

Canterbury Tales

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



November 2025

From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's,

Each year I find myself appreciating more and more the sacred autumnal celebrations that help us connect with those who have died, and get comfortable with our own mortality. As leaves change and fall to the ground, cooler air and rain have me digging out sweaters and blankets I haven't seen for at least a year. This is the season too that I return to the garden. Rake leaves, plant bulbs, cut a few things back, clean up debris, and scattered wildflower seeds.

This Sunday, November 2nd at our 10 a.m. service St. Anselm's will host our third First Sunday All Ages service. We'll be celebrating the Feast of All Saints and everyone is encouraged to wear a costume. On Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. Christopher Johnson along with other members of the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society Piano Composers will host an All Souls Day Concert, a time to remember those we love but see no longer and be inspired by original compositions.

We've been very busy these past few months at St. Anselm's, and as the days grow shorter things are starting to slow down. I pray this gives us time to focus on those essential aspects of our life together that strengthen us for the long haul. Sharing a cup of coffee with a new friend, going for a walk with someone we haven't seen in a long time, and checking in with our neighbors.

Last Sunday St. Anselm's celebrated 65 years of ministry and service. Thank you to everyone who participated, rolled up their sleeves and ensured we marked that milestone with joy. Thank you also to our hardworking Stewardship Commission and to everyone who has pledged. If you haven't sent in your pledge card yet or filled out [our digital version](#), please do so today. Our vestry will be meeting in November to finalize our plans for 2026 and December's Canterbury Tales will provide a full report. Thank you to our Bookkeeper, Steve Zimmerman, and our Treasurer, Marian Mulkey for all their work on our behalf.

You can find recordings of last Sunday's festivities: [service](#) and [luncheon](#) on YouTube.

See you soon!

Peace,
Will



Thankful Anselm's Angels

A very big thank you to everyone who helped celebrate our 65th anniversary service and luncheon. Special thanks to **Katie Taggart, JP Zhang, Sasha Zhang, Allen Zhang, Molly Nelsen, Bob Eddy, Sylvia Williams, Peg Matson, Mallory Williams, Joni Pearce** and **Sally Fischer** for all their hard work to make the day a huge success.

Much appreciation to the **Lafayette Police Department, Lamorinda CERT, Contra Costa Fire Department, Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group** for their participation in St Anselm's 3rd Annual Lamorinda Public Safety Day. All to all our volunteers **JP Zhang, Sasha Zhang, John Powers, Duane Nelsen, Peg Matson** for their hard work planning and setting up for the fun filled event.

Our deepest gratitude to the the Stewardship Committee and all our sip, snak and chat hosts for leading our 2026 Stewardship Drive: **Julie Rinkenberger, John Powers & Marian Mulkey, Keith & Joni Pearce, Hank Gatlin, Al & Jeannine Makely, Will+**, and Steward chair **Katie Taggart**.

And a great big thank you to **Joni Pearce** for organizing all our Winter Night volunteers: unloading the Truck and Setting Up Tents: **Eli Chan, Greg Rodolari, and Peg Matson**. Cleaning and Set-up: **Katie Taggart and Joni Pearce**. Dinners: **Peg Matson, Altar Guild: Sylvia Williams, Dharmini Harichandra, Joan Martin, Katie Taggart, Edee Allison, Sally Fischer, and Joni Pearce. Eva Woo Slavitt**, her mother and brother, **Sally Roberts** and **Michael Hollinger. Cancer Support Group. Rev. Will Scott.** Breakfast Set-Up every morning at 6 am! **Sally Roberts** and **Jeff Boero Anne Brown** was the Greeter almost every evening when the families returned from being gone for the day.

From The Senior Warden

Celebrating 65 Years of St. Anselm's

Wow! What an incredible day we shared at our 65th Anniversary Celebration. The energy and fellowship are still buzzing in the afterglow of our spectacular celebration. It was a wonderful day of coming together for both new and long-time members, a day that reminded us what a small world it truly is.

A Service of Special Significance

We were honored to welcome Bishop Austin Rios for the second time this year, alongside the Very Rev. Tracey Lind, who delivered a truly amazing sermon. If you'd like to revisit her powerful message, a recording is available on our YouTube channel. We were also thrilled to host members of the Rev. Stanley Smith's family—the second Vicar of St. Anselm's—who traveled all the way from our architectural sibling church, The Chapel of St. James the Fisherman in Wellfleet, MA.

Thank you, Rev. Will Scott!

