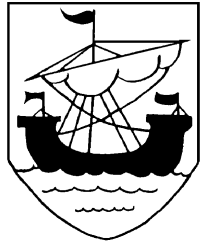


# Canterbury Tales



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

October 2024



## *From Rev. Will*

Dear St. Anselm's,

It is hard to imagine where Christianity would be without the influence of St. Francis of Assisi. Francis' story and the legends surrounding him stand in stark contrast to the excesses of the middle ages and our own. The child of a wealthy merchant, after being captured in military service returns home and finds himself called by God to embrace a radically different path, to marry Lady Poverty, to rebuild an abandoned church, and found a religious order. Many of us first became acquainted with St. Francis via garden sculptures because of his famous tenderness towards animals, preaching to birds and a wolf, and the poetry of his Canticle of the Sun. In 2015 Pope Francis penned his encyclical on the climate crisis "Laudato si'" inspired by the canticle. Like the gospels there always seems to be something more to learn about St. Francis.

*(continued on page 6)*

## *Anselm's Angels*

A big thank you to representatives of all our Commissions, Ministries and Guilds who developed materials and welcomed table conversations in Jackson Hall during our September 8 Ministries Fair; to **John Powers** who organized a zoom option to allow online participation; to **Joni Pearce** and **Sylvia Williams** who helped with set-up; and to **Julie Starr** who helped with clean-up.

Special thanks to **Peg Matson** for organizing the 2nd Annual Lamorinda Safety Day that was held in the church parking lot. With many thanks to volunteers **Katie Taggart**, **Bob Eddy**, **John Powers**, **Sarah Swimmer**, **John Ruby**, **Duane Nelsen** and **Rev. Will** for all your help.

Many thanks to **Sylvia Williams** and **Julie Rinkenberger** for facilitating three Parish Profile Listening Sessions.

And much appreciation to our guest organists **Maggie Boscoe**, **Andrew Colburn**, & **Sharon Linton** for sharing your musical talents with us.



## *From The Senior Warden*

You've probably heard the aphorism: "Some people live to work, others work to live." That saying always struck me as silly and simplistic. Perhaps that's because throughout my life I've been privileged to do work that I find enjoyable and satisfying, and to be surrounded by support systems that allow me to maintain a reasonable work-life balance.

Despite my skepticism about that phrasing, I've reflected lately on two possible approaches to giving: one in which we "live to give," another in which we "give to live." At St. Anselm's, we have a remarkable number of people who seem to see giving – of their time, talent and treasure – as core to their life purpose. Giving is an essential part of who they are and what they do, across the seasons and stages of life; you might say that they "live to give." I could offer numerous examples: those among us who keep our worship space beautiful, our kitchen stocked, our grounds and facilities safe and attractive, our worship services and music meaningful and inspiring, our caring ministries available and supportive, our educational offerings vibrant, our social interactions and outreach efforts warm and welcoming. I deeply respect these contributions, which help make St. Anselm's what it is. But they have a potential downside. On occasion this service might appear – and might even feel – downright sacrificial: that is, giving to the point of burnout or hardship.

This month, instead of (or in addition to) "living to give," I encourage you to observe and consider the transformative possibilities of "giving to live." There have been times in my life when I have given reluctantly yet been rewarded with unanticipated growth and satisfaction. I'd invite you to consider occasions when you offered a helping hand or provided a service out of a sense of duty or routine, but then found surprising joy in doing that work well. Maybe, like me, there have been times when you've offered your time or talent with mixed feelings, only to be delighted to find that interactions with co-workers or fellow travelers made the process of giving more meaningful than the gift itself. Most of us have worried at some point about having enough (time, money, flexibility...) to give as much as is asked of us, yet when we've moved forward with determination and hope, we've somehow found a way.

October is an excellent time for each of us to revisit our approach to giving and seek out its life-affirming benefits. In addition to many ongoing aspects of parish life through which we can give of ourselves, Winter Nights provides a particular opportunity to offer service and welcome to unhoused families in Jackson Hall. We are invited to give our time to connect with others who care about the St. Anselm's community through "Sip, Snack and Chat" events in several locations on October Saturday afternoons. And throughout the month we are called to consider how we might make financial commitments and gifts that position St. Anselm's to thrive and grow in 2025 and beyond.

