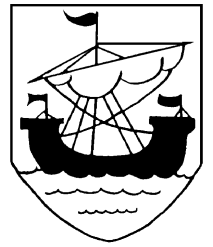


Canterbury Tales

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



May 2025

From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Eastertide continues at St. Anselm's following our glorious celebration on April 20th. According to our records it was our best attended Easter service since COVID. Thank you to everyone who helped make Holy Week & Easter Sunday so special, especially our Director of Music and choir, Altar Guild, Worship Commission and Parish Administrator.

Last Saturday, following the amazing Michael Lane Preschool's successful fundraiser, St. Anselm's vestry met for a seven-hour retreat facilitated by the Rev. Laura Eberly, a vocational deacon serving at Santiago St. James in Oakland and trainer with the College of Congregational Development. We re-worked our mission statement and spent some time reflecting on our goals for the next three years. Thank you to all the vestry members who were able to participate, and to Peg Matson, Sr. Warden & Katie Taggart, Jr. Warden, for helping pull this important gathering of leaders together.

"St. Anselm's Episcopal Church is a nurturing community for people of all ages who seek to know God, grow, and serve."

Throughout the month of May St. Anselm's will continue to be a bustling place with a work party on May 3rd, "Becoming Episcopalian" series after church for those interested in learning more about our tradition, a Memorial Service for longtime parishioner Alan Swimmer, and many opportunities to pray, learn and be of service.

I'll be away on Sunday, May 25th to participate in a family reunion in Belleville, PA. Fortunately for us, the Very Rev. Julia McCray-Goldsmith will be preaching and presiding that Sunday. You can read more about her inside this edition of Canterbury Tales.

See you soon!

The Rev. Will Scott
Rector



Anselm's Angels

Thank you to all those who helped participate during Holy Week Services. To our lectors **Shelley Frost, Vicki Pappas, Katie Taggart, John Powers** and **Maggie McCloskey**; LEMs **Peg Matson, Marian Mulkey** and **Pam Green**; ushers: **Matt Chayt, Chris Louie, Alan Swimmer** and **Bob Eddy**; Counters: **Sheila Riedy, Julia Starr, Hank Gatlin, Peg Matson, Maggie McCloskey** and **Marian Mulkey**; Coffee Hosts: **Julia Starr, Ann Burns, Sylvia Williams** and **Peg Matson**.

A very big thank you to all who helped prepare the sanctuary for Easter Sunday: **Sylvia Williams, Sally Fischer, Dharmini Harichandran, Katie Taggart, Joan Martin, Joni Pearce, Mallory Williams, Joe Williams** and **Naomi Chamberlain Harris**.

Many thanks to **Sheila Wiegand** for organizing the egg hunt and to **Joan Martin** for helping her supervise the little hunters. A special thanks to **Jon Martin's** friend, Eric the Easter rabbit, for making the day extra-special for the kids.

Special thanks to **Katie Taggart** for helping organize and facilitate the Vestry Retreat. And to **Laura Eberly** for facilitating the Retreat. And to everyone who attended the retreat **Bob Eddy, Hank Gatlin, Dharmini Harichandran, Iris Hillman, Peg Matson, Maggie McCloskey, Joni Pearce, Sheila Riedy, David Rowe, Julia Starr, Katie Taggart, Marian Mulkey & Rev. Will**.

From The Senior Warden

The month of April finished with another joyful, community building day at St. Anselm's.

MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL'S WHEEL PARADE FUNDRAISER

A parent lead committee worked very hard to throw a fun family day which included a successful fundraiser for the preschool on Saturday, April 26th. They had lots of craft stuff available for the children to decorate their bikes, scooters, wagons, etc. There were also yummy bagels, donuts, muffins and fruit to fuel the crowd. The event included a raffle with items donated by the families and a silent auction with priceless offerings from the teachers. The proceeds will help make some much needed repairs to the preschool bathroom.

No sooner were the families cleared out of the parking lot when our vestry members arrived for a 7 hour Vestry Retreat. I am very proud to say that they all arrived eager to roll up their sleeves and get up to some hard work (and good trouble) for St. Anselm's

We were originally going to hold our retreat off campus in Byron Park's Garden Room that Katie had arranged for us, however, due to a Covid outbreak there we had to make a last minute pivot to meet at the church. A huge thank you to Laura Eberly who did a wonderful job working with the vestry to help us create a new Mission Statement for the Church, to Marian for joining us for the day and educating the vestry on all things financial at St. Anselm's, to all the vestry members who worked hard all day and helped us create a plan for the next 3 years and to Byron Park for bringing us the dinner they were going to serve us at their place.



