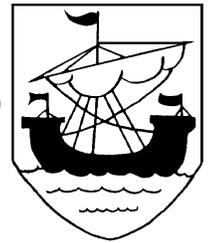


Canterbury Tales



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

October, 2022

From The Interim Rector

The Place Between

In the Book of Numbers, in one of the oldest portions of Scripture, Moses records the words of God's blessing (called the Aaronic or Priestly Blessing) that the priests are to pronounce over the congregation: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26). To this very day, Jewish and Christian worship concludes with a priestly blessing, or benediction, proclaiming and asserting God's love and favor for the people.

But blessings are not just the domain of ordained people to pronounce, proclaim, and bestow. Blessings are bestowed by all manner of people into all manner of life's circumstances. And while we usually think of blessings as a reward or sign of God's providence toward us, or a prayer for such, they are perhaps better thought of as a proclamation of God's presence with and love for us that awakens us to the reality that God is always at work in our midst. Rather than a measure of God's favor, a true blessing meets us wherever we are because God meets us wherever we are. If that is true, then as bearers of God's image we can, all of us, be signs of God's presence with words or without them. We can each bestow, and be, a blessing.

Blessings meet us where we are. And at St. Anselm's, where we are is in that in-between place between what was and what is yet to come. We have been in transition for a while now, and though we are making our way forward, our future will remain unclear for a while longer. It is hard to be in between.

Jan Richardson, an artist, author of several books, and ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, is also a writer of blessings. As it turns out, she has written one just for us:

Anselm's Angels

"There are people who make things happen, there are people who watch things happen, and there are people who wonder what happened. To be successful, you need to be a person who makes things happen."

- Jim Lovell

Thank you to **Katie Taggart, Peg Matson** and **Sylvia Williams** for the amazing "welcome back" coffee hour and the many delicious goodies they prepared for the occasion.

A big thank you to **Judy Peak** for juggling the schedules for our in-person LEMs and lectors on a weekly basis. A special thank you to the volunteers who have served in these ministries: **Anne Brown, Sally Fischer, Pam Green, Palmer Hightower, Peg Matson, Marian Mulkey, Joni Pearce, John Powers, Elisabeth Ward, Sheila Wiegand, Eva Woo, Shanda Young** and **Allen Zhang**.

Thanks to **Sylvia Williams** and the members of the Altar Guild for their work to make sure the sanctuary is clean and safe: **Edee Allison, Sally Fischer, Dharmini Harichandran, Joan Martin** and **Joni Pearce**. Special thanks to **Sharon Harichandran, Laura Ho, Sara Swimmer** and **Mallory Williams** our lovely floral arrangements.



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FEAST OF ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCES

“Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...”

On Sunday, November 6th we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. All Saints’ Day is one of the Principal Feasts designated by the Prayer Book. It is a time to remember our connection to the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us, and to recommit ourselves to the work of doing the will of God on earth. Importantly, it is a day on which we recognize that saints are not just those few Christians from ages past whose lives were notorious enough to become part of the Christian calendar. Rather, it remembers and celebrates all those who, by their word and example, proclaimed the Good News of God in Christ.

So, on this day at St. Anselm’s we will remember the saints who graced our own lives by reading their names aloud during Communion. During the coming weeks we will be collecting names of your loved ones – parents, grandparents, children, friends, neighbors, and others who have passed on and whom you would like us to remember. To add your loved ones to the list please either send names to Cathy Witkay at cathy.w@stanselms.us, or look for the sign-up sheet inside the doors of the church and at Coffee Hour.

Note: If there is a chance we will mispronounce a name, please add to your submission how it should be done. And, if you are providing names on the sign-up sheet, please print them legibly so we get them right.

MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL UPDATE

Happy Fall!

We are settling into our school year over at Michael Lane Preschool! Our puppets Billy and Sally continue to teach and remind us of our school rules. They also model how to follow directions and how “not to” follow directions. It’s incredible how well the children listen and laugh when the puppets are the teachers. The kids have been exploring the theme of “Colors” to start the year, and now we are moving into a theme of “Family.”

