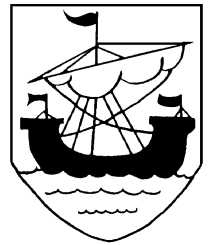


# Canterbury Tales



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

June, 2023

## From Koshy+

Dear Friends at St. Anselm's,

Happy New Church Year! We've just celebrated Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian Church, this past Sunday, and we are now into a new season, the season of Pentecost. As the color of the season, Green, indicates, it is a season of growth. Just as the disciples came out swinging off their cocoons of fear and trepidation with the infusion of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we are called out in this new season to grow in our faith and to be in a new way of being.

At St. Anselm's we are about to open a new chapter in life. Beginning anything new is challenging as we don't know the future. Wasn't Richard Hooker, the 16th-century Anglican theologian, apt when he said, "Change is not made without inconvenience?" Leaving a familiar present and welcoming an uncertain future can be complicated and not without its anxious moments, but extremely exciting.

We all have been waiting for this moment; we now have a new priest, the Rev. Stephen Siptroth. I am excited about this new beginning God is about to embark on. God desires good things for us. I pray that we find ourselves ready and willing to partner with God in God's mission under the leadership of our new priest. We thank God for the discernment of the Search Committee and Vestry that led us to this new call. We also thank God for the wardens and the vestry for their stewardship during this interim period following a long pastorate complicated by a once-in-a-hundred-year pandemic.

The disciples were unsure and anxious about the change they would encounter from incarnate Jesus to the unseen Holy Spirit to guide them, but Pentecost changed everything for them. As we enter this new season, let us pray with the words of Rev. Henry Lyte, the Anglican priest, "O Thou who changest not, abide with me." Let us heed the words of our Lord, "Be not afraid." We may have fears about the future and the changes, but let us not be the fears and let us not create a world in which these fears dominate the conditions of our world.

Blessings,

Koshy+

## *Anselm's Angels*

*"As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same."*

*~ Nelson Mandela*

Mother's Day was a festive occasion thanks to the efforts of the **Altar Guild** for providing roses for our moms. Thank you to **Bob Eddy, Marty Fischer, Peg Matson, Keith Pearce** and **Sylvia Williams** for supplying the many goodies and hosting a special coffee hour featuring "momosas."

Special thanks go out to the dedicated members of our Rector Search Committee for their many hours of work that have resulted in calling Stephen Siptroth as our next Rector. The committee led by co-chairs **Peg Matson** and **Sylvia Williams** included **Sally Fischer, Don Liddle, Marian Mulkey, Julie Rinkenberger** and **Shanda Young**. Congratulations on a job well done!

A big thank you to **Avon Wilson** for developing our music calendar for Eastertide and Pentecost!

**THANKS!**

### *A Message From Stephen+*

Dear Friends,

I am excited to be joining you in mutual ministry as the next Rector of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church! My wife, Eileen, and I loved meeting with your Vestry, and we appreciated the hospitality extended to us during our visit.

I am looking forward to getting to know each of you, hearing your stories about this community, learning about your individual journeys, and witnessing the amazing gifts you offer to God's people. In all that we do together, I am hopeful that we will share and express a deep sense of gratitude for one another and for God's loving presence among us.

While I will be new to St. Anselm's, I am grateful that we will not be new to the area. Eileen and I, and our menagerie of rescue animals, have called Concord "home" for the past 13 years. Eileen works as an attorney for a labor union that represents federal employees, and she volunteers with Legal Aid at Work, a non-profit that represents low-wage and vulnerable working people.

Between now and when I join you in mid-July, I ask for your prayers as I conclude my diaconal ministry at The Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist and Grace Cathedral, in San Francisco. Know that I also will be praying for you. Periods of transition reveal things that we might not otherwise learn. I invite you to remain open to all the ways that God will continue to meet you in these coming weeks.

In peace and gratitude, Stephen+

### *Michael Lane Preschool Update*

It's Summertime! Last week we officially wrapped up our 2023-2024 school year. For our last days the children helped pack up their things - extra clothes, art project, writing binders, extra diapers, sign in photos, etc. We wrote about our favorite parts of the school year, let each child choose their favorite snack for snack time, and went on many sequin hunts in the sand.

