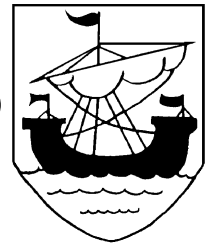


Canterbury Tales



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

November, 2022

From The Interim Rector

Giving Thanks

They are among the first words and actions that we teach our children as they learn to interact with other people in the world. The first is to say "please." The second is to say "thank you." In my family, the conversation with our two-year-old grandson goes something like this: "I want some milk." "What do you say?" "Please." And then: "What do you say?" "Thank you."

Learning to say please and especially thank you is not just an important thing for children to learn. It is important for grown-ups, too. It acknowledges the person from whom the gift, in whatever form it takes, comes, and it acknowledges that that gift, whether a cup of milk or a new car, is just that – a gift. It is not a wage. There was nothing done to earn or deserve it. And equally importantly, it is not an entitlement. It does not belong to us just because we are special.

It is human nature, I think, to sometimes forget that gifts are gifts and not something else. Moses seemed to understand that. Just after he describes to the people the promised land they are about to enter, he warns them not to forget the lessons they learned in the wilderness, and their dependence upon God's mercy and sustenance. "When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God," he says. "Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth...'" In other words, "Don't be thinking that this was your doing."

Perhaps that is one of the reasons why, week after week, we come together to say thank you, why we gather around the table at the Great Thanksgiving – not because it is the polite thing to do, but because it acknowledges and reminds us that our salvation comes by way of grace. It is not an entitlement or a reward. It is all a gift from God for which we are truly grateful.

It is also good, from time to time, to acknowledge and say thank you for some of the smaller things, the other gifts God has given, the other blessings that we have received. And so, we have come to set aside the fourth Thursday each November to do just that. Thanksgiving is a time for acknowledging and thinking about the things in life which we have been given. It is also a chance to consider the ways in which God has sustained us in the wilderness, the difficult and challenging times, and to say thank you for that, too.

It is too bad, really, that we set aside only one day a year to be intentional about giving thanks, or about being thankful. Because to intentionally make ourselves aware each day what God has provided, how God is active and

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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 everyone who brought pets to our "Blessing of the Animals" service. St. Anselm's raised \$253 for ARF!

Thank you to our hard working Rector Search Committee that completed and submitted the Parish Profile and OTM Ministry Portfolio to the Diocese. Led by **Peg Matson** and **Sylvia Williams**, committee members **Sally Fischer**, **Don Liddle**, **Marian Mulkey**, **Julie Rinkenberger**, **Gerry Starr** and **Shanda Young** have worked hard to reach this important stage in the search process.

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.

St. Anselm's Work Party...

It's that time of the year to "batten down the hatches and stow the sails" for the winter on the good ship St. Anselm's. This year we are planning to spruce up the area in front of the church, where we pulled all the junipers, with chip and install some erosion protection in a few places. There is also the usual clean the pine needles off the roof, clean the solar panels, fix stuck or sticky doors/windows, clear cobwebs and replace light bulbs where necessary.

When...Saturday November 19, 9 AM to Noon...Lunch will be provided. Tools needed: wheel barrels, big shovels, garden racks, leaf racks, sledge hammers (for driving wooden stacks), eye protection, and gloves. If you have any questions contact me: Chris Young, (415) 760-3117 csy1492@comcast.net

Sacred Ground "Refresher"

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 a group of us, including many past Sacred Ground participants and a few who were new to the material, met to share updates and discuss recent developments. Our rich conversations demonstrated that matters of race and racial reconciliation continue to resonate among St. Anselm's members and in our broader community. Our second session, November 8 from 7-8:30 pm via Zoom, will be a forum for reflecting on next steps in terms of study and action. We will take inspiration from materials and examples offered by the updated Sacred Ground curriculum as well as experiences shared by participants.

