Canterbury Tales

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

March, 2021

From The Rector

A Fond Farewell

Twenty-three years ago, when I was the Assistant Priest at St. Paul's in Walnut Creek, a young mom showed up for a noonday service with her babe in arms. She stood out. Not only for her warmth and charm, but because we were a small group of regulars at the mid-week service. I didn't have a hard time figuring out that she was a member of the Rector Search Committee Team at St. Anselm's where I had recently applied.

When I was called here, I was happy to learn that this charming woman was part of the leadership of the choir, along with her equally charming husband. Early on, there were a couple of brief hires for the role of Music Director, but for the lion's share of the time I have been at St. Anselm's this husband-and-wife team have led our music program.

Early on there were differences of opinion, within the choir and the broader parish membership, as to whether we wanted traditional or contemporary music. These wise leaders found a solution which all came to not only accept, but enjoy: the processional and recessional hymns would be traditional and accompanied by the organ, the service music and anthems during the service would be contemporary, accompanied by piano, synthesizer, guitar, and the occasional percussive additions of Don Helmholz.

Dutiful does not begin to describe the service they have provided to St. Anselm's. With no fanfare, she has coordinated guest musicians, selected music and handled the thankless administrative tasks of managing the music program. Meanwhile, he shared in the direction of the program while working a job that took him all over the world during the work week. Jet-lagged or not, without exception they were there every Saturday morning to practice, every Sunday morning to lead. In addition, they have been among the most generous, though quiet supporters of St. Anselm's in every possible way.

As all good things must, their leadership of our music program is coming to an end. They will be moving to the East Coast as he has retired and their daughter lives in the D.C. area.

(Continued on page 5)

Anselm's Angels

"Doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment."

~ Oprah Winfrey

A very big thank you to the following parishioners who continue to help St. Anselm's stay connected and operating during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chris Young for serving as our official cameraman and Zoom expert to make sure we all have access to Sunday services. And as if that's not enough, Chris has become a regular during the week catching up on many maintenance tasks. Thank you!

Andrew Huddart for adding music to our virtual services.

Sara Nelson for making weekly bank deposits.

Sally Fischer and Sylvia Williams for regularly checking altar supplies and cleaning the sanctuary.

Our February virtual lectors and Lay Eucharist Ministers: Wynne Bacon, Anne Brown, Sheila Gorsuch, Pam Green, Palmer Hightower, Caroline Huddart, Liz Sutton and Eva Woo. Also, a big thank you to Judy Peak for making these arrangements each week.

A huge thank you to **Elisabeth Ward** for taking on the task of revamping the St. Anselm's website. Be sure to check it out. The new URL is: www.stanselms.us.

Page 2 Canterbury Tales



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2021 Super Bowl collection on Sunday February 7th. We were pleased to send \$1,340 to The Contra Costa and Solano County Food Bank to support their critical work in the community, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.



PALM CROSSES

The Altar Guild will be making palm crosses for this year's Palm Sunday celebration. If you would like some crosses, please notify the church office by March 17. Be sure to indicate how many crosses you would like. The crosses will be mailed to your home.



LENTEN SOCK DRIVE FOR FOLKS AT TRINITY CENTER

Thank you to those who have already contributed to the Deacon's sock drive. This project will continue through Lent, if you would still like to contribute to the Deacon's Socks project, please either write a check or Venmo in the amount you would normally spend for this sock drive (please note that the contribution is for socks"). For those of you who are new to St. Anselm's, for the last 10 years parishioners have brought new warm white athletic socks to church and I have taken them to Trinity Center during Lent, and they have distributed the socks to those in need. Folks have been very appreciative of your kindness and great generosity.

With deepest thanks, Deacon Naomi



Holy Week — Virtual Services

Sunday, March 28th PALM SUNDAY

9:00 AM

Thursday, April 1st MAUNDY THURSDAY

5:00 PM

Friday, April 2nd GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

WITH STATIONS OF THE CROSS

5:00 PM

Sunday, April 4th EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 AM

Canterbury Tales is the monthly newsletter of

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Editor: Cathy S. Witkay

Virtual Sunday Service: 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

St. Anselm's Staff
The Rev. John Sutton, Rector
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon
Cathy Witkay, Office Manager

Canterbury Tales Page 3

The Senior Warden

Ready to serve as Senior Warden!

