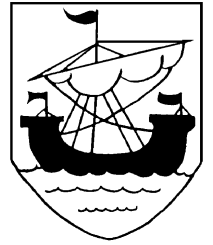


# Canterbury Tales

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



March 2024

## *From Rev. Will*

Dear St. Anselm's,

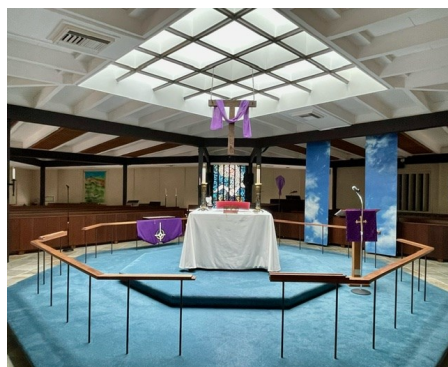
Wow! What a Sunday! We ran out of bulletins (second time in a month), out of communion (thank goodness for the reserve sacrament and the altar guild) and hosted a lovely crowd of congregants and neighbors for the inspiring Maya Smith, former Executive Director of Lady Gaga's foundation and our first speaker in our Lenten speaker series. People with deep history in our congregation's life and new people who've never before set foot in our church are showing up.

Behind the scenes, we're working hard to find a new bookkeeper and permanent music director, as well as ensuring all people with keys and in ministry leadership have completed safe church training. Plans are in the works to improve our landscaping after last year's fire prevention tree removal, and I keep thinking of fun things that might happen on our newly paved parking lot aside from it being full on Sunday morning! Members of our closest neighboring church, First Christian, are eager to partner creatively for the common good.

A few weeks ago, I suggested that St. Anselm's fever is breaking. I sure hope so. I am convinced that if it has, it's because we took the hand of the man from Galilee. As we continue our Lenten journey, please continue to keep this sacred place and her people in your prayers. If you're anxious, confused or concerned, the best advice I have is for you to show up, whether online or, if you can, in-person. Reach out to me or vestry members and help us walk this pilgrim way together. Last year, I spent Holy Week in the Holy Land, and I am looking forward to reflecting together with you on the meaning of these mysteries in community at St. Anselm's, Lafayette.

See you soon!

Faithfully,  
The Rev. Will Scott  
*Guest Priest*



## *Anselm's Angels*

A special thanks to The Vestry for planning two Congregational Meetings last month. To Senior Warden **Marty Fischer** for his leadership, and members of the class of 2024, **Neva Flaherty, Elisabeth Ward and Chris Young**, who have agreed to remain on the Vestry during this time of transition. To Junior Warden **Peg Matson**, Clerk **Marian Mulkey**, **Elaine Sherwood**, **Don Liddle**, **JP Zhang**, **Bob Eddy**, **Gerry Starr**, and **Joni Pearce** for all their hard work.

Many thanks to Deanery Delegates **Bob Eddy**, **Georganne Eddy** and **Christopher Stone** for their service in 2023 and a big thank you for your willingness to continue as Delegates in 2024.

Thank you for a job well done to **Cathy Witkay** for all her hard work preparing the Annual Report. To **Doug Merrill** and treasurer **John Powers** for preparing the budget. And to all the leadership who prepared reports for the past year: Guest Priest **Will Scott**, Senior Warden and Harvest Festival Chair **Marty Fischer**, Deacon **Naomi Chamberpain-Harris**, Deanery Delegate **Bob Eddy**, Altar Guild Director **Sylvia Williams**, Christian Formation co-chairs **Marian Mulkey** and **Anne Brown**, Michael Lane Preschool Director **Holly Higgins**, Property Commission Chair **Chris Young**, Stephen Ministry Leader **Vicki Pappas**, Stewardship Commission Chair **Paul Witkay**, and Winter Night Coordinator **Anne Brown**.

