. Anselm's has been a part of my family and my spiritual journey. I'm no longer the part of the younger adult group with toddlers in tow. Not really sure how I would group myself today, let me make it up.. I would call myself, "the empty-nester, serial tech entrepreneur contemplating retirement, care provider to aging parents, trouble maker for a good cause, but mellowed in age."

One thing that hasn't changed is that St. Anselm's has been there for me and my family through the years.

Our community known as Lamorinda has been a wonderful place for my sons to call their hometown. St. Anselm's has been a huge part of their upbringing. Before they started holding sports practices on Sundays we had a very active Sunday school program and also a youth group. We had the best bake sales thanks to Peggy Matson's famous pies and Gene Bozorth taught us how to make palm crosses.

Being an acolyte was actually "cool" for my skateboarding son who wanted to be the youngest acolyte to get the "gold cross." They played tag in the parking lot after church or during one of our events. They participated in car washes, "Souper Bowl" Sunday, Advent Festival crafts (making wax candles, dog bone wreaths), and the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinners.

The stories that other families could share about their children's experience through the grace of St. Anselm's!

As an adult member of St. Anselm's I also want to share how special this community has been for me. I am the person I am today because of my faith in God and the loving community of St Anselm's. Acceptance, kindness, welcome, solace, peace, humor, empathy. . . all words that come to me as I describe our congregation. St. Anselm's congregation - all of you, are like family to me and I truly feel at home.

As I reflect on all the good that have been bestowed upon me due to my connection to St. Anselm's I give thanks. My plea to you all is to be patient as we start our new chapter here at St. Anselm's. Help us re-imagine new ways for St. Anselm's. Help us make the next chapter for all to experience God's grace.

Eva Woo Slavitt

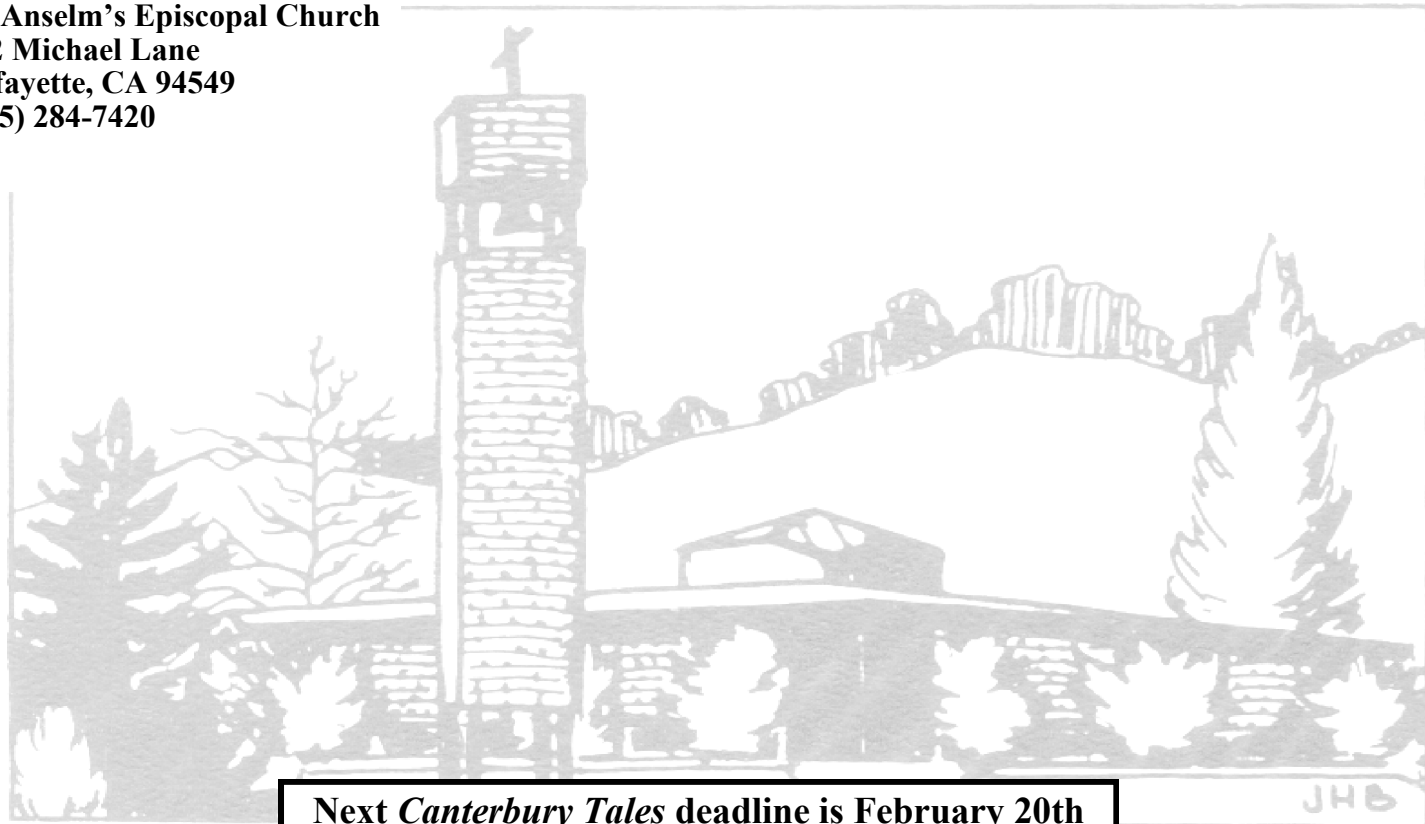
Interim Rector's Report

(continued from page 1)

the lives transformed by this community of faith, by our advance of God's kingdom and by the ways we move forward *together*. God has given us a stake in this "company," and in God's kingdom we simply cannot move forward any other way. "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." More accurately, if everyone is moving forward together, then God takes care of the success.

Kathy+

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Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is February 20th

SCHEDULE OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS

February 1st and each Tuesday in February — Morning Prayer will be held via Zoom at 9:00 AM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

February 3rd and each Thursday in February — Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

February 6th — Cancer Support Group will meet via Zoom at 1:30 PM. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at jrjpmaggie@hotmail.com.

February 14th — Vestry will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. Vestry members will receive an email from Chris Young with the meeting link.

February 23rd — Michael Lane Preschool Board will meet via Zoom at 1:30 PM. Board members will receive an email from Cathy Witkay with the meeting link.

March 1st — Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.
