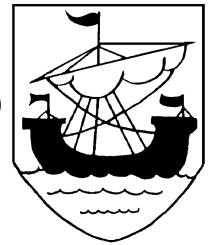


Canterbury Tales



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

October/November, 2023

From The Rector

The days are beginning to feel autumn-like – for California, at least! Recently, I've been spending some time in our garden. The summer squash plants have produced their yield for the season, and what remained of them was removed. In their place, I've started to plant winter vegetables – beets, lettuces, and broccolini. Soon, I will take out the remaining tomato plants in the other box, allowing other winter vegetables to be planted in their place.

Gardening reminds me of the seasonal nature of our life in community. In the lifecycles of nature, and the lifecycles of healthy communities, change is a seasonal occurrence. With a change in seasons, some things are uprooted so that new things can be planted in their place. As we give thanks for the abundance of one season, we plant new seeds in the hope of a new, future harvest. Communities remain productive and vibrant when they discern and embrace these seasonal changes. Communities tend to stagnate if they resist discerning and embracing changes as one season gives way to the next.

Change is on the horizon in our diocese as we continue in our season of discernment about who will be called as our next bishop. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Marc Handley Andrus, a prophetic voice on global environmental issues and a faithful and visionary pastor to the people of our diocese, will retire next year. At the end of September, the Bishop's Search and Transition Committee released a slate of three nominees to be considered for election as the next bishop of the Diocese of California. Now, our season of diocesan-wide discernment begins its next phase as we hear the stories, experiences, and visions of the candidates themselves. What qualities will they bring to leadership in our diocese? Who are we called to be and become as a diocese, and which nominee can help lead us into that future? As a diocese, we will seek to discern the answers to these and other questions between now and the final ballot of the electing convention in December.

If you are interested in seeing and hearing from the candidates, I encourage you to attend a meet and greet with them on Sunday, November 5, 2023, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in Walnut Creek.

Stephen+



Anselm's Angels

There are people who make things happen, there are people who watch things happen, and there are people who wonder what happened. To be successful, you need to be a person who makes things happen."

~ Jim Lovell

Thank you to **Marty Fischer, Don Liddle, Peg Matson, Sheila Wiegand and Paul Witkay** for hosting the Wine Reception to kick off the 2024 Stewardship Campaign. Thank you also to our stewardship speakers: **Marty Fischer, Dimitri Seletzky and Paul Witkay.**

Thank you to everyone who brought pets to our "Blessing of the Animals" service. St. Anselm's blessed 27 animals and raised \$159 for ARF!

Thank you to **Peg Matson** for creating the promotional materials for our first Feast of St. Michael & All Angels service to recognize our local first responders, the Blessing of the Animals service and Public Safety Day.

A huge thank you to **Iris Hillman** for agreeing to play the organ and piano at our 10 AM services and to **Duane Nelsen and Tom Pappas** for sharing their guitar playing at the 5 PM service.

Thanks to **Doug Merrill** for ushering and **Joan Martin** for covering altar guild duties at the memorial service for **Ruth Dyer.**



FEAST OF ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCES

“Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...”

On Sunday, November 5th we will celebrate the Feast of All Saints. All Saints’ Day is one of the Principal Feasts designated by the Prayer Book. It is a time to remember our connection to the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us, and to recommit ourselves to the work of doing the will of God on earth. Importantly, it is a day on which we recognize that saints are not just those few Christians from ages past whose lives were notorious enough to become part of the Christian calendar. Rather, it remembers and celebrates all those who, by their word and example, proclaimed the Good News of God in Christ.

So, on this day at St. Anselm’s we will remember the saints who graced our own lives by reading their names aloud during Communion. During the coming weeks we will be collecting names of your loved ones – parents, grandparents, children, friends, neighbors, and others who have passed on and whom you would like us to remember. To add your loved ones to the list please either send names to parish@stanselms.us, or look for the sign-up sheet inside the doors of the church and at Coffee Hour.

Note: If there is a chance we will mispronounce a name, please add to your submission how it should be done. And, if you are providing names on the sign-up sheet, please print them legibly so we get them right.

2024 ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2024 Altar Flower donation chart is now available in the church, on the wall by the east entrance. By making a 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 email parish@stanselms.us with your selected date(s) and dedication.

Due to the rising cost of flowers, the requested donation has been increased to \$50, effective with donations for January 2024. Checks can be made payable to "St. Anselm's Altar Guild." Please note that the Altar Guild cannot accept payments via Venmo. Thank you for your support!

IT’S TIME TO FALL BACK

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5th at 2:00 a.m.

