

Canterbury Tales

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



September 2025

From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's,

As we step into September, I am filled with gratitude for the many ways the Holy Spirit is moving in our lives together. Back in July, I preached at our sibling church (architecturally speaking) on the other side of the country, the Chapel of St. James the Fisherman in Wellfleet, Massachusetts. As we prepare to celebrate our 65th Anniversary on October 26th and welcome the Very Rev. Tracey Lind, a gifted priest who has served the Chapel in Wellfleet for over a decade, I thought I'd share a few words from my sermon. You can find a recording of the whole sermon on our YouTube Page.

The Christianity that our shared in-the-round architecture nurtures is one of humble engagement, earnest participation, openness to wonder, simple beauty, and mutual vulnerability. These two structures on either coast are modest, but their visions, purposes, and impact are not. They were built by people who had seen grief and hard times, who, though flawed, confronted societal wrongs with grace and courage, imagining a world that welcomed diversity and collaboration, leaders that served the people, who built churches not to create private exclusive clubs but to reconstitute the world by joining and strengthening causes and serving others...

In other words, a church in the round isn't just a design statement. It's also a theological one... The husband-and-wife team of Charles and Ray Eames, who were connected with Marianne Strengel and Olav Hammarstrom's (the architect of our two churches) at Cranbrook, had a motto for their non-famous company: "the best for the least for the most."

That line, which I first heard in The Shores of Bohemia, a book about this region of Cape Cod, has been sitting with me as I prepared to join you this morning, as I think perhaps about what motivated the founders of both our communities. What drove them was a healthy aspirational sense that we human beings can when we are truly at or giving our best, can do the most for the least, and for everyone.

The best for the least for the most, churches with a cause, not clubs with special seats, but people seeking to serve.

See you soon!
The Rev. Will Scott
Rector



Anselm's Angels

Much appreciation to **JP Zhang** and **Jeff Boero** for overseeing the plumbing fix and replacement of carpet in Parish Hall.

Thank you to **JP Zhang** for replacing the light fixture for the parking lot outside Rev. Will's office.

Many thanks to everyone who attended and helped with the Summer Parish/Preschool Picnic: **Bob Eddy, Sheila Riedy, Holly Murphy, Chelsea Leach, Katie Taggart, Iris Hillman, Karen Lake, Matt Chayt, Duane Nelsen, Maggie McCloskey** and **Vula Gutman**.

A very big thank you **Katie Taggart** and **Peg Matson** who cleaned out the storage shed.

Many thanks to **Joni Pearce** for all the preparation for Winter Nights and other outreach opportunities.

Special thanks to **Iris Hillman, Sylvia Williams, Janice Carrigan** and **Maggie McCloskey** for all preparations toward the rummage sale.

And thank you very much to **Sarah Vickers Webb, Mallory Williams** and **Chris Kula** for their support of 1st Sundays All Ages Services.



Beginning on
Sunday, September 7th,
St. Anselm's weekly 10 a.m. service
will take on a different feel as we
seek to be an even more warm and
welcoming space for children of all
ages.

Each month, First Sundays will include:

- Playful and energetic music
- Interactive storytime in place of sermon
- A craft and other activities connected with the lesson
- Yummy snacks & bouncy house after the service.

Sunday, October 5th

St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals/Stuffed Animals

Sunday, November 2nd

All Saints Day/wear your Halloween costume to church

Sunday, December 7th

St. Nicholas Day with special guest & treats

Got questions or want to volunteer? Email rector@stanselms.us

Drive-of-the-month:



During the month of September, St Anselm's will be collecting money (especially quarters) to help provide laundry service for the homeless community.

Please join us on Sunday, September 14th, when we hear from Tina Castle-Barber who will speak about Laundry Love, put on by Grace Church. Tina will be at St. Anselm's to speak about the organization and answer questions.

Warm regards,

Joni Pearce

Service / Outreach Commission Chair



From The Senior Warden

COMMUNITY!