The prayer of St. Francis reminds us that "it is in giving that we receive." This is counter-cultural and perhaps counter-intuitive, but I suspect most of us can readily recall life experiences that have demonstrated that truth in profound ways. This month, let's all look for ways to give with joy, hope and faith, knowing that our generous contributions will build an abundant life for each of us and for the St. Anselm's community as a whole.

*Marian Mulkey*  
Sr. Warden



## *Vestry Update*

At its September 22 meeting, the St. Anselm's vestry:

- Gained context and history regarding Michael Lane Preschool and its relationship to the church;
- Learned about recent Contra Costa Deanery activities and resolutions that will be considered at the upcoming Diocesan convention;
- Accepted an internal audit report for the period 2022-23, conducted this past summer, which found no irregularities;
- Received background material related to the Columbarium;
- Determined 2025 employee benefit policies; and
- Exchanged updates on recent and planned activities related to stewardship, outreach and property.

Minutes from the previous month's vestry meeting are posted in the Jackson Hall conference room. Questions may be addressed to any vestry member.

***FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS  
&  
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS***

Bring your family pets  
to be blessed at  
St. Anselm’s Episcopal Church

**Sunday, October 6th**

10:00 a.m. service  
11:15 a.m. blessing & fellowship  
with LIVE music and food!!



**Stewardship**  
a way of life

Do NOT miss.....

***Ingathering***  
**Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

A special day to celebrate  
our 2025 Stewardship Drive!  
Bring your pledge cards to church for blessing,  
and after the service, enjoy a delectable brunch  
in Jackson Hall

hosted by our Vestry in thanksgiving  
for your care and support.

Your Stewardship Commission:  
Katie, Julie, John Keith and Doug

**Michael Lane Preschool**

Happy Fall!

Our year is chugging along here at Michael Lane Preschool! We have been exploring cooking and making our daily snack - homemade hummus, cutting strawberries, peeling carrots, and shucking corn! The children are loving things that roll, so we have procured a hefty rotation of trucks and cars, have painted with cars, and conducted some races.

The children are settling into nice routines at school, and I am continually grateful to have many children back for their 2nd and 3rd year here. These children are also teachers throughout our day, helping our newer classmates “learn the ropes.”

Our focus at the beginning of the school year is always making the children feel comfortable at school, and reminding them that Mom and Dad always come back at the end of the day. We emphasize that our school is a safe place, and that “the more we get together, the happier we’ll be!”

Wishing you a lovely fall!  
Warmly,  
Holly  
Michael Lane Preschool Director





A steward is defined as “a person who manages another’s property or financial affairs; one who administers as the agent of others.” For us Christians, for “the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement,” as Presiding Bishop Michael Curry would say, stewardship reflects our commitment to work, pray, and give to spread the kingdom of God (BCP, p.856). In other words, the three “Ts” of sharing our time, talent, and treasure.

St. Anselm’s custom is to review and reflect on our commitment to our community each fall. We are specifically focused on the “T” of treasure via our annual pledge drive. This year’s theme for St. Anselm’s Stewardship Campaign is: **“Stewardship means all of us...all the time.”**

This letter invites you to consider your St. Anselm’s pledge commitment for 2025. All of us at St. Anselm’s, united in our commitment to the church’s mission, find ourselves facing a year of challenges. But though we suffered some financial setbacks late in 2023 and early 2024, we are turning a corner. **Engagement and attendance are up--as are St. Anselm’s budget demands for the upcoming year and beyond.**

Our primary goal is to ensure we have the staffing required for a congregation with significant pastoral and spiritual needs. A full-time Rector is essential for us to move forward as a parish. We have been blessed with Rev. Will’s help and support this year at 20 hours a week, but neither he nor any clergy can continue on a half-time/half-pay basis. It is of utmost importance that we provide a viable salary package to attract and keep the clergy member of our choice. We must also find the means to afford a gifted and skilled music director. As we grow, the salary needs of other staff will also increase.

We’ve run the numbers, and to support full-time clergy, offer meaningful worship and program offerings, continue smooth business operations, maintain our facility, and invest modestly in outreach, we need to secure pledges of \$295,000 for 2025. To meet stretch goals—for example, hiring a permanent part-time choir director, setting aside prudent maintenance reserves, supporting community outreach at robust levels, and planning for program investments to support future growth—we need to secure pledges of \$350,000.

**We need everyone’s support.** Our goal is twofold: one, to have all members of St. Anselm’s pledge (make a monetary commitment to be completed by the end of 2025), and two, to ask all pledging members to review their current pledge with great thought and care and increase their commitment if possible. We have a promising future, but only with all our assistance and loving care.

