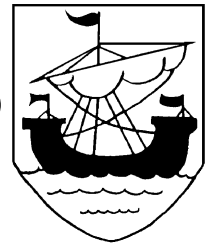


Canterbury Tales



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

May, 2023

From Koshy+

Dear Friends,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen. The Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

We are now well into the season of Eastertide, the great fifty days of feasting and celebration of our Risen Lord. In our neck of the woods, nature also celebrates the occasion with bright sunny days and the ubiquitous explosion of flowers in a wide array of splendid colors. As someone newly transplanted to the area, I enjoy my sojourn here.

I believe it is God who has brought our paths crossed. This short walk we are taking here together is our Emmaus journey. Our journey started on the second Sunday in Eastertide. We are blessed to have our risen Lord walk with us in this journey, listening to our hopes, dreams, aspirations, and expectations as he did with his disciples on that first Easter afternoon. He makes his presence known to us in the breaking of the bread at the Lord's table, just as he had revealed his presence to the Emmaus disciples at the end of their journey.

Luke included the Emmaus story in his gospel to benefit his community, who lived at least three decades after Jesus' bodily resurrection and appearances. It was a time when Jerusalem was under siege, persecution of Christians was rampant, and the hostility between Jewish sects was at its peak. With their budding faith fraying, this persecuted community needed a more concrete and visible expression of resurrection whenever they gathered. For Luke's community, sharing a meal as part of their worship was a means to experience the presence of the Risen Lord. We see a reference to this in Acts 2:46, "Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts praising God and having the goodwill of all the people." Like in the Emmaus story and the early church, we, too, break bread at the table when we meet for worship and experience the presence of the Risen Lord in our midst.

I look forward to our Sunday worship time and the fellowship following. I know those who join the worship on Zoom are not getting Eucharist regularly. Please know that I am available to talk on the phone, or better, a visit if you prefer. I am also open to bringing you communion following all the COVID protocols and guidelines.

Wishing you all a very Blessed Eastertide,

Koshy+

Anselm's Angels

A big thank you to all who helped make the Holy Week services special:

- Palm Sunday Ushers: **Don Liddle and Doug Merrill .**
- Maundy Thursday:
Lector— **Sylvia Williams;**
Usher— **Bob Eddy;** Altar Guild—
Joan Martin, Sharon Harichandran
- Good Friday: Lectors— **Cathy Witkay and Palmer Hightower;**
Passion Readers— **Anne Brown, Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Palmer Hightower, Peg Matson, Marian Mulkey, John Powers, Katie Taggart, Elisabeth Ward and Cathy Witkay**
Ushers—**Bob Eddy and Eva Woo Slavitt**
- Easter Decorating: **Edee Allison, Sally Fischer, Dharmini Harichandran, Sharon Harichandran, Jeremy Martin, Joan Martin, Joni Pearce, Sara Swimmer, Mallory Williams, Sylvia Williams, Chris Young and Shanda Young.**
- Easter Day: Choir— **Al Eames, Marty Fischer, Vicki Pappas, Avon Wilson, Cathy Witkay and Paul Witkay;** Coffee Hour—
Anne Brown, Joan Martin, Peg Matson, Julie Starr, Katie Taggart and Sylvia Williams;
Easter Egg Hunt **Sheila Wiegand, Joan Martin, Jon Martin and Jon Martin's friend, Eric.**

An especially big thank you to **Jon Martin** who served as our videographer during Holy Week service.

MEMORIAL SERVICE PLANNING

Deacon Naomi will be facilitating a memorial service planning workshop on Sunday, June 11th, after the 9:00 service in the Jackson Hall Conference room. All are invited.

If you have had a loved one die and you needed to make the arrangements, then you might know how stressful a time that this is. Stating on a form what you would like your service to be, is a gift to your loved ones. We have the forms and Cathy keeps the forms until needed. Doug Merrill will also be present at the meeting so that you can learn about our columbarium also.

The workshop only takes about an hour, so get your coffee and please join us.

