

Canterbury Tales

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



October 2025

From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's,

With a special anniversary celebration just around the corner, it's a good time to recall our church's history. Sixty-five years ago this month, St. Anselm's was dedicated by the Right Reverend James Pike, joined by the Rev. Clarence Stacy, our founding vicar, who had previously founded St. Aidan's, San Francisco, and an overflow crowd of people. One local paper proclaimed St. Anselm's "the fastest growing Episcopal church in the United States." In the years that followed, our little brown church in Burton Valley has provided inspiration, community, and innumerable opportunities to serve.

The Rev. Stanley Smith soon followed our founding vicar in 1961. Smith was connected with our architectural sibling on Cape Cod, the Chapel of St. James the Fisherman in Wellfleet, also designed by noted Finnish architect Olav Hammarstrom. (We will welcome Smith's children, who have fond memories of their years in Lafayette, at our October 26th celebration.) In 1965, St. Anselm's welcomed George Hunt as Vicar, who was elected Bishop of Rhode Island in 1980 and was a leader in the movement for LGBTQ inclusion in the church. Hunt was followed by James Jones, who went on to teach for two decades at Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley.

Thanks to the steadfast leadership of the Rev. Bob Tsu from 1972 to 1985, St. Anselm's became a parish and was involved in supporting refugees and the founding of East Bay Hospice. The Revs. Charles Ramsden and Bob Moore each served as Rector for 5 years. During the Rev. John Sutton's 23 years as Rector, St. Anselm's experienced significant physical plant improvements, the establishment of Michael Lane Pre-school, and provided generous support for Trinity Center in Walnut Creek, a respite and community center for the homeless and working poor.

A church like St. Anselm's is far more than a building and clergy, as our new mission statement reflects: "We are a nurturing community for people of all ages who seek to know God, grow, and serve." St. Anselm's has been the site of baptisms, weddings, funerals, confirmations, and even ordinations. Of course, we've hosted numerous events, including folk masses, winter shelters, rummage sales, safety days, crab feeds, concerts, Easter egg hunts, bridge clubs, exercise classes, pet blessings, and art shows.



On Sunday, October 26th, we will welcome our Bishop, the Right Reverend Austin K. Rios, as presider, and the Very Rev. Tracey Lind, as preacher, as we celebrate 65 years of St. Anselm's and recommit ourselves to supporting the vitality of this parish. A special catered luncheon will follow our 10 a.m. service.

Please ensure that you register/RSVP by October 21st:
[St. Anselm's 65th Anniversary Celebration & Luncheon](#)

See you soon!
The Rev. Will Scott
Rector



Anselm's Angels

A very big thank you to everyone who donated items for the Together We Shine Yard Sale. Special thanks to **Iris Hillman, Sylvia Williams & Janice Carrigan** for organizing the event. And to all those who helped make the event a huge success: **Ann Allison, Jeff & Connie Borero, Janice Carrigan, Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Sue Crawford, Sally & Marty Fischer, Rev. Joan Gardner, Hank & Suzanne Gatlin, Pam Green, Dharmini Harichandran, Peg Matson, Joni & Keith Pearce, Marian Mulkey, John Powers, Kayce Rane, Sheila Rider, Dana Santa Cruz, Julia Starr, Alan Swimmer, Katie Taggart, Sylvia Williams, Rev Will Scott and Matt Chayt.**

Much appreciation to our crew of counters **Sylvia Williams, Joan Martin, Al Eames, Alan Swimmer, Vicki Pappas, Marian Mulkey, John Powers, Judy Peak, Marty Fischer, Anne Brown** and the members of the Vestry: **Peg Matson, Katie Taggart, Joni Pearce, Bob Eddy, Dave Rowe, Hank Gatlin, Dharmini Harichandran, Iris Hillman, Pam Green, Sheila Riedy, Maggie McCloskey and Julie Starr.**

From The Senior Warden

Loving Joyful Community

September proved to be another busy month at St. Anselm's. It doesn't seem like things will slow down as we look ahead to October either. Fall is just a busy time of year for our community!

The thing that has kept repeating in my mind throughout this busy time is that St. Anselm's continues to be a shining beacon in this community. Our wonderful parish has pulled together and stepped up in so many ways to reach out and offer support the community – Laundry Love, Grateful Gatherings, 10,000 Lunches, Winter Nights, to name just a few recent support drives.

