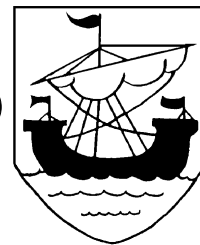


Canterbury Tales



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

February 2025

From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's,

March 1st will be a special day for all of us at St. Anselm's. Our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Austin Rios, will preside over a Celebration of New Ministry, which is the term used to describe the institution or induction of a priest as a rector in a parish. I hope you will participate in this joyous occasion. I am excited to welcome my clergy colleagues from around the Diocese, friends from all over the region, and to celebrate what I pray will be many years together of impactful ministry. The Rev. Mary E. Haddad will be coming from Paris to preach.

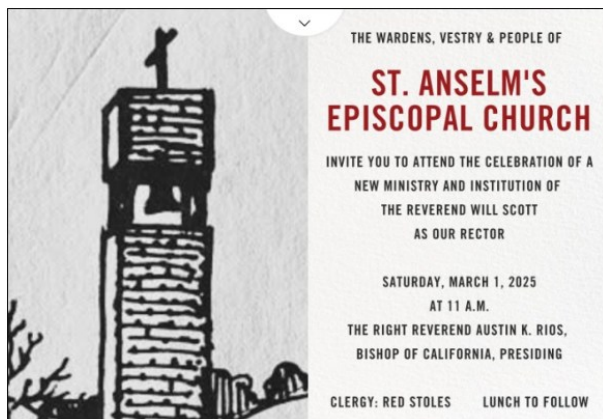
As part of the liturgy on March 1st I will offer the following prayer:

O Lord my God, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; yet you have called your servant to stand in your house, and to serve at your altar. To you and to your service I devote myself, body, soul, and spirit. Fill my memory with the record of your mighty works; enlighten my understanding with the light of your Holy Spirit; and may all the desires of my heart and will center in what you would have me do. Make me an instrument of your salvation for the people entrusted to my care, and grant that I may faithfully administer your holy Sacraments, and by my life and teaching set forth your true and living Word. Be always with me in carrying out the duties of my ministry. In prayer, quicken my devotion; in praises, heighten my love and gratitude; in preaching, give me readiness of thought and expression; and grant that, by the clearness and brightness of your holy Word, all the world may be drawn into your blessed kingdom. All this I ask for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

If you are planning to join us on March 1st, [RSVP](#) so that we can ensure there's enough food and festive beverages for all at the luncheon following the 11 a.m. service.

See you soon!

Faithfully,
Will



Thank you

Anselm's Angels

Special thanks to **Katie Taggart** for pulling off the amazing Epiphany party.

A very big thank you to **Iris Hillman** for helping us celebrate the ordination anniversaries of Rev. Will and Rev. Joan Gardner.

Thank you to the Endowment Committee for getting things off the ground with Episcopal Church Foundation.

Many thanks to **Judy Peak & Worship Commission** for helping prepare for updates to our liturgy.

Much gratitude to **Maggie McCloskey** for hosting Centering Prayer while Rev. Will was on vacation.

Deepest gratitude to **Peg Matson, Duane Nelsen, Bob Eddy, Rev Will and the Marcelino Landscape crew** who helped dig out and clean up the drain at the bottom of the hill behind Jackson Hall.

Much appreciation to **Marian Mulkey** for her leadership as Sr. Warden and outgoing Vestry members **Elaine Sherwood, Gerry Starr and JP Zhang**.

And heartfelt thanks to everyone for helping with Annual Congregational Meeting, Art Show and Celebration of New Ministry.

From The Senior Warden

This will be my last column as your Senior Warden. It has been a whirlwind ten-month period, but I have seen great progress on many fronts and believe that the coming year will bring many exciting opportunities for growth and continued revival. It has been an honor to serve as your Senior Warden and to get to know my fellow vestry members, our remarkable clergy, and parishioners in deeper ways.



I want to offer a few highlights of the accomplishments of the past year:

We welcomed Rev. Will, engaged in a process of mutual discernment, and called him to be our full-time rector.

We navigated transitions in administrative staff (Office Manager, two changes in Bookkeeper) and continued to refine and improve business processes.

