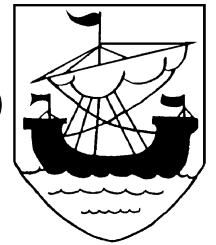


Canterbury Tales



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

September, 2023

From The Rector

Between September 1st and October 4th, the Episcopal Church will join other churches globally to observe the Season of Creation. According to Rev. Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, of the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, in Berkeley, "The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home."

Observing the Season of Creation means to reflect with gratitude on all of the ways that God has generously given to us through the richness of Creation – a Creation of which we are a part. Our planet Earth, our island home, is God's generous gift that we inherit from generation to generation – a gift we are called to steward for the common good of all. It is the gift from which all of our other gifts derive – a bountiful planet that provides our common bounty. But it also is a gift that cannot continue to give in the ways we have come to expect. We cannot continue to live the ways we have become accustomed to living. Our ability to share and enjoy the blessings of Creation is threatened by the human-caused reality of climate change. The reality of climate change affects us all, even here at St. Anselm's, where we have had to spend significant resources fire-hardening our campus to protect us from the kinds of intense wildfires that were virtually non-existent only a few decades ago.

The Season of Creation reminds us that we live in relationship with one another and the Earth. During this Season of Creation, I invite you to give thanks for all the ways that God has generously blessed you through God's gift of Creation. And I invite you to reflect on the ways that we can be better stewards of those blessings. I invite you to consider the ways, both large and small – both here at St. Anselm's and at your home – that we can be faithful and prudent stewards of the bounty God shares with us, to ensure it will remain bountiful for generations to come.

Stephen+



Anselm's Angels

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

~ Winston Churchill

Huge thank you to **Joni Pearce** for laminating and cutting new name-tags for the entire congregation!

Special thanks to **Peg Matson** for taking pictures of our Vestry members and Deanery Delegates for the conference room bulletin board. Peg also created the brochure which is available to visitors outside the church office and took numerous photos which are now posted on our website. Check it out at www.stanselms.us.

Thank you **Katie Taggart** for taking us to Hawaii during coffee hour and designing our new prayer cards.

As always, thanks to **Chris Young** for his tireless work as our official cameraman and Zoom expert and to **Jon Martin** for taking over when Chris takes a well deserved Sunday off. Additionally, another big thank you to Chris for overseeing the many recent projects and maintenance to our property: resurfacing the parking lot, installing a new railing on the stairs to Michael Lane, removal of the pine trees on the slope and general maintenance to help Michael Lane Preschool prepare for the new school year.

UPDATE FROM MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL

We are back in school!

Our doors were open to students starting on August 28th. There are 5 teachers on staff this year, 2 alumni Michael Lane teachers, Trina Audley and Reshma Faiq as well as 2 new teachers to the school, Jemma Kalberg and Jennifer Clayton. The staff has been busy this summer updating our CPR and First Aid certificates, taking training classes, cleaning the school, and getting to know each other.

We had a hot and fun first week back with the children learning all of our school rules and procedures. They are very good at using our new touchless faucet (thank you Peg and Duane for the installation help), touchless soap, and just 1 or 2 paper towels to dry their hands. We are working on waiting our turn, asking for help when we need it, knowing where we can RUN at school, and being responsible for our things.

Up next we will focus on learning our colors and then talking about our families.

Thanks for Reading - Here's to a great year of learning through play!

Warmly, Holly Higgins, Director



FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL

Please join us in honoring our community's first responders at our Feast of St. Michael service on October 1st during the 10:00 AM in-person / live stream service.

We hope to have representatives of local police, fire and search & rescue join us for this special service.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The annual Blessing of the Animals will be on October 8th during the 10:00 a.m. in-person / live stream service.

All companion animals are welcome to participate either in the sanctuary or from home!



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

By the time you read this, we will be into or through two new improvements to our campus. Chris Young and I have been exploring two areas of needed improvements. First, we finalized an agreement for roof repairs which the Vestry has approved. Second, with Vestry agreement, we are removing approximately 13 trees, mostly pines, from our property. The tree removal will eliminate the daily mess that falling pine needles make. More importantly, it will result in improved fire safety for our campus. This work will be completed within the next few weeks and is the last of the major maintenance projects that have been delayed for several years.