COFFEE HOSTS NEEDED

For those folks who have been attending in-person services, we have resumed holding coffee hour inside Jackson Hall. No huddling together for warmth in the courtyard! We are in need of volunteers to host coffee hour for the remainder of 2023. If you are willing to help out, please go to SignUp Genius and select a date or dates that will work for you.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044bada722a2f85-coffee>

You may also contact Sylvia Williams at sw94565@yahoo.com or 925-586-0730 to reserve at date. Thank you!



Coffee Fellowship

2023 ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2023 Altar Flower donation chart is now available in the church, on the wall by the east entrance. By making a \$45 donation, you can have altar flowers dedicated to the memory of a loved one, in honor of a family member or simply to the glory of God.

Please sign-up for your selected date(s) and complete a dedication card from the stack next to the chart. You may also contact Cathy Witkay at cathy.w@stanselms.us with your selected date(s) and dedication. Checks can be made payable to "St. Anselm's Altar Guild." Please note that the Altar Guild cannot accept payments via Venmo.



SOCK DRIVE

Dear Family of St. Anselm's,

On behalf of the clients of Trinity Center, I want to once again thank you for your generosity in purchasing the new heavy duty white socks that you brought to church. I delivered them to Trinity Center the day after Palm Sunday and the staff asked me to thank you. They know first hand how much their clients need the socks and appreciate your kindness.

With love and blessings, Naomi

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

I want to express my sincere thanks for the lovely coffee hour on Easter Day, as well as your very generous gift. Thank you, also, for the many heartfelt notes, kind words, and well-wishes. I have truly been blessed by my time with you, as I know you bless the lives of all who come through your doors. St. Anselm's is a very special place, and one that embodies what it means to follow Jesus. I will be praying for you and cheering you on as you continue your rector search. In the meantime, please know that you are much loved, and I will miss you.

Blessings, Kathy+

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. Koshy Mathews, Interim Priest
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon

The Senior Warden

The flowers are bursting around here and I love watching them mature and bloom. As we continue our search for the next Rector for St. Anselm's I feel the same sort of anticipation. I feel we're maturing in our Christian life and are ready to burst forth on a new journey with our next spiritual leader. This journey will be as a parish family, we are Christ's church and we continue to walk together. All are part of the body and everyone's presence and gifts are valued and needed to support one another and the world around us.

To continue our spiritual nourishment, Rev. Koshy Mathews joined us on April 16th and we are glad to have him. Koshy+ and his wife, Susan, are open, warm and ready to get to know us. To this end, please wear your name tags and help them to get to know each of us.

As you know, the Search Committee once again regrouped to post the position of Rector. After their screening, interviewing and discernment process, the committee brought a recommendation to the Vestry. The Vestry is currently in the process of interviewing and discerning. We will continue to keep you updated as this important process continues and would appreciate your prayers.

May we continue to appreciate all our many blessings and share our gifts with others.

Joan Martin

Spring Tidings from Michael Lane Preschool!

We have been pulling weeds, cooking snacks, learning new songs, and working on being "flexible." The Spring sights and smells have inspired us to dress up our school tree with green leaves, buds, nests, eggs, butterflies, and bumble bees!

Parents came in for conferences over these past 3 weeks to check in and reflect on the year before our school year ends. Acceptance letters for the Fall have been sent out and we have a full class ready to begin. The school celebrated 20 years on April 29th with a well attended cocktail party that included previous staff, alumni families, current families and some future families that will join us in August. Fun was had by all and the weather cooperated with sunshine and a light breeze!

Our school year ends at the end of May. It's been the most "normal" year since I took on the role of Director in the fall of 2020 and I couldn't be happier!