October will also bring back our parent volunteer program. We are excited to welcome parents into the classroom to help with activities and see their children in action. This month, we will also have an Adult Fall Social in the backyard of a local family. These are all goals of our school - to help build community with both the children and parents, and I’m thrilled to have both programs back after a long hiatus!

Having Ms. Mara on our preschool staff has added another music class to our program. This past week we looked at the inside of the piano in Jackson Hall and identified the hammer, pads, and strings that were vibrating. Fun stuff!

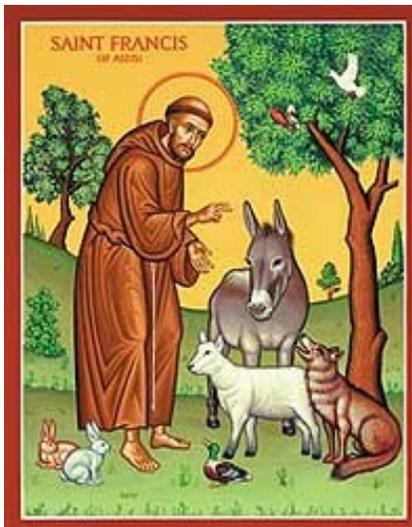
Wishing you all the joys of the season!

Warmly, Holly Higgins, Director

Blessing of the Animals

*The annual
Blessing of the Animals
will be on October 2nd
during the 9:00 a.m.
in-person / live stream service.*

*All companion animals are
welcome to participate either
in the sanctuary or from home!*



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.us
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

Happy fall! Enjoy our crisp mornings and warm afternoons. We are blessed to have some seasonal change without the drastic changes with which other parts of the country contend.

October 2nd is our Blessing of the Animals Service. Be sure to bring your pets and encourage family and friends to join us at 9:00 o'clock for this service. Pets bring us much pleasure and unconditional love. It is always special to see them blessed and add some additional love and humor to our service.

On November 6th we will be celebrating All Saints Day, the actual date of which is November 1st. On this day we will celebrate and remember the lives of loved ones who have passed away. Please get those names to Cathy Witkay or Kathy Trapani+ soon.

The Rector Search Committee continues to earn our thanks and need our prayers. They have been working diligently and will soon have completed the parish profile.

Joan Martin

Vestry Meeting Updates

At the September 19th Vestry meeting our primary discussion items included:

- Rector Search Committee report
- Review and decisions regarding 2023 employee benefits
- Update on 2023 Stewardship Campaign
- Discussion of mask and plate protocols.

For more information, contact any member of the Vestry or Rev. Kathy. Vestry meeting minutes and financial reports are available on request.



Sacred Ground “Refresher” Sessions

Sacred Ground is the national Episcopal Church’s film- and readings-based dialogue series to explore our country’s history of racial ideas and consider how we might work toward greater understanding and healing. Those of us who participated in St. Anselm’s sessions, held via Zoom from September 2020 to early 2021, found the series to be eye-opening, thought-provoking, and inspiring.

On October 11 and November 8 (Tuesday evenings), 7-8:30 pm via Zoom, we will revisit the recently expanded Sacred Ground curriculum which now includes additional videos and discussion guides. Although most participants will likely have joined the 10-session series offered in 2020-21, those who haven’t done so are also welcome. We will invite connections among all participants and value the involvement of anyone interested in reflecting on matters of race and racial reconciliation.

About a week before each session we will distribute pre-reading and viewing assignments to previous Sacred Ground participants as well as anyone who has expressed interest in recent weeks. If you aren’t among those two categories but would like to participate, let Marian Mulkey marianmulkey@comcast.net know as soon as possible. If you didn’t participate in Sacred Ground in 2020 but are interested in working through the entire 11-session series, let Marian or Anne Brown annehalfantbrown@gmail.com of the Christian Formation Commission know so that we can look into scheduling options for 2023.



