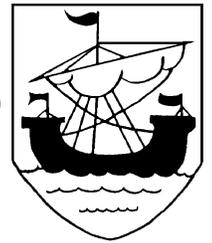


# Canterbury Tales



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

June 2025

## From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's,

Matt and I got back Wednesday evening from visiting family and friends in PA and NY. When I arrived Thursday morning a few members of St. Anselm's Property Commission were busily spreading mulch inside the Memorial Garden. I was glad to catch up with one of our parish's college students who pitched in to help as we piled mulch into wheel barrows. **There's still more mulch to be spread, so if you are up for an hour of work on Sunday, wear appropriate attire and join a few of us from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. on the far side of the church by the large Palm tree.**

St. Anselm's has a lot going on this June. We'll celebrate the life of Ron Hillman, welcome many new people to our campus, and reconnect with long and dear friends of our congregation. A number of our members are traveling and a few are in the midst of health challenges. One of the hymns sung at my recent family gathering was a favorite of my great-aunts. Its words remind us that no matter what there's reason for joy and gratitude.

1 My life flows on in endless song,  
above earth's lamentation.  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

3 What though my joys and comforts die,  
I know my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

See you soon!

Peace,  
Will

## Anselm's Angels

A very big thank you to everyone who showed up to help at the Spring Work Day on May 3rd: **JP Zhang, Pam Green, Bob Eddy, Peg Matson, Rev. Will Scott, Matt Chayt, Marian Mulkey, John Powers, Evan Powers, Joan Martin, Keith Pearce, Joni Pearce and Vicki Pappas.**

Special thanks our choir members for sharing their beautiful voices each week: **Marty Fischer, Al Eames, Keith Pearce, Avon Wilson, Sage Balducci, Zoe Calhoun, Maddie Chamberlain, Milena Civolobova, Audrey Leung, Julian Lueder, Nidhi Pradeep, Lesley Trowbridge, and to our Director of Music, Chris Kula, for his leadership.**

Much appreciation to all our coffee hosts who have provided delicious treats after Sunday services: **John Powers & Marian Mulkey, Joni & Keith Pearce, Joan Martin, Katie Taggart, Sally & Marty Fischer, Sara Swimmer, Alan Swimmer, Kayce Rane, Julia Starr, Ann Burns, Sylvia Williams, Peg Matson, Sue Crawford and Vicki Pappas.**

Many thanks to our monthly crew of ushers: **Bob Eddy, Alan Swimmer, Chris Louie, Matt Chayt, Joan Martin, John Powers, Suzanne Gatlin and Hank Gatlin.**

Thank you to all our Lectors: **Katie Taggart, Maggie McCloskey, Sally Fischer, John Powers, Shelley Frost, Julia Starr, Joni Pearce, Vicki Pappas and Janice Carrigan.**

And thank you very much to our lay eucharistic ministers **Pamela Green, Marian Mulkey, Peg Matson and Elisabeth Ward** who serve during weekly services and have been providing home communion to those who are unable to attend church services.

## *From The Senior Warden*

May is always a busy time. The end of the school year brings a flurry of events to everyone's calendars—spring open houses, musical performances, year-end dinners and parties, graduations, and more. We all know it's coming, yet somehow, there's always something unexpected added that makes us feel over-scheduled.

A few people have mentioned that things feel particularly busy around St. Anselm's lately. While some of that can be attributed to the exciting presence of Michael Lane Preschool, it's also a reflection of the many vibrant activities and initiatives happening in our community. For some, this feels energizing and affirming; for others, it raises the question: "Can we keep up this pace, or are we at risk of burning out?"

Personally, I feel excited, inspired and energized by all the hustle, bustle, and enthusiasm. This summer, we have a full lineup of meaningful events: the Queer Faith Festival, our Summer BBQ & Picnic, and the Summer Endowment Kickoff Event. These will carry us into a vibrant fall season, with the Together We Shine Rummage Sale, Winter Nights, Community Safety Day, and our annual Stewardship Events.