*thank you*

***SUNDAY EVENING  
WORSHIP SERVICE  
at 5p.m.  
with Iona Liturgy***

A small group of St. Anselm's parishioners are coming together to host a 5 p.m. Eucharist during Lent. We will use prayers from the Iona Community, an ecumenical movement founded in Scotland. Following a brief service of word and sacrament in the sanctuary, we will offer a simple meal in the parish hall. We look forward to welcoming you. If you would like to support this service by playing music, making soup or bringing bread, or if you have questions, please contact Rev. Will at [rector@stanselms.us](mailto:rector@stanselms.us) or 415-987-3029



**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**Palm Sunday, March 24th at 10:00 a.m.**  
in person and online

**Maundy Thursday, March 28 at Noon**  
in person only

**Good Friday, March 29nd at Noon**  
in person and online

**Easter Sunday, March 31st at 10:00 a.m.**  
in person and online  
followed by an Easter Egg Hunt  
and visit by the Easter Bunny

**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](mailto:parish@stanselms.us) with your selected date(s) and dedication.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

Jill Schon  
Richard White  
Jim Burns  
Zoe Hekmaty  
Jayne Alexander  
Pamela Green  
Emmanuelle Merrill  
Nelson Seletzky  
Mark Stanley  
Barbara Thornton  
William Weaver  
Elizabeth Henry  
Michael Hollinger



**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

Peg Matson & Duane Nelson  
Alan & Sarah Swimmer  
Dimitri & Leta Seletzky

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS**

Help provide refreshments following the service. To sign up contact Sylvia Williams at [sw94565@yahoo.com](mailto:sw94565@yahoo.com) or 925-586-0730



**COUNTERS**

Assist a Vestry member with the responsibility for counting and recording cash and checks on a written counter form and securing the deposit. If interested in volunteering as a counter, please contact Marty Fischer or Peg Matson.

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](http://www.stanselms.us)

Editor: Margaret Wolfe  
e-mail: [margaret.w@stanselms.us](mailto:margaret.w@stanselms.us)

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

**St. Anselm's Staff**

The Rev. Will Scott, Guest Priest  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Margaret Wolfe, Office Manager

To schedule an in person  
conversation with Rev. Will,  
email [rector@stanselms.us](mailto:rector@stanselms.us)

**March office hours:**

Mondays 9 a.m.-Noon  
Wednesday 9 a.m.-Noon  
Fridays 12 p.m.-2 p.m.

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## **From The Senior Warden**

Here it is almost March, our garden daffodils have just started and the fruit trees are beginning their early blooms that will lead to fruit later this summer. We are into Lent and Easter is looming. The hills are all green and the trees will soon unfurl their glorious new leaves. What a grandeur this time of year brings us. The timing this spring parallels the recent experiences within our congregation. There is a sense of rebirth at St. Anselm's. We are emerging from a long and challenging winter into a new spring of endless possibilities and fresh hope for this very special community.

Sally & I just had our family visit from Colorado us for a week. We were reminded of how our eldest, Mark, was raised in our community and how grateful we are that his life was influenced by Rev. Bob Tsu and the support of so many wonderful people, of the past and present St. Anselm's family. He was baptized at that huge clamshell, was several farmyard animals in our annual Christmas pageant, then graduated into shepherds and wise men. He did his Eagle Scout project in our sanctuary. Now Mark is 50, his son, Judah, is 17 and his daughter Lili is 13. What wonderful memories their presence evoked. And so, the cycles of generations move forward. Our experiences as part of the St. Anselm's family are cherished and our sincere hope is that others will be able to write something like this 100 years from now. It's really up to us as we head into rebirth to make sure our wonderful St. Anselm's continues.

I want to thank all of you who participated in our business meeting on February 18. It was a time when we looked at 2023 from a business perspective and the hopes, challenges and plans for 2024. What I enjoyed the most was saying "thank you" to three wonderful congregants who really epitomize our greatness as a community of love in the Body of Christ. We recognized the service of Vicki Pappas and Sylvia Williams both of whom serve the congregation in so many ways. Then Anne Brown was honored with the Lifetime Service award. I actually cried in church for the first time in years, as I saw the love and joy in the tears that streamed from Anne's face. I looked her in the and then I choked up as well! But isn't that what we all love about our church family? The connection, the love, the joy we feel.