Remember to turn your clocks **BACK** one hour on Saturday evening.



VETERAN’S RECOGNITION SUNDAY

We will be honoring our veterans on Sunday, November 12th. If you would like to be included, please provide your name, rank, branch of service and when/where you served to parish@stanselms.us by Wednesday, November 8th. (If you’ve been previously listed, you don’t need to call in again.)



COFFEE HOSTS NEEDED

For those folks who attend the in-person service at 10:00 AM, everyone is invited to enjoy conversation and refreshments in Jackson Hall, immediately following the service. We are in need of volunteers to host coffee hour for the remainder of 2023 and the first half of 2024.

If you are willing to help out, please go to SignUp Genius <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044bada722a2f85-coffee> and select a date or dates that will work for you.

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

Canterbury Tales is the monthly newsletter of

St. Anselm’s Episcopal Church
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e-mail: cathy.w@stanselms.us
web site: www.stanselms.us

Editor: Cathy S. Witkay

In-Person & Virtual Sunday Service:
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

In-Person Sunday Service:
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

St. Anselm’s Staff

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

The Senior Warden

The last quarter of the year has always been my favorite. It is highlighted by holidays that draw community, friends and families together to celebrate. Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas are unique and special. The glow of anticipation in the faces of children, their excitement and creativity are without equal this time of year. It's a time to re-charge, re-energize, be at peace and be thankful for the closeness and love of family and friends.

St. Anselm's has always been a place of welcome and warmth, an extended family for Sally & I. Our children were all raised and baptized in this church and as they married and their own lives took them elsewhere, St. Anselm's was always there. We started here in 1972, over 50 years ago. All through life's phases, St. Anselm's has been here as our church family and spiritual rock.

When we went through the Interim phase's that followed Father John's retirement, the Search committee came to the same conclusion we did back in 1972: that St. Anselm's is a unique family of warm and welcoming people. And while economic changes, social trends and pandemics have changed all our lives forever, those of us who are still here must extend our open arms to attract a new generation of our St. Anselm's family to rebuild our congregation. Stephen+ brought new energies and ideas to us and we are in full support of "going public" with our unique brand of church family.

Since early August we have been extending open arms to the outside community to join us. October is the first month that we have been able to promote in media such events as a First Responder's Celebration, the Annual Blessing of the Animals and a Public Safety Day. On October 1st we started offering a 5 p.m. weekly Sunday service to better serve the needs of many in our community who are drawn to other commitments during the day. It will take time and changes, but we are committed to growth and permanency.

Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign theme stresses our "New Beginnings." Ask yourself how important St. Anselm's is or will become in your life. It's up to us to collectively provide for the future of our church family with our time, talents and treasure. Will we collectively do what is needed to ensure that this warm and welcoming family is always here for ourselves and future generations? That is the personal challenge that "New Beginnings" forces us to ask ourselves.

Marty Fischer
Senior Warden

Vestry Meeting Update



At the September 18th Vestry meeting our primary discussion items included:

- The status of plans and volunteer needs for Winter Nights.
- Discussion of the management structure for the columbarium and the election of Doug Merrill, Greg Heiman and Jon Martin to the Board of Directors and confirmation of the Rector as a permanent member of the Board.
- Clarification on potential new zoning being considered by Lafayette Planning for all church properties in Lafayette to allow low cost housing construction. Also, that no such plans exist for St. Anselm's.
- Update on both tree-removal issues and timing for roof repairs to the sanctuary
- Approved Diocesan employee benefits package for all full-time St. Anselm's employees
- Discussed Stewardship plans that will start October 1st and conclude October 15th.
- Reviewed plans for October 1st, Feast of St. Michael's Service, October 8th Blessing of the Animals and October 28th Lamorinda Safety Day and community promotional support activity for each event.
- Discussed initiation of Sunday evening services at 5pm to start October 1st.
- Overviewed the progress and timetable for developing the 2024 budget.

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

Stephen Ministries and You!

Everyone has troubles from time to time. Sometimes our troubles exceed what we and our family members can handle and become easier when they are shared with a caring and trustworthy person who is trained to listen and provide spiritual care.

Stephen Ministers are trained Christian lay ministers who provide one-to-one care for those suffering from a crisis such as: loss of a loved one, illness, divorce, cancer, family issues, a spiritual crisis, or a financial setback, for a few examples. Stephen Ministers are not assigned to people who suffer from alcohol, drug, or physical abuse.