All are welcome to participate on November 8, but we do encourage pre-reading and reflection in advance. If you haven't yet expressed interest but would like to receive more information, let Marian Mulkey marianmulkey@comcast.net know as soon as possible.

It's Time to Fall Back

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 6th at 2:00 a.m.

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



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 remaining Sundays in 2022 and the beginning of 2023. Thanks to Joni Pearce, we now have a SignUp-Genius 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!!!

Veteran's Recognition Sunday

We will be honoring our veteran's on Sunday, November 13th. 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 Thursday, November 10th (If you've been previously listed you don't need to call in again).

Greetings from Michael Lane Preschool!

This month, we enjoyed learning about many things that the Fall season brings. Diablo Foods donated 30 small pumpkins for the children to play and learn with. We practiced using scissors while designing jack-o-lanterns, painted colorful leaves for our classroom tree, acted out the play "The Three Billy Goats Gruff," made gluten-free pumpkin bread, mixed up a "witches' brew" science experiment and more.

November brings our first round of Parent/Teacher Conferences which will be held outdoors in the courtyard and are also offered via Zoom.

Wishing you a wonderful November and Thanksgiving,

Holly Higgins, Director

Canterbury Tales is the monthly newsletter of

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
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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

November is here along with its fall weather and colors. We are constantly blessed and have so much to be thankful for. We can be thankful for each other and all our opportunities to reach out with our gifts of time, talent and money for the good of our parish and surrounding community. Many have participated in supporting the Harvest Festival, our outreach to Trinity Center and the Winter Nights program providing hospitality to our homeless neighbors. Others of you reach out in support of St. Anselm's and its programs with your time and energy. We are given endless ways in our hurting world to follow Christ's teachings to love one another. November is also a time for us to pledge our financial support to St. Anselm's. With that support, we can insure that we as a parish family will continue to be spiritually nourished and nourish others..

The application period in the Rector's Search is coming to a close. The committee will soon be reviewing applications before sending recommended candidates on to the Vestry for further interviewing and discernment. Please continue to pray for those involved in the search that with God's guidance we will find the rector that is the best fit for St. Anselm's.

Vestry Meeting Updates

At the October 17 Vestry meeting our primary discussion items included:

1. Verizon request to modify the terms of the cell tower lease
2. Mask protocols
3. Preschool rent adjustment

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



Updated COVID Protocols for Worship

In keeping with recent changes in Diocesan health and safety guidelines with respect to COVID 19, we will no longer be requiring people to wear masks indoors at church. Of course, everyone who wishes to wear a mask may do so, and we will continue to have them available. In addition, the choir is still required to mask while singing, and Naomi, Eucharistic ministers, and I must continue to wear them while distributing Communion.

We will also continue our contact tracing efforts. As always, if you do not feel well or have any symptoms, please stay home, and if you test positive after being at church, please let us know.

Please remember that we do not all have the same level of comfort about unmasking, nor the same levels of risk. I know that you will be respectful of those decision to mask or not may differ from your own. Kathy+

Rector Search Committee Update

On October 7th our call for a new Rector for St. Anselm's was posted nationally, through the Diocese. We also posted our Parish Profile and OTM Ministry Portfolio on our website: www.stanselms.us. Please visit the website to see what we posted under the "Link to Application Materials" tab on the front page.

The committee thanks the 75 parishioners who participated in our Listening Sessions and/or gave us input via email or in writing. The information we received was used to define who we are as a parish/community and what qualities we are looking for in our next Rector. This information was in turn used to create our Parish Profile and our OTM Ministry Portfolio.

Our next step is to wait for the applications to be submitted. Our posting will be open until November 5th. At that time our committee will begin reviewing the applications, resume submissions, interviewing, and getting to know the applicants. This is a highly confidential period, and we will not be sharing any information with anyone outside of the committee during this time. When our committee has completed the interview process for each of the applicants, we will send our recommendations to the Vestry for final review, further interviews, and approval. They will make the final decision of who will be our next Rector.

