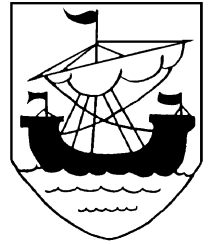


# Canterbury Tales

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



July, 2022

## From The Interim Rector

### *Casting Lots*

*"And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles." (Acts 1:26)*

In the Book of Acts, after Jesus has commissioned his followers to be his witnesses "to the ends of the earth" and been carried away from them up into heaven, the eleven apostles stayed together in Jerusalem where they "were constantly devoting themselves to prayer" (Acts 1:14). "In those days," as Acts puts it, Peter stands up among the believers, who total around one hundred twenty persons, and tells them that, with Judas gone, they must find another person to take his place. One of the people who has been with them during the time Jesus was among them "must become a witness with us to his resurrection," he says.

"So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles." (Acts 1:23-26)

They cast lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. Casting lots is certainly one way of choosing a new leader in the Church. It is quite a lot simpler and faster than the process we use these days for selecting a new rector. We will never know whether it was more or less effective, as Matthias is never mentioned again in the New Testament. Either way, the search process could not be more different than our own, with a search committee, parish assessment, parish profile and OTM, multiple rounds of interviews, and a vestry election.

But when it comes to selecting a new leader in the Church, there are a couple of important lessons we should take from the process these first Christians used:

First, Luke (the author of Acts) tells us that they stayed together! At a time when it would have been easy for most of them to fall away, or find another person to follow, they stuck together. We must stick together, too! It is common, even normal, for parishioners to leave during an interim period. The leader they know is gone, and things are both different and uncertain, so they go somewhere else or go nowhere. But St. Anselm's ability to move successfully through and thrive during this interim time depends upon all of us staying in this together, remaining with each other and for each other.

Second, they prayed! As a community they "were constantly devoting themselves to prayer." And, when it came time to select someone to replace Judas, they asked for God's guidance. "Show us which one of these two you

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## *Anselm's Angels*

*Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others."*

*- Booker T. Washington*

Thank you to **Sylvia Williams** and **Joan Martin** for preparing the sanctuary and cleaning the courtyard for Inge O'Neill's memorial service and to **Laura Ho** for creating the lovely white floral arrangement.. Thank you to **Doug Merrill** for serving as the usher for the service and to **Jon Martin** for providing assistance with the audio system. And another thank you to **Sylvia Williams** for assisting the O'Neill family with the arrangements, set-up and clean-up for the courtyard reception following the service on a very hot June afternoon.

Grateful thanks to **Bob Eddy**, **Marty Fischer** and **Joan Martin** for agreeing to post payments to QuickBooks and make bank deposits.

Huge thanks to **Susan Barnes** for her long tenure as parish treasurer and a big welcome to **John Powers** who has agreed to assume the role of overseeing parish finances in conjunction with our new bookkeeping firm.



## LAFAYETTE ROTARY EVENT

Trinity Center staff and board have invited the St. Anselm's community to be their guests at an event honoring volunteers who help the homeless in Contra Costa County as detailed below. Hope to see many of you there!



**AT THE LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR ON THE ROTARY STAGE  
3849 MT. DIABLO BLVD., LAFAYETTE, CA  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 5:00PM**

This concert is dedicated to the hundreds of volunteers helping people in need every day. Join neighbors and unite to find your way to help with this crisis of humanity.

**Please join Trinity Center at this event!**  
**We will register for you and provide the picnic!**  
**RSVP to [pamm@trinitycenterwc.org](mailto:pamm@trinitycenterwc.org)**

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR BILL COOPER

St. Anselm's parishioners are cordially invited to attend a Celebration of the Life of Bill Cooper on Saturday, August 20th at 2:00 PM at the Orinda Community Church.

## CHOIR UPDATE

As we move forward with our in-person services, we are pleased to report that we are in the process of re-establishing the St. Anselm's choir. At this time, it is planned that the choir will only sing on Sunday, possibly holding a brief rehearsal at 8:30 AM each week. Until we are able to find either an organist or pianist, the choir will be accompanied by the recordings we have from Andrew Huddart.

Currently four to seven individuals (male and female voices) have agreed to participate, but more voices are always welcome. Please contact Marty Fischer at [marty@fischermarketinggroup.com](mailto:marty@fischermarketinggroup.com) or Cathy Witkay at [cathy.w@stanselms.us](mailto:cathy.w@stanselms.us) if you are interested in joining in the fun!



*Canterbury Tales* is the monthly newsletter of

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA  
Phone: (925) 284-7420

e-mail: [cathy.w@stanselms.us](mailto:cathy.w@stanselms.us)  
web site: [www.stanselms.us](http://www.stanselms.us)

Editor: Cathy S. Witkay

In-Person & Virtual Sunday Service:  
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

St. Anselm's Staff  
The Rev. Kathy Trapani, Interim Rector  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Cathy Witkay, Office Manager

### **The Senior Warden**

Summer is definitely in full swing with hot weather and people traveling. We're anxious for everyone's return so we can hear about your travels!

After many years of service, Susan Barnes has retired as our Treasurer. With some interim help from Sara -Anne Nelson, we have found our new St. Anselm's Treasurer. The Vestry unanimously elected John Powers to fill this role going forward. As we look toward our future, John will be a tremendous help to the Vestry and parish as we establish a five-year plan. Thank you John!

The Rector Search Committee is well organized and doing a great job. Each Sunday a member of that committee speaks to us with updates and information about how we can all be heard as to our desires for the future of St. Anselm's. Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup> will be their kick off to offer many opportunities for everyone to participate. Please be in church that day or on Zoom so you can hear and choose which format for participation will be best for you.