Who would have imagined that having our Pride flag stolen three times would inspire such an outpouring of faith, hope, and community spirit? Thanks to Will's vision and leadership, we'll be hosting the Queer Faith Festival on Flag Day, June 14th, celebrating diversity through art, entertainment, discussion, and fellowship. This event has drawn overwhelming support from community partners and sponsors, including:

· Partner Churches: St. Paul's (Walnut Creek), Grace Episcopal (Martinez), St. Anna's (Antioch), St. Timothy's (Danville), and Holy Spirit (Concord)

· Sponsors and Allies: The Episcopal Diocese of California, Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, PFLAG Lamorinda, Lafayette Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Lafayette United Methodist Church, Lafayette DEIB Committee, Moraga iKind Project, and Pride Action Lamorinda

We are especially blessed to welcome committed new members, Kayce Rane and Sarah Vickers-Webb, who have stepped up to organize this huge summer opening event.

We are clearly entering a time of hope, connection, and joy—growing together as a vibrant, faithful community at St. Anselm's. So, buckle up, mark the dates on your calendars and come out to experience and enjoy all that St. Anselm's will be offering in the coming months.

In faith and service,  
*Peg Matson*



## *Vestry Update*

Although we did not have a Vestry meeting in May, a great deal has been happening behind the scenes to ensure that our upcoming June 16th Vestry meeting will be productive and meaningful.

To accommodate a full agenda of action items, we've adjusted the date and time of the meeting: **Monday, June 16th, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

This meeting will also be a potluck, and all are welcome to attend. Please bring something to share as we break bread together before diving into our business and discussions.

We'll be continuing the important work we began at our Vestry Retreat on April 26th, including:

- Addressing several housekeeping and administrative matters
- Reviewing our three-year strategic plan
- Assessing and prioritizing major property projects

We look forward to sharing this time together as we continue to conduct the business of the church.

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## **Drive-of-the-month: 10,000 Lunches**



Our donations for the months of June & July will go to the organization **10,000 Lunches**. Their mission is to alleviate hunger in homeless communities by empowering middle and high school students as they prepare and provide meals. A local teacher in Moraga, Brett Lorie, has been a passionate supporter of 10,000 lunches for 20+ years. He organizes students to prepare bagged lunches that they then distribute throughout Oakland to people in the homeless communities. We will collect non-perishable items and decorate bags to put the food items in and then pass them on the Brett to distribute. Please note all items should be individual size portions - think snack size.

We will gladly take the following items: granola bars, juice boxes/bags, small cans of tuna or spam, small peanut butter, instant oatmeal, fruit cups, and applesauce. Please see the list on [Amazon here](#).



More about the organization can be found through this link:

[10,000 Lunches organization](#)

And thank you to everyone who donated to help the Lamorinda Care Collective during the month of May! Your donations of full-size personal care items like shampoo, toothpaste, body soap, toothbrushes, women's hygiene products, etc are so appreciated by the clients of LCC.

# *You are Invited*

## **ENDOWMENT FUND LAUNCH**

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

During this, our 65th Anniversary year, the Vestry has planned several key events to build interest, excitement and attraction to where we are planted and what we have to offer. We are in the process of launching an Endowment Fund, with the idea of establishing growth and security for the future health of St. Anselm's.

You are invited to come to an afternoon of musical entertainment and an introduction to the Endowment Fund.

***Sunday, July 13th  
at the home of Iris Hillman  
3240 Lucas Circle, Lafayette  
from 2:30pm to 5:00pm***

Music by the "360s", who played during our Art & Music festival in February  
Beverages, wine & cheese will be served between music and the Endowment presentation  
Lots of parking available. One step entry into the house.

RSVP by July 6th to Iris Hillman [Iris\\_Hillman@comcast.net](mailto:Iris_Hillman@comcast.net)  
Or church office - [parish@st.anselms.us](mailto:parish@st.anselms.us)

Endowment Committee:  
John Powers, Keith Pearce, Iris Hillman, The Rev. Will Scott

## *Michael Lane Preschool Updates*



Hello Summer!

This last week of May completed our 2024-2025 school year!



May was a busy month for us spring cleaning, enjoying the change in seasons, measuring how much we've grown, and remembering all of our favorite things we did this year! We have 7 students moving on to Kindergarten, 8 headed off to TK (Transitional Kindergarten), and 7 returning students. All families were invited into school to hear some of our favorite songs, the children's favorite preschool activities, and watch our Graduates walk over the bridge to Kindergarten or TK (Transitional Kindergarten).

A big thank you to Peg Matson, Bob Eddy, Will Scott, Marian Mulkey, and Sheila Riedy for all of their work on the MLP Preschool board this school year. It was a smooth year, and your support was hugely impactful!

