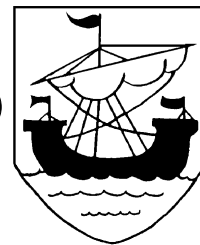


Canterbury Tales



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

August, 2023

From The Rector

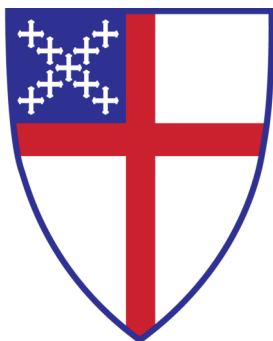
I am very grateful to join you in mutual ministry as your rector. I confess that I have trouble with that title because it derives from the Latin word "regere," which means "to rule." I prefer the language that was used at my ordination: I am very grateful to join you in mutual ministry as your "priest, pastor, and teacher" (who also is a student).

A couple of decades ago, a (Roman Catholic) priest told me that, no matter where we find ourselves, no matter how long we're there, we're only just visiting. When I left St. John the Evangelist to join you, I left them with that message. I have often thought of that while leaving a place, when my "visit" was concluding. But it came to mind when I joined you, too. I think, having seen the (amazing!) parish timeline in Jackson Hall, it made me reflect again that, no matter how permanent our tenures may seem, each one of us is visiting St. Anselm's – each of your rectors included. Each one of us is a guest in this community, a community that, with God's help (and with your help), will continue long after our leaving.

All of this stirred in me a desire to extend an invitation to you. As we continue to make this our community of faith and parish home, as we grow settled into our ministries and offices, as we sink roots into our neighborhood, what does it also mean to embrace being a visitor here? What are we being invited to do for the care of this place and the people here during our visit? How might God be inviting us to consider how to support St. Anselm's to ensure those who visit after us will be welcomed into a loving, vibrant, and healthy community of faith? What might we do to ensure St. Anselm's remains an integral part of this community well into the future?

Our participation in the three-year Vital + Thriving program will help us discern, with God's help, the answers to some of these questions. I am excited about this program, and all the other ways in the short term that we will seek to engage and contribute to the life of our neighborhood. Thank you all for your generous and loving contributions to the life, ministry, and mission of our parish!

Stephen+



Anselm's Angels

From small beginnings come great things.

~ Proverb

Big thank you to **Peg Matson** and **Sylvia Williams** for the enhanced coffee hour spreads they created to thank Koshy+ for his three months' as our interim priest and to welcome Stephen+ as our new rector!

Thank you to **Marty Fischer** for convening the newly formed communications committee and the folks who attended the first meeting to develop plans to help grow St. Anselm's: **Bob Eddy, Don Liddle, Peg Matson, Marian Mulkey, Vicki Pappas, Stephen Siptroth, Sylvia Williams, Cathy Witkay** and **Eva Woo**.

Special thanks to **Peg Matson** for updating the church signage at the driveway entrance and on Michael Lane.

Thanks to **Marian Mulkey** for researching the Vital+Thriving program and sharing the information with us!



Vital+Thriving

The Episcopal Diocese of California, in partnership with the Center for Church Innovation, is supporting Vital+Thriving, a congregational development initiative to facilitate and support congregations to self-assess, brainstorm, experiment, and move forward into the future with faith, optimism, confidence, and renewed energy. Vital+Thriving (V+T) offers substantive, long-term consulting and support and a shared learning community. In the course of participating in the 3-year initiative, congregations reassess and discern their mission and consider potential outreach opportunities in their community settings.

More information is available at <https://www.vitalthriving.org/>.

With encouragement from Rev. Siptroth and after exploration by the Vestry, St. Anselm's plans to join the next cohort of V+T congregations. The process promises to offer rich learning and growth opportunities for the individuals involved and for the St. Anselm's community as a whole. We encourage anyone who may be interested in joining this work, or who is simply curious, to participate in one of two upcoming Zoom information sessions describing V+T goals and process:

Wednesday, August 9, 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.: [Register now](#)

Tuesday, August 29, 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.: [Register now](#)



If you have questions or wish to express interest, contact Marian Mulkey marianmulkey@comcast.net or Peg Matson, plmatson@comcast.net.

Coffee Hosts Needed

For those folks who have been attending in-person services, we have resumed holding coffee hour inside Jackson Hall. 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!



A Note of Thanks

My deepest thanks to all of you who have kept my son Matthew in your thoughts and prayers since he suffered a cerebral stroke in May. After spending two weeks in the Neuro ICU at Kaiser Redwood City and almost three weeks at Kaiser's Vallejo Rehab facility, he is home recuperating and regaining his strength. His right eye has been affected, so right now he is wearing a patch over his right eye. He plans on being back to work in mid September.

My family is so appreciative of your prayers and support. He has a ways to go, so prayers are still needed for the best outcome possible.

With much love and blessings,
Naomi



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. Stephen M. Siptroth, Rector
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon
Cathy Witkay, Office Manager

The Senior Warden

What joy to celebrate the start of new era in the life of our loving community at St. Anselm's with the arrival of our new Rector, Rev. Stephen Siproth. His inaugural service was on July 23rd and it was great to see regular, new and returning attendees as the service more than doubled recent attendance levels. The Rev. Siproth era is off to a terrific start. Peg Matson and Sylvia Williams baked up and served a very grand coffee hour to celebrate the occasion. Unlike most coffee hours, this one actually lasted an hour! Everyone there had the opportunity to welcome and get to know Stephen+ and his wife, Eileen.