The day was a true celebration of community, and it is all thanks to the vision of our Rector, Will Scott. For over a year, this celebration has been Will's passion project. His love for our church's history and architecture led him on a special journey to Wellfleet, forging new connections and friendships with our kindred spirits there. Will, thank you for sharing your vision, energy, and passion with us, and for extending our circle to include our newfound friends. It is a privilege to work with you to bring so much joy and inspiration to St. Anselm's.

A Day of Joy and Fellowship

Beyond the special service, the day was filled with joy and camaraderie.

- **Wonderful Speeches:** We heard from many long-time parish members, including a guest appearance by the former Rector Rev. John Sutton.
- **Delicious Luncheon:** Thank you to Sylvia Williams for planning and executing a truly delicious meal.
- **Great Music:** The B Street Combo, provided by Katie Taggart, filled the air with great music.

With faithfulness and gratitude,

Peg Matson

Senior Warden

(photos thanks to Iris Hillman)



Service/Outreach

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped with Winter Nights. From the unloading of the truck, to the shopping for groceries, preparing of meals, sharing conversations, never ending trash issues, and so much more, you all showed up in a HUGE way. I hope I don't forget anyone...

Greg Rodolari - unloading the truck
 Eli Chan Lopez and the Springstone students - unloading truck, pitching tents, and cleaning
 Katie Taggart & Peg Matson - cleaning/preparing Jackson Hall
 Jeff & Connie Boero - shopping at Costco
 Sally Roberts & Jeff Boero - our morning crew serving coffee & breakfast
 JP, Marian, Margaret, Sylvia- the never ending trash issues; alarms, answering endless questions



All the wonderful meals prepared and served by: Altar Guild; Cancer Support Group; Christian Formation Group; Kayce Rane & Sarah, Vickers-Webb; Mollie McNamee & National Charity League; Eva with her mom and Sally Roberts & Michael Hollinger; Dana Santa Cruz; and Will & Matt.
 Ann Browne - welcoming guests each night as an ambassador

Our October outreach mission is writing cards to Veterans for Veterans Day. We wrote cards after services on October 19, and will again on November 2 with a message of appreciation for their service. This list is generated by the group Cards From Home, a group that writes cards to veterans for holidays and birthdays.

We will be getting the Christmas wish list from OTTP - Occupational Therapy Training Program - for their clients for our November Outreach. You will be able to pick a name of a student with a description of the gift they would like to receive. Last year we donated 20 gifts. Our goal this year is 25.

Joni Pearce
Service / Outreach Commission Chair



Stephen Ministry

"We were planning a trip to Scandinavia. Life was good. Suddenly, devastation. Jan was diagnosed with MDS, a rare blood disease, and was given six months to live. The second medical opinion was confirming and was followed by a visit to St Anselm's rector. He suggested Jan consider a Stephen Minister. Being a private person, she was at first hesitant, and then reluctantly agreed to give it a try. Enter, Stephen Minister.

The first visit went so well that a flexible schedule was set for subsequent visits. While I was not privy to what was discussed during their weekly meetings, she did share some of her feelings about their get-togethers. What was very apparent from the beginning was that there was an almost instant rapport between them and that an important relationship in Jan's life was developing.

The process seemed simple enough. They would establish a time to meet when they would not be interrupted. It is my perception that in the beginning, there was no set agenda other than to get to know one another. In the ensuing weeks, the Stephen Minister helped Jan with the anger and frustration she felt as a result of having the disease. She helped her to come to terms with certain important things that would take place when she was gone. To observe the trust and mutual respect that these two women developed in a relatively short time, was quite satisfying to me. I know that the nurturing of this relationship was of great benefit to Jan during those final difficult months.

My Jan had come face to face with one of her angels."

A Stephen Minister is available to you. They will walk beside you to help with any loss you may be grieving. Speak to Will+ or Julie Rinkenberger.



Education for Ministry Group Forming in January – Come Grow with Us

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year curriculum, offered one year at a time, by the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee). In a weekly seminar over nine months, a trained mentor guides a small group (6–12 participants) through Scripture, church history, theology, prayer, and reflection. Since 1975, EfM has helped more than 120,000 people explore a living, thoughtful faith.

What happens each week?