If all goes according to this plan, we will be announcing the name our new Rector in the first quarter of the New Year!

From the Interim Rector (Continued from page 1)

involved in our life, and how God is acting on our behalf through the people around us fosters a deep sense of gratitude. More than a reaction to something we have received, gratitude is a way of thinking, a way of being, a way of life. Gratitude acknowledges the goodness in our lives, and it makes us aware of and connects us to the source of that goodness -- God. It strengthens our faith in a God whom we may not be able to see but can experience.

Importantly, practicing gratitude helps us find happiness, contentment, hope, and peace even in times of sadness, uncertainty, and challenge because it keeps us connected to the One who loves, provides for, and sustains us.

So, I invite and encourage you to take time give thanks, and to be grateful – not just on the fourth Thursday of November or even every Sunday, but every day. It is a practice that you will find to be life-giving and life-changing.

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Kathy+

Stewardship 2023

It's hard to believe that Marian and I have been part of the St. Anselm's community for more than 20 years. As I have taken up the role of Treasurer and member of the Stewardship Committee, I find myself thinking of the other times I've called on our congregation's generosity. Whether for the youth group (who remembers the God Squad and the mission trips that many of our children took, performing hurricane relief and other good works?), for the Harvest Festival, or for other Trinity Center fundraisers, I always characterized those appeals as the easiest jobs at St. Anselm's – because the congregation is always so generous and so willing to help others.

As we approach the conclusion of our 2023 Stewardship Campaign, it's time for us to help ourselves as well. As Paul Witkay pointed out in his Stewardship letter, sent this week, the pandemic and demographics have led to a decline in pledges, and it's time for all of us to do what we can to make up the resulting significant gap in our budget.

I'm just so amazed at the stories we heard from our three Stewardship speakers over the past month. Peggy, Katie, and Sylvia all kept it simple and personal. We got to hear their stories of how they came to St. Anselm's – 30 years ago or two, alone or as a family – and heartfelt descriptions of what St. Anselm's means to each of them. We have built and are building something wonderful here, and it's great to hear the stories so well told by folks who are part of that building.

Paul is right – this is a challenging year for St. Anselm's. It's time to think, to understand, to pray on what St. Anselm's means to each of us and what we're able to do in our pledges this year. If we all keep doing what we're doing – we'll come up 30% short. Of course we are reaching out to past members and non-pledging members to see what they can add, and we have reserves to keep the essentials in place for now – but each increased pledge means a lot this year. The combination of these heartfelt stories and financial commitments will be powerfully persuasive to any potential new rector seeking a home in our wonderful community.

One more observation and some logistics: Loyalty Sunday usually includes a breakfast prepared by the Stewardship committee; I think it's just totally in character for this congregation that we're postponing that breakfast for a week to accommodate our participation in the Winter Nights program.

So just to be clear:

Loyalty Sunday is November 6th – please bring your pledge to church that day if you can attend in person, or mail it to the office by that date.

Stewardship Breakfast is the following week, on November 13th - please bring your appetite to church that day, we have not figured out how to prepare eggs via Zoom, so we hope you're all able to join us.

John Powers

WINTER NIGHTS 2022 (AND 2016)

As most of you probably already know, we are currently hosting three homeless families in Jackson Hall through the Winter Nights program. They arrived on Monday, October 4th and will be with us until Monday morning, November 7th. The first week our partner church, The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints of San Ramon, has been providing the meals. We took over the meals on Monday, October 31st.

I have a wonderful Winter Nights story to share with you. I've been going over to Jackson Hall every morning and evening, just so there's a St. Anselm's presence there and in case our partners have questions. Towards the end of the week, I went into the library in Jackson Hall where the onsite Winter Nights staff member was sitting in front of her computer. I wanted say "Hello" and introduce myself. Before I could, she said, "Hello. You're Anne, right?" Inwardly I had a moment of panic, saying to myself, "Oh no! She must have been here earlier in the week, and I've forgotten! Dementia has set in!" Then she said, "My three kids and I were housed here in 2016." She went on to tell me that she now works for Winter Nights as their Site Supervisor. She rents a home with help through Section B, and has a car. Her oldest is now a junior in high school, her middle one is in 7th grade, and her youngest is in 2nd grade.