Lastly, our life at St. Anselm's is about connectedness and service to each other as well as our greater community. Our growth as a congregation depends on people getting involved and serving each other. Our future leadership is developed by being involved in a Commission or two. When you are a congregation of our size, everyone needs to get involved and amazing happiness, feelings of accomplishment, attachment, pride and connectedness just happen. So, as we enter this period of rebirth, join a commission or two of your choosing. We need you and each other!

Marty Fischer  
Sr. Warden

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## **Michael Lane Preschool Update**

We have been busy celebrating this month - we learned about the Lunar New Year and made dragon masks, and red lanterns, and ate tea eggs. For Valentine's Day, we made cards for our friends and family, brainstormed "What Love Is," and ate heart crackers spread with strawberry cream cheese. We invited a local dentists office in to talk to the children about how to care for their teeth, as well as welcomed many parent volunteers in to help with various projects.

I am still giving tours to interested families, and getting acceptance letters ready to welcome a new class into school this August. We hope you had a nice February!

Warmly,  
Holly Higgins  
Director, Michael Lane Preschool



# Congratulations!!!

## *St. Anselm's Honorees*

Three strong women leaders who help form the backbone of our congregation were recognized at the February 18<sup>th</sup> Congregational Business Meeting



### *Sylvia Williams*

Sylvia has served on the Vestry multiple times, as a former Senior Warden, co-chair of the Rector Search Committee and continues to lead Altar Guild and the Parish Life Commission with great organizational skills and good cheer.

### *Anne Brown*

Anne was given the Lifetime Service recognition for her many contributions. She has been co-chair of the Christian Formation Committee, led past women's retreats and contributed to the Lenten series over many years. She has been a faithful presence and leader of our Winter Nights efforts, has been a member of the Harvest Festival Committee since its onset as well as a Sr. Warden. She rarely misses Sunday service. In all these roles, she personifies warmth and welcome.

### *Vicki Pappas*

Vicki currently heads our Stephen Ministry, keeps track of the prayer chain, sings in choir. She is always positive and ready to step up.

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## ***CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMISSION LENTEN SERIES***

### ***BUILDING COMMUNITY IN TIMES OF CHANGE***

This will be an in-person Speaker Series held on Sundays after church. Following a light lunch, these sessions will begin at 11:30 a.m. and conclude by 12:45p.m. Speakers will offer insights and inspiration about building and healing community. Some involve particular populations, others focus on current issues, but all will offer food for thought and opportunities for discussion. All are welcome to attend some or all of the sessions:

**March 3:** Cynthia Cudaback, Ph.D., an educator, geophysicist and leader of her congregation's Interfaith Power & Light "Green Team," will discuss science-based solutions to climate change and ways our faith community can make a difference, beyond the greening of our campus.

**March 10:** John Nickerson, Superintendent of Acalanes Union High School District, will discuss how our local high schools support students with today's unique challenges and opportunities.

**March 17:** Suzy Pak, Community Outreach Coordinator of Lamorinda Village, will discuss the original social network, its health benefits, and how to find and cultivate your very own.



**March 3: Cynthia Cudaback, Ph.D., an educator, geophysicist and leader of her congregation's Interfaith Power & Light "Green Team"** - Cynthia is an Oakland native, who has earned degrees in physics and geophysics, operated research vessels, conducted oceanographic research and taught every level from pre-K through graduate school. Her personal mission is to provide people with the tools needed to make informed decisions that affect our environment. This mission informs her teaching, and has inspired her to lead the Earth Care team at her church, as well as volunteering with Interfaith Power and Light. Cynthia is also a professional storyteller, and blends myths with science to teach about the ocean.