Saturday, August 16th was the first ever Summer Picnic bringing the church community AND the preschool community together for a joint celebration of the end of summer and the return to the school year. It was such a resounding success that we are planning to make this an annual event!

Not only was the event attended by a combination of people/families from the 2 communities, but for the first time ever it was planned and executed by a committee of parish members and preschool parents. The committee was comprised of Bob Eddy, Sheila Riedy, Holly Murphy, Chelsea Leach and me. There was also a host of other people who pitched in the day of and helped with setup and cleanup. It truly felt like a total community event!

It has long been the desire of our church members to grow our church and bring in new families. This event was the first step in expanding our community to include the preschool families. Whether or not they ultimately decided to join us for Sunday worship they now know that they are a valued part of our community and welcome any time. Will+ shared his vision of Family/All Age Sundays the first Sunday of every month (starting September 7th) and I heard several people expressing curiosity about that and indicating that they might be open to coming for that some time.

This event was just the latest this year that offered building a sense of community beyond our parish walls. The others have been the highly successful— Together We Shine Art & Music Festival in February and the Queer Faith Festival in June. But we are not done yet we still have the Huge Yard Sale coming up September 27th, our Third Annual Lamorinda Public Safety Day on October 18th and our 65th Anniversary Celebration on October 26th. Please mark your calendars and join us for these upcoming community building events this Fall!

With faith and gratitude,

Peg Matson

Senior Warden



“TOGETHER WE SHINE” HUGE YARD SALE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025—9AM TO 4PM

THANK YOU, everyone, for donating used goods for our Rummage/Yard Sale in Sept.

DONATIONS

We will be accepting donations until Sunday, Sept 14. We were running out of storage space until we consolidated bags of clothing & books etc, putting like items into boxes. By stacking these boxes, we've freed up more storage space, both in the parish hall chair closet and the storage room. We're trying to keep things as neat as we can. If possible, please box your donations for the next month and label them. This will also help in distributing the items to specific tables as we prepare for the sale. (If boxes aren't possible, bring items in a bag & we'll pack them up.)

ITEMS WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT OR SELL:

Medical equipment such as walkers, crutches, wheel chairs etc. Pillows & bedding.

ITEMS STILL NEEDED

We could use more Gardening items, Christmas & Halloween decorations, costumes, Art supplies, Craft supplies and Sporting goods. Antiques are welcome.



ADVERTISING:

Thanks to Peg for printing flyers that are ready to distribute. Please help us advertise by putting them up in your favorite nail & hair salons, local coffee shops and on bulletin boards. Peg has an extensive list of local businesses and public forums along with churches and will send an email asking them to post our flyer. Committee members are prepared to cover a wide part of the County, putting flyers up wherever we have permission.

DAY OF SALE:

We have 18 volunteers ready to “staff” 9 tables of goods. Two ladies have agreed to be cashiers with two others helping them. If you would like to help on the day of the sale, please speak to one of the committee members.

If interested in helping, please contact the committee members: Iris Hillman, Sylvia Williams, Janice Carrigan



WINTER NIGHTS

As I enjoy the slower pace of life that summer offers, I'm already turning my thoughts to Winter Nights. We will host Winter Nights at St. Anselm's September 26- October 6. We will partner again with our friends at LDS Alamo. This year we will have a few changes that bring more opportunities for you to participate!

1. We will have 1 parishioner from St. Anselm's every night during dinner time (5-7pm) to represent our church and be a friendly face. That person is NOT responsible for dinner or cleaning up - they are just there for fellowship.
2. We are adding a new hosting position for Saturday morning breakfast. Likely to serve at 9am, so not too early.
3. We are looking for “groups” to host dinners rather than individual families. Think choir, property commission, Byron Park friends, Rossmor friends, etc. Many hands make light loads.

Please sign up at [St. Anselms: Winter Nights 9/29-10/13](#) or email me at: ionipearce@me.com for any questions.

NEW EfM GROUP FORMING THIS FALL

We are launching an **in-person Education for Ministry (EfM) group**, and all seekers are warmly invited to join.