- **Check-in** – noticing where we have met God this week
- **Worship** – participants lead worship and pray together
- **Theological reflection** – connecting faith, life, and action
- **Study and discussion** – insights, questions, and “aha” moments from the readings
- **Fellowship** – time to connect

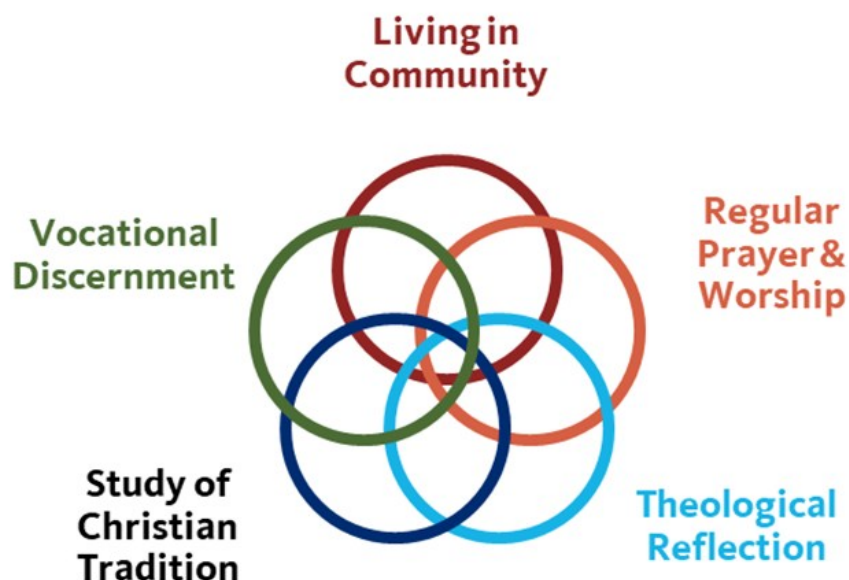
EfM journey centers on **five core practices: living in community, prayer and worship, theological reflection, study, and vocational discernment**. Learn more about them at <https://theology.sewanee.edu/files/resources/core-practices-in-efm-handout-2018-1.pdf>

From my own experience, EfM has been one of the most meaningful spiritual journeys of my life. It opened Scripture in new ways, deepened my understanding of faith and our shared world, and surrounded me with companions who listened, questioned, and grew alongside me. The program continues to shape my understanding of how I see God at work in my daily life.

Participants move year by year through:

- **Year 1** Old Testament
- **Year 2** New Testament
- **Year 3** Church History
- **Year 4** Theology and Ethics. EfM “Wide-Angle” is a one-year option for alumni.

All are welcome. Curious to hear more? Join me at coffee hour on Sunday, November 23, for a brief EfM overview and Q&A. Or send me an email at Dana.StCruz@gmail.com. Sincerely, Dana Santa Cruz (Mentor)



Celebrating our 50th Season!



***With 50th anniversary season conductor
DEREK TAM and Orchestra Gloria***

***December 6 & 7, 2025 The Eternal Light
March 7 & 8, 2026 Grant Us Peace
May 16 & 17, 2026 Brahms Requiem***

Order your season tickets now!



Saturday concerts NEW VENUE

3:30 PM: St. Anselm's Episcopal Church,
682 Michael Lane, LAFAYETTE

Sunday concerts

3:30 PM: St. Joseph Basilica,
1109 Chestnut Street, ALAMEDA

Season Tickets:

\$60 General; \$50 Student/Senior
Grades K-8 are free at all concerts.

Order by Phone: (510) 522-1702

Order Online: www.sdgloria.org



facebook.com/sdgloria

December 6 & 7, 2025

Begin the holiday season with two cherished classics:
the luminous beauty of Morten Lauridsen's **Lux Aeterna**
and the joyous celebration of Bach's **Magnificat**.

March 7 & 8, 2026

This concert explores themes of hope and peace,
with compositions by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

May 16 & 17, 2026

Experience the emotional depth and beauty of Brahms's
German Requiem as our grand finale.

Vestry Update

Vestry Meeting held October 19th:

The Minutes from the September 21st meeting were approved and posted in the Parish Hall Conference Room

The vestry had an interactive discussion about recent events and calendaring for 2026

Rummage Sale – Iris shared that we netted approximately \$2,600 from the sale. Alan Swimmer is selling some of the electronic items that did not sell on eBay. Everyone agreed that there was a real sense of community at the event among the parishioners who helped at the event.

Winter Nights – Joni reported that it was another successful year with committees signed up to provide meals which made it much easier for everyone. Will spoke about the father of one of the WN guests telling him how much he and his daughter enjoyed our services.

The 3rd Annual Lamorinda Public Safety Day – Peg reported we had 65 adults, 49 children and 3 dogs visit our event. Attendance wasn't as high as the first year but it was also the last day of soccer season. Next year Peg would like to have the event closer to Halloween and incorporate Halloween activities, costumes and possibly a trunk-or-treat component.

Calendaring 2026 - Julia Starr and Katie Taggart will work together to create a committee to discuss Special Events that were put on this year and determine if they are worth doing again next year. Next year's vestry retreat was briefly discussed and it was decided to do a one-day only event and not an overnight event.

