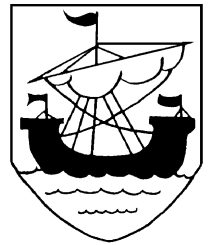


# Canterbury Tales

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



July & August 2024

## From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's,

Recently I was reminded of a quote by the late theologian Walter J. Burghardt, S.J. describing contemplation as "taking a long loving look at the real." In many ways this season in the life of St. Anselm's is one where we as a community are taking a long loving look at what's real about us. Seven months ago, when I began serving as your priest, I was not quite sure what I had gotten myself into. Though I still feel very new to St. Anselm's and Lafayette, each week that passes by the more hopeful I feel about the Spirit's blessings in this place and most especially among her people.

In recent months St. Anselm's has seen new landscaping planted, and long-deferred maintenance issues including our sanctuary roof being addressed, our beautifully organized parish BBQ in late June was well attended and this month we're hosting two work parties to continue sprucing up our building and grounds. Behind the scenes, vestry and ministry leaders are stepping up in a variety of ways to improve our systems, plan for the future, reach out to people we haven't seen in a while, and connect with our neighbors and other partners in ministry.

In this July/August edition of Canterbury Tales, you'll read about the extraordinary journey of Barbara Lee Kirbach whose celebration of life will happen on August 17<sup>th</sup>, and opportunities to view a new documentary about the first women ordained in the Episcopal Church, our plans to host Winter Nights this Fall as well as other activities.

Your prayers, presence, and financial support make a difference at St. Anselm's whether you are in the pews or online every week or only occasionally. So much in our daily lives and the wider world can be overwhelming from local record-breaking heat to ongoing wars abroad, anxieties about the November election, to the challenges of growing older, and the risks of wildfires. Being part of St. Anselm's reminds us we aren't alone, and that we can find hope, strength, and courage for the living of these days in the God who made us and dwells within us. Thank you for all the ways you are part of the story of St. Anselm's.

See you soon!

The Rev. Will Scott  
Priest-in-Charge

## *Anselm's Angels*

Special thanks to **Sara and Alan Swimmer** for hosting the Parish BBQ at their home. And a very big thank you to **Iris Hillman** for organizing the event, along with her crew of **JP Zhang, Julie Rinkenberger, Allen Zhang, John Powers, Alan Swimmer, Julie Starr and Gerry Starr**.

May thanks to everyone who helped with George Wasson's memorial service: to **Joan Martin** for Altar Guild set up; to **Bob Eddy & Joan Martin** who served as ushers; and to **Sylvia Williams** for coordinating the reception.

A great big thank you to **Katie Taggart** who has been painting the courtyard benches and to **Sally Fischer** for assisting her. And thank you to **Pam and Bob Green** for planting the beautiful flowers in the planter box.

And much appreciation to choir members **Marty Fischer, Alfred Eames, Keith Pearce, Avon Wilson, Vicki Pappas, Burl Hall and Nidhi Pra-deep** for sharing their music talents with us each Sunday. We will miss hearing your beautiful voices during the summer hiatus, but look forward to hearing all your voices in September.

*Thank You*

Canterbury Tales  
is the monthly newsletter of

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In-Person & Virtual Sunday Service:  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

## *From The Senior Warden*

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.” I’d guess that many thousands of church newsletter columns have led with some version of that verse. Nevertheless it seems an apt theme as I consider the gratitude, loss and opportunity that all feel central to the life of St. Anselm’s at this moment.

As your Senior Warden, gratitude is never far from my mind. Over the short time I’ve been in this role I have been wowed by the myriad ways faithful people among us have jumped into new roles, extended their efforts within long-standing roles, or graciously orchestrated hand-offs of knowledge and experience to help others move into roles they formerly held. A look at this month’s “Anselm’s Angels” offers a few recent examples. But to that list I want to add every committee member; every participant in a role related to worship (from altar guild to choir to lectors to videographers); everyone hosting coffee hour, showing up for a party, making a minor repair, counting Sunday contributions, praying for those in need, participating in a support group, or offering a greeting or word of support to members of the church community. Every one of those people and each of those actions (and many others) make St. Anselm’s “church” in the best sense of the word. I am so grateful to be a member of a community whose constituent parts see themselves as connected in one body with “equal concern for each other.”