Not only have we gotten a lot done to serve the wider community, but we have pulled together to raise money to take care of some much-needed maintenance issues like lighting in the sanctuary and re-homing the bee colony that has been living in our bell tower for quite some time. Just so you know they have relocated to San Francisco and are living happy little bee lives.

Perhaps the most significant showing of community spirit and coming together were the efforts of the past 6 months and the superhuman efforts last week by Iris and Sylvia to pull off the well-organized HUGE YARD SALE! I have never seen so much loving effort put into any one event by so many members of our community. The joyful camaraderie emanating from the parish hall over the week leading up to the huge event, not to mention the amazing atmosphere of the day of the event, was a thing to behold. It was hard and tiring but the joyful spirit shined on from start to finish. Thank you so much to EVERYONE who worked hard, hung in there and made this such a positive, spirited event for our community!

With faithfulness and gratitude,

Peg Matson

Senior Warden

SIP, SNAK & CHAT
with your fellow parishioners!!
Three fun filled Saturday afternoons,
2-4pm

Pick the one for YOU
Time for fellowship, good food, & focus on St. Anselm's future.

Oct. 4
1700 Tice Valley Blvd.
In the Garden Room Byron Park Walnut Creek
Your hosts – Katie Taggart/Al and Jeannine Makely
RSVP: katietaggart@att.net or 415-686-5790

Oct. 11
7 Dianne Ct. Lafayette
Your hosts – John Powers and Marian Mulkey
RSVP: john.t.powers@gmail.com or 510-326-1761

Oct. 18
92 Devin Drive Moraga
Your hosts – Keith and Joni Pearce
RSVP: pistolprce@gmail.com or 650-281-6881

3rd Annual Lamorinda Public Safety Day

October 18, 2025

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.



**Fun for the kids, free food and information for
Everyone!! Bring the whole family!**



Participants include:

Lafayette Police Department

Contra Costa County Fire

Prevention Department

Community Emergency Rescue Team (CERT)

Contra Costa County Search and Rescue

Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group and MORE!!