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BLESSING FOR THE PLACE BETWEEN (Jan Richardson)

When you come
to the place between.

When you have left
what you held
most dear.

When you are traveling
toward the life
you know not.

When you arrive
at the hardest ground.

May it become
for you
a place to rest.

May it become
for you
a place to dream.

May the pain
that has pressed itself
into you
give way
to vision,
to knowing.

May the morning
make of it
an altar,
a path,
a place to begin
again.

God is with us in this place between. How do I know that? I see God in you – sticking together, working together, caring for each other, loving each other, blessing each other – and blessing me. So let this be a place where you continue to dream, to find a new vision, to begin again. And my God continue to bless you in this place between.

Kathy+



Blessings

WINTER NIGHTS -- OCTOBER 24 TO NOVEMBER 7

Once again, we will open Jackson Hall to provide shelter for unhoused families and seniors. It is through the generosity of this congregation with volunteer support and donations that we are able to do this annually. Your help enables families to stay together in a safe place so that they can focus on rebuilding their lives. We are so grateful to all our volunteers who come from across our community (congregants, book clubs, scouting groups, families, neighbors, school groups, etc.)

We are looking for volunteers to help in the following ways:

October 24:

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM: a few people to help us unload the truck that drops off the tents and equipment for our families (3 people)

4:00 - 6:00 PM: help us wash down the highchairs & car seats, help us organize the linen and pitch tents for our families. (3-4 people)

October 31 to November 5:

6:00 AM - 7:00 AM: help serve and clean up simple breakfasts for our guests. (3 people)

October 31 - Dinner Volunteer Team (1 lead to organize others to bring serve and share dinner with our guests). Arrive by 5:00 PM, dinner served by 6:30 PM.

November 1 - Dinner Volunteer Team (same as above)

November 2 - Dinner Volunteer Team (same as above)

November 3 - Dinner Volunteer Team (same as above)

November 4 - Dinner Volunteer Team (same as above)

November 5 - Dinner Volunteer Team (same as above)

November 6:

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM -- Breakfast/weekend brunch, help Eva serve a hot brunch for our guests

12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM -- drop off lunch for self service

Dinner Volunteer Team (same as above)

November 7:

12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM -- drop off lunch for self service

Dinner Volunteer Team (same as above)

Other ways to help:

- ◆ Congregants who want to be an official "greeter" to help put out appetizers for our guests are needed every night.
- ◆ Anyone who wants to be a "supplies" runner, during the week, to help us replenish food & supplies as needed.
- ◆ We have our guests for Halloween this year. I will find out if there are any plans or need for volunteers to take the kids out to get candy.
- ◆ Donations of bagels and breakfast pastries are always welcome.

Please reach out to Eva Woo Slavitt eva94549@gmail.com or 925-876-9435 and Anne Brown annechalfantbrown@gmail.com.

Thank you! Anne and Eva



The Harvest Festival & Trinity Center, A 10 Year Partnership in Kindness

It all started 10 years ago when St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek and a few concerned citizens got concerned about rising homelessness in greater Walnut Creek. These founders created Trinity Center of Walnut Creek (TC) in late 2012. TC's work with the homeless community began two days a week, hosting services for the homeless at a small home that was part of the St. Paul's property.



The Rev. John Sutton of St. Anselm's became aware of the work at Trinity Center and in late 2013, the Vestry of St. Anselm's decided to dedicate its annual Harvest Festival (HF) proceeds to help fund services at TC. The HF event was not a part of St. Anselm's budget but kept as a self-funding event. Thus, neither the cost of the event nor the contribution to TC have been a part of the St. Anselm's operating budget.

In 2014 a committee was formed by then Vestry member and HF Committee Chairman, Marty Fischer, that included Anne Brown, John Powers, Sara Nelson, Gail Clarke, Sara Swimmer and other congregation members to plan the first HF Auction and Dinner in October 2014. The event offered a ticket drawing for a Holland America Cruise, a silent auction and live auction. At this first event over \$16k was contributed to TC. A similar event was conducted in 2015 and the amount raised was over \$30k.

