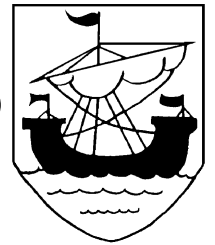


Canterbury Tales



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

December 2024



Rev. Will Scott Called to Serve as Rector

Earlier this week the St. Anselm's Vestry voted unanimously and enthusiastically to extend a call to Rev. Will Scott to become Rector of St. Anselm's effective January 1, 2025. This decision followed a thoughtful period of engagement to update our parish profile and convene listening sessions about our congregation's hopes and needs; review of background materials and an interview of Rev. Will by a small discernment committee; and a two-way discernment conversation between vestry members and Rev. Will on November 17. We feel privileged to have had the opportunity to get to know Rev. Will well as he served as our Priest-in-Charge during 2024 and we are delighted that he has accepted our call.

With the approval of Bishop Austin Rios, over coming weeks we will negotiate contractual details and establish mutual expectations so that we can "hit the ground running" when Rev. Will becomes our Rector in 2025. Although plans are in place for meaningful worship, reflection and fellowship activities throughout Advent, note that the change in Rev. Will's status from part-time Priest-in-Charge to full-time Rector will not take place until the New Year.

We are energized about the path ahead for St. Anselm's. Across multiple clergy transitions since late 2022, our congregation has demonstrated great resilience. Over the past year -- coached by Rev. Will as our Priest-in-Charge and ably supported by our faithful Deacon, Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris -- a great many parishioners have stepped up to exhibit leadership and give deeply of their time, talent, and treasure. We believe that Rev. Will brings impressive spiritual, organizational, communication and team-building gifts that are a God-given match for St. Anselm's present needs. With stable clergy leadership and ongoing commitment by lay leaders and across our full community, St. Anselm's anticipates a very bright future.

Marian Mulkey, Senior Warden
Peg Matson, Junior Warden

Anselm's Angels

A very big thank you to the Stewardship Committee; chair **Katie Taggart, Doug Merrill, Keith Pearce, John Powers, and Julie Rinkenberger.**

Many thanks to members of **The Vestry** for preparing a delicious Stewardship Brunch.

And special thanks to the Discernment Committee members **Sally Fischer, Julie Rinkenberger, Al Eames and Sylvia Williams** for updating the Parish Profile and assembling background related to Rev. Will's candidacy.



From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's,

As November comes to a close, temperatures have dropped, and we've already had record rainfall, the journey to Thanksgiving and Christmas can be both comforting and stressful. Growing up, I experienced some of the most joyful and painful family moments during these festive occasions. I remember with pleasure helping my Nana in the kitchen with favorite family dishes and am still saddened when I recall my parent's loud and scary annual Christmas Tree fight.

One thing that consistently helped our family stay present to the deeper meanings and blessings of these days, delight, appreciate, and forgive one another was showing up for church. The season of Advent (which begins December 1st this year), with its emphasis on preparation and hope, prophetic challenge, and angelic visitation, keeping awake and waiting with patience offers a vital contrast to the demands of our consumerist culture.

I look forward to spending this sacred time together at St. Anselm's, from Sunday conversations as we craft together after the 10 a.m. service to Thursday gatherings on Zoom with Wendy Beckerman, learning about mindfulness practices that can enhance our experience of the season. On December 22nd at 3 p.m., I'm excited to welcome the voices of all ages for a festive and playful time singing carols. On December 24th at 5 p.m., our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will celebrate the incarnation as we share the light and warmth of Christ with songs and communion.

Big thanks to everyone who has stepped up to help make this season bright.

See you soon!

The Rev. Will Scott
Priest-in-Charge

2025 Stewardship Campaign

When asked to chair the 2025 pledge campaign, I was somewhat taken aback by the daunting challenge. Our pledges had been going down somewhat over the past years, and with recent events, we needed to increase our operating revenue in light of calling a new rector, look to hiring a music director, and face maintenance and other required expenses. The task proved to be easier than I thought, mainly due to the support and cooperation I received from my fantastic Stewardship commission, as well as all of you at St. Anselm's.



The kick-off to our drive got into high gear with B Street Combo, the band that plays at Byron Park, the senior community where I live. Their great music definitely got us "In the Mood", and we were off! My fantastic commission: Julie Rinkenberger, John Powers, Keith Pearce, and Doug Merrill gave me all the support with their ideas and actions, and the fun began. Individual home receptions were held starting at Peg Matson's and Duane Nelson's, with good talk and refreshments on Oct. 5, followed by more fun at Marian Mulkey and John Powers the following Saturday, a reception at Rossmoor hosted by Dave Rowe, and ending in grand style at the home of Julie Rinkenberger and JP Zhang's, just before our Ingathering Sunday service Nov. 3, when we brought our pledge cards to church and brought them to the altar. Frankly, this was most moving, as well as the succulent brunch courtesy of the Vestry served right after church.