We will have 2 weeks of summer camp here in June and I hope to be around organizing when I'm not enjoying lazy summer days!

Happy Summer!

Warmly,

Holly

Director, Michael Lane Preschool

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## **“TOGETHER WE SHINE” RUMMAGE SALE**

### **Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025**

### **9am to 4pm**

**WANTED: GENTLY USED - MEN'S & WOMEN'S CLOTHING, HATS, BELTS, BAGS, SCARVES, PURSES, SHOES, TIES & SUNGLASSES. CHILDREN'S CLOTHES, CAMPING EQUIPMENT, & SPORTING GOODS, BALLS, RACKETS, SCOOTERS & SKATEBOARDS. HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, TOOLS & GADGETS. JEWELRY, BOOKS, PLANTS, GARDEN TOOLS, PET SUPPLIES, LUGGAGE, LAMPS, COSTUMES, CHRISTMAS & HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS, CRAFTS AND ART SUPPLIES, PICTURE FRAMES, ETC. ETC.**

Clothes should be clean and in good condition, tools and electric items in **good working order with no frayed cords or missing parts**. We can handle small furniture items that can be put into a car. No sofas, beds, oversized chairs. Cleaned and polished items will be more salable and appealing than those that are rusted or dusty. Ask your neighbors to donate also.



If you'd like to help oversee a table at the sale on Sept. 27, please let us know. We're going to need volunteers!

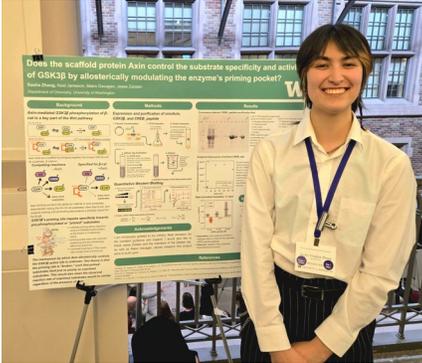
For more information, please contact committee members:

Email: [Iris\\_Hillman@comcast.net](mailto:Iris_Hillman@comcast.net). Cell: 925-381-2936: Sylvia: [sw94565@yahoo.com](mailto:sw94565@yahoo.com). Cell: 925- 586-0730:

Janice Carrigan and Maggie McCloskey

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# Congratulations Class of 2025 Graduates



## Sasha (Dale) Zhang

graduates from University of Washington in Seattle on June 14th with a B.S. in Biochemistry. Sasha is pictured here at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in front of a poster describing his research project in cell signaling completed with a graduate student. After graduation, his focus will be finding a job where he can use his scientific training, explore research areas, and contemplate further education.

## Annaliese Kimball

is a Campolindo High School graduate. She has enjoyed her time there and particularly loved being involved in the Campo Choir program where she got the opportunity to participate in the musical and perform in concerts. While she is sad to leave Campo and her church family behind, Annaliese is excited for the opportunity to attend Vanguard University where she will be majoring in Liberal Studies and minoring in Music. Annaliese is so excited to see where the Lord will take her in this next chapter of her life. Annaliese is grateful for St. Anselm's and the opportunity she received to contribute to the choir. Annaliese would like to thank St. Anselm's for being such a loving, welcoming, and God-fearing community and prays that the church would continue to serve the LORD wholeheartedly.



## Nidhi Pradeep

I'd like to thank everyone at St. Anselm's for being so warm and welcoming towards me every Sunday! Next year I'll be studying voice and business at Vanderbilt university and I know I wouldn't be here without your support!



# Queer Faith Festival

## *Saturday, June 14th 1-4 p.m.*

Queer Faith Festival is a first-of-its-kind interfaith Pride celebration taking place on Saturday, June 14, 2025 (Flag Day) in Lafayette, California. Hosted at St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, the festival is a collaborative, community-driven response to ongoing acts of hate, including repeated thefts of Pride flags at local places of worship.

Rather than react with fear, local faith communities, artists, LGBTQ+ leaders, and neighbors are coming together to build something joyful, inclusive, and resilient. The festival aims to uplift the dignity of LGBTQ+ people of faith (and those with no spiritual affiliation), foster connection across differences, and celebrate the shared values of justice, love, and compassion.

