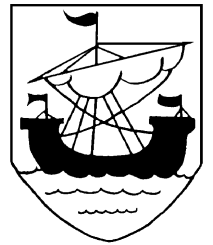


Canterbury Tales



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

July, 2023

From Koshy+

Dear Friends at St. Anselm's,

What a joy it has been for me to be with you for the last few weeks!

Susan and I thank you for the love and hospitality you bestowed on us over this short interim. We thank God for making our paths cross for a time and for the friendship we created together. We drew parallel in our walk together in God's ministry beginning on Easter week with the walk of the two disciples of Jesus to Emmaus. Jesus joined us as we shared our joys and sorrows, hopes and dreams, and he made himself known to us when we broke bread together on Sundays over these last few weeks.

St. Anselm's community reminds me of the story of how once a fallen-into-hard-times-abbey became a vibrant place again. The old and wise abbot from the abbey went to see his rabbi friend, who was equally old and wise. They commiserated with each other on the dwindling membership of their respective communities. Abbot pleaded with the rabbi for some wisdom to revive his abbey. Unfortunately, the rabbi said he had no wisdom to share with him. As the abbot left disappointed, the rabbi said cryptically, "One of you is the Messiah." Abbot mulled over it again and again on his way back. Upon return, fellow monks asked what transpired during his rabbi meeting. "No wisdom, nothing," the wise old abbot said, "except that as I was leaving him, he said his community had always thought one of us was the Messiah." Soon the monks looked at each other differently with more profound respect. This was the beginning of that abbey's resurgence. I find that here at St. Anselm's, you treat each other with respect, love, and care. You are diverse and welcoming new people into your midst. You operate from a place of abundance. Bucking the trend, you came out of the once-in-a-lifetime pandemic swinging with minimal negative impact. You are a wonderful, beloved community of God.

I am excited about all that God will do in your midst and then in Lafayette, surrounding communities, and beyond through St. Anselm's. Together with your new priest, St. Anselm's will continue to serve as a place of refuge and solace for the weary, as an outpost for God's work in the world, and as a beacon of hope for all. I am happy and grateful to God for my brief but most blessed tenure with you. My prayers go with you.

Gratefully yours,
Koshy+

Anselm's Angels

Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others."

- Booker T. Washington

Huge thanks to **Sally Fischer**, **Sheila Wiegand** (and friends from Utah), **Peg Matson** and **Sylvia Williams** for the special Father's Day coffee hour. Congratulations to **Koshy+**, the lucky recipient of the Father's Day plant for his garden.

Thank you to our recently "retired" Vestry members **Judy Peak** and **Dimitri Seletzky**. A very big thank you to **Joan Martin** for her leadership as Senior Warden!

Welcome to our new class of 2026 Vestry members: **Bob Eddy**, **Don Liddle**, **Peg Matson** and **Joni Pearce**. Thank you also to our continuing Vestry members: **Marty Fischer**, **Neva Flaherty**, **Marian Mulkey**, **Elaine Sherwood**, **Gerry Starr**, **Elisabeth Ward**, **Chris Young** and **ZP Zhang**. Congratulations to our new Senior Warden, **Marty Fischer** and our new Junior Warden, **Peg Matson**.

Thank you to **Doug Merrill** for updating the parish budget which was approved at the June 25th Special Parish-wide meeting.

THANKS!

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! 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!

2023 Altar Flowers

The 2023 Altar Flower donation chart is almost full and is 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.



Vestry Meeting Update

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

- 1) Review and approval of revised 2023 budget
- 2) Adjustments to banking/financial account signatories
- 3) Plans for upcoming special Parish-wide meeting

At the June 25th Vestry meeting, following the election of the Vestry Class of 2026, our primary discussion items included:

- 1) Election of Junior Warden, Peg Matson
- 2) Committee structure and Vestry liaisons

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



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
Cathy Witkay, Office Manager

The Senior Warden

Congratulations to Marty Fischer, our new Senior Warden, and to our Class of 2026 Vestry Members: Bob Eddy, Don Liddle, Peg Matson and Joni Pearce! Thank you to Judy Peak and Dimitri Seletzky who join me as outgoing Vestry Members. This all became official at our Special Parish-wide Meeting on June 25th. Our congregation as a whole should be thanked for everyone's continued support as St. Anselm's moves into our next chapters.