VESTRY RETREAT



(L to R) Naomi, Will+, David, Bob, Sheila, Iris, Julia, Joni, Katie, Maggie, Hank, Dharmini, Laura Eberly, our Vestry Facilitator and Peg

Thank you Marian for taking this photo for us!

This day of connection, community, commitment and joy was a perfect example of what St. Anselm's is all about—**Our New Mission Statement—St. Anselm's Episcopal Church is a nourishing community for people of all ages who seek to know God, grow and serve.**

In faith and service,
Peg Matson, Sr. Warden

BECOMING EPISCOPALIAN

For three Sundays in May, following our 10 a.m. service, join Rev. Will for a conversation about the Episcopal Church. We'll explore what makes the Episcopal tradition distinct and similar to other Christian denominations. This series is open to all, those new to our parish and those who have been around a long time. Join us on 5/4, 5/11, and 5/18 from 11:30am-12:30.p.m. in the Parish Hall. For questions, please contact Rev. Will: rector@stanselms.us

Vestry Update



April 13th Vestry Meeting:

- Discussed details for the upcoming Vestry Retreat
- Vestry Person of the Day lock up procedures were review with the members
- Iris presented details for the Fall Rummage Sale and received approval to move forward
- Planning for an Endowment Event kick off event were discussed
- Property Commission has set a Work Party for May 3rd at 9 a.m.
- Sheila gave an updated report on Michael Lane Preschool

April 26th Vestry Retreat:

- The Vestry Created a new Mission Statement for the Church
- The Vestry created a 3 year plan for the development of programs and property priorities at St. Anselm's

Vestry Retreat Business Meeting:

- Marian presented a Financial Orientation and Q1 2025 Financial Report to the vestry. The Q1 2025 financial report was approved.
- Proposed offerings by Chris Kula for a children's Summer Cadence Music Program and Fall Chorus were reviewed, endorsed and approved by the vestry.
- Vestry members discussed the various commissions at St. Anselm's and assigned several Liaisons to several commissions.
- A plan to establish a Family Committee under Christian Formation was presented. It was approved to create the committee and establish the 1st Sunday of the Month as Family Sunday where families will be able to come and have a service focused on families with a children's sermon, playtime, crafts and games after church.

A list of major property projects was reviewed with the vestry members. They are going to come prepared to discuss the list and create a priority list at the next vestry meeting.

SEEKING: EVENT ASSISTANT

St. Anselm's is looking for support for special events.
If interested, please contact parish@stanselms.us for a job description.

Michael Lane Preschool

At Michael Lane Preschool we are enjoying all of spring's glory! We planted sunflower seeds, painted birdhouses for our field trip to the Lafayette trail, learned about baby animals, and did some spring cleaning!

We enjoyed our first annual Wheel Parade in the church parking lot this past Saturday. Thank you for your support of our successful new adorable family friendly fundraiser! We are raised funds to give our school bathroom an update/refresh, and are really looking forward to it!

With our school year ending at the end of May, now is the time of year where we enjoy our final days with many of our students before we all disperse for the summer.



Warmly,
Holly Higgins
Michael Lane Preschool Director



Spring Work Day

**Saturday, May 3rd
8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**

Join leaders from the St. Anselm's Property Commission for a morning full of projects to enhance our beautiful campus. Bring work gloves, a water bottle, hat, and dress for a mess. Contact JP or Pamela if you have questions.



Drive-of-the-month: Lamorinda Care Collective

I had the privilege of visiting Lamorinda Care Collective on a Friday where there were two “shoppers” in the store, as well as 3 volunteers doing everything from stocking shelves, hanging clothing, preparing boxes for people who have contacted LCC asking for donations. There is a pantry stocked with basic necessities like rice, flour, sugar, beans, olive oil, cereal and oatmeal. I saw the kitchen wares section with toasters, coffee pots, tea kettles, dishes, silverware, etc. They have lots of clothing and shoes, as well as books and toys for children. Lamorinda Care Collective was founded by Maya Smith, Julie Marsh and Beth Brown. Beth told me the store is constantly changing as the needs of the clients change. They are helping recent refugees, Victims Advocate groups, school districts, recently housed and unhoused to mention a few.

LCC is surely doing God's work, right here in our town! It is a wonderful place to drop off donations, or spend a few hours volunteering. I am thrilled that St. Anselm's will be supporting them throughout the summer.