My first article to Canterbury Tales as senior warden. I am honored to serve my first term in this position and boy do I have big shoes to fill! Not just Shanda's but all the other Senior Wardens before me.. I can name a few.. Joan, Marty, and Peter. Glad to see some of our prior senior wardens serve in the vestry alongside our other vestry members, Elizabeth, Alex, Sara, Neva and Dimitri.

I've been attending St. Anselms since 1993. Both sons were baptized here, attended Sunday school and participated in youth group activities. So many fond memories of our early days as members teaching Sunday school, holding our annual bake sales for the Heifer Project and the car washes with the youth group (although I seem to recall the parents having to re-wash some of cars). I love how our congregation is inclusive, kind and giving. Through the years, I've had so many opportunities to serve alongside other members. Sunday School, Youth Group, Harvest Festival, Crab Feed, Winter Nights to name a few. I've learned so much from these experiences, have grown spiritually and have made lifelong friends.

These are not normal times as we all continue to adjust and adapt to new ways in order to stay healthy and help curtail the spread of the virus. Members of St. Anselm's continue to serve through support groups, Stephen Ministries, prayer chain, altar guild, commissions, Harvest Festival, Winter Nights, pancake dinner, music and our wonderful office staff! Service is a great way for us to stay connected with each other.

"To serve with gladness and singleness of heart" .. we say this together every Sunday. I tell my family and friends that this is the embodiment of the members of St. Anselm's and this is my vow as your new senior warden.

-- So ready!!!

Eva Woo

Lenten Series: Restorative Justice In and Around Us

The practice of Restorative Justice begins with truth-telling and leads to restitution and reconciliation that respects the needs of those harmed, yet upholds the humanity of those who have caused harm. In both educational settings and in the criminal justice context, Restorative Justice practices can transform the trajectories of individuals and communities. This year's Lenten Series features speakers whose experiences and stories will illustrate how restorative justice practices can make a positive difference for individuals and communities. The series is being held in a Zoom format, Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on March 2, 9 and 16.

Speakers and session themes are as follows:

- March 2: Leonard Rubio, Executive Director of Insight Prison Project, will describe his organization's Victim Offender Education Groups in which inmates engage in intensive small group processes to examine before one another and outside facilitators the impact of their crimes on their victim, their victim's family and themselves.
- March 9: Deacon John Storm, director of Restorative Justice Ministries for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Santa Rosa. Deacon Storm provides pastoral care to all those harmed by crime in his community.
- March 16: A panel of speakers, followed by small group discussions, will focus on how individuals and communities can support restorative practices. The panel will include Rev. Liz Milner, director of chaplaincy services for Santa Clara County jail; Richard Olive, lay coordinator of Death Row ministry at San Quentin; and Mark Drevno, executive director of Jails to Jobs, a non-profit that helps formerly incarcerated people re-enter the workplace.

To be invited, email Cathy Witkay at <u>cathy.w@stanselms.ws</u>. For more information, contact Marian Mulkey, <u>marianmulkey@comcast.net</u> or Anne Brown, <u>annechalfantbrown@gmail.com</u> of the Christian Formation Commission.

Page 4 Canterbury Tales

WINTER NIGHTS IN THE TIME OF COVID: A LAMENT AND THANKSGIVING

Our turn to co-host the Winter Nights families, currently housed at the Walnut Creek Friends' Church, began on Saturday. Our job for the week is to buy and deliver supplies - breakfast and lunch food, paper plates, beverages, etc., and to order dinner meals from restaurants. Covid has impacted this along with everything else in our lives. We have to drop everything off with no interaction with the guests, which is usually one of the highlights of the program. There are only 4 families, which is all that Contra Costa County is allowing, 5 parents, 2 teenagers, two 3 year-olds, one 1 year-old, and a 5 month-old.

We have quite a list of Anselm's Angels, which will appear in full in the next Canterbury Tales - supply and meal volunteers and donors. This year I'm thinking of them as Spiritual Warriors, not just Angels. In my mind a spiritual warrior is one who fights for what is right, for the well-being of others, no matter the cost or lack of personal reward. In years past, we've brought in yummy home-cooked meals, eaten with the guests, gotten to know them, been thanked by them, gotten to know each other better, had fun with the kids, enjoyed the company of the Scout troops that were volunteering. Many, many rewards.

