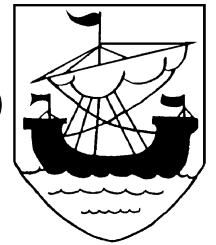


Canterbury Tales



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

January 2025

From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's,

2025 is upon us, and depending on when you are reading this, we are either at the end of the Christmas season or the beginning of Epiphany. These colder winter days are slowly getting longer. On Christmas Eve, our sanctuary was ablaze with light as members, friends, and neighbors gathered to celebrate the incarnation. Thank you to everyone who helped make that night, and December as a whole, so special.

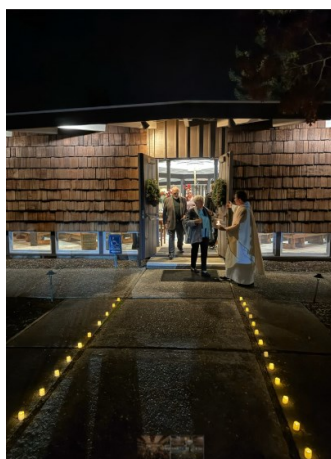
Epiphany is the season when Christians celebrate the wisdom, grace, light, and love of God increasing, as on a dimmer switch, to enlighten and illuminate the world. On Wednesday the 8th at 9 a.m. our sanctuary doors will be open for a new weekly Contemplative Prayer gathering. On Saturday, January 11th, join St. Anselm's and friends for an Epiphany Party, which will include a White Elephant gift exchange.

This year is important for our little brown church in the valle. We're celebrating 65 years since the dedication of our iconic mid-century sanctuary. To celebrate, we're establishing an endowment to help us enhance our sacred spaces and continue to grow our music and educational offerings. The endowment will also ensure St. Anselm's witness is on solid financial footing for decades to come. You will hear much more about this development in the months ahead. Throughout our year of celebrating, there will be many activities to mark this milestone, including an art show in February.

Come what may, this little church that could, *is*. Thanks to the dedication, hard work, prayers, big-heartedness and generosity of folks like you, our community's witness is alive and well. I am excited not only about our first year together as your Rector, but the years ahead as strangers become friends, and our circle of light and love grows wider.

See you soon!

Faithfully,
Will



Anselm's Angels

Special thanks to **Rev. Will** who said the blessing at the Trinity Center annual Holiday Luncheon on December 18. Also to **Jon Martin** for arranging a visit to Trinity Center by Santa and to Holiday Carolers **Bob & Georganne Eddy, Sally & Marty Fischer, Rev. Will and Deacon Naomi** for singing to the 80+ gathering of TC clients.

A very big thank you to **Jeff Boero, Ann Brown, Peg Matson, Marian Mulkey, Julie Starr and Mallory Williams** for leading the congregation in Advent crafts and a time of reflection. And to **Peg Matson** for inviting the neighbors and organizing Costumes, Carols and Cocoa.

Many thanks to the **Altar Guild, chair Sylvia Williams, Edee Allison, Sally Fischer, Dharmini Harichandran, Sharon Harichandran, Joan Martin, Jon Martin, Marian Mulkey, Joni Pearce, Katie Taggart, Joseph Williams and Mallory Williams** for preparing and decorating the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.

Thank you to our very talented musicians: organists **Maggie Boscoe, Gail Burnett Andrew Colburn, Iris Hillman, Sharon Linton and Chris Kula**; and choir members **Marty Fischer, Sage Balducci, Zoe Calhoun, Milena Civolobova, Al Eames, Annaliese Kimball, Audrey Leung, Julian Lueder, Vicki Pappas, Keith Pearce, Nidhi Pradeep, Lesley Trowbridge and Avon Wilson**.

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From The Senior Warden

“Do Not Worry About Anything”

St. Anselm’s had a busy Advent season. Many of us have benefited from the daily devotional booklet “Practicing Peace with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind.” The title suggests a tall order, and the contents do not disappoint! One reflection is grounded in the following passage from Paul’s letter to the Philippians: “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

“Do not worry about ANYTHING”?? This is not a small demand to put before a person, like me, who appreciates planning, order and predictability. “In EVERYTHING, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God”?? Again, not an easy ask for someone who likes to set her own course and to be -- or at least appear to be – capable and independent.