As part of this year’s stewardship campaign, we will host several receptions to reflect and give thanks for our life together. Members of the parish will also present their reasons for giving to St. Anselm’s at services throughout October. The kick-off of our campaign will be on Oct. 6, St. Francis Day, and an ingathering service will be held on All Saints Day, Nov. 3, when our pledges will be offered up for blessing. St. Anselm’s Vestry will host a celebratory brunch after that service. We look forward to seeing you all. Let’s rejoice in our growing church in every way!

Your Stewardship Commission:

Katie Taggart, Chair, Julie Rinkenberger, John Powers, Keith Pearce, and Doug Merrill

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### What is pledging?

Pledging is a commitment to contribute a certain amount of money over a period of time. Our current stewardship campaign (aka "pledge drive") is asking all those who consider themselves members (nearby or far away, online or in-person) to let us know what they will be able to contribute to St. Anselm's in 2025 so we can prepare our 2025 budget.

#### How much should I pledge?

Pledging is a personal, intentional, spiritual decision we hope you make after much thought and prayer. Pledges can be any amount, usually given periodically (weekly, monthly, quarterly) throughout the year. Some people provide a one-time lump sum. All pledges, large and small, are valued as a commitment in faith to our community. If you currently pledge to St. Anselm's, you may want to consider an incremental increase, such as increasing your pledge by 5-10% over last year's pledge.

#### What is proportional giving?

Proportional Giving involves intentionally designating a portion of your annual income as your pledge to St. Anselm's. This chart shows yearly pledge amounts at different income levels and giving percentages. You are invited to use this information to determine an appropriate level of giving in gratitude for all that God has given you.

ANNUAL PROPORTIONAL GIVING CHART										
	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$15,000	\$1,500	\$1,350	\$1,200	\$1,050	\$900	\$750	\$600	\$450	\$300	\$150
\$25,000	\$2,500	\$2,250	\$2,000	\$1,750	\$1,500	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$750	\$500	\$200
\$35,000	\$3,500	\$3,150	\$2,800	\$2,450	\$2,100	\$1,750	\$1,400	\$1,050	\$700	\$350
\$45,000	\$4,500	\$4,050	\$3,600	\$3,150	\$2,700	\$2,250	\$1,800	\$1,350	\$900	\$450
\$55,000	\$5,500	\$4,950	\$4,400	\$3,850	\$3,300	\$2,750	\$2,200	\$1,650	\$1,100	\$550
\$65,000	\$6,500	\$5,850	\$5,200	\$4,550	\$3,900	\$3,250	\$2,600	\$1,950	\$1,300	\$650
\$75,000	\$7,500	\$6,750	\$6,000	\$5,250	\$4,500	\$3,750	\$3,000	\$2,250	\$1,500	\$750
\$100,000	\$10,000	\$9,000	\$8,000	\$7,000	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$1,000
\$125,000	\$12,500	\$11,250	\$10,000	\$8,750	\$7,500	\$6,250	\$5,000	\$3,750	\$2,500	\$1,250
\$150,000	\$15,000	\$13,500	\$12,000	\$10,500	\$9,000	\$7,500	\$6,000	\$4,500	\$3,000	\$1,500
\$200,000	\$20,000	\$18,000	\$16,000	\$14,000	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
\$250,000	\$25,000	\$22,500	\$20,000	\$17,500	\$15,000	\$12,500	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$2,500
\$500,000	\$50,000	\$45,000	\$40,000	\$35,000	\$30,000	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000

#### How do I pledge?

How do I pledge? Please click and complete a [digital pledge card](#) or bring your pledge card with you on Sunday, November 3rd as part of our ingathering service on All Saints Day.

#### Why pledge?

By pledging, you are helping ensure that St. Anselm's leaders can count on your ongoing financial support as we plan for the year ahead.

#### How are financial decisions made at St. Anselm's

The Vestry of St. Anselm's makes financial decisions. Vestry is the name for the church's "board of directors." Members are elected to three-year terms. The Vestry meets monthly.

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*(continued from page 1)*

In the summer of 2006, just before moving to the Bay Area, Matt and I went on our first trip to Europe together and spent a day in Assisi. The first place we visited was just outside of town, the Portiuncula, a place of pilgrimage for many due to its association with Francis and his female collaborator Clare. There's a replica in North Beach. At a small shop near the church I picked up a tiny book by Pope Benedict on "The Pardon of Assisi" which describes how Francis requested that the Pope grant pilgrims to this humble little church the same spiritual benefit as making an expensive and dangerous pilgrimage to Santiago, Rome or Jerusalem. Like much of what Francis' was about, this was controversial, many powerful folks had much invested in the way things were, providing such an indulgence had theological, economic and political ramifications.