**March 10: John Nickerson, Ed.D., Superintendent of Acalanes Union High School District** - John has served as Superintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District since 2011 and previously held teaching and administrative roles at Miramonte, Acalanes and Campolindo High Schools. As Superintendent of the 5500-student high school district he leads efforts to further develop and implement high quality programs and educational opportunities for students to attain college and career readiness; develop programs and opportunities to promote access and achievement for all students in relevant and engaging curriculum and programs; provide safe, engaging and inclusive school sites and classrooms that address the social-emotional needs of all students; and recruit, develop and retain high quality certificated, classified and administrative staff.



**March 17: Suzy Pak, Community Outreach Coordinator of Lamorinda Village** - Suzy grew up on California's Central Coast where her parents instilled a strong commitment to community service. At UC Santa Cruz, she was a founding member of Alpha Phi Omega (a service fraternity) and received the JC Penney Golden Rule award for outstanding community service. After earning a B.A., Economics, she worked in fundraising for United Way and as activity director for a senior community. Suzy worked in financial services for 25+ years before retiring in 2019. Suzy has served on several boards including Lafayette Library & Learning Center Foundation, Lafayette School District Governing Board, National Charity League-Acalanes Chapter, Contra Costa Child Abuse Prevention Council, San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center, Junior League of San Francisco, Lamorinda Village, and Educate Our State. She was honored with the Junior League's lifetime achievement award and was named Lamorinda Village Volunteer of the Year in 2021.

Lamorinda Village is a non-profit 501 c3, membership organization of people over 55 living in Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda. Its purpose is to provide support and connections that will help seniors remain in their homes while they age through programs, activities, and volunteer opportunities.

### **LENTEN SEASON SPECIAL ARTWORK**

Sukey Bryan a San Francisco Bay Area artist who creates work concerning the cycles of nature in paintings, prints and large-scale installations has loaned St. Anselm's two hand painted banners for use in our sanctuary through the month of March. She makes work that raises climate awareness and explores our spiritual connection with nature.

A recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, Bryan was artist in residence in [Denali National Park, Alaska](#), [Grace Cathedral, San Francisco](#) and [Chargepoint Headquarters](#).

Bryan's work has been exhibited widely in the U.S. at galleries, colleges and non-profit art spaces and internationally through the State Department Art in the Embassies program. Her work is held in many private and corporate collections.

Bryan graduated from Yale (BA in Fine Arts) and MICA (Maryland Institute College of Art - MFA). She lives and works on the Stanford campus. Read more about Sukey Bryan on her website: <https://www.sukeybryan.com>.



#### **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 at: [vrpappas@gmail.com](mailto:vrpappas@gmail.com).

#### **2024 EASTER LILIES**

Please see enclosed order form on page 9 to donate Easter lilies this year. Return completed form to the church office no later than **Sunday, March 25th**.

**The cost is \$15.00 per plant.**

Please make your check payable to: ST. ANSELM'S ALTAR GUILD and write "EASTER LILIES" on the memo line.



The Altar Guild is unable to accept Venmo payments.

#### **LENTEN SOCK DRIVE**

As Lent comes early this year, new white socks are needed more than ever for our homeless brothers and sisters. My basket will be in the church near the front doors waiting for your donations of socks. I will be collecting them until Palm Sunday and then will deliver them to Trinity Center. My deepest thanks for your generosity in this time of need in our community.

— Deacon Naomi



### **STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. ANSELM'S**

Have you ever wished for someone to listen, care, and pray for you? Are you going through a difficult time and wishing for a caring person who will listen, but keep your troubles confidential? Stephen Ministers are such people. Stephen Ministry exists because Christ commanded that we care for each other:

*Love one another as I have loved you - John 15:12*

*Rejoice with those rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. - Romans 12:15*

*Encourage one another and build each other up - 1 Thess. 5:11a*



*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the Law of Christ. - Galatians 6:2*

Stephen Ministry is Christ caring for people through people. Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who are going through a difficult time. A Stephen Minister is a well-trained caregiver who listens, cares, prays, encourages, and offers the love of Christ during a time of need. Stephen Ministers understand that Christ is the "cure-giver" and Stephen Ministers are the Caregivers. A Stephen Minister is there to walk beside a person facing difficulties such as divorce, serious illness, loss of spouse, job loss, and much more. You will find videos and more information at [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org). Please contact Vicki Pappas at [vrpappas@gmail.com](mailto:vrpappas@gmail.com) or call (925) 818-7051, or Naomi Chamberlain-Harris at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com) if you want more information or desire to receive care from a Stephen Minister.

