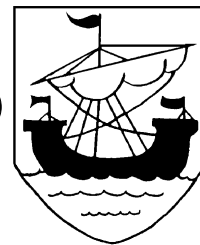


Canterbury Tales



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

March 2025

From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's,

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, and with all the excitement and stresses of the past two months, this prayerful season couldn't come at a better time for us at St. Anselm's and the wider world.

Lent may seem like a season where we, aspiring followers of Jesus, are making all sorts of efforts to improve ourselves, taking on or giving up something. The point, though, is to deepen our awareness, appreciation, and humbleness in the face of the Divine's presence and power. Lent isn't about how God needs us to do anything; it is recognizing our need for God, for reconnecting with the ground of our being, with the source of all life. Lent can also feel a bit like a spiritual version of spring cleaning, shaking out the rugs, sweeping the floors, wiping off the messes, so that the homes of our lives are ready to receive a beloved guest.

Throughout the season of Lent at St. Anselm's, there will be many opportunities to learn, reflect, and grow. After our 10 a.m. service on Sundays, we'll welcome a series of local guest experts to help us expand our understanding of neurodiversity. On Sunday afternoons, Shelley Frost and I will lead "Spirit Walks," an opportunity to explore our area's beauty together. On three upcoming Thursdays on Zoom, we'll learn about how money played a role in Jesus' final week with Miguel Escobar. Read all about these activities in this issue of Canterbury Tales.

I am excited to begin our first Lent together as your rector! Thank you to everyone who helped support our past two weekends of joyful celebration: the remarkably successful "Together We Shine" Art & Music Festival and the prayerful Celebration of New Ministry on March 1st.

See you soon!

Peace,
Will



St. Anselm's Honorees

At our Annual Meeting on February 9th we gave thanks for these extraordinary leaders: **JP Zhang, Julie Rinkenberger, and Pamela Green.**



Anselm's Angels

Special thanks to the Art & Music Festival committee members **Iris Hillman, Georganne Eddy & Peg Matson** for all their planning and organizing of the event. Thank you to **Katie Taggart, Bob Eddy, Shelley Frost, Keith Pearce, Alan Swimmer, Rev. Will, Matt Chayt, Chris Young, Henry Rosenberg & David Rowe** for their help in making the day a huge success. And thanks to the many members of St. Anselm's who shared the artistic and musical talents with us: **Gary Bacon, Georganne Zaro Eddy, Iris Hillman, Julie Starr, Shelley Frost, Katie Taggart, Clara Wu, Duane Nelsen** and **Chris Young**. And to the **California Watercolor Association** for sponsoring the Children's Art Table and providing all the display panels for the art exhibits.

A very big thank you to **The Rev. Joan Gardener, Peg Matson, Katie Taggart, Maggie McCloskey, Julie Starr, Iris Hillman, Georganne Zaro Eddy, Bob Eddy, Joni Pearce, Search Committee members: Sally Fischer, Julie Rinkenberger, Sylvia Williams, The Vestry, Altar Guild, Duane Nelsen** and **Molly Nelsen** for all their assistance in planning the Celebration of a New Ministry.

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From The Senior Warden

For the past month every time I walk up to my front door I pass by these sunny, happy little yellow daffodils. Every year it sparks joy in my heart to watch my front yard continue to bloom from the third week of January well into April, transitioning from daffodils to tulips.

This past year serving as the Jr. Warden has sparked that same joy in my heart and filled me with a renewed passion and deeper calling in my commitment to St. Anselm's. I was deeply honored and thrilled when Will+ chose me to be Sr. Warden. Stepping into this new role has filled me with renewed hope and excitement for the journey we are all going to take together this year.

Will+ also brings a spirit of joy, dedication, and a deep sense of calling to our community. His vision for the future of our church, rooted in faith, love and service, has already inspired many of us into action. I've experienced firsthand this past year how his presence is creating a welcoming, uplifting atmosphere at St. Anselm's, and I'm confident that we will continue to grow and strengthen in our shared mission with him as our Rector.

In the coming months, we will work together to shape our vision for the future of St. Anselm's. Not only for this year, but for the next 3 to 5 years. We'll also explore ways we can all contribute to the ongoing work of God in our lives, church and community. I am confident our collective energy will continue to build on the foundation we started building last year when Will+ arrived, and together, we will make this another year of continued transformation, deeper personal connections and revitalization.

We have started off our 65th year with two amazing events celebrating the vibrancy, joy and commitment the people of St. Anselm's have for Will+ as our new Rector, our little brown church in the round and our community. These are exciting times for all of us as we look forward to what's ahead with grateful and open hearts working together in Christ's Love.