We are collecting donations of:

Cleaning supplies :(dishwashing soap, clorox wipes, dusting supplies, or other cleaning items)

Pantry supplies: bags of rice, bottles of olive oil, bags of lentils

Personal hygiene supplies: toothpaste, body soap, toothbrushes

Additionally, you can volunteer to work at LCC. Here is the Sign Up Genius with all the information. [Sign Up Genius](#)

Warm regards,

Joni Pearce

Service /Outreach Commission Chair

Lafayette Community Day



Volunteer for Lafayette Community Day on Saturday, May 3. Plan to be part of the 4th Annual Lafayette Community Day! Register to join us at the 4th annual day of service and celebration. Volunteers will gather at Lafayette Plaza at 8:30am, then go to their assigned project site to carry out activities such as gardening, picking up litter, painting, cleaning/organizing, and more! Next, everyone will come back to the Plaza for lunch (catered by [Rancho Cantina](#)) including live music by [Random Nature](#), games and community!

We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Contra Costa & Solano Food Bank. The collection site at Lafayette Elementary School (950 Moraga Road) from 9 to 11:30am on May 3.

Register at LafayetteCommunityDay.org to choose your project.

Questions? Email info@lafayettecommunityday.org.

St. Anselm's welcomes former Dean of Trinity Cathedral, San Jose: The Very Rev. Julia McCray-Goldsmith on Sunday, May 25th

The Very Rev. Julia McCray-Goldsmith is an Episcopal priest retired from serving as dean of the multilingual Trinity Cathedral in San Jose, California. Previously, Julia served on the staff of the Episcopal Bishop of California at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco.

A former missionary and non-profit fundraiser, Julia did her graduate theological studies at Creighton University and the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and is currently a doctoral student at Virginia Theological Seminary. She continues to serve on churchwide boards and training teams, with a particular interest in Latino ministries. You can find her full bio and blog at <https://www.liftupyourhearts.net/>



Julia has been married for 38 years to John, with whom lives in Berkeley, California. They are parents of Nicaraguan-born sons Amos and Aaron and preschool granddaughter Ella.

“TOGETHER WE SHINE” RUMMAGE SALE (Funds needed for repairs to church, i.e. lighting system and solar panels)



**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.

“One person's trash is another person's treasure”
“If I haven't used it in the past 5 yrs. I probably won't ever use it or need it.”

Spring Cleaning is a great opportunity to get rid of unwanted items that are in good shape and good working condition. Please save and donate them to the Fall Rummage Sale. We have very limited storage space at the church and ask that you store donations at home until 6 weeks before the sale. If it is not possible to store items at home, call Iris or Sylvia, to make storage arrangements. Please do not drop off any donations outside the office door.

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. Cell: 925-381-2936: Sylvia: sw94565@yahoo.com. Cell: 925- 586-0730:

Janice Carrigan and Maggie McCloskey



Summer Cadence

A Creative Workshop for Children Ages 9-12

All Children are welcome as, St. Anselm's Episcopal Church's Director of Music, Chris Kula, leads a series of creative workshops for children ages 9-12.

Weekly workshops through **June** and **July**, will offer the opportunity for children to explore singing, composition, improvisation, poetry, and drama—with two “cadence” performances marking the culmination of each month's classes.

Although this workshop is being held at St. Anselm's by it's Director of Music, this is not a religious program.

Enrollment is limited.

For more information about this program or other choir opportunities at St. Anselm's, email

choir@stanselms.music





Do you feel close to God in nature? Do you enjoy sharing inspiration in community? Consider participating in Spirit Walks.

During the Lenten season this year, St. Anselm's was excited to introduce this new activity that saw the intersection of spiritual contemplation, enjoyment of the natural world, and personal connection. On the six Sunday afternoons before Easter, Reverend Will led one- to two-hour walks on local trails. Joined by congregants from two other local Episcopal churches – St. Paul's in Walnut Creek and St. Stephen's in Orinda – Spirit Walks attracted between 10 and 20 walkers every week.

Each walk started with a prayer circle and the introduction of a contemplation that participants were invited to keep in mind, as a form of walking meditation. On many of the walks, we experimented with periods of silence to see what new insights might arise. Midway through each walk, we'd pause to check in with each other and share our thoughts. Upon arriving back at our starting point, we'd end the experience with another opportunity to share, and a closing prayer.

Spirit Walks gave us a wonderful way to enjoy multi-sensory inspiration – from bird songs and tiny yellow wildflowers along the trail, to personal stories, laughter, and silence – and deepen our connections in the community with new friends. Stay tuned for more Spirit Walks opportunities, starting in June. Do you have a favorite local trail? You could lead the next Spirit Walk. If you're interested, reach out to Reverend Will or Shelley Frost.



BOOK CLUB

**Wednesday, May 15th
at 2:00 p.m.
in the Library**

We will share the name of our new reading choice at that time. If you have any questions, please reach out to Sharyn Barrington Carlson at 847.337.0875 or Naomi at 925.395.1395.



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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Maggie McCloskey
Sheila Gorsuch
Sara Swimmer
Avon Wilson

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 or #925-381-1074.