Stephen Ministers provide care to an individual of the same sex and meet one to one once a week for an hour, usually for about one year. Stephen Ministers have undergone 50 hours of formal training to learn to listen and pray with people undergoing a difficult time while maintaining absolute confidentiality.

Stephen Ministry service puts the Bible's words into action. The Bible tells in Galatians 6:2, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." Stephen Ministers listen, pray, help the person to process feelings, learn to maintain boundaries, share scripture, and walk with the person who is suffering. Stephen Ministers are the living embodiment of God's care. Stephen Ministers are the Care Givers, but God is the Cure Giver.

One does not need to be a member of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church to receive care. If you or someone you care about is interested in Stephen Ministry at St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, please contact the church office at (925) 284-7420 or send an email to: parish@stanselms.us.

Vicki Pappas, Stephen Leader

"New Beginnings" for The Poorest in our Community

This year marks several "new beginnings" in our life as a parish. The 2023 version of the Harvest Festival is a return to the dinner auction event COVID eliminated over the last three years. This year the Harvest Festival will involve a much broader networking of the greater community as Trinity Center and St. Anselm's team up to make the Harvest Festival their combined fundraising event for the Holiday Season.

The Dinner & Auction Event will be held on November 11th at 5:00 PM. Reservations are coming in from all over Lamorinda and Walnut Creek. The dinner is just the first half of the campaign. The amount raised at our November 11th dinner & auction, will be used for a "matching" challenge to the network of Trinity Center supporters and community organizations over the holidays.

Dinner tickets will sell out quickly. So now is the time to make sure you have a seat at the table. You can do so by emailing me at marty@fischermarketinggroup.com or the church office at parish@stanselms.us. You can pay by sending a check made out to "St. Anselm's" to the church office at 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette CA 94549 and foot-noted "Harvest Festival." The cost per adult is \$50. Children 12 and under are \$25. You can also make dinner reservations on the Trinity Center website at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/HarvestFestivalTICKETS> .

Trinity Center now provides help to over 60 - 80 clients a day. Their "clients" get breakfast and lunch, wash clothes, take showers, obtain clothing, socialize, get counseling and are treated with respect. During the cold wet season, they can sleep indoors at the Armory. Trinity Center not only keeps people off the street, but it changes and creates new beginnings. It is a "Doorway to Opportunity" for the least fortunate in our community.

Please help change lives with your generosity!

Marty Fischer, Harvest Festival Committee Chairman



The Other Budget

I usually talk about the Balance Sheet and the Income Statement, about our certificates of deposit and our one-time expenses. But today, during our Stewardship season, I'm going to talk about the "Other Budget" at St. Anselm's. The expression "time and treasure" is used to describe individual and collective contributions to St. Anselm's, so let's give "time" its due. Most of the activities of this congregation barely make it to the financial statements – but the work of numerous individuals and groups is what defines St. Anselm's. When we give of our "treasure," "time" is the force multiplier. Below are some notable examples of the numerous activities your pledge supports.

Altar Guild: Every Sunday, there are beautiful flowers in front of our beautiful altar, covered in clean linen and ready for the service.

Cancer Support Group: Those dealing with cancer, both personally and with loved ones, have a place to share their experiences.

Christian Formation: Throughout the year, and particularly in the Lenten Series in the weeks prior to Easter, dinner and educational events stimulate conversations and community.

Communications: Activities of potential interest to the local community are publicized via media outlets through this group that acts as a promotional team for the church.

Congregational Development: We welcome all newcomers; they are new friends to share in our mission, work, and joys. Members of our congregational development group reach out to the surrounding community and invite people to come see what we offer.

Harvest Festival: Every Fall, we gather to share of our abundance with those less fortunate through our fundraiser for the Trinity Center.

Music Program: Most Sundays, we pull together a choir (often with assistance from the community) and either recordings left by Andrew Huddart, or live organ by committee.

Parish Life, including Coffee Hour Hosts and Kitchen Supplies: After church on Sundays, the congregation shares hot drinks, yummy treats, and community.

Property Commission: Our grounds and buildings require lots of attention, and the Property Commission organizes both volunteer efforts (such as work parties) and paid maintenance.

Stephen Ministry: Our Stephen Ministers provide one-on-one care to any member of the community experiencing any type of difficulties.