While campus improvements have required spending some reserves, we budget about \$40k a year for maintenance, so we do not anticipate the need to spend reserves on maintenance issues over the next several years, but rather to pay for such needs out of annually budgeted monies. The one major unknown is whether or not we can achieve a balanced budget and, if so, when? Any amounts that are not funded by budgeted revenue, will need to be funded by reserves. This year, we expect to have a budget deficit in the range of \$43,000 which will need to be paid from reserves. This is our operational budget deficit; it does not account for the parking lot project, which was paid entirely from reserves. As we approach Stewardship in October, please keep our current revenue shortfall in mind. Our goal over the next several years is to achieve revenue growth that exceeds annual expenses, and that will require both the addition of new pledging units as well as increased commitments from our current members.

We have lots of great services and events lining up, so please keep these dates in mind:

- Sunday, October 1 — Feast of St. Michael honoring our community first responders
- Sunday, October 8 — Blessing of the Animals
- Monday, October 9 to 23 — Winter Nights
- Saturday, October 28 — First Responder Safety Fair
- Sunday, October 29 — Stewardship Pancake Breakfast
- Saturday, November 11 — The Harvest Festival

It's a wonderful time of year at St. Anselm's and many ways to celebrate our warm and wonderful community of faith.

Marty Fischer

Vestry Meeting Update

At the August 21 meeting our primary discussion items included:

1. Review of financial results for the first six months of 2023
2. Changes in regular Sunday worship schedule beginning October 1
3. Plans to celebrate the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels on October 1 and related activities to honor and appreciate first responders
4. Property updates, including plans for roof repair and tree removal
5. Re-election of Peg Matson, and election of Bob Eddy, as church representatives to the Michael Lane Preschool Board
6. Website updates

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



SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE TIME CHANGE

After much discussion, and at the urging of many of our congregation, Stephen+ proposed and the Vestry approved moving St. Anselm’s Sunday morning worship service, from 9 a.m., to 10 a.m., beginning Sunday, October 1, 2023, and continuing thereafter. This decision was made after a great deal of prior discussion with many congregation members and ministries, and after Stephen+ reviewed worship service options offered by every other Episcopal Church in Contra Costa County, and worship times offered by several neighboring churches of different denominations. It is important to note that the general feeling in favor of the later start date was to seek to accommodate the expressed needs of families with children, as well as the expressed needs of many of our older members that have difficulty making it to church by 9 a.m. This change also directly responds to the results of the small group discussions, which expressed an interest in bringing in more families and younger parishioners.

We also acknowledge that there are several other members, mostly those who previously attended the 8 a.m. service that had been offered before COVID, who expressed concerns about moving the service later to 10 a.m. These members expressed the desire to have a spoken, faster service that includes Eucharist. We also are mindful that some families, college students, and others have varied schedules that pull them in a variety of directions, including on Sunday mornings. Worship needs to be offered at alternative times, and in alternative formats, to reach people with busy lives and multiple competing commitments. Other worship options and offerings were considered and discussed by the Vestry and Stephen+, and we expect that our worship options will expand in the near- and long-