Another reality in St. Anselm’s life, however, is loss. Many who formerly served central roles in selfless ways are no longer among us or able to do quite as much as they once did. Our “one body” feels a little weak in some of its functions, in need of rehabilitation or adaptation to realign our members and resources with the aspirations and hopes we hold dear. We feel these losses dearly, and it can take time and effort to imagine new ways to configure our shared life.

Yet where there is evolution, there is opportunity. In the last few months, I have heard from several St. Anselm’s members who are eager to contribute their time and talent but may not see exactly where they fit in. They may not discern in themselves a particular talent or gift that our community needs right now. Late this summer we plan to showcase different ministries and offer a structured way for people to consider new ways to serve and contribute.

In the meantime, we can encourage one another to notice and offer our unique gifts to the St. Anselm’s community. At every Sunday coffee hour, as well as at events like the summer party or upcoming work parties, we have an opportunity to get to know one another a little bit better. In those settings, I’d encourage us to listen carefully to one another. If you see a spark of interest or an uncommon gift, consider whether you might make a connection to help that person to participate in our “one body” in a new way. If you have a friend or neighbor whom you sense needs a bit of what St. Anselm’s offers – whether through our warm worship, our caring ministries, or our fellowship – please consider inviting them into our midst where their gifts might shine in new ways. As the scripture says, “If one part is honored, every part rejoices in it.”

Marian Mulkey  
Sr. Warden



## *Vestry Update*

The Vestry met on June 23 after church. To summarize the discussion:

- Substantial progress is underway on many fronts, including getting us on track with finances and financial processes
- The Property Commission is working to prioritize tasks and projects and is planning July work days to spruce up the church prior to a Diocesan meeting
- We will not host a Harvest Festival fundraiser for Trinity Center this year but will continue to share their news and encourage parishioners to support TC in other ways
- We are planning a process to reach out and update parishioners’ status, so that we remain connected and so that our fall stewardship campaign has a strong foundation for success.

Questions or comments may be addressed to any member of the vestry. Meeting minutes are available on request.

Our next vestry meeting will be on Sunday, July 21 at 11:30 a.m. Major agenda items at that meeting will include a mid-year financial review/ budget update and a discussion of St. Anselm's outreach activities.



## PARISH BBQ June 29th



Photos courtesy of  
Bob & Georganne Eddy  
& Rev. Will Scott



## The Best Baked Beans Ever

This quick southern style baked bean is by Pam Anderson and was featured in the March 2024 issue of *The Pioneer Woman*. It was a big hit among the attendees on the Summer BBQ at The Swimmer Home on June 29th.

### Ingredients

8 slices bacon, halved

1 medium onion, chopped

1/2 medium green pepper,  
chopped

3 (28-oz.) cans pork and beans

3/4 c. barbecue sauce

1/2 c. brown sugar

1/4 c. distilled or cider vinegar

2 tsp. dry mustard or 2 tbsp. dijon  
mustard



### Directions

- 1 | Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position and heat oven to 325°F.
- 2 | Fry the bacon in large, deep sauté pan until the bacon has partially cooked and released about 1/4 cup of drippings. Remove the bacon from the pan and drain on paper towels.
- 3 | Add the onion and pepper to drippings in the pan and sauté until tender, about 5 minutes.
- 4 | Add the beans and remaining ingredients to the pan; bring to a simmer. (If the pan is not large enough, add the beans and heat to a simmer then transfer to a large bowl and stir in the remaining ingredients).
- 5 | Pour the flavored beans into a greased 13-by-9-inch (or similar size) ovenproof pan. Top with bacon, then bake until the beans are bubbly and the sauce is the consistency of pancake syrup, about 2 hours. Let stand to thicken slightly and serve.



***Barbara Lee Kirbach****December 6, 1935- June 28, 2024****Memorial Service******August 17, 2024******10am******St Anselm's Episcopal Church***

Lee and I, together with our families, are thankful today for the life of our mother, Barbara Lee Kirbach, who died peacefully today, June 28, 2024. A service in her remembrance will be celebrated on August 17, 2024, at 10:00am at St. Anselm's Episcopal Church.

Barbara was as savvy as she was sweet. She was a pioneer among female executives in the Cable Television industry, a stalwart philanthropic leader, a Master Gardener, and a prolific writer. But she always maintained her soft, warm smile, and was happy to greet friends and family for a delicious meal in one of her many beautiful homes.