EfM is a small-group program developed by the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee). It is designed for **lay people of all backgrounds** who want to explore the Christian faith more deeply. Through reading, discussion, prayer, and *theological reflection*, participants discover how to connect their faith with everyday life.

Each year of EfM focuses on a different area of study, and we meet together:

- **Year One:** The Old Testament
- **Year Two:** The New Testament
- **Year Three:** Christian History
- **Year Four:** Christian Spirituality and Ethics

For Alumni: Wide Angle Overview of Your Spiritual Journey

This new group will meet weekly in person, creating a space of support, curiosity, and growth. Whether you're a longtime church member, exploring faith for the first time, or simply curious, EfM offers a place for you.

Please look for an announcement for an **information session**. At this gathering, you will meet the group mentor, hear more details about the program, and have the chance to ask questions. Contact Dana Santa Cruz for questions: dana.stacruz@gmail.com





Stewardship Commission to launch Annual Pledge Campaign in October

- Weekly speakers during worship
- 3 local gatherings in Walnut Creek, Lafayette, & Moraga
- Ingathering Sunday & 65th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, October 26th at 10 a.m.

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

Oct. 11

9 Dianne Ct. Lafayette

Your hosts – John Powers and Marian Makely

Oct. 18

92 Devin Drive Moraga

Your hosts – Keith and Joni Pearce

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Although Stephen Ministry is confidential, Pam Green has generously offered to share her experience of Stephen Ministry with our congregation through Canterbury Tales. As a Care Receiver, Pam may share her testimony about Stephen Ministry with anyone she chooses. Should any of you desire to receive care from a Stephen Minister, know that confidentiality is a core tenet of Stephen Ministry and your information will always be kept between you and your Care Giver.

Here is Pam's testimony:

"I am so grateful for Stephen Ministry and the time that was afforded me to settle my feelings about my personal and family life. I felt in crisis and had multiple issues pressing on me. The steady support given me by my Stephen Minister over the course of a year has helped me to re-focus on what I can control: service and love."

Stephen Ministry is Christ caring for people through people. Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who are going through a difficult time. A Stephen Minister is a well-trained caregiver who listens, cares, prays, encourages, and offers the love of Christ during a time of need. Stephen Ministers understand that Christ is the "cure-giver" and Stephen Ministers are the Caregivers. A Stephen Minister is there to walk beside a person facing difficulties such as divorce, serious illness, loss of spouse, job loss, and much more. You will find videos and more information at www.stephenministries.org. Please contact Vicki Pappas or Naomi Chamberlain-Harris if you want more information or desire to receive care from a Stephen Minister.

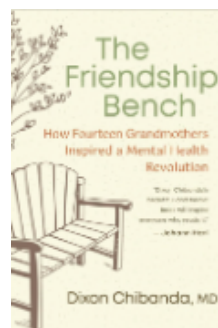
Blessings,
Vicki (925) 818-7051



BOOK CLUB

Thursday, Sept 18th
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.



THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Resumes on
Thursday, September 11th
at 7:00 p.m.

At first gathering we will discuss
our plans for the fall.
Check weekly email
for coordinates.

Michael Lane Preschool Updates



Hello from Michael Lane Preschool!

Our first day back to school was August 25th, and it has been wonderful having the children back at school. We welcomed 19 students so far this year, and still have space for a few more. This year on our staff we Trina Audley, Reshma Faiq, Katie Stein, and Molly Nelsen. A wonderful staff is a true blessing, and these ladies are the best!

Thank you to Peg and her crew for the wonderful Back to School Picnic, what a fantastic way to kick off our new school year! The following day, we held a Parent Work Party where we cleaned toys, painted, cleared out the ditch, installed a new umbrella, cleaned windows, and more. I look forward to having another one this spring and hope someone has a power washer! We also enjoyed a Family Social, and Parent Orientation meeting to gear up for the year ahead.

We have 2 exciting changes to our program this year - we are accepting children as young as 2 years old, and we are staying open until 2 pm. For our final hour at school, we are offering rest time - I've ordered mats for all of the children, they bring in bedding from home, we play soothing music, and chill. So far so good!