### **Festival activities will include:**

Collaborative art projects with renowned artist/activist David Solnit  
 Drag Queen Storytime for families and children.  
 LGBTQ+ Clergy, Allies, & Parents panel discussions from multiple traditions  
 A moving Interfaith Blessing Ceremony  
 Live music and performances  
 Tabling from affirming organizations and local congregations  
 Food, games, and fun for all ages  
 Children's activities, including crafts and a bouncy house

The event is free and open to everyone, regardless of faith tradition or spiritual background.

The Queer Faith Festival is not just a one-day celebration—it's the beginning of an ongoing effort to build a more compassionate and connected community in the Lamorinda area and beyond. Organizers are actively seeking volunteers, partners, performers, and sponsors to grow this movement.

### **Current Partners & Sponsors**

This event is made possible with the support of affirming local partners, including: Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, Episcopal Diocese of California, PFLAG Lamorinda, Lafayette Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Lafayette United Methodist Church, Lafayette DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging) Committee, Moraga iKind Project and Pride Action Lamorinda

Want to help? Email: Kayce Rane [kaycerane@yahoo.com](mailto:kaycerane@yahoo.com) 925-876-0760  
 Media Contact: Sarah Vickers-Webb [svickerswebb@gmail.com](mailto:svickerswebb@gmail.com) 415-828-3761

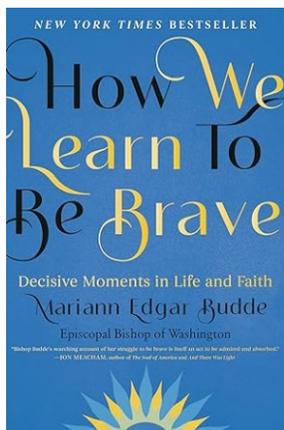


## *Welcome Ruth Tsu, Sunday, June 29th*

Many longtime members of St. Anselm's will remember the Rev. Bob Tsu, who served as St. Anselm's priest in the 1970s and 80s, becoming our first rector. His wife Ruth described their time in Lafayette as among their happiest years of ministry. Ruth currently lives in Oregon near their daughters, Rachel and Naomi. We look forward to welcoming her back and to hearing her stories on June 29th.

**BOOK CLUB**

Wednesday, June 18th  
at 2:00 p.m.  
in the Library



Please join us as we discuss "How we Learn To Be Brave" by Mariann Budde, Episcopal Bishop of Washington D.C. For questions, please contact Sharyn Barrington Carlson at 847.337.0875 or Deacon Naomi at 925.395.1395.

***Automated External Defibrillator***



Many thanks to Alex McDonald for donating a new AED machine to St. Anselm's. Alex has also agreed to provide training sessions so everyone can learn how to use the machine and get more comfortable using it in an emergency.

More details to follow in our weekly emails.

***SEEKING: EVENT ASSISTANT***

St. Anselm's is looking for support for special events. If interested, please contact [parish@stanselms.us](mailto:parish@stanselms.us) for a job description.

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



***JUNE BIRTHDAYS***

- Dick Orear
- John Ruby
- Holly Higgins
- Lynne Watkins
- Gordon Repp
- Diane Brown
- Joni Pearce
- Gerry Starr



***JUNE ANNIVERSARIES***

- Alex & Sophia McDonald
- Elizabeth & Tom Henry
- Gary & Wynne Bacon

**COUNTERS NEEDED**

Each week there is a team of two people, one Vestry member and one congregation member who are responsible for counting and recording cash and checks and preparing the deposit. We have a few dedicated parishioners who have stepped up to fill the congregation member role. However, we don't have people signed up to perform this important role for the church. Please contact Peg Matson for more information and/or to volunteer at [plmatson@comcast.net](mailto:plmatson@comcast.net) or #925-381-1074.