Barbara Lee Knight was born on December 6, 1935, in Spokane, WA. She grew up on a ranch with her father, mother, and grandmother. She had three brothers, Jimmy, John, and Tom.

She moved to the Bay Area to attend Stanford University, where she majored in Journalism, a passion she pursued throughout her life. At Stanford, she met David Kirbach, a law school student. The couple were married during her senior year and his final law school year, and they moved down to Manhattan Beach upon graduation in June 1958.

Barbara and David soon had a son, Lee, born in 1959. In 1961, the couple had a second son, Eric, who died after two months of life. A daughter, Madeline, was born in 1962.

The couple moved to Palos Verdes, CA, where they made many life-long friends who raised children alongside them. The families enjoyed summer days and dinners at the Portuguese Bend Club, vacationed together at Stanford Sierra Camp, or went on adventures to Mexico in David's small plane. Barbara was always game for these events, working her magic behind the scenes packing coolers, organizing equipment, and making sure we had everything we needed. When her children were young, Barbara took time for herself to pursue her passion for music. She loved to play piano and sing, and joined a couple of local singing groups, "Los Cancineros" and "The Generation Gap" during the 1960's and 1970's. She also supported the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra as a volunteer publicist and a board member of the annual fundraiser "Arts for Fun(d)s Sake."

In the early 1970's, Barbara partnered with fellow-volunteer Gloria Bourne to start Bourne-Kirbach Public Relations. The duo gained several clients, including Times Mirror Cable Television, which was just starting to explode with new services. Barbara later joined Times Mirror full-time as a marketing director, and subsequently she took the reins at USA Networks heading up the West Coast Region. Barbara mentored many young women who were trying to break into the male-dominated cable business and she served on the board of Women in Cable. At the end of her business career, the California Cable Television Association honored her with a Lifetime Achievement Award. At the large dinner celebration, not one speaker failed to mention that Barbara was both an ace in the business and a true pleasure to be around.

In the early 1990's, David and Barbara retired to Alamos, Sonora, Mexico where they restored a 200-year old colonial home. While living in Alamos Barbara was struck by a need in the community and put her business and marketing skills back to work by joining and soon leading a successful charity that raised scholarships for local school children, mostly girls, by charging tourists to tour renovated colonial homes including her own. It's estimated that each year, the homes opened their doors to over 1000 tour groups and benefited hundreds of local children and their families. She wrote about the experience in this article published in [\*Women of Alamos Mexico\*](#).

In Alamos Barbara became a Master Gardener. With its unique climate at the nexus of the rainforest and desert, Alamos offered a perfect environment for Barbara to adorn her home with fruit trees, flowering vines, a vegetable garden, and a wide variety of plant species. She became so fascinated with the variety of flowering vines and worked on a book about them with two of her local friends.

In 2004, Barbara and David returned to California, this time to Sonoma, to be closer to their children and six grandchildren. Again, Barbara created a warm and welcoming home for lifelong friends and family. She also made new friends with neighbors and joined the local chapter of Master Gardeners. Later, the couple moved to Rossmoor where Barbara became the publicity chair for the Published Writers Group.

Barbara was a truly unique woman: accomplished and capable, kind and warm. She made everyone she met feel welcome especially as hostess in her home. Those of us lucky enough to call her friend, colleague, mom, aunt, and grandma can still imagine walking through her door, where she'd ask, "What can I get you?" Her life was a true blessing to so many, and she will be truly missed.

~Madeline Kirbach Liddicoat

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## THE PHILADELPHIA ELEVEN

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The eleven women who were ordained priests at the Church of the Advocate, Philadelphia on the feast of St. Mary and St. Martha, July 29, 1974, two years before General Convention authorized the ordination of women. The women ordained were Merrill Bittner, Alla Bozarth-Campbell, Alison Cheek, Emily Hewitt, Carter Heyward, Suzanne Hiatt, Marie Moorefield, Jeanette Piccard, Betty Schiess, Katrina Swanson, and Nancy Wittig. The bishops who presided at the service were Daniel Corrigan, Robert DeWitt, and Edward Welles II. These ordinations, and the ordinations of four more women in Sept. 1975 in Washington, D.C., were widely criticized as irregular because the Episcopal Church had not yet authorized the ordination of women to the priesthood. In 1976 the House of Bishops affirmed the validity of the ordinations by requiring of the fifteen women only “an act of completion” that would be “a liturgical incorporation of what was done on those two occasions” in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of this event, see the documentary that has been produced to tell this story.