In faith and service,
Peg Matson
 Sr. Warden



Vestry Update

The St. Anselm's Vestry met twice in February, 9th and 16th.

- The first meeting on February 9th was very brief, right after the Annual Congregational Meeting, to welcome the newly elected vestry members and hold an election for a new Treasurer, Jr. Warden and Clerk of the Vestry. The newly elected members of the vestry are: Maggie Mcloskey, David Rowe, Julia Starr, Sheila Riedy and Pamela Green. Marian Mulkey was elected Treasurer, Katie Taggart, Jr. Warden and Joni Pearce, Clerk of the Vestry.
- The second meeting on February 16th was a usual monthly vestry meeting where we:
 - Discussed a date for the Annual Vestry Retreat and it was decided we would hold the retreat April 26th from 1-8 p.m. with the location and program to be determined.
 - Katie Taggart presented ideas for a new welcoming program including Welcome Bags for new comers who are visiting/church shopping. The vestry approved Katie to develop the details and bring it to the next vestry meeting.
 - It was agreed the vestry would sponsor a Pancake Brunch on March 2nd instead of doing a dinner on Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper since people prefer not to drive at night.
 - The Parochial Report for 2024 was presented as prepared by Will+, Marian, Steve and Margaret and approved by the vestry.
 - The vestry confirmed Bob Eddy as the new Chair of Michael Lane Preschool and elected Sheila Riedy as the Parish Member and Vestry Liaison to the preschool board. Bob will serve a one year term and Sheila will serve a 3 year term.
 - The vestry was informed of the Christian Formation's plans for the upcoming Lenten season.
 - John Ruby resigned from the Vestry so Will+ and Peg will be recruiting a person to replace him on the vestry before the next vestry meeting.

The next vestry meeting is set for March 16th.

***TOGETHER WE SHINE ART & MUSIC FESTIVAL
FEBRUARY 22ND, 2025***



***CELEBRATION OF A NEW MINISTRY
MARCH 2ND, 2025***

LENT 2025 AT ST. ANSELM'S

Ever since I was a little girl, Lent has been both challenging and interesting, but mostly challenging. My brother and I were given mite boxes, and we were expected to put some of our allowance into them every week and then take them to church with all the other kids for a special service during Easter Week. Bye bye mite boxes and the money in them. I saw my parents give up something for Lent. My mom gave up desserts and my Dad gave up bread at dinner. I was taught that we were supposed to be imitating Jesus, who was fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights. I carried that tradition on into my adulthood, sometimes giving up caffeine, sometimes alcohol, sometimes desserts and sugar treats. All are very self-serving at some level. This year I'm planning to wean myself off of desserts and sugar. Lent has, therefore, been a sort of depressing time. Happily, times gradually changed, with churches offering interesting programs during Lent that we could learn from. I have, in particular, appreciated the Lenten programs here at St. Anselm's, from the time that I joined until now.

This year, Lent at St. Anselm's is promising to be a rich and growth-producing experience. On Sunday afternoons we are invited to go on **Spirit Walks**, meditative walks in nature, led by Rev. Will. On March 9, we'll hike the Lafayette Moraga Regional Trail in Lafayette. On March 16, we'll go around the Lafayette Reservoir. On March 23, we'll walk the Iron Horse Trail in Walnut Creek.

On Sundays, from 11:30-12:30, we will have a speakers series, "**Welcoming Our Neurodiverse Neighbors**". The speakers will discuss challenges faced by children who have neurological issues, such as autism. Many of us know children, either in our families or through friends, who have these issues and the difficulties that come with them, for them and their parents.

March 9: Alexis Rucker, principal of the Springstone School will speak about autism

March 16: Daniel Hogue, Las Trampas Executive Director, will speak on Developmental Disabilities

March 23: Stephanie Caporusso, Orinda Union School District, on ADHD

March 30: Alex Georgakopoulous or Shamita Dhar, Coyote Coast, on Youth Behavioral Health Challenges

Lastly, on three Thursday evenings, March 13, 20, and 27, from 7-8 pm, there will a Zoom series, with talks by Miguel Escobar, M. Div. Miguel is the former Executive Director of Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary. He has written about wealth and poverty, Jesus' teachings on it, and how it relates to the church and to Christians today. As a Christian who is well-off, I know I struggle with how much I should give to charity, to the church, and to the poor. Jesus telling the rich man that he should give away all his wealth and follow Him haunts me at times, so I'm looking forward to this series. We haven't heard exactly what Miguel will be covering in his talks, but I am assuming that it will be on wealth and poverty. I hope what I have shared about this year's Lenten programs appeals to you as much as it does to me. See more about this Zoom opportunity on our website.