The coffee hosts are a small but mighty crew. Thank you to those who are stepping in. The coffee time on the patio is serving as a nice social gathering as we continue to find our way through the constraints of COVID. If you are local, come join us!

As always, please reach out to myself or any member of the Vestry with questions, ideas or concerns. I pray for good health and safe travels for all.

Joan Martin

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### **Vestry Meeting Updates**

At the June 13 Vestry meeting our primary discussion items included:

- 1) Review and approval of preschool signage;
- 2) Election of John Powers as Treasurer and updates on parish financial oversight and planning;
- 3) Update on search, so far unsuccessful, to secure regular live music during Sunday worship; and
- 4) Updates from the Rector Search Committee.

For more information, contact any member of the Vestry or Rev. Kathy. Vestry meeting minutes and financial reports are available on request.

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### **News from the Rector Search Committee**

The Search Committee has been working very hard throughout the month of June and we have successfully transitioned to **Phase Two** of our Journey to find a new Rector for St. Anselm's. Phase Two is about connecting with members of the Parish to gather everyone's thoughts, wishes and desires through small group listening events (both in person and via zoom), coffee hour chats, individual conversations, story sharing, emails, etc.).

**WE NEED YOUR HELP** to get this job done and we have set up several ways for **YOU**, our parish community, to provide the information we need to understand who we are as a community, where we would like to take our community and what type of leader do we want to take us into the future.

**July 10<sup>th</sup>** will be our **Search Committee Kick-Off Event!!** We would like to get as many parish members to attend church that day in person or via Zoom to hear about the opportunities we have created for **YOU** to tell us your thoughts and opinions!

**These are the MANY ways you can participate in this process:**

- ⇒ Sign-up to attend a **LISTENING EVENT!**
  - July 13<sup>th</sup>, Via Zoom at 7:00 pm
  - July 16<sup>th</sup>, In Person at 10:00 am
  - July 17<sup>th</sup>, In Person at 10:30 am
  - July 20<sup>th</sup>, Via Zoom at 7:00 pm
  - July 23<sup>rd</sup>, In Person at 1:00 pm
  - July 24<sup>th</sup>, In Person at 10:30 am
  - July 27<sup>th</sup>, Via Zoom at 7:00 pm (For Young Adults)
  - August 6<sup>th</sup>, In Person at 10:00 am (For Youth)
  - August 13<sup>th</sup>, Via Zoom at 10:00 am

You can sign-up at the July 10<sup>th</sup> Kick-Off Event or email the committee at [StAnselmsSearchCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:StAnselmsSearchCommittee@gmail.com) to request a date to make sure you get the date/time that works best for you as it will be a first come/first serve sign-up opportunity. All In-Person Events will be held outdoors in the Memorial Garden at St. Anselm's Church.

- ⇒ Can't make a Listening Event?!? Send us your thoughts via email to [StAnselmsSearchCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:StAnselmsSearchCommittee@gmail.com)
- ⇒ Want a One-on-One Conversation with one of the Members of the Search Committee?!? Contact us at [StAnselmsSearchCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:StAnselmsSearchCommittee@gmail.com) and we will set up a meeting for you with a Committee Member.
- ⇒ Like to write or type out your thoughts?!? Send us a letter at **Search Committee**, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549 or drop it in the **Comments Box** at the back of the Sanctuary on a Sunday morning. You can also pick up a card by the Comments Box and leave an impromptu note with your thoughts.
- ⇒ Still not sure how you can get involved? Please feel free to call or text either Sylvia Williams or Peg Matson at the numbers listed below. We will make sure you have a way to participate in this process and have **YOUR** voice heard!!

Sylvia Williams (925-586-0730) and Peg Matson (925-381-1074)  
Co-Chairs, Rector Search Committee

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***From the Interim Rector*** (Continued from page 1)

have chosen..." So, we must individually and collectively continue to pray -- for our church, for each other, for our search committee, for God's direction.

Third, they trusted God! The act of casting lots may seem to us the equivalent of the roll of the dice, which leads to a random result. In the Old Testament, however, lots were cast for important decisions (for example, the division of land among the twelve tribes of Israel). According to Proverbs, "The lot is cast into the lap, but the decision is the Lord's alone" (16:33). In New Testament times, too, casting lots was believed to be a determinant of God's will. So, we know by their casting of lots that the disciples never lost sight of the fact that God was with them and was part of the process. God is part of our search process, too. So, as we pray for God's direction, let us also pray for the wisdom and courage to recognize and follow it.

The rector search process is a long and challenging one. So, as our gets into full swing, let us continue to stay together and to pray together, trusting that God is with us, and is guiding us toward just the right person and just the right future for St. Anselm's.

Kathy+

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### ***WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS:***

**July 5th and each Tuesday in July — Morning Prayer** will be led by Deacon Naomi via Zoom at 9:00 AM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**July 5th — Grief Support Group** will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**July 6th and each Wednesday in July – Rector Search Committee** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

**July 7th and each Thursday in July — Evening Bible Study** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**July 10th — Cancer Support Group** will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at [jripmaggie@hotmail.com](mailto:jripmaggie@hotmail.com).





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



**Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is July 24th**

**Just a few summer thoughts to ponder. . . .**

**"Some of the best memories are made in flip flops." — Kellie Elmore**

**"Salt in the air, sand in my hair." — Unknown**

**"Summertime and the livin' is easy." — Porgy and Bess**

**"It's summer and time for wandering..." — Kellie Elmore**

**"The summer night is like a perfection of thought." — Wallace Stevens**

**"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability" — Sam Keen**

**"There shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart." — Celia Thaxter**

**"The sun does not shine for a few trees and flowers, but for the wide world's joy." — Henry Ward Beecher**

**"My ideal summer day was reading on the porch." — Harold E. Varmus**

**"Because it's summer and the memories are just waiting to happen." — Anonymous**

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