**There are 2 ways to see this film:**

1—go to **[www.philadelphiaelevenfilm.com](http://www.philadelphiaelevenfilm.com)** and set up a time to view the film **on-line between July 26th and July 30th**

2—View the film **in person July 21st at 5 p.m.** at the **Contra Costa Theatre in Martinez** hosted by the Deanery

St. Anselm’s will be hosting an event at **Coffee Hour August 4th** to discuss this film and the historic events that happened in 1974-1975

Questions/more information contact Peg Matson at [plmatson@comcast.net](mailto:plmatson@comcast.net)



### ***SHARING THE COMMON CUP AT ST. ANSELM'S***

*"One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord."*

Dear St. Anselm's,

On Sunday, June 2nd our congregation returned to the ancient practice of offering the common cup as part of our distribution of communion. We are also providing an alternative for those who wish to receive wine or juice in an individual cup. Since then, a number of people have raised questions about this and I wanted to share a bit about this choice, which aligns with current practices of Episcopal congregations and other churches throughout our region and the wider world. Our parish and denomination are known for our inclusiveness, appreciation for diversity, and respect for individual discernment so we recognize that people's sensibilities vary on this and respect whatever choice you make.

- 1) Our liturgical practice of sharing wine from a common cup is inspired by Jesus' actions at the Last Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:22-26, Luke 22:14-20).
- 2) Sharing one cup reminds us of Jesus' prayer in the garden the night he was betrayed, and the unity Jesus yearned for among his followers.
- 3) The church has long held that receiving communion in one kind, such as the bread alone, is always a valid option. The theological term for this is "concomitance."
- 4) Use of the common cup is particularly meaningful in the Diocese of California because amidst the growing AIDS crisis in the 1980s our former Bishop Swing wrote a pastoral letter calling, as covered by the New York Times:

*for pastoral understanding for the "cautious person" who chooses to receive only the communion bread during a worship service, and for AIDS sufferers who decline to drink from the common cup for fear of germs that their deficient immune systems could not fight off.*

*But the Bishop said he would continue to drink from the cup and, to underscore his confidence that the disorder is not transmitted through communion, would drink from the chalice after all other worshipers had done so.*

*He said that despite the urgings of some, he would not issue a directive prohibiting the use of the common cup, an action that has sometimes been taken at times of epidemics.*

- 5) As the American Journal of Infection Control (Vol. 26, No. 5, 1998) states, "no documented transmission of any infectious disease has ever been traced to the use of the common communion cup." Additionally, between the alcohol content in fortified wine, the antimicrobial properties of silver, and proper technique in turning and wiping the chalice, there is very little probable threat of passing on infectious disease. From: <https://spechurch.com/return-to-the-common-cup/>

How you choose to receive communion at St. Anselm's is entirely up to you: whether you receive bread alone, wine from the chalice, or wine or juice in a separate cup, the sacramental meaning is the same. This message is simply to provide a bit more of an explanation for St. Anselm's decision to move forward with returning to offering the common cup. As with anything in our common life, please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions, concerns or simply want to be heard.

The Rev. Will Scott  
Priest-in-Charge

## **Michael Lane Preschool**

Happy Summer!

We just completed Bug Camp and Space Camp at the preschool. Camp was a family affair with preschool alumni students attending with their younger siblings and incoming preschool students attending with their older siblings. It was sweet to see siblings excited to come to our program together! We even had an alumni teacher come back to teach with us, Danielle Mallari took some time off of her other job to join us on staff along with myself, and Trina Audley.

A special bonus during camp was the tour of the Cherry Picker that has been parked in the church parking lot. We were given the full tour and even got to watch how it moves up and down! A true dream come true to some of our truck loving kids!

Wishing you all the joys that summer brings!

Warmly,  
Holly Higgins  
Director, Michael Lane Preschool

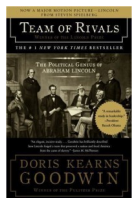


Got holiday ideas? Want to help plan activities for Advent and Christmas? Please contact Rev. Will and share your ideas.