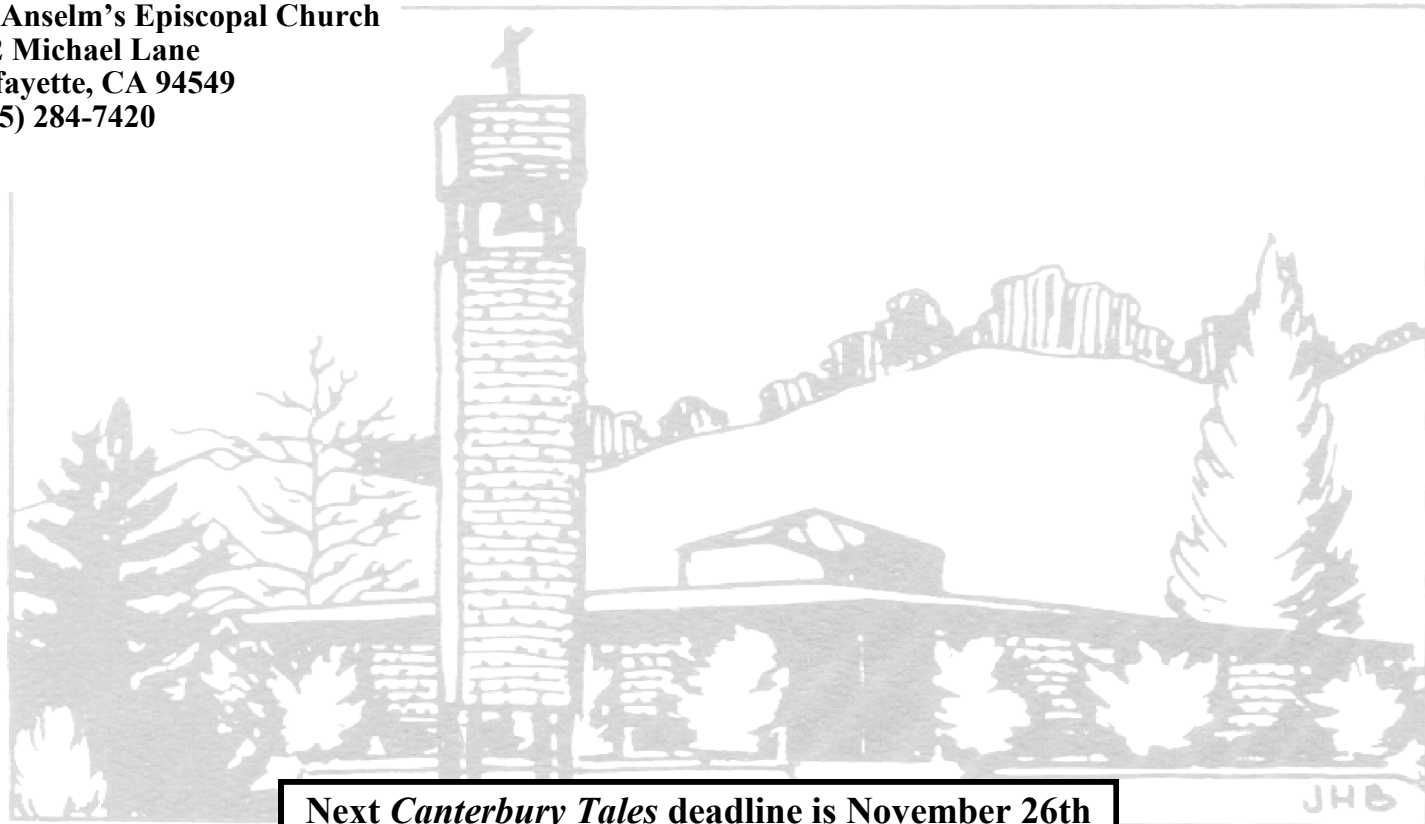
Winter Nights: Every Fall, we share Jackson Hall with families without homes, providing a safe warm place as well as breakfast, sack lunches, and dinner for all.

A huge number of hours go into the activities described above (and many more not listed here). Your financial commitments and time commitments are both essential in building the St. Anselm's community – where time and treasure work together.

John Powers, Treasurer



St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
 682 Michael Lane
 Lafayette, CA 94549
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Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is November 26th

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS

Each Sunday in October & November — Sunday Evening Holy Eucharist in-person at 5:00 PM.

October 23rd — 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.

Each Tuesday in October & November — Morning Prayer will be held via Zoom at 9:00 AM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

Each Tuesday in October & November — Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

October 28th — Public Safety Day will be held from 9:00 AM to 12 Noon.

November 7th — Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

November 12th — Cancer Support Group will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 11:30 AM. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at jrjpmaggie@hotmail.com.

November 13th — 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.

November 22nd — Stephen Ministers will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Vicki Pappas at vrpappas@gmail.com.