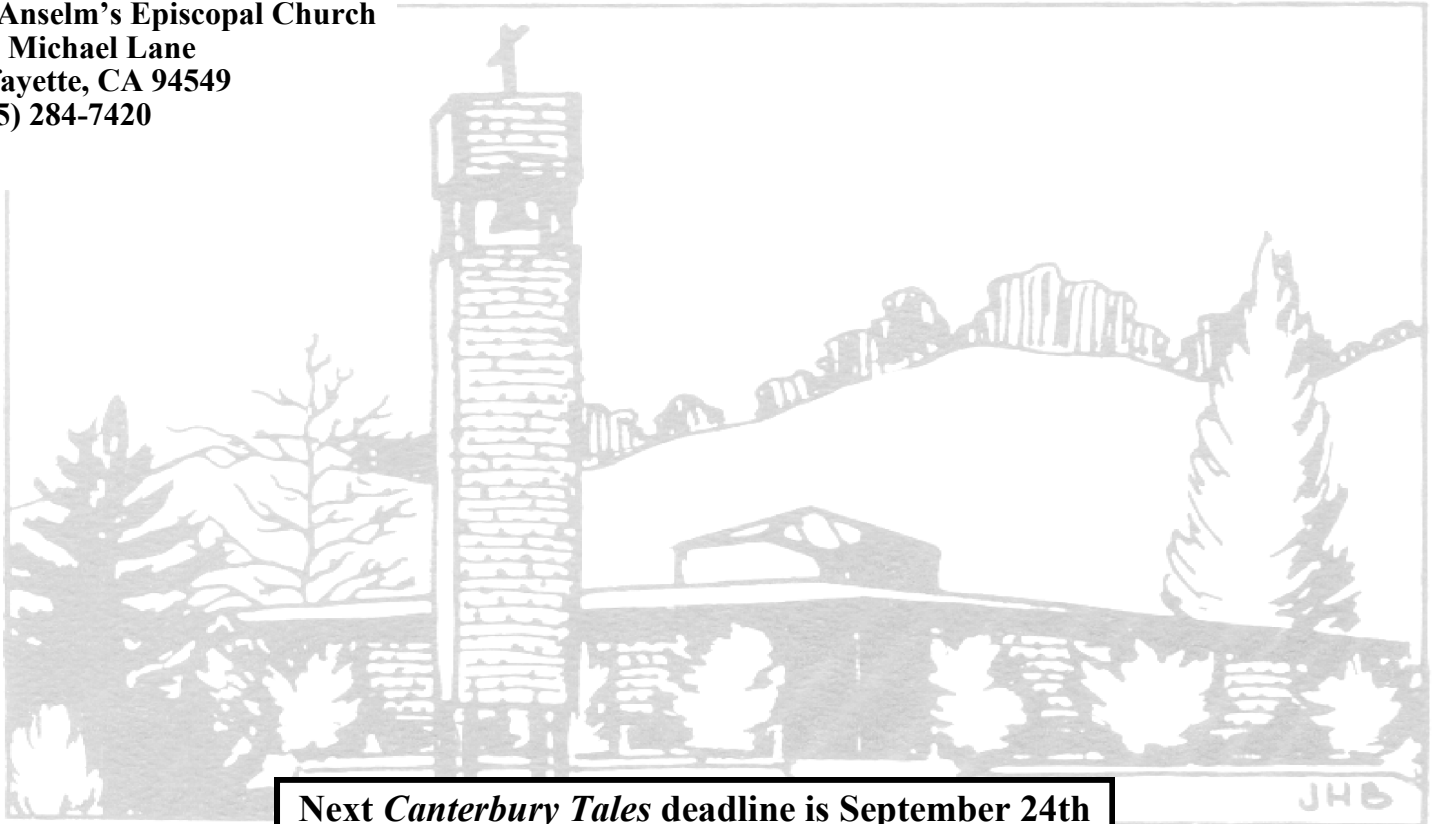
ANNOUNCING HARVEST FESTIVAL 2023

Put November 11, 2023, on your calendar for a return of the Harvest Festival dinner and fundraiser to benefit our friends at Trinity Center. Our last live Harvest Festival event was way back in 2019, and our newer members have probably never even heard of the event. Our commitment to Trinity Center and its “clients” without a home goes back to 2014, when Trinity Center got started. Today, and with our annual support as help, Trinity Center of Walnut Creek serves as many as 80 “clients a day.” It’s a place they can gather with a roof over their heads, enjoy breakfast and lunch, meet friends, socialize, wash their clothes, take a shower and seek counseling. In the wet, cold months, Trinity Center, in cooperation with the Walnut Creek City Council and the Armory, provides nightly shelter. We helped create this winter shelter program in 2016 with a generous contribution of over \$54,000, and we have helped ever since.

Our plans for November 11th are now underway. Now is the time to reserve your place at the table. The cost is \$50 per person, with children 12 and under at \$25 per person. We’ll get started at 5 p.m. with a “social hour,” followed by dinner and a fun filled auction. This is your chance to socialize with friends while your generosity will help the less fortunate in our community. To reserve a spot, just email Marty Fischer at marty@fischermarketinggroup.com, or the church staff at parish@stanselms.us, and drop a check off or mail it to the church office, at 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA 94595. Checks should be made out to St. Anselm’s with a Harvest Festival note.



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682 Michael Lane
Lafayette, CA 94549
(925) 284-7420



Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is September 24th

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS

September 5th and each Tuesday in September — Morning Prayer will be held via Zoom at 9:00 AM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

September 5th and each Tuesday in September— Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

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

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

September 17th — Stephen Ministers will meet in the conference room at 10:30 AM. For more information, contact Vicki Pappas at vrpappas@gmail.com.

September 18th— 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.

September 23rd — Memorial for Ruth Dyer at 11:00 AM.

September 24th — 100th Birthday Celebration for George Wasson at 11:00 AM.