Committee and commission processes continued and/or were newly invigorated as we conducted an impressive array of activities that contributed to community life and the upkeep of our sacred spaces.

We conducted a successful annual stewardship campaign, raised funds for special needs, and laid the foundation for a long-term endowment.

We identified and engaged a new Director of Music.

Those are all signs of rather mundane aspects of organizational health (which over this past year I've come to understand and appreciate in entirely new ways!). Equally or more important, St. Anselm's has offered deeply meaningful opportunities for worship and reflection throughout the liturgical seasons. We have seen rising participation in worship as well as virtually all areas of parish life.

I'll save the remainder of my narrative effort for written and oral reports at our upcoming annual meeting, February 9 after church. Please do your best to participate, either in person or via Zoom. At that meeting we will hear important updates from St. Anselm's leaders, elect new vestry members and Deanery representatives, and conduct the church's business. I hope you will join me in celebrating our recent past and looking with anticipation to the year ahead.

Marian Mulkey
Sr. Warden



Vestry Update

The St. Anselm's Vestry met twice in January, in person on January 12 and briefly via Zoom on January 27.

At the first meeting, we discussed plans for Rev. Will's Celebration of New Ministry which will be on Saturday, March 1st at 11 a.m.; Bishop Rios and other guests will attend. In the context of planning for our February 9 annual congregational meeting and year-end reporting, we discussed nominations for the incoming vestry class and a transition in the role of treasurer. We shared updates from various committees and exchanged information about upcoming events.

At the January 27 virtual meeting, the vestry reviewed and approved year-end financial results, which will be shared at the February 9 congregational meeting.

GRATEFUL GATHERINGS



Our focus for giving in the month of February is an organization called Grateful Gatherings. Grateful Gatherings helps families in the Bay Area transition from homelessness or crisis to a safe place to live. They provide the furnishings to turn an apartment into a home. We will be collecting sets of sheets. We will collect only NEW sets of WHITE sheets sizes twin, full or queen. You can bring your donations to church, or purchase on Amazon and have them sent to the home of Joni Pearce at 92 Devin Drive, Moraga 94556. **We will collect sheet sets through March 1st.** Thank you for your donations!



Art and Music Festival

Saturday
February 22, 2025
1-5 p.m.

Hosted by:
St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
682 Michael Lane
Lafayette

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

Come enjoy

- The creativity of local musicians and artists!
- Refreshments
- Arts table for the kids

For more information visit: www.stanselms.us



Artists:

Gary Bacon – photography
Sue Crawford -oil
Joan Daoro – oil
Shelley Frost – clay art
Georganne Zaro Eddy – watercolor
Iris Hillman -watercolor
Junona Jonas -acrylics & pastels
Marilyn Mattson – acrylics
Julie Starr – collage & paintings
Katie Taggart – acrylic on glass
Clara Wu – photography & paintings
Campolindo Art Students

Music:

1 - 2pm. “Doctor Young & the Crisco Sere-naders Ukulele Band” Chris Young, David Funk, Allan Dodge, Jane Robbins, Anne Seeman, Dawn Kurisu, Doug Hilliard, Sandi Eng, Kandy Petersen, Peggy Lewis, Dave Lewis, Dorothy Becker & Patricia Macsata.

2:30 - 3:30pm. “The 360s” Christopher Johnson, John Shinn & Duane Campbell. (Guitars & songs from 50s and 60s)

3:30 - 5pm “Touchstone Band” with Dwight Stone, Dan Willis, Amie Shapiro, Mark Foglia, Karl Hartmann & Nancy Loomba

Duane Nelson - Guitar Solo

Guest Preacher on March 1st

The Rev. Mary Haddad, born and raised in Canada, engaged in many professions before going to work for the church in 1992. She was a radio show producer, TV production assistant for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, publicist and concert manager for a university School of Music, owner and operator of a French café, and was even a Toyota car salesperson of the year—in Detroit, of all places!



She ventured into church work when she was hired as sexton and verger at an Episcopal church in Los Angeles, where she spent five years before being sent off to General Theological Seminary in New York, graduating and then ordained in 2000.