Equally moving however, were the heartfelt talks presented by John Powers, Julie Rinkenberger, and Keith Pearce; who encouraged everyone to think about the importance and need for pledging, the importance of their individual pledge and to give as best as they could for the upcoming year. The results are astounding; an increase in number of pledges with half of us increasing our 2025 pledge over last year, 12 new pledges, and a current total of \$265,000 and counting!

So, thank you Stewardship Commission, thank you Vestry, you are the best, but, thank each and everyone of you at St. Anselm's for your heartfelt support and generosity. You all proved your commitment to helping us thrive and grow and become a vibrant part of the surrounding communities.

With sincere gratitude

KT

Stewardship Chair (Stewardship means all of us...all the time)

From The Senior Warden

The Season of Giving and Receiving

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:11) The St. Anselm’s community has faithfully asked God for good things, and we have been richly supplied with resources from which we continue to give back. One very good thing we have recently secured, through mutual discernment, is the gift of Rev. Will Scott who will become our full-time Rector beginning January 1.

How does one learn to give? My parents were products of the Great Depression and watched money very carefully, particularly in the years when they had four kids at home living on a single income. For many years they had a “Christmas Club” savings account supplied by monthly contributions from my Dad’s paycheck. When they withdrew the balance in early December, my siblings and I each got a special Christmas spending allowance from which we were expected to buy gifts to exchange with one another. Circa 1970, I think my share was about \$30, which felt like real money. I planned carefully so that I could buy a gift for Mom, Dad, my brother and my two sisters, with a little left over for wrapping paper and a treat or a toy for Whiskey, our dog.

I share this family history not only because we’re approaching Christmas, but because it says something important about why and how we give. My parents’ decision to set aside funds for Christmas spending inspired several feelings:

- Excitement: Who doesn’t like to shop and anticipate the joy of exchanging gifts on Christmas?
- Community: I knew I was part of something bigger, something that had reciprocity at its core. At heart, Christmas was each one of us appreciating each other through our modest gifts.
- Responsibility: I felt I should consider carefully how to use my allocation in a way that was even-handed but incorporated the particular preferences and needs of my family members.
- Discipline: I understood that my parents’ planning and small sacrifices through the year yielded great benefits for the entire family at Christmas.

The St. Anselm’s community is replete with models of “cheerful giving,” people who generously offer their financial gifts as well as their gifts of time and talent. Our 2025 stewardship campaign, which in aggregate yielded pledge commitments more than 40% higher than in 2024, was inspiring! In your giving of time, talent and treasure, you demonstrate the excitement, community spirit, sense of responsibility and discipline that I first felt years ago when managing my Christmas allowance.

We may not be able to sustain a Christmas morning feeling every day throughout 2025; St. Anselm’s may experience some setbacks and disappointments, financial or otherwise, in the year ahead. But remember: “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!” I know that St. Anselm’s will continue both to receive and offer great gifts as we move through and beyond this year’s holiday season.

Marian Mulkey
Sr. Warden

WANTED: Vestry Class of 2028

The Vestry Nominating Committee is looking for members to fill seats for the Class of 2028.
Interested parishioners should reach out to any committee members.

Thank you for your consideration
Vestry Nominating Committee
Marian Mulkey, Elaine Sherwood, Gerry Starr and JP Zhang

Holiday Gift Drive

As the Christmas season approaches, Occupational Therapy Training Program - San Francisco (OTTP-SF) invites the St. Anselm's community to join our annual Holiday Gift Drive, from November 1st to December 2nd. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring joy to children and teens in need.

Through our drive, you can choose to sponsor a special gift for a local youth living in the Bay Area. These gifts are thoughtfully selected, often as therapeutic items that help build essential life skills, promote emotional well-being, and, most importantly, bring happiness.

The gift you choose is often the only one that youth clients of OTTP will receive this holiday season. To participate, pick up a tag with a profile on it in Jackson Hall or visit roonga.com/hgd24 and purchase a gift for a young person in need. If you'd prefer to donate, visit ottp-sf.org/donate and choose "Holiday Gift Drive 2024."

Thank you for helping make this season brighter for Bay Area youth!
For any questions, please contact Joni Pearce at jonipearce@me.com or development@ottp-sf.org.