Among the many things I love about St. Anselm’s is our corporate practice of prayer. [An aside: When I use “corporate” to life at St. Anselm’s, I’m thinking of the Latin root of the word, corpus, referring to “a body or an organized group of people.”] Through our Prayer Chain and our weekly Prayers of the People, we lift up our own concerns, invite shared attention on the needs of others, and remind ourselves that we are not alone. Presently our Sunday prayer concludes, “Hear the prayers we offer to you, and give us the courage and conviction to make these prayers a reality.”

The meditations in the “Practicing Peace” booklet emphasize that peace is not a pleasant, simple state of calm. Rather, peace emerges when we confront challenges and injustices with courage and conviction. One contributor writes: “Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the trust that God can transform conflict into reconciliation.” Though we at St. Anselm’s may have our share of concerns, inside and outside our church walls, I see ample evidence that God is at work among us, transforming conflict into reconciliation and calling us to be agents of peace, hope and love. My hope for the New Year is that we will all find the courage and conviction to set aside our worries, share our requests with God and one another, and work faithfully to make our best hopes a reality.

Marian Mulkey
Sr. Warden



Vestry Update

At its December 15 meeting, the St. Anselm's Vestry:

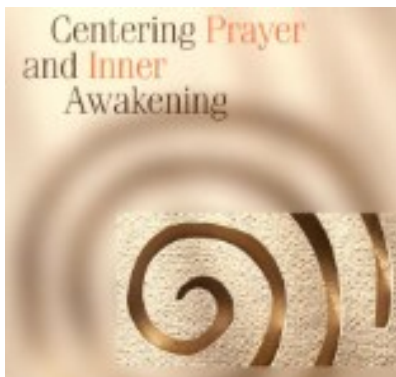
- Reviewed and approved a Letter of Agreement with Rev. Will Scott to begin full-time service as our Rector effective January 1, 2025;
- Reviewed and approved a budget for 2025 which allows a number of investments for growth and is projected to run a small (7%) deficit;
- Approved a new policy for the Rector's Discretionary Fund;
- Designated \$32,500 from a "Memorial Funds" balance sheet account to serve as seed money in establishing a St. Anselm's Endowment;
- Established an Endowment governing committee comprising Keith Pearce, John Powers and Iris Hillman, with the Rector and Treasurer in ex officio roles, to develop policy guidelines and governing documents for review in early in 2025; and
- Exchanged updates on recent and planned activities related to music, property, and year-end plans.

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

***NEW WEEKLY
CONTEMPLATIVE
PRAYER GATHERING***

**Begins
Wednesday, January 8th
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
in the sanctuary**

Looking for a way to begin 2025 with a new practice or activity? Curious about meditation or centering prayer? You are invited to join a new gathering each week in St. Anselm's sanctuary where we will sit together. Mostly in sacred silence. Whether this is a new thing for you or something you've been up to for a while we hope you'll drop in. No preparation is necessary but each month we'll offer a suggested book to help ground our collective practice. This first text is [Cynthia Bourgeault's](#) "Centering Prayer & Inner Awakening." If you are interested in helping support or have questions about this new circle of practice, send an email rector@stanselms.us or connect with Rev. Will.



***Welcome Chris Kula
St. Anselm's New Director of Music***

St. Anselm's is delighted to announce that we have hired a Director of Music, Chris Kula. Chris served at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Oakland as Music Director and Organist from 2017 to 2021, and founded a monthly Evensong service in 2008. During his tenure, he led performances, planned music, coordinated musicians, and enhanced musical services, including Christmas Eve and All Souls' Day events. He has been the Assistant Organist at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church since 2008.