She subsequently served as senior associate at St. Bartholomew’s Church in New York, Canon Pastor at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, Interim Rector at All Saints’ Beverly Hills and frequent teacher and preacher on Hawaii’s Big Island and Maui. In her last full-time post, she served as Cathedral Canon at the American Cathedral in Paris, France where she oversaw the creation of a meditation community. She has co-led annual meditation and yoga retreats to Greece since 2018.

In 2022, Mary retired from full-time work taking her passions beyond the walls, leading meditation pop-ups on zoom, becoming a spiritual life coach and conseillère de vie. She continues to stay connected with the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, serving on the mission team for St. Nino’s in Tbilisi, Georgia. After taking a trip around the world to mark a milestone birthday, a highlight of 2024 (and her life!) was being chosen as a volunteer for the Summer Olympics in Paris. Mary is a French resident and has made Paris her home.

**St. Anselm's
Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 9th**
following Sunday service
all members are welcome to attend

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Class of 2026 (One-Year Term):

David Rowe

I grew up in the Episcopal Church at St. Edward the Confessor (now Good Samaritan) in San Jose, where I served as an acolyte and was confirmed by Bishop Pike. More recently, I was a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Alameda during the time Will served as Associate Rector.



Three years ago, my wife and I moved from Alameda to Rossmoor in Walnut Creek. About a year ago, I discovered through Facebook that Will had become the interim priest at St. Anselm's, and I began attending services here. Over the past few months, I've had the privilege of joining the AV team, helping manage the sound system and livestreaming our services via Zoom.

I'm thrilled that St. Anselm's has chosen Will as its permanent rector. Having seen the great work he did in Alameda, I'm confident he will provide the leadership needed to guide St. Anselm's as it grows in the years ahead. Hoping I can help to support that mission through my participation in the vestry.

Class of 2028 (Three-Year Term):

Pamela Simonds Green

I've been a member of St. Anselm's since 2012. I was lucky to be among the 8'o'clock group prior to the pandemic, having coffee with an amazing group of seniors, many over ninety. At that time, I did service on the property commission (afternoon meetings pre-Zoom).



I was a professional landscape designer for 30+ years, in and around Lamorinda. I have a degree in Landscape Architecture from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. During college I catered in hotels in that area as well as worked as a cook for the Hearst Family. Before going back to college, I worked seven years for UPS, five of them as a delivery driver (Route in north Lafayette).

I completed eucharistic visitor training in 2016 and took home communion to members unable to attend. I began to serve as a LEM (lay eucharist minister) about that same time. With John's support, I was confirmed at Grace Cathedral in June of 2018. I took a break from service when Bob & I bought our 'Cabin' in Rough & Ready, CA (just below Grass Valley, north of highway 20). We have been having fun improving and maintaining the house and 5 acres there.

Now that the work on the cabin is mostly done, I was available to assist with the Landscaping of the street frontage after the pines were removed. Then the urgent and important work last fall removing the dead flammable vegetation on our south side, working with the neighbors and the fire inspector. Subsequently, I accepted the invitation to rejoin the property commission.

Bob & I have been married 16 years, and I have two step-daughters and five grandchildren, and one dog (Willie).

I appreciate being asked to serve on the vestry and look forward to helping our special church community in any way that I can.

Maggie McCloskey

I am honored to be considered as a candidate for the vestry at St. Anselm's Episcopal Church. Raised in the Catholic tradition, I sought spiritual guidance and a new church community in 2023 and immediately felt at home at St. Anselm's. Since joining, I have actively participated as a lector and recently joined the weekly contemplative prayer practice. I am also a member of the Cancer Support Group. I have been inspired by the welcoming and vibrant spirit of St. Anselm's congregation. With a deep passion for faith formation, I hope to champion expanded opportunities for Christian education, fostering growth and engagement for all members of our church community.

Sheila Mattimoe Riedy

My name is Sheila Mattimoe Riedy. I was born in Toledo, Ohio and lived much of my life as a cradle Catholic (Catholic Elementary, High School and College). I migrated to the Episcopal Church in Houston, TX when, philosophically, I couldn't cotton to the myriad positions of that faith. I felt comfortable in an Episcopal Church; the services are so similar, and I was drawn to the value placed on outreach and kindness.