A final thanks to Bob, Sheila for serving on the preschool board and to JP for being so helpful with all of our different school improvement projects.

This will be my 6th year as Director, and I can't wait for another year of learning through play!

Warmly,

Holly Higgins

Michael Lane Preschool Director



**HEADLANDS
BREWING
FUNDRAISER**

Every bite & sip supports our school,
bringing the community together for an
evening of fun & good brews.

 **September 16, 2025
5-8PM**

 **3420 Mt Diablo Blvd
Lafayette**





The **Cadence Choir** Music Program continues this Fall

We're looking for more children,
ages 9 to 12 years,
to join our **Cadence Choir**.

Thursdays, 4-6 p.m.
at **St. Anselm's Episcopal Church**
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette

For more Information
email sing@cadencechoir.com





Vestry Update

July 20th Vestry Meeting:

- The vestry reviewed, discussed and approved the mid year financial report submitted by Marian Mulkey, Treasurer
- The vestry reviewed, discussed and approved changes for Michael Lane Preschool – applying to Licensing to for a change in the duration of operating hours to 2 p.m. and also lowering the admittance age for children from 2 years 9 months to 2 years old.
- Joni Pearce updated the vestry about Outreach
 - ◆ Winter Nights is happening September 29th through October 6th and she will be asking for volunteers soon.
 - ◆ The vestry agreed to join the Contra Costa Interfaith Council – annual dues of \$200
 - ◆ Laundry Love is a program to help unhoused people get their laundry done and the vestry agreed to do a fundraiser for this organization in the fall.
 - ◆ Outreach will start having monthly Zoom meetings where all are welcome to come with ideas beginning soon
 - ◆ The vestry has instituted the compilation of an “Institutional Knowledge Binder” to pull together historical information about St. Anselm’s so that information does not get lost.
 - ◆ The Stewardship Campaign will be held October 5th through October 26th
 - ◆ Property Commission gave several updates:
 - ◆ The vestry approved hiring Letts Plumbing and Ron’s Carpet Detail to fix the plumbing problem in the parish hall
 - ◆ The vestry approved hiring Jesus Lopez to clear and fireproof the plantings on the back hillside
 - ◆ The bee situation is being addressed with local bee keepers and Verizon as they want to upgrade some equipment in the bell tower right where the bees have their home.
 - ◆ The parking lot has been sealed
 - ◆ We received an insurance payout for the damaged solar panels on the roof of the parish hall
 - ◆ Parish Life will be throwing a Summer Parish/Preschool Picnic August 16th from 4-6 p.m.
 - ◆ The vestry approved starting monthly Family Sundays the first Sunday in September.
- The 3rd Annual Lamorinda Public Safety Day will be held October 18th from 9-11 a.m.

August 17th Vestry Meeting:

- The Summer Parish/Preschool Picnic was very successful and it was decided that this will become an annual event.
- The vestry discussed painting the front door of the sanctuary to make it stand out more and make it easier to find the entrance of the sanctuary. It is being referred to the Property Commission.
- The vestry discussed and approved to start exploring a Capital Campaign for repairs and updates to the entire St. Anselm’s campus. It was agreed that the formation of a committee will be conducted between now and the end of the year.
- Sunday, October 26th will be the 65th Anniversary Celebration for St. Anselm’s including the culmination of the Stewardship Campaign/Ingathering Sunday, Brunch, and special guests.
- Updating the audio for the choir/zoom with 2 new microphones was approved and will be completed for the return of the Choir in the fall.
- Michael Lane Preschool has been approved by Licensing to take children as young as 2 years old and extend the day to 2 p.m. They have already increased their enrollment after approval.
- Property Commission Update:
 - ◆ The plumbing problem has been fixed in the parish hall.
 - ◆ The clearing of the back hillside was completed.
- The Rummage Sale goods have been piling up and we need to find more room to store donated items.