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

682 Michael Lane, Lafayette

**Fire Truck at
10 a.m.**



**Search
& Rescue**



St. Anselm’s Episcopal Church: Financial Planning for 2026

by Marian Mulkey, Treasurer

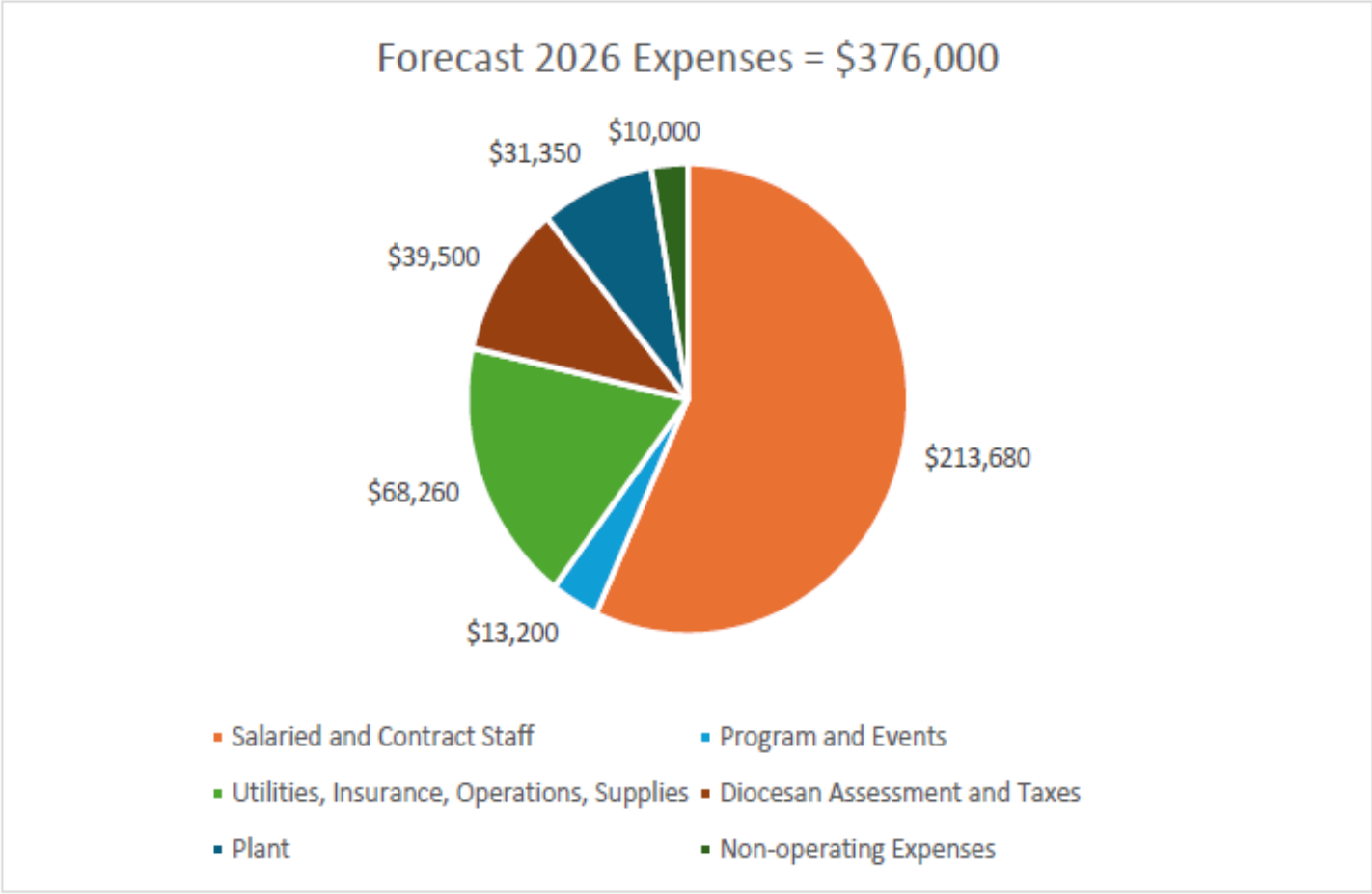
In 2024, as St. Anselm’s emerged from a period of significant transition, we ran an operating deficit of about \$34,000. In 2025, the Vestry budgeted for an operating deficit of about \$22,000; although we may perform slightly better than that, it is unlikely we will break even this year.

A prudent budget, of course, would break even or generate a surplus. At the same time, we are eager to invest in personnel and programs to maintain vibrant community life while we sustain core spending to keep operations running smoothly and sustain well-functioning buildings and grounds. This brief narrative describes how St. Anselm’s spends and raises money each year and is intended to provide context for our 2026 Stewardship campaign.