### **BOOK CLUB**

The St. Anselm's Book Club will be taking a summer break from meeting but not from reading. Our summer read is "Team of Rivals" The political genius of Abraham Lincoln by Doris Kearns Goodwin. We will resume meeting on Wednesday, September 18th at 2:00 p.m. in the Library in Jackson Hall. We welcome you to join us.



Happy Summertime!  
Sharyn and Naomi

### **STEWARDSHIP**

The Stewardship committee has met and has some exciting fun-filled plans starting this Fall. Look for further news of activities starting this Oct. 6. Yes, that is the date - you'll like it - we guarantee it!

Your Stewardship committee in action, Katie Taggart, Julie Rinkenberger, John Powers, Keith Pearce, and Doug Merrill.

### **JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

Tom Frangoulis  
Norm Gorsuch  
Jeremy Martin  
Palmer Hightower  
JP Zhang  
Betty Frangoulis  
Elaine Sherwood  
Ann Burns  
Christopher Stone  
Carolyn Merrill  
Margaret Nicholas  
Georganne Eddy  
J.D. Orear  
Tom Pappas  
Jon Martin  
Hema Harichandran  
Janet Nadol  
Sylvia Williams  
Hallie Orear  
Frances Barnato  
Harry Barnato

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Iris & Ron Hillman  
Ann & Jim Burns  
Clark & Heather Alexander  
John & Leslie Weaver  
Carolyn & Doug Merrill  
Julie Rinkenberger & JP Zhang  
Joni & Keith Pearce  
Marian Mulkey & John Powers  
Elizabeth & Harry Beadle



### **CHURCH WIDE WORK PARTY & CLEAN UP**

**Saturday July 13th  
& July 20th  
8:30 am —Noon**

Lunch will be served

Help prepare St. Anselm's for the Executive Council of the Diocese Retreat on July 27th

Contact JP Zhang for more information

[jripmaggie@hotmail.com](mailto:jripmaggie@hotmail.com)



This year St. Anselm's will host **Winter Nights guests in Jackson Hall from September 30 to October 14.** For purposes of event and coffee hour planning, keep in mind that Jackson Hall will not be available those two weeks. Later in the summer we will put out a call for volunteers to help with breakfast and dinners for our Winter Nights guests between September 30 and October 7. (Partners from Latter Day Saints of Alamo will host meals October 8 -14.) For more information, please contact Joni Pearce at: [jonipearce@me.com](mailto:jonipearce@me.com).

#### St. Anselm's Staff

The Rev. Will Scott, Guest Priest  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Margaret Wolfe, Office Manager  
Dawn King, Bookkeeper  
Holly Higgins, Michael Lane Preschool Director

To schedule an in person conversation with Rev. Will, email [rector@stanselms.us](mailto:rector@stanselms.us)



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**Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is August 28th**

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

**Tuesday July 2nd/9th/16th/23rd/30th/ August 6th/ 13th/20th/27th — Morning Prayer** will be led by Deacon Naomi via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**Tuesday July 2nd August 6th — 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).

**Tuesday July 2nd/9th/16th/23rd/30th/ August 6th/ 13th/20th/27th — Evening Bible Study** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**Saturday July 13th & 20th — Church Wide Work Party and Clean-Up** To help or for questions, please contact JP Zhang at [jripmaggie@hotmail.com](mailto:jripmaggie@hotmail.com).

**Sunday July 14th & August 11th — Cancer Support Group** will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at [jripmaggie@hotmail.com](mailto:jripmaggie@hotmail.com).

**Sunday July 21st & August 18th — Vestry** will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. Vestry members will receive an email from Marian Mulkey with the meeting link. Parishioners are welcome to attend vestry meetings or to listen in via Zoom.

**Sunday July 21st — Philadelphia Eleven Documentary** will be showing at the Contra Costa Theatre, 555 Center Ave, in Martinez at 5pm.

**Saturday July 27th — Executive Council of the Diocese Retreat** hosted at St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

**Sunday July 28th & August 25th — Stephen Ministers** will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. Stephen Ministers will receive a link from Vicki Pappas.

**Saturday August 4th — Philadelphia Eleven Coffee Hour Discussion** 11:30 am at St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

**Saturday August 17th — Barbara Kirbach Memorial Service** 10:00 am at St. Anselm's Episcopal Church