Canterbury Tales
is the monthly newsletter of

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA
Phone: (925) 284-7420
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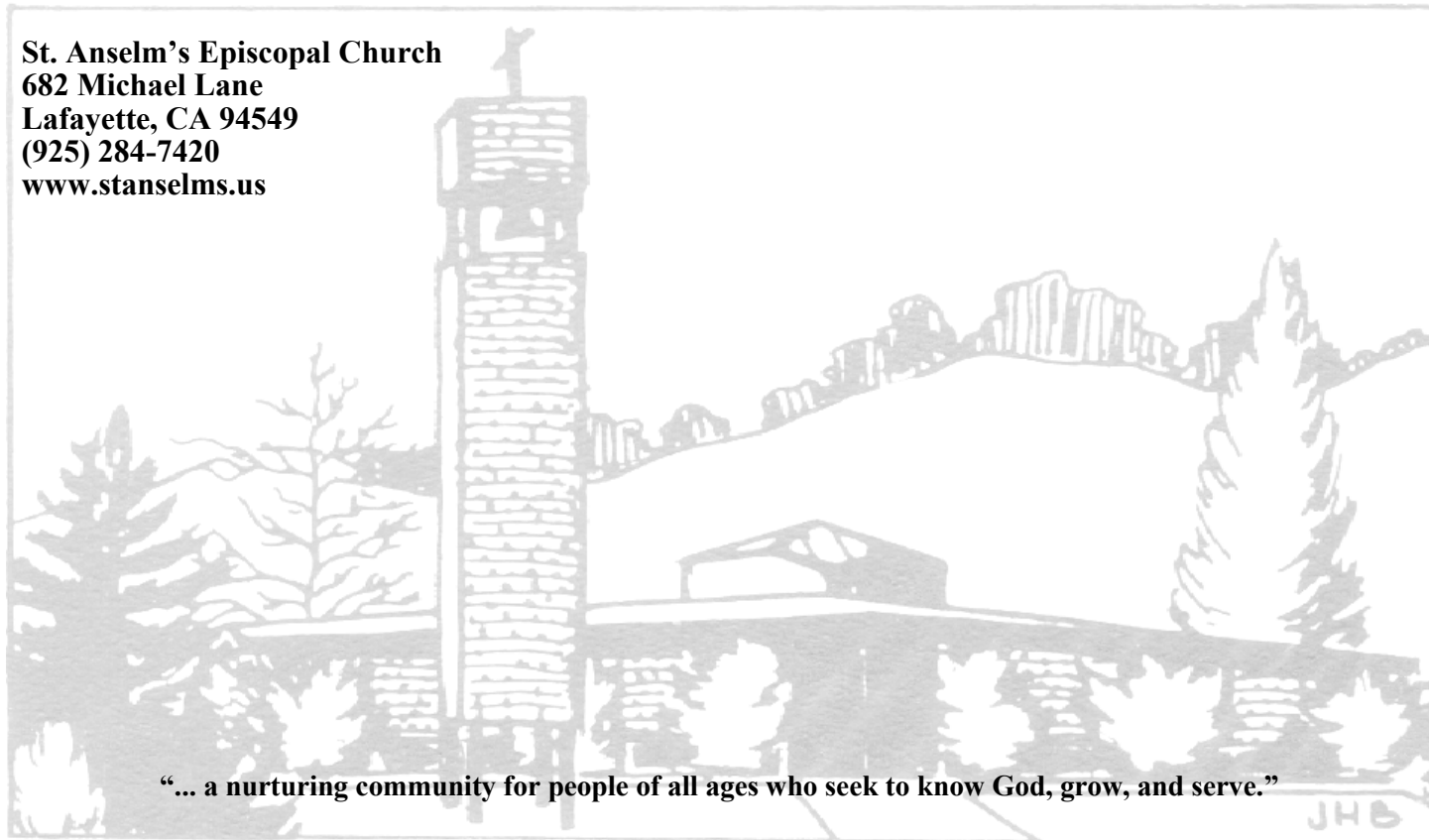
In-Person & Virtual Sunday Service:
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

May's Ministry of the Month: Altar Guild

Saturday May 3rd — Spring Work Day 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Sunday May 4th — Altar Guild will meet in the conference room at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday May 6th/13th/20th/27th — 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 May 6th — Property Commission will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday May 6th — Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

Wednesday May 7th/14th/21st/28th — Contemplative Prayer Gathering will meet from 9:00a.m. – 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Thursday May 8th/15th/22nd/29th — 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 May 10th — Alan Swimmer Celebration of Life 2:00 p.m.

Thursday May 15th — Book Club will meet at 2:00 p.m. in the church library.

Sunday May 18th — 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 May 28th — Stephen Ministers will meet at 12:00 p.m.