## *A Message From Audrey+*

Dear Beloved of Christ –

I have had the opportunity and the blessing to begin my conversations with members of the leadership here at St. Anselm's. I am heartened to hear the wonderful stories of who you are and the ministries that you engage with. I also hear the pain and sorrow and concern surrounding the most recent events which brought about the sudden resignation of Rev Stephen Sitroth, your newly elected rector.

I am reminded and remind you, that we are all children of this loving God and we live in this world that is in the midst of considerable tension and anxiety with so much anger and hatred that is pointed frequently at those that we do not understand. I think that most of us understand that the level of incivility has increased considerably - out in that world. I encourage us all to remember that here in - this world called St. Anselm's - we may not agree (this is normal) but we are family.

Our faith informs us that we are to hold each person as dear as our God holds us and them.

Blessings,  
Audrey+



## *Vestry Update*

The Vestry met on February 19. Discussion topics and decisions included:

- Review of final 2024 financial results
- Updates on Rev. Audrey Miskelley's work to support our healing process, which is just underway. A more thorough Vestry discussion will occur in March.
- Observations from our February 4 congregational listening session. The Vestry identified several questions that need to be resolved, with Rev. Audrey's assistance, after which we will circle back to the full congregation.
- Options and next steps related to a potential Vestry retreat or retreats
- Review and approval of our annual Parochial Report
- Context and expectations related to Safe Church training, either in person on March 24 or online
- Review and approval of Michael Lane Preschool's annual budget
- Updates on upcoming Lenten opportunities for study and reflection
- Updates regarding two ongoing job searches: for a bookkeeper, and for an organist/ choir director
- Updates on a number of improvements and repairs to our property

For more information, contact any member of the Vestry. Vestry meeting minutes and financial reports are available on request. Beginning this month, a print version of the most recent month's (unapproved) Vestry minutes will be posted in the Jackson Hall conference room.

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



**Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is March 24th**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> — *Building Community In Times of Change*** in-person Speaker Series held following a light lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

(Continued on page 2)

**Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> — Evening Worship Service** will be held at 5 p.m.

**Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> — 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](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup> — Grief Support Group** will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> — Evening Bible Study** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> — *Living Well Through Lent 2024: Practicing Forgiveness with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*** will meet via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. Facilitated by members of the Christian Formation Commission and Rev. Will. To be invited, email Marian Mulkey at [marianmulkey@comcast.net](mailto:marianmulkey@comcast.net).

**Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup> — Cancer Support Group** will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 4:00 p.m. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at [jrjpmaggie@hotmail.com](mailto:jrjpmaggie@hotmail.com).

**Monday March 17<sup>th</sup> — Vestry** will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Vestry members will receive an email from Chris Young with the meeting link.

**Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup> — Stephen Ministers** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministers will receive a link from Vicki Pappas.

**Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> — Safe Church Training and Live Scan Fingerprinting** in-person training session and mobile fingerprinting.

*See page 2 for Holy Week Schedule*



## 2024 EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

To donate Easter lilies this year please complete this dedication form and return it to the office no later than Sunday, March 25th. **The cost is \$15.00 per plant.**

*Please make your check out to:*  
**ST. ANSELM'S ALTAR GUILD**, noting **"EASTER LILIES"** on the memo line.  
*The Altar Guild is unable to accept Venmo payments.*

In Memory of:

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In Honor of:

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In Thanksgiving for:

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email: \_\_\_\_\_