Now our search for a new Rector has ended and, in its place, our task is a new search. That search is for new membership to rebuild our congregation. The search process had its positive aspects in that we became more unified and aware that we need to do more as a congregation to manage the church. Eva Woo followed by Joan Martin led us through this challenging process and we can't thank them enough. The search committee was awesome under the leadership of Sylvia Williams and Peg Matson, as they went about the process of defining St. Anselm's, our strengths and our needs, and to seek and screen new candidates.

Now it is on to a new Vestry team and Wardens to build from here and to help in every way we can to support Stephen+ as he prioritizes his and our aspirations. The congregation elected four new Vestry members (Peg Matson, Bob Eddy, Don Liddle and Joni Pearce) back in June. Peg Matson was elected Jr. Warden and the new Vestry held its first regular meeting on July 17th.

I'm also happy to report that by the time you read this, there will be a new parking lot. Work is scheduled for Monday, July 31 through Thursday, August 3rd. Much appreciation to Chris Young and his team for getting this done so quickly. What a remarkable transition we are undertaking. Thank you, Lord, for who we have been, are and will become!

Marty Fischer

Vestry Meeting Update

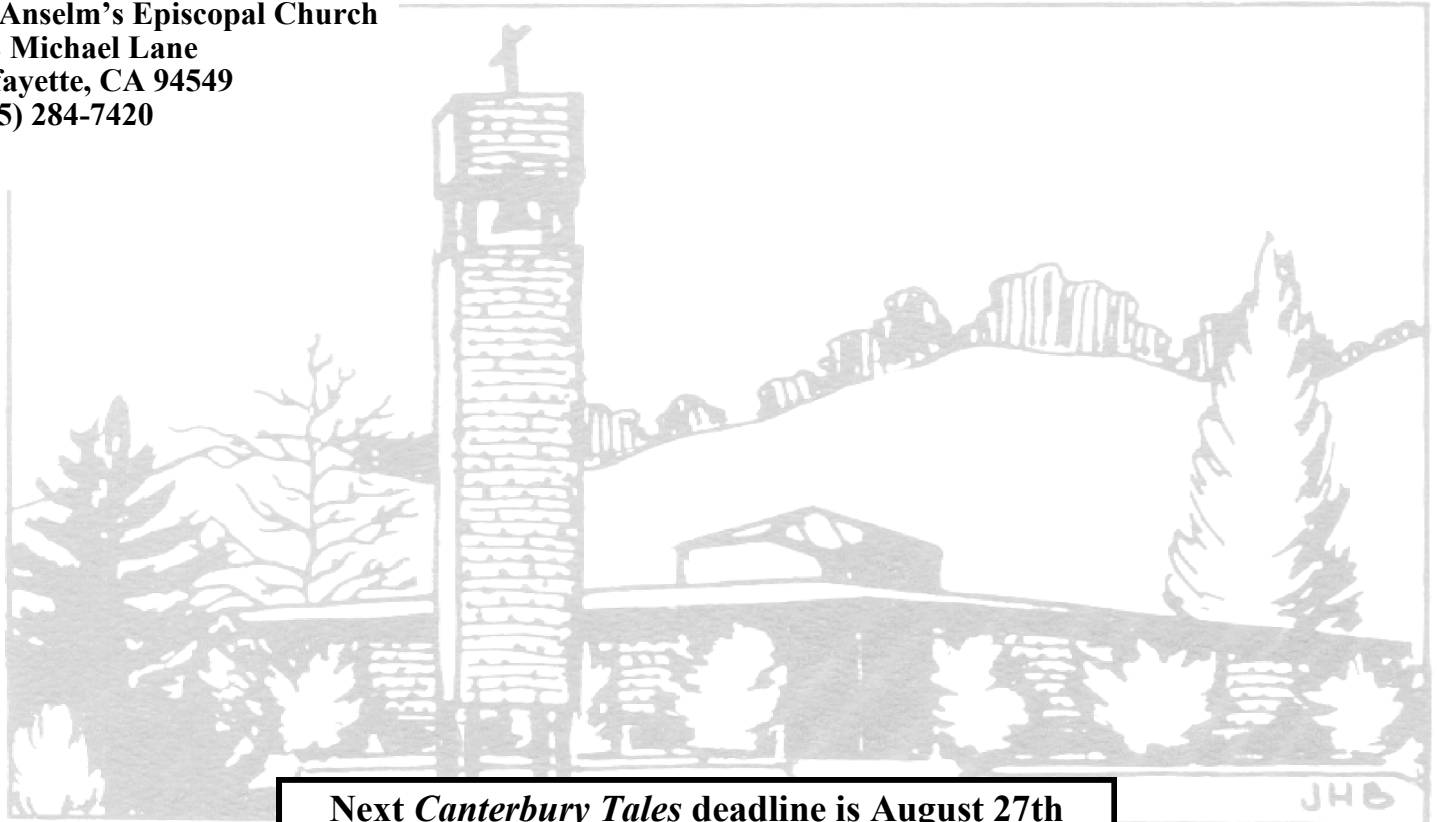
At the July 17th Vestry meeting our primary discussion items included:

1. Welcoming our new Rector and incoming Vestry members and providing status updates on St. Anselm's committees and commissions.
2. Property updates, including changes in signage, resolution of an irrigation leakage problem, and expansion of pest control services.
3. Consideration of bids to repair and resurface the parking lot, followed by a decision to proceed with the work as soon as feasible

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 August 27th

AUGUST MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

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

August 1st and each Tuesday in August— Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

August 13th — Cancer Support Group will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 10:45 AM. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at jrijpmaggie@hotmail.com.

August 20th — Stephen Ministers will meet in the memorial garden at 10:45 AM. For more information, contact Vicki Pappas at vrpappas@gmail.com.

August 21st — 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.

August 23rd — Michael Lane Preschool Board will meet in the conference room at 1:00 PM.