I hope at least one of the offerings is a fit for you. We have Rev. Will to thank for his encouragement and ideas and Marian Mulkey, as well as others on the Christian Formation Commission, for their ideas and follow-through in lining up the programs. Please contact me with any questions and ideas you might have.

Anne Brown

Christian Formation Commission Co-Chair

SOCK DRIVE

Dear Family and Friends of St. Anselm's,

I am hoping that you will join me in providing new athletic socks for the homeless clients of Trinity Center. Your past generosity has been greatly appreciated. As Ash Wednesday and March 5th are approaching, it will soon be time for the Deacon's Sock Drive to begin. As in the past several years the socks that are donated will go to the Trinity Center to distribute. My basket will be in the church beginning on Sunday March 9th. I will be collecting your sock donations until Palm Sunday, April 13th, which I will then deliver to Trinity Center. The socks need to be new and preferably white athletic socks. As in the past, I believe that Costco, Target and Amazon have good prices for the socks.

With thanks for your generosity,
Deacon Naomi



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

Spirit Walks

Enjoy fresh air, connection and sacred contemplation in nature. Join Reverend Will Scott and friends for Spirit Walks. On Sundays during Lent, 2:00-3:30 p.m. – rain or shine – we will gather on a local, paved trail for a prayer and reflection. We will walk about two to three miles together, taking a break halfway and returning to our starting point for a closing circle and prayer.

March 9: Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail – Meet at the Stanley Middle School parking lot, 3455 School Street, Lafayette. We will cross the street, enter the paved trail, turn right and walk east.

March 16: Lafayette Reservoir – Meet at the east end of the reservoir parking lot. We will walk the paved trail clockwise around the reservoir.

March 23: Iron Horse Trail – Meet at the Creek Walk bridge at the north end of the Civic Park parking lot, 1375 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. We will cross the bridge and walk left on the Creek Walk, which connects with the Iron Horse Trail.

Details for the March 30, April 6 and April 13 Spirit Walks will be shared later. Leave extra time to find parking or car-pool. Questions? Reach out to Shelley Frost or parish@stanselms.us.

THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER: MONEY IN JESUS' LAST WEEK *A Three-Part Lenten Zoom Series*

Hosted by St. Anselm's, Lafayette's Christian Formation Commission
All are welcome. [REGISTER HERE](#) to receive zoom coordinates.

Thursdays, March 13, 20, & 27th at 7 p.m. PT

Money plays a strikingly prominent role in the final days of Jesus' life, appearing in at least thirteen key moments—from the cleansing of the temple to the betrayal for thirty pieces of silver. This three-part series will explore how the Gospels use money to illuminate themes of corruption, betrayal, and offering. By tracing these financial transactions, bribes, and sacrificial gifts, we will uncover how money shaped the events of Holy Week and consider its ongoing implications for faith today. Each session will include opportunities for discussion.

Session One: Corruption, Betrayal, and Offering – An Overview: This session will provide an overview of the role of money in Jesus' final week. We will examine thirteen instances in which financial transactions appear in the Gospels, setting the stage for deeper exploration of corruption, betrayal, and offering in the following sessions.

Session Two: Corruption: will focus on the theme of corruption, from Jesus' cleansing of the temple to his denunciation of religious leaders who "devour widows' houses." We will also consider how bribery, from Judas' betrayal to the silencing of the guards, plays a role in the Gospel narratives. Additionally, we will critically examine the ways in which some of these texts have been used to promote anti-Judaism.

Session Three: Offerings: will explore three acts of offering: the widow's mite, the woman with the alabaster jar, and Jesus' self-offering on the cross. We will examine how these acts of sacrificial giving are interwoven in the Gospels and discuss their connection to women's patronage in the early church.

Miguel Escobar explores Christianity's complex relationship with money, wealth, and poverty. He is the author of *The Unjust Steward: Wealth, Poverty, and the Church Today* and is currently working on a second book about money in Jesus' final week. A graduate of Union Theological Seminary (MDiv, 2007), he has held leadership roles in the Episcopal Church, including at the Episcopal Church Foundation and Episcopal Divinity School. Ordained a transitional deacon in 2025, he now serves as curate at San Andrés Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, serving in Latino ministry in Spanish. Originally from the Texas Hill Country, he studied at Our Lady of the Lake University and serves on several boards, including Episcopal Relief & Development and Friends of Forward Movement.