We have 8 students moving on to Kindergarten, 3 headed off to TK (Transitional Kindergarten), and 12 returning students. All families were invited into school to hear some of our favorite songs, hear about children's favorite preschool activities, and watch our Graduates walk over the bridge to Kindergarten or TK (Transitional Kindergarten).

We thank our teachers Danielle (3 years at Michael Lane), Kim (16ish years at Michael Lane), and Carmen (1 year) for a wonderful year at school, and our Michael Lane Preschool Board for their support as we head into the summer. A special thank you to parishioner Peg Matson who continues to support the preschool behind the scenes - working on the board and offering insight and wisdom!

We have a "Parents' Night Out" scheduled at the preschool this summer. A huge win for parents who can enjoy a child free evening and lots of fun for the kids to come and play at school. We may offer a few more if the interest is there!

Enjoy your summer!  
Holly Higgins, Director



### *Memorial Planning*

On Sunday, June 11th I will be hosting a short informational meeting about writing your own memorial service. This is a gift for your loved ones. It takes the mystery out of what Mom or Dad may want in their memorial service.

We have a form which I will go over with you. You will take it home; fill out your wishes for the service and return it to Cathy Witkay who will keep it until the need arises.

Thank you, Deacon Naomi

*Canterbury Tales* is the monthly newsletter of

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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  
Cathy Witkay, Office Manager

## *The Senior Warden*

The Vestry and Search Committee are happy to be able to announce that this summer St. Anselm's will be blessed by having the Reverend Stephen Siptroth join us as our new rector! Stephen+ will officially start on July 18<sup>th</sup> with his first Sunday Service being on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Stephen comes to us with a much life experience. He has participated in lay ministry in multiple capacities and is wrapping up his current career as an attorney for Contra Costa County. As a Deacon on his path to the priesthood, Stephen has participated in ministry with Holy Innocents Church, in San Francisco; been an Intern Chaplain for the Seafarer's Ministry in Oakland and currently is a Deacon at both The Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist in San Francisco and at Grace Cathedral. Several of us will be attending the ordination of Stephen M. Siptroth to be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 am at Grace Cathedral – all are welcome.

As you are making notations on your calendars, please note that we will be having a short Special Parish-wide Meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the 9 o'clock service. The purpose of this meeting is to elect Vestry Members for the Class of 2026 and adopt the 2023 Budget. (As you remember, we were unable to do this at the annual meeting in February as we did not yet have all of the Verizon money and nor did we have rector salary information.) Please plan to attend either in person or via Zoom.

We have a lot to celebrate at St. Anselm's. Through this transitional time we have been blessed by so many people stepping up. We have lots of new opportunities ahead. Consider where you can lend an additional hand. The Altar Guild and Property Commission are both looking for a few men and women. There are lots of other ways that you can participate in small and big ways – everything is appreciated! Look around to see how you can help and listen for opportunities that might be announced or read about them in the bulletin or Canterbury Tales. Doing things together is what community is all about. Thank you for what you are already doing and in advance for the help that is to come.

Joan Martin

### *Special Parish-Wide Meeting*

A special parish-wide meeting will be held immediately following the 9:00 service on June 25th in the sanctuary and on Zoom.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect the Vestry Class of 2026 and approve the final 2023 budget.

Coffee hour will start immediately following the meeting.

Please plan to attend.