OTTP-SF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, committed to providing comprehensive mental health services to Bay Area youth since 1999. "Healing through Doing". Located around the corner at 98 Bosworth Street, San Francisco, CA 94112.



PO Box 126 • Walnut Creek, CA 94597 • info@trinitycenterwc.org •

Harvest Festival Campaign Expands

Trinity Center and its programs are a "Doorway to Opportunity" for those who are plagued by poverty, unemployment and homelessness. The campaign started with the 11th Harvest Festival Dinner & Auction that raised approximately \$50k on 11/16. Many thanks to those St. Anselm's friends who made the trip to Walnut Creek and were a major factor in its success. For those who have not yet helped, now is the time before the campaign ends on December 30.

The demands for Trinity Center help continue to mushroom with daily attendance now averaging 80 people seeking help. They seek shelter, receive breakfast and lunch, counseling, wash clothes, take showers and socialize during the day. The overnight shelter program at the Walnut Creek Armory provides shelter over these cold, wet winter nights. In the last 12 months Trinity Center has served over 24,000 meals, hosted 17,500 "client" members, found housing for 90 people and jobs for over 40. The needs just keep growing. Here are some ways you can help:

- Buy Raffle Tickets.** The winner of our Harvest Festival Raffle gets to choose between three different trips including an Alaska Cruise, NY Theatre Trip and an Azores Portugal Vacation. Drawing takes place on December 30th. Marty Fischer will be selling tickets during coffee hour on Sunday, Dec. 8th and 15th.
- Make a Direct Donation.** If you have not contributed and wish to help donate on the [website donation page](#) to support the Harvest Festival campaign that helps fund this important community work.
- Volunteer.** Trinity Center has many community volunteers. The [website](#) explains how you can help from donating gifts of clothing, preparing and serving meals and the many other needs for community volunteerism.

Thank you for your support. With your help we can continue to meet the growing needs of the poorest members in our community and return many of them to productive, flourishing lives.

With Great Appreciation,
Marty Fischer on behalf of The Harvest Festival Committee



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24th at 5 p.m.

Mindfulness at Holiday Time

Join us for weekly online sessions during the busy holiday season that help focus on compassion, balance and inner nourishment. The Christian Formation Commission offers a free, online opportunity to slow down, reflect, center, and be in the presence of kindness.

Whatever life brings you--from busyness to loneliness--together we'll practice simple mindfulness techniques for slowing down, listening to your body's signals, and responding to each moment from the heart. Includes guided meditations and breathing practices, gentle mindful movement, brief writing reflections, and a safe space for sharing. All levels welcome.

Thursdays
December 5, 12, & 19
at 7 p.m. on zoom

[Register here](#)

Hosted by Wendy Beckerman, a 20 year practitioner of yoga and mindfulness, & the Christian Formation Commission.



Living Well Through Advent: Practicing Peace

December 1st

"Peace Like a River"
 and No-Sew Snowmen

December 8th

"Peace Through a Crucible"
 and Make Your Own Mini-Wreath

December 15th

"Pathways to Peace"
 and Cookie Decorating

After church Coffee Hour (approximately 11:15–noon) we will incorporate **Special Advent Offerings** which will include a short devotional reflection and a simple seasonal craft suitable for all ages.

Sponsored by:
St. Anselm's Christian Formation Commission

Costumes, Carols and Cocoa



December 22, 2024
3:00—4:00 pm

Come get into the **Spirit of Christmas** and take a break from the holiday hustle to enjoy some family fun as we gather for **festive music, stories, poetry, treats and a special bearded visitor**. Try on pageant costumes or wear your ugly Christmas sweater! This is an all ages holiday variety show so if you have a talent to share email parish@stanselms.us to sign up.

Epiphany Party

Saturday, January 11, 2025

Jackson Hall 2-5pm

Back, by popular demand!!! What better way to start off 2025 then a return to a great St. Anselm's tradition. Bring a treat to share AND that wonderful White Elephant gift you received at Christmas that you can live without!!! We will have a variety of liquid libations from the soft type to red, red wine (and other flavors).

See you all then-
DO NOT MISS THIS SOCIAL KICK OFF TO THE YEAR

PHOTOS FROM 2024 —Please send any photos from this past year to parish@stanselms.us



Michael Lane Preschool



Happy Thanksgiving!

As we close out the month of November, I'm very grateful for all of the beautiful trees on the St. Anselm's campus which provided a beautiful backdrop for learning. In November we took a close look at the beautiful changes happening in nature. From the colorful fall leaves to the bare branches of the trees, it's a perfect time for our preschoolers to learn about the seasons and how they affect the world around us. We collected fallen leaves for art projects, raked up the leaves in the parking lot, made different crafts with pressed leaves, and talked about the words "grateful" and "thankful."