Together We Shine, Art and Music Festival celebrating our 65th Anniversary

Thank you to everyone who offered suggestions, invited neighbors & friends and pitched in to make this Art and Music Festival a wonderful event.

A special thank you to Bob Eddy for setting up the art display panels, Keith Pearce, who MC'd the music program, Katie Taggart who organized the refreshment table, Alan Swimmer, Marty Fischer, Rev Will and Matt for their help and support where needed. Thanks also to Chris Young and Duane Nelsen for offering their time and talents to the music program.

I am so grateful to my committee members, Georganne Eddy and Peg Matson, who met with me regularly during the past four months to plan the details and follow through with many hours of work, both at home and on-site. It takes a dedicated group of people, with various talents, working together to produce a program of this sort. Thank you to artists in our parish and those in the neighborhood who spent hours of consideration and last minute framing in order to display their artwork.

We take pleasure and satisfaction in the large turnout of friends, family members and the public who made this event a wonderful success!



Grateful Gatherings

On Sunday March 2, we welcomed Rachel Whalen of Grateful Gatherings to receive our donation of 21 sets of new sheets. Reverend Will said a blessing over them and they are now on their way to help new families transitioning from homelessness to their new home! Thank you St Anselms!

Special Collection: SoCal Fire Relief

St Anselm's had a special collection to support fire relief efforts in Los Angeles. Thank you to everyone who helped contribute. We were able to raise \$560 which will be donated to [Episcopal Relief & Development](#) & the [Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles](#). Please click the links above to give directly to them online.

Michael Lane Preschool

This month we celebrated the February holidays - Chinese New Year, and Valentine's Day and had our first Valentine's Day Tea. We made our families invitations, sang them a song, and the teachers read aloud Valentines that the children had written for their families. We also honored Peg Matson who has been an instrumental part of our preschool board and is now taking time off to serve on the vestry. It was a great party that brought our preschool community together.

The rosemary, paperwhites, and mint in our garden have been fabulous additions to our mudpies, cookies, and stews in the playground kitchen. The children also love exploring how to make water move by using our water table and various tools to make lakes, rivers, and bridges.

I'm currently collecting re enrollment forms for the fall as well as accepting new applications. In March, class lists will be put together and families will be notified of what programs we can offer. Sending all of you well wishes for our end of winter months!

Warmly,
Holly Higgins
Director, Michael Lane Preschool



WEDNESDAY CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Rev. Will has been offering us a meditation opportunity in the sanctuary at St. Anselm’s every Wednesday from 9 till 9:40 am. Those sessions started at the beginning of January, and I have gone to all of them. I have had a profound experience. The sanctuary is filled with natural light only, so is somewhat dark, but not completely so. It is very quiet. There is a sense of Spirit present. Will starts us off with a short talk and then we sit, watching our breath, focusing on a sacred word, however we choose to do it. Will gives us a couple of breaks to stand and stretch and then we resume.

For most of my adult life I have “tried”, mostly unsuccessfully, to meditate. After college I visited my aunt and uncle who lived in Thailand. Meditation is part of the culture there, and I decided to try it. I spent a couple of weeks in a Buddhist monastery, learning to do walking and sitting meditation. Off and on ever since, I have put in place a discipline to meditate, mostly struggling, my mind racing to think of all that I have to do that day. Our Wednesday sessions have been transformational. For the first time in my life I have been able to focus deeply on my breath and the word I choose to say. Miraculous! Thank you, Will!

I recommend you join us if the practice of meditation appeals to you.
Anne Brown

(Continued from page 1)

ANSELM’S ANGELS

Many thanks to *Peg Matson, Katie Taggart, Julie Starr, Joni Pearce, Dave Rowe, Bob Eddy, Iris Hillman, Georganne Zaro Eddy, Matt Chayt* for preparing a delicious Pancake Brunch.



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.

Canterbury Tales is the monthly newsletter of

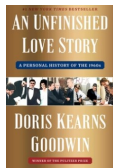
St. Anselm’s Episcopal Church
 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA
 Phone: (925) 284-7420
 web site: www.stanselms.us

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

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

BOOK CLUB

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



Our book selection for the month of March is "An Unfinished Love Story (A Personal History of the 1960’s) by author Doris Kerns Goodwin, 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.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jill Schon
 Richard White
 Jim Burns
 Pamela Green
 Emmanuelle Merrill
 Mark Stanley
 Barbara Thorton
 Andrew Huddart
 Elizabeth Henry
 Michael Hollinger

ANNIVERSARIES

Peg Matson & Duane Nelsen
 Alan & Sara Swimmer

ALTAR FLOWERS

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!