Importantly, the TC mission was presented to HF attendees each year. In the ensuing years numerous members of TC became involved as volunteers, serving meals and conducting food and clothing drives. St Anselm's became an important part of both the financial support and volunteer fabric of TC. And we began to notice something...the beaten down faces of homelessness at TC started to smile a bit more.



In 2016 the City of Walnut Creek and the Armory combined with TC to open up a winter program offering up to 50 homeless a dinner and place to sleep during the cold and wet months from December through April. In 2016, major funding this program became the focus of the HF event. A social hour was added on the front end of the HF Dinner featuring carnival style booths. Amazingly, the contribution to TC rose to over \$54k and each HF continued at the \$50k plus level through 2019.

TC involvement with homelessness grew and so did its daily attendance. The little home that housed TC gave way to a new complex opened in 2019. Trinity Commons features 44 low-cost apartments and a larger "Home" for TC attendees. Services mushroomed as TC became central to the homeless and working poor. New programs were added including an intervention youth education program. The two day a week oasis of 2014 grew to a 5 day a week home for those without a home. Those "clients" in need could wash their clothes, eat a breakfast and lunch, get counseling, help with finding low-cost housing, socialize, play cards, watch TV. Importantly they were not on the streets and in the alleys of Walnut Creek and surrounding areas. But the poverty problem grew into the plague of our times. The handful of people served by TC in 2014 grew and the few seeking relief at TC became 60 a day by 2021 and by mid-2022 reached 80 per day.



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In 2020, life got very complicated for all of us with a pandemic. The HF Committee was not able to hold the annual Dinner & Auction event. The group decided to create a series of emails and videos to continue the appeal to the St. Anselm's community for the rising needs at TC. We extended the campaign from October through December and asked all members to send the appeals to friends and families. Our prayers were answered when one "friend" who wasn't a member of St. Anselm's, moved by the needs at TC, contributed \$50,000 right before Christmas and the HF raise doubled to over \$101k. In 2021 a total of \$89K was realized.

TC has become a model program for a community supported answer to homelessness and poverty. It combines local answers to the real plague of our times. For those of us who live in this community, it provides cleaner and safer streets. For those caught up in poverty and homelessness it creates the services of a home and importantly builds a doorway to opportunity.



The St. Anselm's community is proud of our long-term support for this humane outreach and eager to continue supporting the growing need. Here's how you can help make the 2022 Harvest Festival address this human crisis:

- ◆ **Simply mail or drop off a check** to the St. Anselm's office. Checks should be made out to "St. Anselm's" and footnoted "Harvest Festival". The address is: St. Anselm's, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549.
- ◆ **Send this insert** to as many friends as you feel might have interest to help with the needs at Trinity Center. If they prefer to give directly to Trinity Center, checks can be made out to "Trinity Center," footnoted "Harvest Festival" and mailed to Trinity Center, Attn: Pam McGrath, PO Box 126, Walnut Creek, CA 94597. **OR** you can contribute online by credit card or ACH and please designate "Harvest Festival".