Of course, no November would be complete without some turkey fun! Our classroom is filled with turkey-themed art and crafts. From decorating feathers to building our own turkey handprints, children enjoyed using their creativity while learning about this beloved Thanksgiving symbol. We will also read fun turkey stories to learn about the different ways families celebrate this special holiday. We hope you are enjoying this wonderful time of year!

Warmly,
Holly Higgins
Director, Michael Lane Preschool



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



All are invited to donate poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary during the Christmas season. You can make a donation in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone or in thanksgiving for our many blessings. Please submit a [donation form](#) to the church office or email Margaret Wolfe: margaret.w@stanselms.us with the desired dedication no later than Monday, December 16th. **The cost is \$15.00 per plant and checks should be made payable to "St. Anselm's Altar Guild"**. Please note, the Altar Guild is unable to accept payments via Zeffy.



Bookkeeper Steve Zimmerman

We're pleased to announce that Steve Zimmerman joined St. Anselm's in the role of part-time, contract bookkeeper about six weeks ago. In his short time with us, Steve has delivered reliable results and valuable advice regarding our books and financial processes. Steve has experience in bookkeeping roles with other Episcopal churches and has worked as an external auditor on behalf of the Diocese of California. We feel lucky to have him!

Steve is typically in the church office on Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. From time to time Steve may reach out to parishioners to clarify matters related to contributions or reimbursements. Questions about pledge status or other bookkeeping matters may be addressed to him directly at bookkeeper@stanselms.us.



SAVE THE DATE

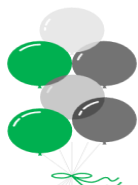
**Art and Music Festival
Saturday, February 22, 2025
1-5 p.m.**

In appreciation of the warmth and support of the Lamorinda community since 1960, and the opportunity to continue to be of service, St. Anselm's Episcopal Church invites one and all to celebrate its **65th Anniversary** by honoring the creative spirit in residents of all ages in its **"Together We Shine"** Art and Music Festival.



PRAYER CHAIN

St. Anselm's Prayer Chain is a list of our parishioners and loved ones for whom prayers have been requested. Prayer is voluntary and on your own whenever you wish to pray. If you would like to receive the Prayer Chain or if there is someone you would like to add to the Prayer Chain, please email Vicki Pappas: vrpappas@gmail.com.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Sally Roberts
- Thomas Young
- Katie Taggart
- Julie Hullverson
- Dick White
- Maddy Chamberlain
- Linda Carlson
- Vicki Pappas



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Tim & Diane Brown
- Dharmini & Hema Harichandran

ALTAR FLOWERS 2025

Altar flower donations can be 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 or email parish@stanselms.us with your selected date(s) and dedication. **The flower chart can be found next to the east entrance to the church.** Checks for \$50 can be made payable to "St. Anselm's Altar Guild."

Please note that the Altar Guild cannot accept payments via Zeffy.

Thank you for your support!



Canterbury Tales
is the monthly newsletter of

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA
Phone: (925) 284-7420
web site: www.stanselms.us