I met Anne Brown at an unrelated setting, and she scooped me up. I was looking for a Church and she invited me to come with her to St Anselm's. St. Anselm's was the most welcoming church I have encountered in my many years being a new member of a congregation. It just felt so good. I have lived in CA for 9 years and have been an off and on member for 7 years.

I am a graduate of St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana and received a master's at George Washington University in Washington, DC. I worked in various facets of education for most of my career.

My Twitter (I refuse to call it X) profile contains a quote from Millard Fuller, the Founder along with his wife, of Habitat for Humanity. He said: "For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other." That quote spoke to my heart and my midwestern values. In CA, I have had the opportunity to become an ally of various minority groups. Sacred Ground at St Anselm's provided such a painful education about many minority groups. I, like so many others, was left with lots of knowledge and the question, what can we do? I learned that my life provided lots of privileges. I thought privilege was only for the posh. From Sacred Ground I learned differently.

While living in Rossmoor I participated in a volunteer group called Senior Tutors where I worked with teenage boys caught up in the juvenile justice system. I learned there that these boys mostly need a suburban mother who held their hands while they learned life. Of course, that will never happen but there is much that could be done by St. Anselm's.

I am so excited to see St Anselm's beginning to grow. I am thrilled by the appointment of Will as our Rector. I would like to see St Anselm's become a place where people are welcomed and feel part of the community not just at coffee hour but in all aspects of church life. I was impressed with Will's MLK quote: "If you can't fly then run, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do keep moving forward." I think that will be St. Anselm's as we move forward.

Julia M. Starr

A lifelong Episcopalian, I grew up experiencing the comforting traditions of the Christian year and of the Sunday services hand-in-hand with the openness of the church to all people and to contemporary ideas. I find the traditions and the openness alive at St. Anselm's today, and I like being with you all for Sunday worship, at coffee hour, and in Bible study. Vestry service interests me as a way to learn about the issues and opportunities we face and to participate in choosing our responses and priorities.



Spirit Walks

Sundays, March 9 to April 13, 2025
2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Join Reverend Will Scott and friends for Spirit Walks, a special new Lenten season event series. Enjoy fresh air, connection and sacred contemplation in nature. Each Sunday afternoon for six weeks – rain or shine – we will walk for two to three miles, starting with a prayer and reflection. Halfway into our walk, we'll take a brief break and check in with each other. Then, we'll return to our starting point and enjoy a closing circle and prayer. We'll walk paved local trails of easy to moderate difficulty:

March 9 – Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail in Lafayette

March 16 – Lafayette Reservoir

March 23 – Iron Horse Train in Walnut Creek

Bring walking shoes, a hat, water and a snack, if you wish. Carpool or leave extra time to find parking. (And we love our furry friends, but please leave pets at home.) Interested? Send your RSVP to ShelleyFrost09@gmail.com for trail meeting points and more details.

St. Anselm's Lafayette Endowment Launched with the Episcopal Church Foundation

By John Powers

More exciting news for Year 65 at St. Anselms. Based on the best practices of other long-lived Episcopal parishes, the vestry has decided to establish the St. Anselms Lafayette Endowment. This endowment will invest funds to support the long-term continuity of the parish. In particular, the income from this endowment will be used to support music, education, and the upkeep of sacred spaces at St. Anselms. The endowment will be overseen by a committee composed of John Powers, Keith Pearce, and Iris Hillman. After a review of the parish balance sheet, the vestry has elected to begin funding this endowment with an initial deposit of \$32,500 from memorial accounts.

A huge thank you goes out to all the St. Anselms members who have made gifts in memorial or in honor, or have included St. Anselms in their wills. These gifts from parishioners past and present have enabled this initial funding. Funds for the St. Anselms Lafayette Endowment will be managed by the Episcopal Church Foundation, which manages such endowments for hundreds of Episcopal churches, dioceses, schools, and church-related organizations. A long-term focus allows the endowment to invest in longer-term assets than those on the parish balance sheet - a strategy that over the long run usually yields a higher return than our current investments in bank accounts or certificates of deposit.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

By Judy Peak

Saturday, January 25, ten Stephen Minister trainees from four congregations came together in our parish hall to complete their final lessons and celebrate their graduation in the sanctuary. Will+ spoke briefly of our church's 65 year history and concluded with a send-off prayer. Greg Heiman was one of the ten and now joins us as our newest Stephen minister. St Anselm's is proud to have served our congregation with caring Stephen Ministers for 25 years, longer than any other congregation in the area. Because it is a confidential ministry of listening, understanding and devoted care, you are likely totally unaware that it is working among you. A Stephen Minister can walk beside a care receiver for up to a year, depending on the personal impact of a loss. The loss may result in grief over the death of a loved one, a job, divorce, an illness.... It is proven that we deal much better with what life hands us with a Stephen Minister at our side. Let us walk with you.