Thank you to Rev. Koshy Mathews for guiding us through these last miles of transition time. Your spiritual guidance as well as many thoughtful suggestions and opportunities for reflection have been a blessing to all.

On July 18th we welcome Rev. Stephen Siptroth to St. Anselm's. Stephen+ has already met with the past wardens, Cathy Witkay and even representatives of Trinity Center so he is well on his way in his preparations to assume the role as our new Rector. He will also be attending the July 17th meeting of the Vestry.

Sunday July 23rd will be the first Sunday Stephen+ will be our celebrant and preacher. Please join us at 9 o'clock that week and every week!! Don't forget to wear your name tags – they've even been refreshed.

Personally, as your outgoing Sr. Warden, I want to thank everyone for your support of me and our parish. We may currently be a small congregation, but we are mighty in what we can do together.

Joan Martin

An Update from the Bishop Search and Transition Committee

The Bishop Search and Transition Committee gathered Saturday, June 17 to review applications for the role of Ninth Bishop of California. The meeting at Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP), the Episcopal seminary in Berkeley, began with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist by the Rev. Dr. Paul Fromberg, the committee's co-chair. Following the service, members of the Diocese of California Standing Committee offered words of encouragement before leaving the Bishop Search and Transition Committee to its discernment work. The committee spent the next six hours poring over the extensive materials offered by each applicant to discern which of them will advance to the next step in the process, which is a series of interviews. At the end of the day's gathering, Rev. Dr. Fromberg concluded, "We made great progress toward identifying those individuals who will be included in our preliminary slate." Bishop Search and Transition Committee co-chair Brenda Paulin added, "I was moved by how sincerely and thoughtfully our applicants and committee members engaged in this process."

The next step in the process is for the Bishop Search and Transition Committee to finalize a preliminary slate, which it will present to the Standing Committee for approval. The **preliminary slate** is scheduled to be announced on **September 22, 2023**. That announcement marks the start of the ten-day period during which nominations by petition will be accepted before a final slate is determined.