Taking out her phone, she proceeded to show me 2016 photos of her daughter, then age 6, in the playground at St. Anselm's and also in our courtyard. She also showed a photo of herself, taken then. I immediately recognized her. She said that she remembers how kind and caring we all were in that difficult time of her life and what a difference that made.

I was blown away. I'm used to being thanked by families on site, but to be thanked six years later and shown pictures from that time seemed to me to take gratitude to a whole new level.

I don't usually look forward to writing something for *Canterbury Tales* but did this time. I believe that most, if not all of us, are 100% behind our support of Winter Nights. It does involve some work and inconvenience, though. We give up Jackson Hall for 2 weeks, not so important in these COVID times, but previously it affected coffee hour, yoga, and anything else we used the hall for. We have extra jobs to do - unloading the tents from the truck and loading them up again at the end, bringing meals, getting up before dawn to put out the breakfast, dealing with the inevitable plumbing issues that come up, and on and on. I hope that the former guest's expression of gratitude is, for you, as for me, an affirmation that we really are making a difference and that we are appreciated and truly acknowledged for that.

If you would like to bring part of a meal or help to load up the truck on November 7th, please get in touch with Eva Woo, eva94549@gmail.com or 925-876-9435. Eva has done an amazing job of receiving offers of assistance and creating a schedule for meal volunteers, doing shopping for supplies, and in general inspiring us all to contribute. This is happening this year while she is working at Grace Cathedral for the diocese and Bishop Marc in what sounds to be a challenging and time-consuming job.

I want to thank Doug Merrill, who, along with Jon Martin, got the outside lights to work so that guests and volunteers wouldn't have to walk across the parking lot in the dark. Doug is also now dealing with some plumbing/toilet issues in Jackson Hall. He is our go-to person when something goes wrong. We call him and he comes right over.