65TH Anniversary Guest Preacher: The Very Rev. Tracey Lind

On Sunday, October 26th St. Anselm's will celebrate 65 years since our dedication on October 22, 1960 and will welcome the Very Rev. Tracey Lind as guest preacher. Tracey has served for over 10 years as Priest-in-Charge of our architectural sibling, the Chapel of St. James the Fisherman in Wellfleet, Massachusetts.

Tracey is an Episcopal priest, community activist, and retired Dean of Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland Ohio's oldest church. Previously, she served as Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Paterson, NJ and Associate Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Ridgewood, NJ.

A graduate of the Union Theological Seminary in NYC, Tracey has spent over thirty-five years in ordained ministry working for interfaith relations, social and environmental justice, sustainable urban development, arts and culture, and progressive theology. Most recently, her ministry extended to include the spiritual insights and lessons she has gained from a life complicated by early-onset dementia.

Tracey is a renowned preacher who has spoken in a variety of national pulpits, including the Chautauqua Institution. In 2014, she presented a widely viewed TEDx Talk entitled "How I Met God in a McDonald's," and in 2018, she and her spouse Emily Ingalls were featured in a 60 Minutes episode on FTD. Tracey is an exhibiting photographer, an enthusiastic folk musician, an avid gardener, a struggling golfer, and an adventuresome swimmer, hiker, cyclist, sailor and traveler. Tracey and Emily live in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. In the summer, they reside in Wellfleet, and in the winter, they escape for a couple of months to Luquillo, Puerto Rico.



SPIRIT WALKS RETURNS Sunday, September 28th at the Lafayette Reservoir 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

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

Each walk starts with a prayer circle
and the introduction of a contempla-
tion that participants are invited to
keep in mind, as a form of walking
meditation. On many of the walks, we
experiment with periods of silence to
see what new insights might arise. Mid-
way through each walk, we pause to
check in with each other and share our
thoughts. Upon arriving back at our
starting point, we end the experience
with another opportunity to share, and
a closing prayer.

Join friends from St. Anselm's & other
local Episcopal congregations.

Questions? Email rector@stanselms.us

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bob Green
Laura Ho
Jula Starr
Wynne Bacon
Gail Clarke
Jane House
Dharmini Harichandran
Joan Martin
Marian Mulkey
Vivian Jiang
Gregory Zwakman
Marty Fischer
Shelley Frost
Iris Hillman
Kylie Young
Judy Peak
Chris Young

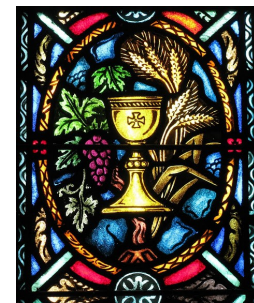


CANTERBURY TALES

is the monthly newsletter of
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In-Person & Virtual Sunday Service:
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



We are now offering
Home Communion visits weekly.
If you or someone you know
would like to receive
a visit and communion, please contact
parish@stanselms.us to request a visit.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Howard & Eva Woo Slavitt
Chris & Margaret Young



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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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

September's Ministry of the Month: [Outreach Commission](#)

Tuesday, September 2nd/9th/16th/23rd/30th — Morning Prayer will be led by Deacon Naomi via Zoom at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, September 2nd — Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon.

Wednesday, September 3rd/10th/17th/24th — Contemplative Prayer Gathering will meet from 9:00a.m. – 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Friday, September 5th/12th/19th — Lamorinda Village Strength & Balance class from 11:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

Sunday, September 7th— First Sunday All Ages Service at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 7th — Altar Guild will meet in the conference room at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 9th — Property Commission will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 11th/18th/25th — Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday September 14th — Cancer Support Group will meet in the library and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 21st — Vestry Meeting will meet in the conference room at 11:15 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Thursday, September 18th — Book Club at 2:00 p.m. in the Library for a discussion on "The Friendship Bench" by Dixon Chubanda.

Saturday September 27th— Rummage Sale from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 28th— Stephen Ministers will meet in the conference room at 11:45 a.m.

Monday, September 29th — October 13th Winter Nights