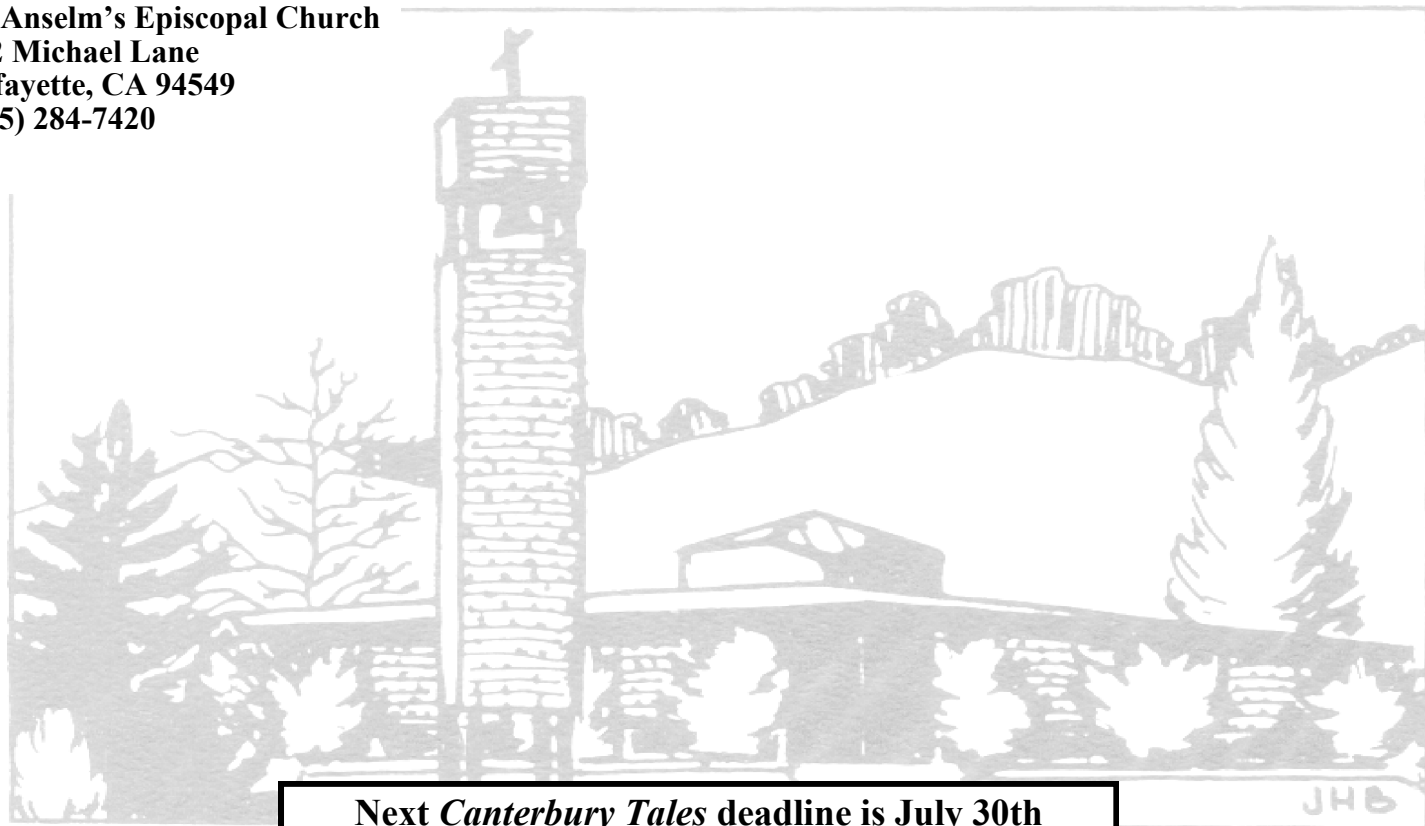
People in the Diocese of California will have an opportunity to meet with the final slate of nominees at a series of "**Meet & Greet**" **gatherings** scheduled **November 2 through 5, 2023** at a selection of parishes and missions. The specific times and locations for the Meet & Greets will be announced once the final slate is determined. Voting will occur among clergy and lay delegates at a **special electing convention** on **December 2, 2023**.

Following a process of church-wide consent, the approved bishop-elect will be **ordained and consecrated** at Grace Cathedral on **May 4, 2024**. **Bishop Marc will retire** on **July 24, 2024**, amid celebrations of thanksgiving for all he and Dr. Sheila Andrus have shared with and contributed to our diocese.

The Standing Committee and Bishop Search and Transition Committee members ask for prayer for their work, and for all transitions in the life of our diocese and in the lives of Bishop Marc and his family, as well as the bishop-elect and her/his/their family.



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



Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is July 30th

JULY MEETINGS & EVENTS

July 9th — Cancer Support Group will meet via Zoom at 11:30 AM. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at jrjpmaggie@hotmail.com.

July 11th and each Tuesday in July — Morning Prayer will be held via Zoom at 9:00 AM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

July 11th — Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

July 11th and each Tuesday in July— Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

July 17th — Vestry will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 7:00 PM. Vestry members will receive an email from Chris Young with the meeting link.

June 23rd — Welcome our new Rector, Stephen Siptroth — 9:00 AM Stephen+ will preside at his first service at St. Anselm's, followed by a special Coffee Hour in Jackson Hall.