St. Francis is credited with starting the first nativity scene --- wanting to help the poor and illiterate townspeople understand better the profound message of the eternal logos of God taking on human life and being born in the earthy setting of a cave surrounded by animals.

We may not all be called to live as Francis did, begging for food, not owning anything, preaching to birds and making requests of Popes but to be a Christian is to seek to emulate Christ in the world. The early followers of Jesus' way were called "little Christs."

The thing about St. Francis and so many wise and holy people is that you can see how their piety, their faith, impacted those around them. Francis joy at answering God's call was contagious, and many have been infected by his spirit of simplicity, reverence, and compassion.

That we are still talking about and sharing the practices and legends associated with him is a testament not only to Francis' good works but also to the magnetic quality of those who kept those stories and practices alive over the centuries.

This month as St. Anselm's launches our 2025 pledge campaign, it is important to remember that part of living a life in the spirit of St. Francis is to recognize that all we have is a gift from God, that following Christ is about embracing an ethic of love, love for self, love for others and even love for our enemies. As we each think about how we will share from our resources I hope we will find ourselves moved by the same Spirit that led Francis, that we may step up in ways that liberate us from anxiety and fear, that our giving comes from a desire to nurture beloved community not just for ourselves but for the world that God loves. May your generosity to St. Anselm's come from a place of call, gratitude and joy at what God is doing in and through this community.

Our little parish in the rolling hills of Lafayette reminds me of Assisi in many ways, especially these first two weeks of October as we work with our interfaith partners to host vulnerable families and seniors through Winter Nights. May we find joy and hope in serving others, and may God continue transforming us into "little Christs".

See you soon!

Peace,  
Will

*The Rev. Will Scott*  
*Priest-in-Charge*

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**BOOK CLUB**

The Golden Gate  
by Amy Chua

Thursday, October 17th  
at 2:00 p.m.  
in the Library

We welcome you to join us.  
And help us select our next book.

*Sharyn and Naomi*



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



**HARVEST  
FESTIVAL**

**NOVEMBER 16, 2024  
5-8PM**

Trinity Center  
1888 Trinity Avenue  
Walnut Creek

Tickets \$100 per person  
includes social hour fair with booths,  
dinner & auction

For questions, please contact co-chairs  
Marty Fischer  
[marty@fischermarketinggroup.com](mailto:marty@fischermarketinggroup.com)  
or Pam McGrath  
[pamm@trinitycenterwc.org](mailto:pamm@trinitycenterwc.org)



**ALTAR FLOWERS**

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.



**OCTOBER  
BIRTHDAYS**

Gene Bozworth  
Duane Nelsen  
David Rowe  
Doug Merrill  
Elisabeth Ward  
Sharyn Barrington-Carlson  
Amy Arear  
Allen Zhang  
Kate Ruby  
Ian Weaver  
Margaret Young



**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS**

Help provide refreshments following the service. To sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044bada722a2f85-coffee> or contact Sylvia Williams at 925-586-0730

**BIBLE STUDY**

meets Thursday  
at 7p.m.  
on Zoom

We will start our study of the book of Ruth. All are welcome. Please contact Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com) for any questions.

Canterbury Tales  
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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