Editor: Margaret Wolfe
email: margaret.w@stanselms.us

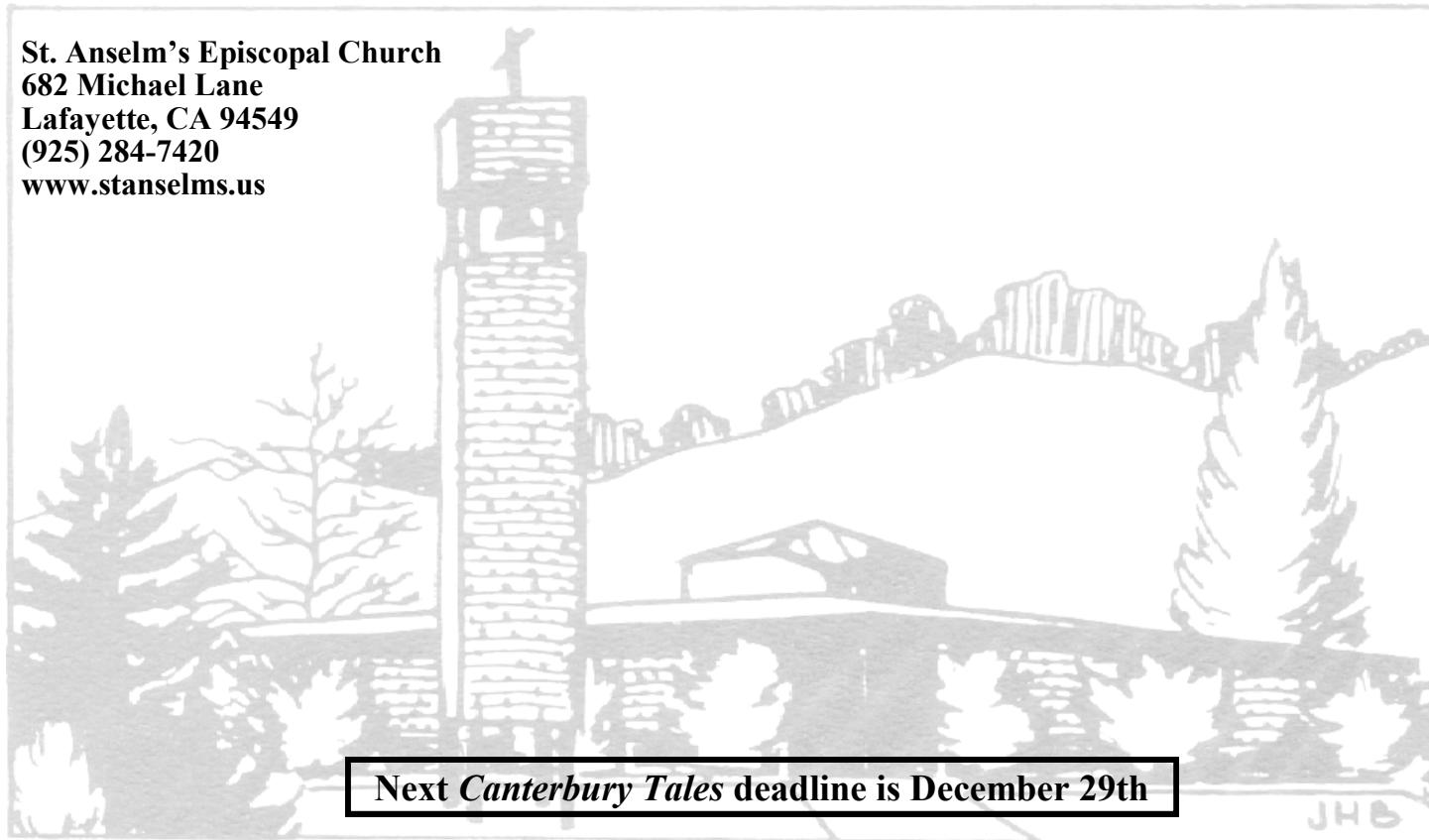
In-Person & Virtual Sunday Service:
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

St. Anselm's Staff

- The Rev. Will Scott, Priest-In-Charge
- The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon
- Margaret Wolfe, Office Manager
- Steve Zimmerman, Bookkeeper
- Holly Higgins, Michael Lane Preschool Director

To schedule an in person conversation with Rev. Will,
email: rector@stanselms.us

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



Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is December 29th

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday December 1st — “Peace Like A River” and No Sew Snowmen from 11:15am-noon in Parish Hall.

Sunday December 1st — **Altar Guild** will meet in the conference room at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday December 3rd/10th/17th/24th/31st — **Morning Prayer** will be led by Deacon Naomi via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

Tuesday December 3rd — **Grief Support Group** will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

Wednesday December 4th — **Stephen Ministers** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday December 5th/12th/19th — **Mindfulness at Holiday Time** hosted by Wendy Beckerman & Christian Formation Commission on Zoom at 7p.m.

Sunday December 8th— “Peace Through a Crucible” and **Make your own Mini-Wreath** from 11:15am-noon in Parish Hall.

Sunday December 8th— **Cancer Support Group** will meet in the library and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at jrjpmaggie@hotmail.com.

Sunday December 15th— “Pathways to Peace” and **Cookie Decorating** from 11:15am-noon in Parish Hall.

Sunday December 15th— **Vestry** will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. Vestry members will receive an email from Marian Mulkey with the meeting link. Parishioners are welcome to attend vestry meetings or to listen in via Zoom.

Sunday December 22nd — **Costumes, Carols & Cocoa** from 3 to 4 p.m.

Tuesday December 24th — **Christmas Eve Service** at 5p.m.



St. Anselm's Poinsettia Donation

Name _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

In thanksgiving for: _____

Donation request is \$15 per plant. **Please make checks payable to "St. Anselm's Altar Guild"** and submit to the church office by December 16. Note that the Altar Guild is not able to accept payments via Zeffy. Thank you!