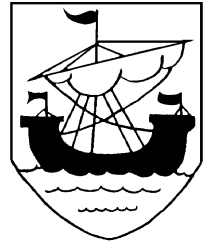


# Canterbury Tales

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



May 2024

## *From Rev. Will*

Dear St. Anselm's,

Spring continues to be a busy time for us at St. Anselm's. In this May issue of Canterbury Tales you'll find information about last weekend's vestry retreat, our guest preacher and speaker Mark Yaconelli on Pentecost Sunday, plans for celebrating the life of a beloved member, and welcoming a new family into our common life. Our Diocese's bishop-elect, the Rev. Austin K. Rios, will be ordained and consecrated on Saturday and will then serve as bishop coadjutor with Bishop Marc Andrus until July when Bishop Andrus will retire. At that time, Rios will succeed Andrus as bishop diocesan. You can watch the festivities online on Grace Cathedral's website: <https://gracecathedral.org/>

I continue to be immensely grateful to the hard working and committed leaders of this unique parish and am excited about the weeks ahead as we seek and serve Christ together.

See you soon!  
The Rev. Will Scott

## *From The Senior Warden*

What does it mean, at this moment in the life of St. Anselm's, to be "bound together in a common life?" When I was invited to become your next Senior Warden, that phrase from the Book of Common Prayer was very much on my mind as I reflected on the shortcomings and strengths I might bring to the role.

Being "bound together in a common life" is core to why I attend church and actively participate in a faith community. I treasure the lessons I learned from my immersion as a child in a church community that was diverse across ages, abilities, social and economic strata. I try to emulate the people I knew in that church family, as well as many people I've been privileged to know at St. Anselm's and in the broader world, who keep their commitments to a community or cause even when it isn't comfortable or convenient. Call them heroes, saints, or just good people, these are folks who hold the core belief that they weren't created to live in isolation but to be part of something larger than themselves – to serve and lift up others when they can, and to gratefully accept assistance when they need it.

I don't always enjoy being "bound together in a common life." I'm an introvert and I take a lot of satisfaction in working independently. I've thoroughly internalized our culture's values around efficiency and productivity and can be impatient and judgmental about processes and people who don't

*To be continued on page 2*

## *Anselm's Angels*

Many thanks to Rev. Will and the worship committee: Chair **Judy Peak**, **Marty Fischer**, **Doug Merrill**, **Sylvia Williams**, **Peg Matson**, **Chris Young** and **Deacon Naomi Chamberlain-Harris** for their hard work planning our four Holy Week services. Thank you to **Anne Brown**, **Don Liddle**, **Vicki Pappas**, **Judy Peak**, **John Powers**, **Katie Taggart** and **Allen Zhang** for reading the passion narrative. Thanks to lectors: **Allen Zhang**, **Sally Fischer**, **John Powers**, and **Shelley Frost**; Lay Eucharist Ministers: **Peg Matson** and **Elisabeth Ward**; Ushers: **Gary Bacon**, **Bob Eddy**, **Doug Merrill**, **Greg Heiman** and **Don Liddle**; Coffee Hosts: **Katie Taggart**, **Rev. Will**, **Sylvia Williams**, **Sally Fischer**, **Joan Martin**, **Elisabeth Ward**, **Peg Matson**, **Julie Starr** and **Sheila Wiegand**; and torchbearers: **Peg Matson** and **Marian Mulkey**. And special thanks to **Iris Hillman** and guest organist **Sharon Linton** for sharing your musical talents with us.

And a very big thank you for a job well done to the outgoing Vestry Class of 2024: Senior Warden **Marty Fischer**, Nominating Committee Chair **Elisabeth Ward**, **Neva Flaherty** and **Chris Young**. We welcome and thank Class of 2027 members: **Iris Hillman**, **John Ruby** and **Katie Taggart**. And congratulations **Marian Mulkey** our new Sr. Warden, **Peg Matson** who continues as Jr Warden, **Elaine Sherwood**, Vestry Clerk and **Don Liddle** Treasurer. Thank you all for your leadership and willingness to serve.

THANK YOU

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*From The Senior Warden  
continued from page 1*

work quickly or the way I wish they would. Like many in today's contentious and polarized world, I've been known to settle into comfortable but stagnant places, thereby avoiding conflict but also limiting my opportunities to grow. Despite these tendencies, though, I keep coming back to church and to communal activities conducted by people who are, like me, flawed and messy. And more often than not, my encounters with others in these settings enrich and inspire me with "some new vision of God's truth," as the Forward Day by Day Prayer [For Today](#) puts it.