Action Item:

The vestry approved the 2026 Employee Benefit Policy and selected the option of Anthem PPO 80 MSP/SEE for the baseline medical benefit for employees for the 2026 year period. We do not currently have any employees receiving medical benefits.

Updates:

Diocesan Convention held October 18th – Bob Eddy provided the update. Bob, Georganne and Marty attended the convention along with Will and Naomi. Will noted that he has been a part of the Strategic Vision Committee for the past 18 months but his tenure is ending as of the end of October. The vision for the future of the Diocese was presented at the convention.

65th Celebration Plans – Peg and Will shared that we will have at least 70 people attending the service and special luncheon. The Bishop is coming, Will is creating a special liturgy and speaker program for the luncheon and there will be several speakers.

Tower Fix by Verizon Contractor – The bees have been removed from the bell tower and Verizon's contractor has repaired the structure, removed the old lights that were not working and fixed the access hatch at the top.

Stewardship Campaign -Katie shared that the campaign has been going well and we're hoping for a big finish on the 26th for the 65th Celebration and Ingathering Sunday.

Property Commission – The property commission is working on creating a budget for next year to include more work on the hillside behind the parish hall and preschool.

Next Vestry Meeting



Sunday, November 16th at 11:15 a.m. in the Conference Room, all are welcome

Winter Nights Thank You

All the dinners were delicious, but I want to share especially about Eva Woo Slavitt's. First of all, her mother was helping out and her brother. It was special to meet them. What was also special is that they were making won ton soup from scratch. That included also making the won tons, not just opening a package and dumping them in the broth. Eva's mom was the chef and Eva and her brother the sous-chefs. A large clump of flour was sitting on the table in the kitchen. They took a rolling pin and rolled it into a large thin piece of flour, about 21/2 feet long and a couple of feet wide. Then they cut it into wonton-size squares, put filling on top of one of them at a time, pulled another square of flour from the large piece of flour, put it on top of the half won ton, closed it around the edges, and then tossed it into the pot of broth. The result was delicious!

~ Anne Brown

Michael Lane Preschool



Fall is certainly in the air!

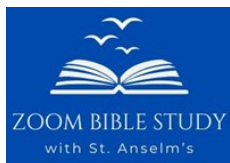
This month at Michael Lane Preschool we weighed and measured pumpkins, walked on stilts, sang and acted out 5 Little Pumpkins, rode the bikes, played with pumpkins in the sand, dictated stories, painted colorful leaves for our classroom tree, and enjoyed local produce for our snacks (pomegranates, persimmon, apples, pluots!).

We feel extremely grateful for the indoor/outdoor set up of our preschool, allowing for flexibility on wet days, and lots of overhead coverage.

We welcomed 2 new students over the past month, and look forward to more joining as the months march on. During this month of giving thanks, we want to thank St. Anselm's Parish for your support and wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Fondly,
Holly Higgins
Preschool Director

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY



Thursdays
at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting I.D. 815 0705 2148
Passcode 442879



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: vvpappas@gmail.com.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Help provide refreshments following the service. To sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D45A5AF22A64-58747416-stanselms> or contact Sylvia Williams at 925-586-0730.



BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, November 19th
at 2:00 p.m.
in the Library

For questions, please contact Sharyn Barrington Carlson at 847.337.0875 or Deacon Naomi at 925.395.1395.

CANTERBURY TALES

is the monthly newsletter of

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
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Editor: Margaret Wolfe
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In-Person & Virtual Sunday Service:
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Alex McDonald
Jasmine Frost
Bob Eddy
Peg Matson
Joan Yao

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.

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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www.stanselms.us

Celebrating 65 Years



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

November's Ministry of the Month: Deanery Delegates

Sunday, November 2nd — First Sunday All Ages Service at 10:00 a.m. Wear costumes.

Sunday, November 2nd — Photo Booth at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 2nd — Altar Guild at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 2nd — All Souls Day Concert at 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 4th/11th/18th/25th — Morning Prayer will be led by Deacon Naomi via Zoom at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, November 4th — Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon.

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

Thursday, November 6th/13th/20th — Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, November 7th/14th/21st/28th — Lamorinda Village Strength & Balance class from 11:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

Sunday, November 9th — Cancer Support Group will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 9th — Columbarium Board will meet in the library at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 16th — Vestry Meeting will meet in the conference room at 11:15 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, November 19th— Book Club at 2:00 p.m. in the Library

Wednesday, November 19th — Stephen Ministers will meet at 7:00 p.m.