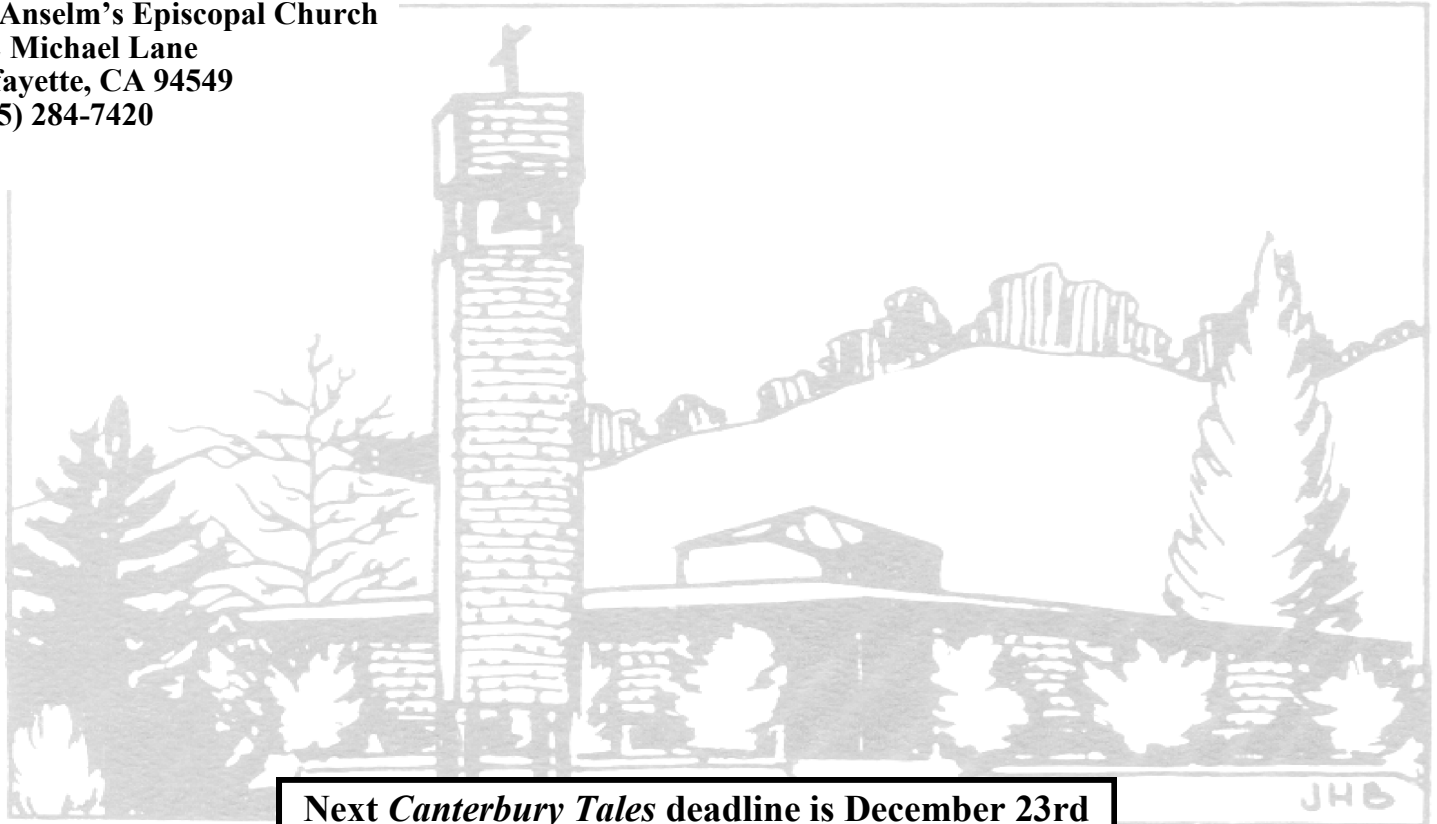
I want to thank and acknowledge Chris Young, who stepped up and cleaned up when I used the wrong soap in the dishwasher, and there were suds all over the place.

I want to thank all the volunteers including the Breakfast Team that I am part of. We come at 6 :00 AM to put out the breakfast food, unload the dishwasher, greet the families as they wake up for breakfast, wish them a good day as they leave. The dinner volunteers bring the dinners, usually casseroles or soup, salad, and dessert. They eat with and connect with the families.

Finally, I want to thank and acknowledge our whole congregation. You may have volunteered other years. You may have donated money or gas or Target cards. You may simply, through your generosity of spirit, have made it easy for St. Anselm's to host Winter Nights every year, demonstrating what our 2016 guest saw in us.

With gratitude, Anne Brown

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Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is December 23rd

NOVEMBER EVENTS

November 1st to 7th Winter Nights guests at St. Anselm's.

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

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

November 2nd and each Wednesday in November, Rector Search Committee will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

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

November 6th, Loyalty Sunday — please bring your pledge to church that day if you can attend in person.

November 6th, Cancer Support Group will meet via Zoom at 11:30 AM. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at jrjpmaggie@hotmail.com.

November 8th second Sacred Ground "Refresher" Session will be held via Zoom at 7:00 PM. To be invited, email Marian Mulkey at marianmulkey@comcast.net.

November 13th, Stewardship Breakfast following the 9:00 AM service.

November 19th, Work Party will be held at St. Anselm's from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon. Lunch will be provided.

November 21st, Vestry will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. Vestry members will receive an email from Chris Young with the meeting link.

November 30th – 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.

December 6th, Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.