Enjoy the sunshine,

Holly Higgins
Director

Vestry Meeting Update

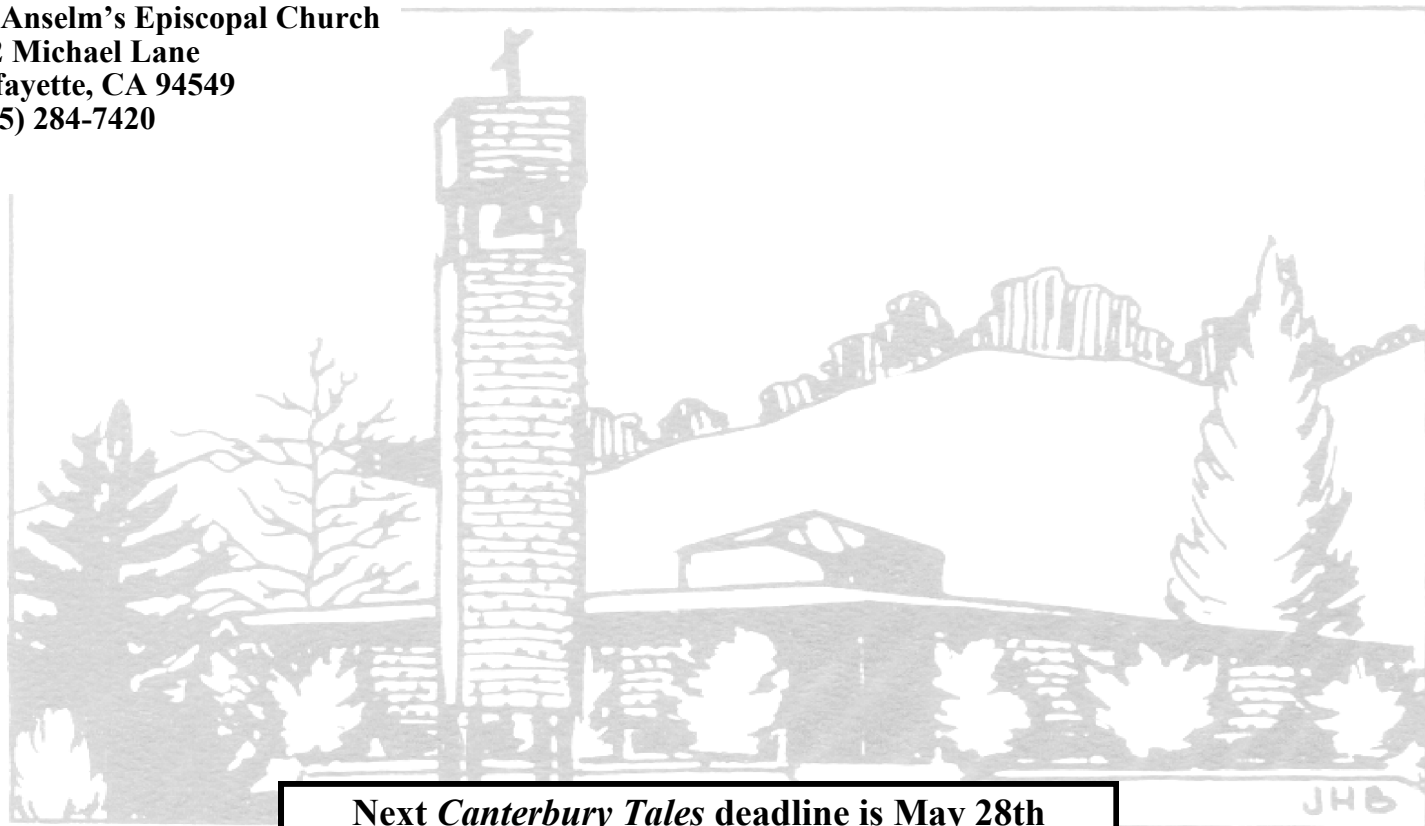
At the April 17 Vestry meeting our primary discussion items included:

1. Regular updates from Commission leads and clergy.
2. Updates on Rector search.

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



St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
682 Michael Lane
Lafayette, CA 94549
(925) 284-7420



Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is May 28th

May 2nd and each Tuesday in May — Morning Prayer will be held via Zoom at 9:00 AM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

May 2nd — Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

May 2nd and each Tuesday in May — Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

May 7th — Cancer Support Group will meet via Zoom at 11:30 AM. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at jripmaggie@hotmail.com.

May 8th — Stephen Ministers will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. Stephen Ministers will receive an email from Vicki Pappas with the meeting link.

May 15th — Vestry will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. Vestry members will receive an email from Chris Young with the meeting link.