**OCTOBER  
ANNIVERSARIES**

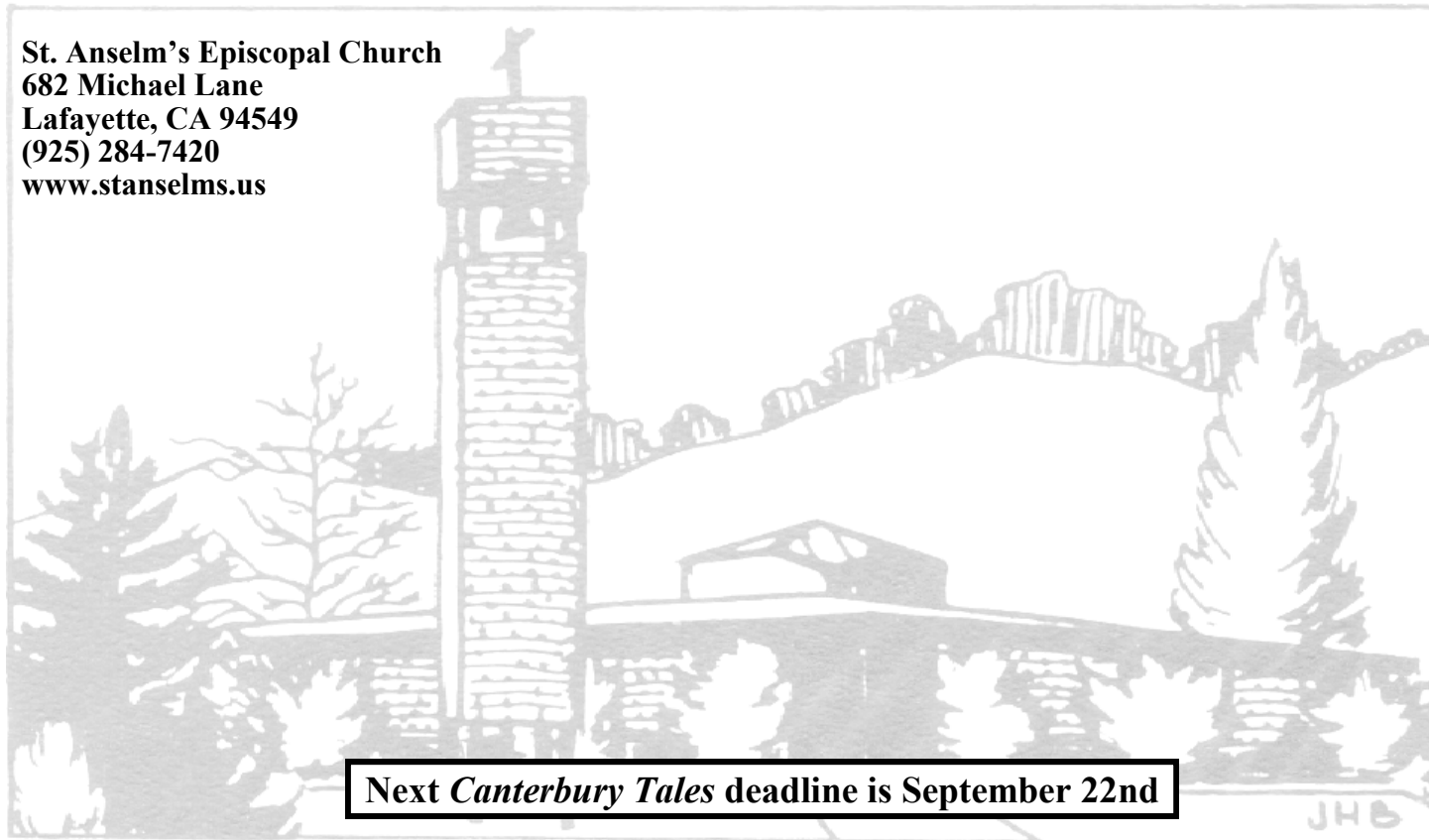
Bob & Georganne Eddy



St. Anselm's Staff  
The Rev. Will Scott, Priest-In-Charge  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Margaret Wolfe, Office Manager  
Dawn King, Bookkeeper  
Holly Higgins, Michael Lane Preschool Director

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

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**Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is September 22nd**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday September 30th to October 14th — Winter Nights** St. Anselm's will host September 30- October 6, then LDS Church of San Ramon will take over October 7-13. To help volunteer contact Joni Pearce at [jonipearce@me.com](mailto:jonipearce@me.com).

**Tuesday October 1st/8th/15th/22nd/29th — 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 October 1st — 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).

**Thursday October 3rd/10th/17th/24th/31st — Evening Bible Study** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. We will start our study of the book of Ruth. All are welcome. Please contact Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**Sunday October 6th — St. Francis Day & Blessing of the Animals** bring your family pets to be blessed at St. Anselm's 10 a.m. service followed by blessing & fellowship with live music and food!!

**Sunday October 6th — Altar Guild** will meet in the conference room at 11:30 a.m.

**Sunday October 13th — 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](mailto:jrjpmaggie@hotmail.com).

**Thursday October 17th — Book Club** will meet at 2 p.m. in the church library.

**Sunday October 20th — 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.

**Wednesday October 23rd — Stephen Ministers** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministers will receive a link from Vicki Pappas.

**Wednesday October 30th — Worship Commission** will meet at 3:00 p.m. in the conference room.