This year we have none of that. We simply order, buy, and drop off, or write a check. In addition, I, at least, have found it a bit stressful, because it's all so new - finding how to get to the church, finding a restaurant, worrying about costs, deciding on meals, so we don't repeat what was done the week before. That said, I especially want to acknowledge those warrior angels who have stepped up so far. Eva Woo shopped for and bought two truckloads of supplies. Jeff Boero, new to St. Anselm's, provided the truck and he and his wife, Connie, helped with the loading and unloading. Cindy and Harry Eisenberg bought the first dinner at Costco, meatloaf, mashed potatoes, salad, cake. They were definitely warrior angels, because I got them the drop-off/timing information they needed only at the last minute, which is when I was getting it, due in part to my not asking for it sooner. Jeff and Connie took on the Sunday dinner, ordering pizza, along with salad and cookies, amazing warrior angels.

We now have more warrior angels, volunteers for ordering and delivering dinners the rest of the week - Cathy and Paul Witkay, Pam Green, Fr. John and Liz, Fr. John's sister, Mary Pinkus, and me.

I am so grateful for all who have donated to help pay for the meals. We still could use some donations, so please do write that check, if you haven't gotten around to it. Make it out to St. Anselm's, with Winter Nights on the memo line.

While I feel sad that it's not our usual Winter Nights, I feel immense gratitude to all our warrior angels and gratitude that we have the means to provide nourishment to the guests. Let's keep them and all other homeless people in our prayers.

Anne Brown

MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL

Our little preschool continues to thrive!

We have two full classes of children and a staff that is thrilled to be here to teach them. This month we celebrated all of the February holidays - Groundhog's Day, Chinese New Year, and Valentine's Day. We learned new songs, new games, and have been working on identifying our own printed name through various activities. The rosemary, paper-whites, sage, and mint in our garden have been fabulous additions to our mudpies, cookies, and stew in the playground kitchen. The children also love exploring how to make water move by using our water table and various tools to make lakes, rivers, and bridges. The February sunshine has been on our side as we navigate our outdoor program and as of today, we've only used the Parish Hall for an hour or so once. We have been pretty lucky in dodging the raindrops so far!

I'm currently collecting re enrollment forms for the fall as well as accepting new applications. In March, class lists will be put together and families will be notified of what programs we can offer. Sending all of you well wishes for our end of winter months!

Holly Higgins, Director

Canterbury Tales Page 5

(Continued from page 1)

My sadness in writing this homage is tempered by the gratitude I feel in knowing I have shared my call with two of the most dedicated servants St. Anselm's will ever know.

To say that they will be missed is an understatement. They have been loved.

Farewell Andrew and Caroline.



John+



Page 6 Canterbury Tales



SCHEDULE OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS

<u>March 1st to 5th, Winter Nights</u> at Walnut Creek Friends Church. To help out contact Eva Woo at <u>eva94549@gmail.com</u> or 925-876-9435; or Anne Brown, at <u>annechalfantbrown@gmail.com</u> or 925-788-0664.

<u>March 2nd, Grief Support Group</u> will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Father John at <u>suttonj@comcast.net</u>.

<u>March 2nd, 9th, & 16th, Lenten Series</u> will be held via Zoom at 7:00 PM. To be invited, email Cathy Witkay at <u>cathy.w@stanselms.ws</u>.

<u>March 3rd and each Wednesday in March, Morning Prayer</u> will be held via Zoom at 9:00 AM. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at <u>orchidsnrch@yahoo.com</u>.

<u>March 3rd and each Wednesday in March, Evening Bible Study</u> will meet via Zoom at 7:00. To be invited, email Cathy Witkay at <u>cathy.w@stanselms.ws</u>.

<u>March 7th, Cancer Support Group</u> will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at <u>iripmaggie@hotmail.com</u>.

<u>March 8th, Vestry</u> will meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM. Vestry members will receive an email from Father John with the meeting link..

<u>April 1st, Maundy Thursday Service</u> via Zoom at 5:00 PM. Invitation will be emailed in advance. However, if you do not see an invitation by March 29th, please email Cathy Witkay at <u>cathy.w@stanselms.ws</u>.

<u>April 2nd, Good Friday Service</u> via Zoom at 5:00 PM. Invitation will be emailed in advance. However, if you do not see an invitation by March 30th, please email Cathy Witkay at <u>cathy.w@stanselms.ws</u>.