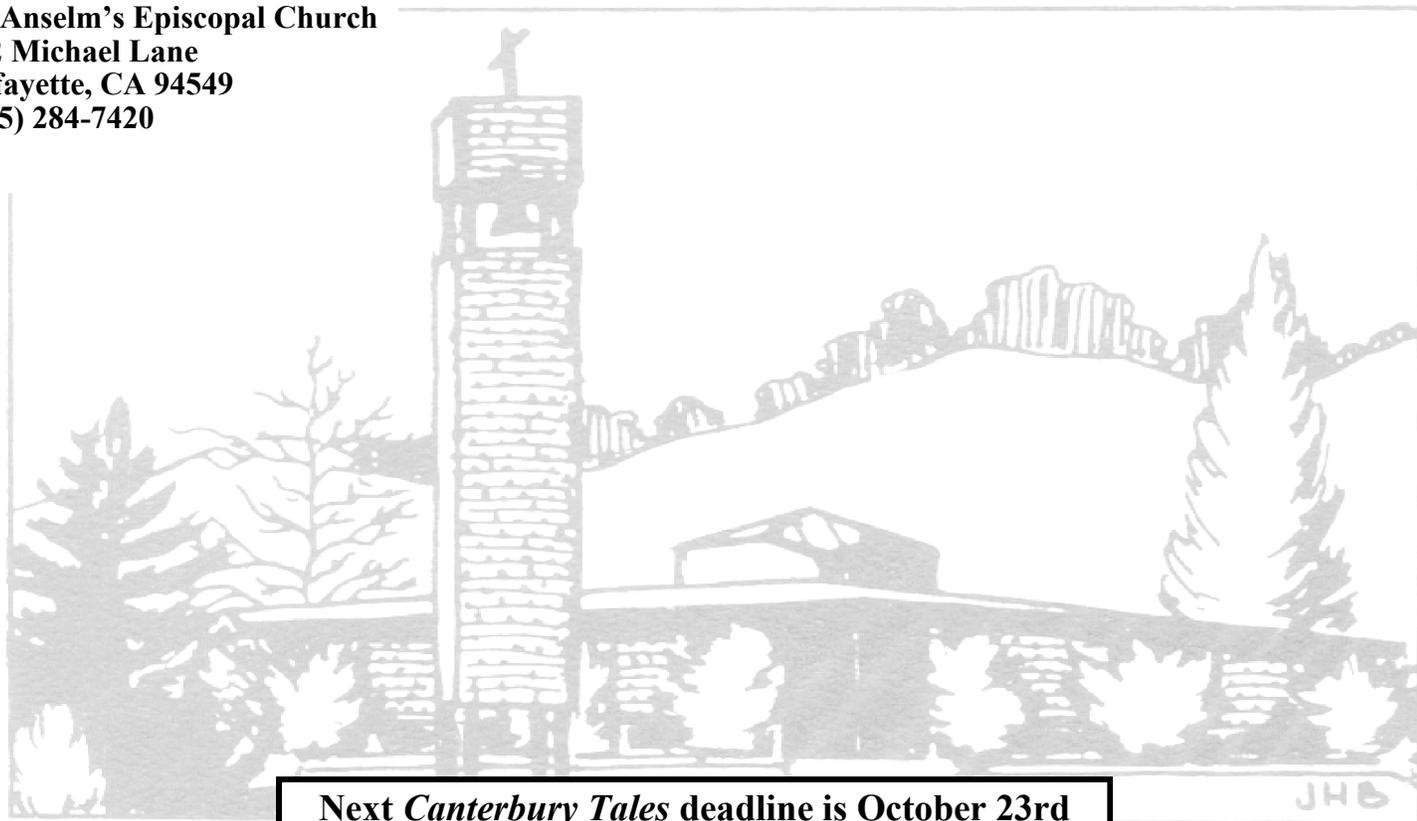
Let's continue to make our community an example of what can be accomplished through local support with caregivers who really do care and programs that work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marty D. Fischer".

Marty Fischer, Harvest Festival Committee Chairman



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Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is October 23rd

OCTOBER EVENTS

October 2nd, Cancer Support Group will meet via Zoom at 11:30 AM. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at jrjpmaggie@hotmail.com.

October 4th and each Tuesday in October, Morning Prayer will be held via Zoom at 9:00 AM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

October 4th Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

October 5th and each Wednesday in October, Rector Search Committee will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

October 6th and each Thursday in October, Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

October 11th first Sacred Ground "Refresher" Session will be held via Zoom at 7:00 PM. To be invited, email Marian Mulkey at marianmulkey@comcast.net.

October 17th Vestry will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. Vestry members will receive an email from Chris Young with the meeting link.

October 24th to November 7th Winter Nights guests at St. Anselm's.