Chris founded Pacific Collegium in 2004 to promote quality music in liturgical settings, establishing the Chapel College Men and Boys Ensemble for Evensong services at St. Paul's, and collaborating with the Traditional Latin Mass at St. Margaret Mary. He directed significant performances of various compositions and was featured on a recording with the Pacific Boychoir. In 2014, he started the Festival of the Hours, merging high-quality music with Anglican worship.

Since its start, Pacific Boychoir Academy has involved Chris in directing choirs and teaching music and languages. He has also contributed to several choirs, festivals, and concerts in the region and served various churches as a guest organist and music director.

Chris studied music composition at the University of Southern California and earned a B. A. in Philosophy from St. Mary's College, Moraga. He has also worked as a software engineer and database programmer in the tech industry.

Please join us in welcoming Chris Kula as St. Anselm's Director of Music! Thank you to Iris Hillman, Marty Fischer, Al Eames, and Keith Pearce for their work on this search process.

(continued from page 1)

A big thanks to **Joni Pearce** for introducing the congregation to charitable endeavors with the OTTP-SF Holiday Gift Drive and Lamorinda Care Collective. And thank you to all the preschool families and everyone who helped donate non perishable items for the Contra Costa Food Bank.

Much appreciation to **JP Zhang** and **Bob Eddy** for overseeing roof repairs, and to the Property Commission for overseeing all the maintenance projects to the church over this past year.

And lastly a very big thanks to the members of the Vestry for all their work in 2024 and preparation for 2025.

ST ANSELM'S EPIPHANY PARTY

JANUARY 11, 2025

2-5pm JACKSON HALL

Do not miss this first social event of 2025

-it promises to be a *doozy!!!!*

Come and join us for an afternoon
of fun and frolic with your favorite

white elephant gift, and a tasty tidbit to share.

Libations will be provided ranging from soft drinks to
wine (the best Napa Valley has to offer).





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





St. Anselm's Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 9th

Celebration of a New Ministry
with Bishop Austin Rios
Saturday, March 1st
at 11 a.m.



Michael Lane Preschool

Merry Christmas!

We have had a wonderful 3 weeks of play this December at Michael Lane Preschool. We embraced the theme of light by singing “This Little Light of Mine,” making candles with modge podge and tissue paper for our families, making candle cards for our families, and carrying small battery powered candles in different activities.

We have been cooking regularly with the children - making latkes for a Hanukkah snack and rolling out gingerbread cookie dough to make cut out cookies for Christmas.

All of this said, I believe the children would say that their highlight this month was watching the kind men pour cement in front of the church to fix the pavement. We had front row seats and the men were so kind to tell us all about it! Wishing you and your family a joyful holiday season!

Warmly,
Holly Higgins
Director, Michael Lane Preschool



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!



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.

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

BOOK CLUB

Thursday, January 16th
 at 2:00 p.m. in the Library

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

Deacon Naomi and Sharyn



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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Tom Henry
- Gary Bacon
- Jan White
- Pam Carey
- Samuel Weaver
- Jeff Borero
- Edee Allison
- Bill Donovan
- John Weaver
- Marcia Ellicott



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- Tom & Vicki Pappas
- Betty & Tom Frangoulis
- Jean & Mark Stanley
- Bob & Pamela Green
- Kim & Scott Smigielski
- Dick & Jan White
- Marty & Sally Fischer



BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays
 7p.m. on Zoom

We will be exploring the Book of Genesis. All are welcome. Please email Deacon Naomi: orchidsnrch@yahoo.com for any questions.

Meeting I.D. 815 0705 2148
Passcode 442879

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

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
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Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is January 26th

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday January 5th — Altar Guild will meet in the conference room at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday January 7th/14th/21st/28th — 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 January 7th — Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

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

Wednesday January 8th — Contemplative Prayer Gathering will meet from 9:00a.m. – 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Thursday January 9th/16th/23rd/30th — 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.

Saturday January 11th — Epiphany Party from 2:00 p.m. -5:00p.m in Parish Hall.

Sunday January 12th — 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.

Wednesday January 15th — Stephen Ministers will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday January 16th — Book Club will meet at 2:00 p.m. in the church library.

Sunday January 19th — 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.