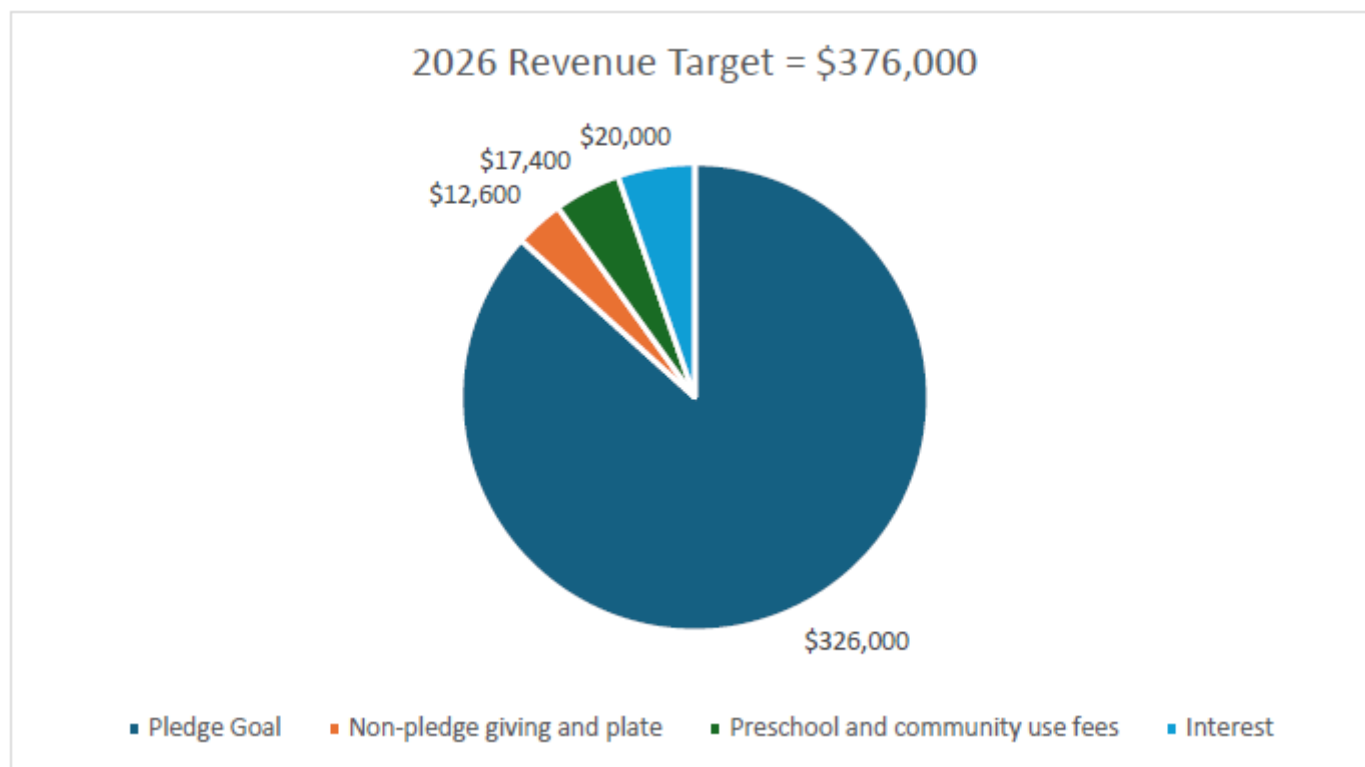
For 2026, the Finance Committee is budgeting increases in several categories. The extent of St. Anselm’s control over different types of spending varies. We can think about proposed spending increases in three categories:

- Non-optional:* Staff salaries per Diocesan guidelines, utilities and insurance costs.
- Investments to deepen communal life and attract more parishioner engagement:* Increased investment in our music program, special events, and programs.
- Investments to care for existing resources:* Maintenance and modest upgrades to our buildings and physical plant, landscape “hardening” to reduce fire risk, renewed contribution to a Property Reserve.

In all, our initial estimate of spending for 2026 is \$376,000, with more detail shown below.



St. Anselm's revenues come primarily from annual pledges but are augmented by non-pledge giving, loose plate gifts, facility use fees and interest. To achieve a balanced budget yet invest more deeply in priority areas, the pledge target for our 2026 Stewardship campaign is \$326,000.



The 2026 pledge target of \$326,000 represents a substantial increase – almost 23% -- above the pledges we secured in 2025. However, St. Anselm's givers have stepped up in remarkable ways in the past and we are hopeful they will do so again this year. For example, total pledged revenue for 2025 was 40% above the level pledged in 2024. The number of pledging households also grew in 2025, another hopeful sign.

The expenses and revenues presented here are estimates subject to additional fine-tuning. At its November and December meetings, the Vestry will review results from this year's stewardship campaign along with updated spending estimates to establish a final 2026 budget. With strong support through the Stewardship campaign, we will be in a good position to make desired investments and balance the budget. If we fall short of the \$326,000 pledged revenue target, spending in the non-optional categories previously described may not be attainable.

I will offer a brief Q&A session on St. Anselm's financial position and 2026 budget after church on Sunday, October 12. All are urged to attend, ask questions and offer suggestions about how our community can effectively steward the rich resources with which we've been entrusted.



Michael Lane Preschool Updates

Hello from Michael Lane Preschool!

We are back in the swing of things and have started what is sure to be a wonderful new school year! September has been a joyful month filled with new beginnings, exciting discoveries, and lots of smiling faces. As we settled into our routines, the children showed incredible curiosity, enthusiasm, and kindness – setting a beautiful tone for the year ahead.

Our focus at the beginning of the school year is always making the children feel comfortable at school, and reminding them that Mom and Dad always come back at the end of the day. We emphasize that our school is a safe place, and that “the more we get together, the happier we’ll be!”