### *Vestry Meeting Update*

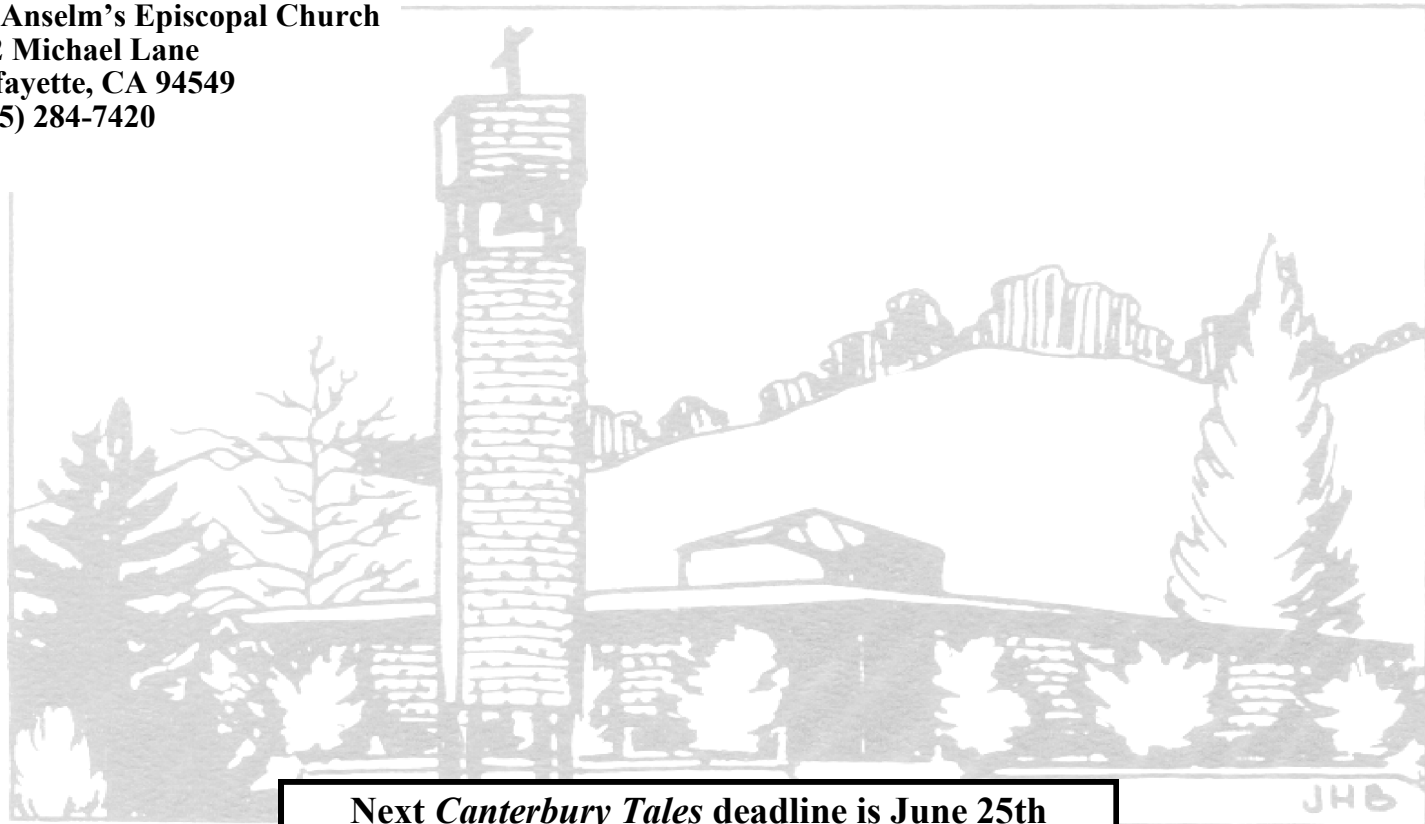
At the May 15 Vestry meeting our primary discussion items included:

- 1) Review of Quarter 1 2023 financial results
- 2) Updates on rector search
- 3) Vestry liaisons for standing commissions
- 4) Vestry member transitions: timing and next steps

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



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682 Michael Lane  
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**Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is June 25th**

### **JUNE MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**June 6th and each Tuesday in June — Morning Prayer** will be held via Zoom at 9:00 AM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**June 6th — Grief Support Group** will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**June 6th and each Tuesday in June— Evening Bible Study** will meet via Zoom at 7:00. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**June 11th — Memorial Planning** with Deacon Naomi in the Jackson Hall Conference room at 10:00 AM.

**June 11th — Cancer Support Group** will meet via Zoom at 11:30 AM. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at [jripmaggie@hotmail.com](mailto:jripmaggie@hotmail.com).

**June 19th — Vestry** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. Vestry members will receive an email from Chris Young with the meeting link.

**June 25th — Special Parish-Wide Meeting** — immediately following the 9:00 AM service in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

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