**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](mailto:rector@stanselms.us)

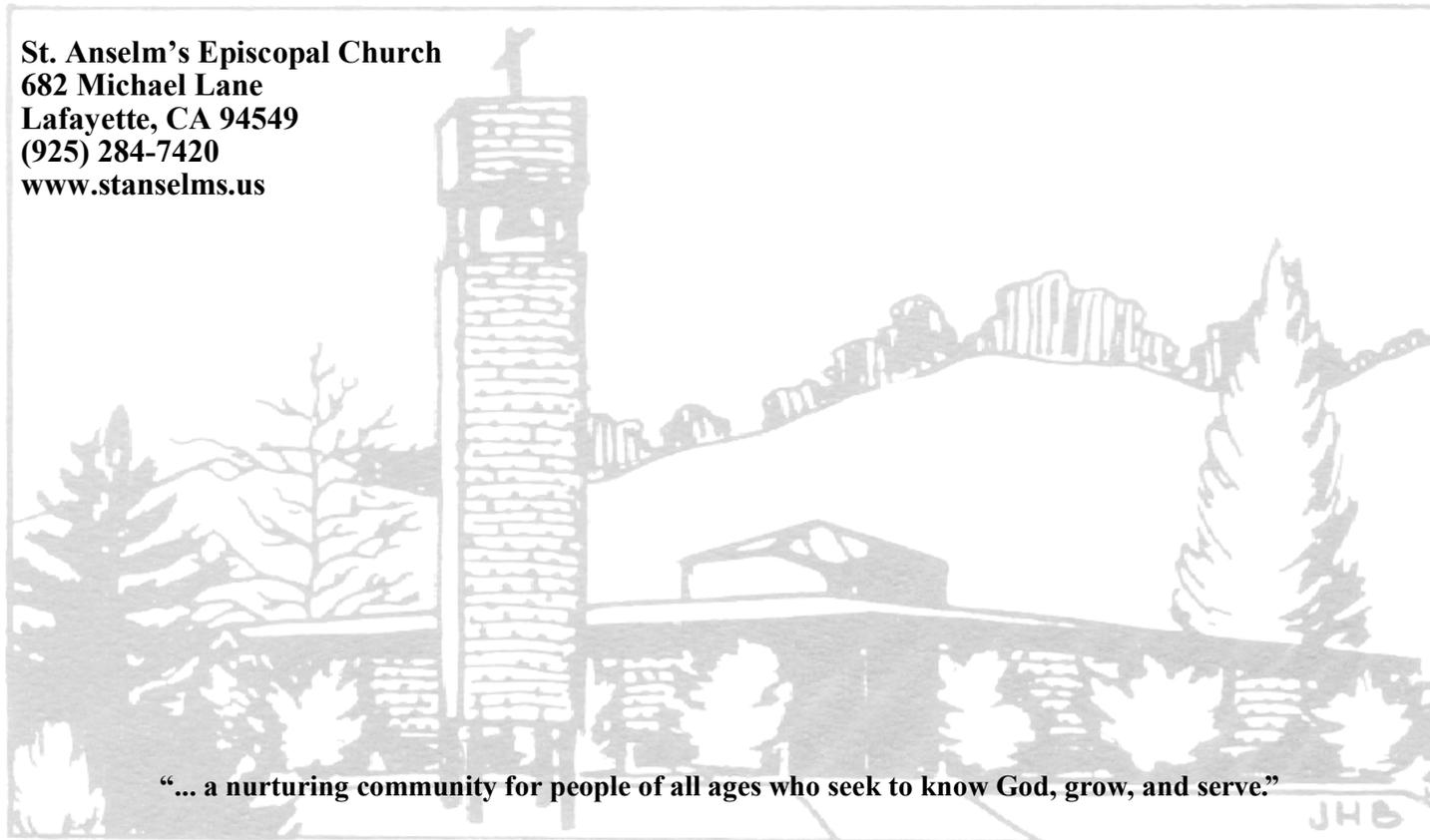
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In-Person & Virtual Sunday Service:  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church  
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 www.stanselms.us



“... a nurturing community for people of all ages who seek to know God, grow, and serve.”

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

### **May's Ministry of the Month: Property Commission**

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

**Tuesday, June 3rd/10th/17th/24th — 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, June 3rd — 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, June 3rd — Property Commission** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 4th/11th/19th/26th — Contemplative Prayer Gathering** will meet from 9:00a.m. – 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

**Thursday, June 5th/12th/19th/26th — Evening Bible Study** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. Please contact Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**Saturday, June 7th — Ron Hillman Celebration of Life** 11:00 a.m.

**Sunday June 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](mailto:jrjpmaggie@hotmail.com).

**Monday, June 16th — Vestry Meeting** will meet in Parish Hall from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a potluck meeting. All are welcome to attend. Please bring something to share as we break bread together before diving into our business and discussions.

**Wednesday, June 18th — Book Club** at 2:00 p.m. in the Library for a discussion on “How we Learn To Be Brave” by Mariann Budde, Bishop of Washington D.C.

**Wednesday, June 28th — Stephen Ministers** will meet at 12:00 p.m.