Speak or email Will+ or Vicki Pappas, Stephen Leader

Michael Lane Preschool



Happy New Year!

We have been studying ice, snow, and winter weather at preschool. We made our own snow, enjoyed an outdoor ice rink, assembled snowman faces for snack time, and made a winter wreath filled with snowflakes. We enjoyed a cozy day at school in our pajamas complete with pancakes and a stuffed animal from home.

By this time of year, the children are in the swing of things. They understand our classroom routines, remember each other's names, and know that Mom and Dad always come back. I'm looking forward to celebrating all of the February holidays and watching the children grow in many ways this winter.

Warmly,
Holly Higgins
 Michael Lane Preschool Director

BOOK CLUB

Thursday, February 20th
at 2:00 p.m.
in the Library



Our book selection for this month is "First Ladies". A study of the friendship of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Mrs. Mary Bethune. We will select our next book when we meet on the 20th. Everyone is welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please reach out to Sharyn Barrington Carlson at 847.337.0875 or Naomi at 925.395.1395.

Special Collection: SoCal Fire Relief

On Sundays, February 2nd and February 9th St. Anselm's will take up a special collection to support fire relief efforts in Los Angeles. Our collection will be split between [Episcopal Relief & Development](#) & the [Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles](#). You may also wish to give directly to them online.

EASTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR, Ages 9-12

As we enter the special season of Lent, we are excited to offer a short-term choral program for young singers ages 9 to 12. Rehearsals will take place weekly, starting in early March and culminating in a joyful performance at Easter Morning at St. Anselm's.

Under the direction of **Chris Kula**, our Director of Music, children will experience the fulfillment of singing together in a sacred space while developing vocal technique, music reading skills, solfège (do, re, mi!), and a sense of personal responsibility. Drawing on his background as a former chorister in the **San Francisco Boys Chorus**, Mr. Kula has led and created many children's choirs over the years and brings a passion for teaching young voices.

If you know a child who would enjoy this special opportunity, reach out to Mr. Kula to learn more. Individual auditions will be scheduled throughout the month of February.



BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays
7p.m. on Zoom

All are welcome. For questions, please email Deacon Naomi:
orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

Meeting I.D. 815 0705 2148
Passcode 442879

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

John Powers
 Chris Sherwood
 Tim Brown
 Don Liddle
 Kathleen Trapani
 Leslie Weaver
 Jane Dawkin

ANNIVERSARIES

Norm & Sheila Gorsuch

St. Anselm's Staff

The Rev. Will Scott, Rector
 The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon
 Chris Kula, Director of Music
 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

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

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

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
 682 Michael Lane
 Lafayette, CA 94549
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 www.stanselms.us



Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is February 23rd

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday February 2nd — **Altar Guild** will meet in the conference room at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday February 4th/11th/18th/25th — **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 February 4th — **Grief Support Group** will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

Wednesday February 5th /12th/19th/26th — **Contemplative Prayer Gathering** will meet from 9:00a.m. – 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Thursday February 6th/13th/20th/27th — **Evening Bible Study** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. We will be exploring the Book of Genesis. All are welcome. Please contact Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

Sunday February 9th — **Annual Meeting** following church service in the sanctuary.

Tuesday February 11th — **Property Commission** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday February 19th — **Stephen Ministers** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday February 20th — **Book Club** will meet at 2:00 p.m. in the church library.

Sunday February 16th — **Vestry** will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. Parishioners are welcome to attend vestry meetings or to listen in via Zoom.

Saturday March 1st — **Celebration of a New Ministry** and Institution of The Reverend Will Scott with Rev. Austin Rios at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.