This month we also learned more about dinosaurs, apples, and colors! Here’s to a great fall!

Warmly,
Holly Higgins
Michael Lane Preschool Director

Vestry Update



Vestry Meeting held September 21st:

- The Minutes from the August 17th meeting were approved and posted in the Parish Hall Conference Room
 - A discussion and reflection on our new Mission Statement was conducted by Will+ calling us to discern what “all ages” means to the spirit and work of our parish. What is each of going to do to attract more people to us of all ages to our family services on the first Sunday of each month.
 - Information about the upcoming Diocesan Convention & Strategic Vision were shared by Will+ and Bob Eddy which will focus on the results that came from Bishop Rios’ recent listening sessions.
 - The vestry approved making an annual donation to support Trinity Center’s Harvest of Hope Fundraiser in the amount of \$2,500.
 - The vestry approved fixing the lighting in the sanctuary, bathrooms and Will’s+ office for \$2,600.
- The vestry approved getting the windows painted on the Memorial Garden side of the sanctuary to prevent any further dry rot. Katie Taggart will look to getting some bids to do the work.

Updates:

- Katie Taggart provided an update on the Stewardship campaign and the events planned for October.
- Joni Pearce provided an update on Outreach, specifically Winter Nights and Laundry Love.
- Pam Green provided an update for the Property Commission with landscape work being done and the bee re-homing situation plans.
- Iris provided an update on the Huge Yard Sale and details for the week ahead.

Next Vestry Meeting: Sunday, October 19th at 11:15 a.m. in the Conference Room, all are welcome

Service/Outreach



We supported Laundry Love for the month of September. Tina Chambers spoke at our service on Sept 14 and said they typically spend \$400 per month for laundry services. We collected money for her clients to use washing machines. Will+ said a blessing over the donations. We collected over \$300 for them.



Winter Nights will run September 29-October 13. St. Anselm's will be responsible for meals September 29- October 5, and the LDS church of San Ramon will be responsible October 6-13. We are hosting 4 families.



We will be writing cards for Veterans for the month of October.

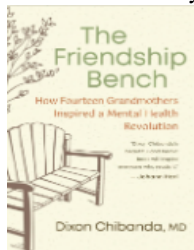
Warm regards,

Joni Pearce

Service /Outreach Commission Chair

BOOK CLUB

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



Please join us as we discuss "The Friendship Bench" by Dixon Chubanda. 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
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA
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Editor: Margaret Wolfe
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In-Person & Virtual Sunday Service:
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays
at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting I.D. 815 0705 2148
Passcode 442879

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Gene Bozworth
Duane Nelsen
David Rowe
Doug Merrill
Elisabeth Ward

Sharyn Barrington-Carlson
Amy Orear
Allen Zhang
Kate Ruby
Margaret Young

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Georganne Eddy

SAVE THE DATE

All Souls Day Concert
Sunday November 2nd
at 3pm



In memory of dear departed family, friends, and beloved St. Anselm's Parishioners. Music provided by members of Contra Costa Performing Arts Society Piano Composers. Original compositions offered in loving dedication. There will be a Prayer and Blessing by Reverend Will Scott.

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
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Celebrating 65 Years

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

October's Ministry of the Month: [Stewardship Commission](#)

Monday September 29th thru Monday October 6th — Winter Nights

Wednesday, October 1st/8th/15th/22nd/29th — Contemplative Prayer Gathering will meet from 9:00a.m. – 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Thursday, October 2nd/9th/16th/23rd/30th — Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 3rd/10th/17th/24th/31st — Lamorinda Village Strength & Balance class from 11:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

Saturday, October 4th/11th/18th — Sip, Sank, & Chat from 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. See page 2 for details to RSVP

Tuesday, October 7th/14th/21st/28th — Morning Prayer will be led by Deacon Naomi via Zoom at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 7th— Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon.

Sunday, October 5th — First Sunday All Ages Service at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 5th — Altar Guild at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 12th — Cancer Support Group will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 15th — Stephen Ministers will meet in the conference room at 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 15th— Book Club at 2:00 p.m. in the Library for a discussion on "The Friendship Bench" by Dixon Chubanda.

Sunday, October 19th — Vestry Meeting will meet in the conference room at 11:15 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday, October 21st — Property Commission will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.