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

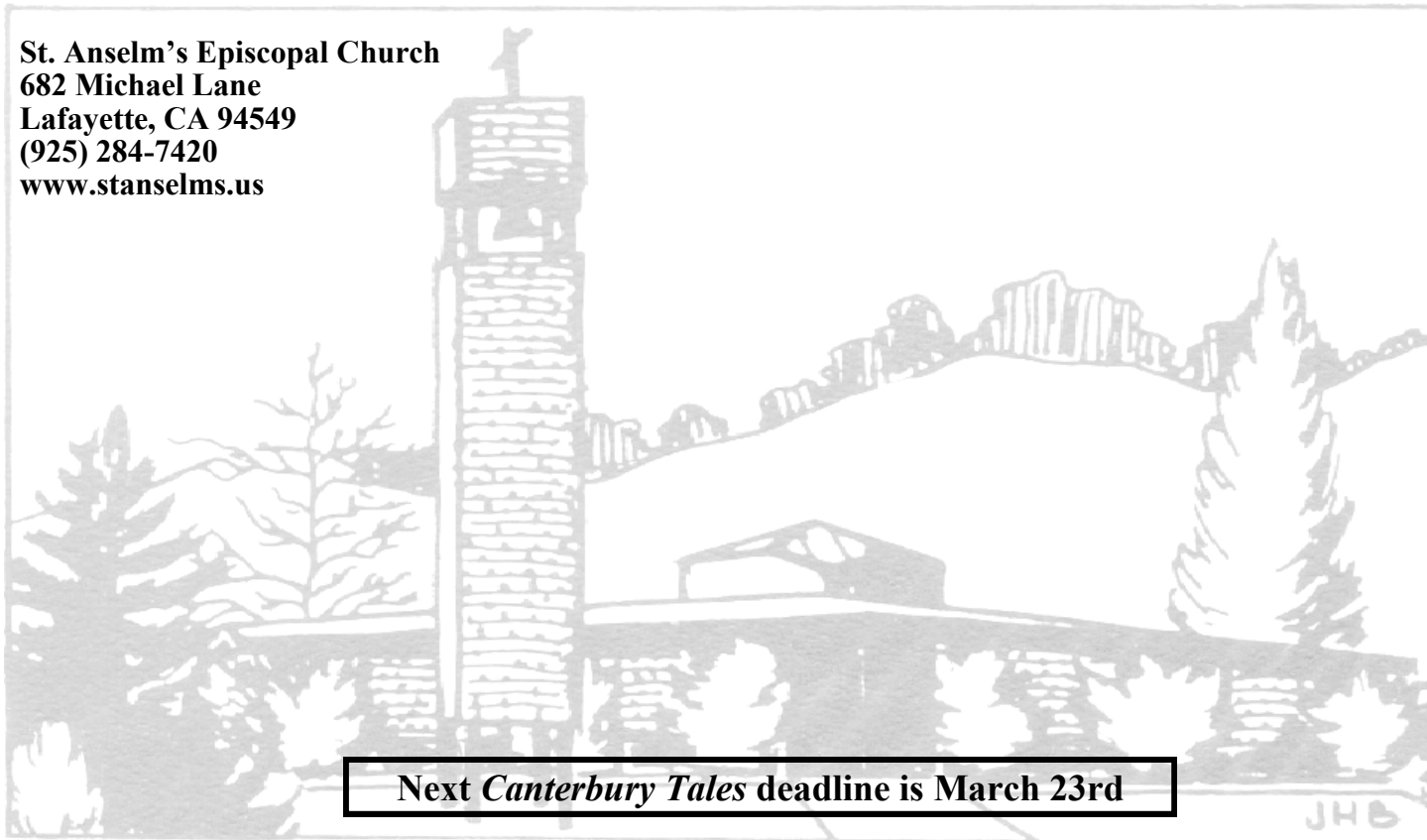
Help provide refreshments following the service. To sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044bada722a2f85-coffee> or contact Sylvia Williams at 925-586-0730.

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

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



Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is March 23rd

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Sunday March 2nd — Pancake Breakfast following Sunday Service.

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

Wednesday March 5th — Ash Wednesday Service at Noon in the sanctuary.

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

Sunday March 9th — Altar Guild will meet in the conference room at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday March 9th — 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.

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

Sunday March 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.

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

****Thursday — Evening Bible Study** will resume on April 3rd.