Our congregation has been tested over the past year. Still, when we show up together there are amazing signs of life and hope. During Lent, I heard participants in our Thursday evening discussion series share personal doubts about their own worthiness for forgiveness – and then express absolute conviction that their conversation partners were beloved and deserving despite mistakes and regrets. On Maundy Thursday, in recreating Jesus' final meal, I saw love shine through in the stories people shared around tables in Jackson Hall, in hand and foot-washing, and around the communion rail. On Easter Sunday I felt the joy of being together in communal worship.

At our April 26-28 Vestry retreat our facilitator, Rev. Audrey Miskelley, shared a David Whyte quote: "Disappointment is a friend to transformation." At the retreat I observed my fellow vestry members sharing deeply, embracing new models of leadership, imagining a vibrant future, and stepping up in a variety of ways that auger very well for St. Anselm's future. I believe that losses and disappointments of the past year have positioned our church for real transformation, the beginning stages of which are underway. You will hear much more about retreat take-aways and next steps very soon.

I am grateful to be "bound together in a common life" with all of you. It is my hope and prayer that we will increasingly experience our bonds as sources of strength and growth rather than as burdens or constraints. By showing up for one another and offering our gifts with open hearts, I believe we will find ourselves more and more bound together in the abundant life that Jesus promised.

Marian Mulkey  
Sr. Warden



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## **Vestry Update**

The St. Anselm's Vestry spent this past weekend, April 26-28, at a remarkably positive and productive retreat at the lovely San Damiano Retreat Center in the hills above Danville. Nestled in the oak canopy, surrounded by gardens, and with views of Mount Diablo, we were close to nature and grew closer to one another in trust and in common purpose.

Rev. Audrey Miskelley, the consultant who has worked with St. Anselm's since January to assist our movement along a path of healing and reconciliation following our failed rector call, facilitated sessions on Friday evening and Saturday. With her guidance, members of the vestry's outgoing, continuing, and incoming classes spent time getting to know one another in deeper ways and building trust. We shared experiences and took stock of our many blessings; discussed in honest and hopeful ways where St. Anselm's is today; gained tools and insights about how best to lead change; and envisioned future priorities. On Sunday Rev. Will led us in a meaningful and intimate worship service and we had a brief vestry business meeting.

**On May 5, vestry members will share more with the congregation, first by announcing specific (and very heartening!) next steps during our 10 a.m. service and then via informal conversations at coffee hour.**

There is much work to be done in coming months, but the retreat weekend marks an important turning point, closing one chapter in the life of St. Anselm's and opening the door to its continued transformation. The vestry is very grateful for the congregation's support as we continue to deepen relationships, gain skills, and involve the entire church community in new ways in order to build a bright future.

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# How Stories Can Save Us

## An Interactive Conversation with Mark Yaconelli

### Sunday, May 19, 2024

### 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

*"Now more than ever, we need a teacher such as this."*  
—Anne Lamott, New York Times bestselling author

In an increasingly fast-paced and fractured world, sharing stories can be a radical and deeply human practice for uncovering the ties that bind us to one another.

During this inspiring, interactive, and intergenerational event Mark Yaconelli will show us how stories can heal trauma, shed light on injustice and recover hope. Participants will be invited to step into the reality of another person's existence by telling and sharing stories which will inspire kinship instead of judgment.



[Mark Yaconelli](#) is a speaker, community-builder, and author of [The Gifts of Hard Things](#), [Between the Listening and the Telling: How Stories Can Save Us](#) as well as four previous books. Interviews and profiles of Mark's work have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, BBC Radio, and ABC World News Tonight. He and his wife have three grown children and live in Ashland, Oregon.

**St. Anselm's Episcopal Church - 682 Michael Lane Lafayette**  
**[www.stanselms.us](http://www.stanselms.us)**

### **Welcome Thomas, Kylie & Theodore!**

Thomas, Kylie and Theodore Young began attending St. Anselm's in February. Thomas grew up Methodist and Kylie Roman Catholic. They met in southern California on a ski trip in 2016 and were married in 2023 in the Sierra Mountains. Thomas is a researcher at Lawrence Berkeley Lab and Kylie is in marketing at a health tech company and works from home in Lafayette.

**On May 19th, Pentecost Sunday, Theodore Maxwell Young will be baptized at St. Anselm's during our 10 a.m. service.**



### **A message from the Starr Family**

Dear Friends:

On Sunday, May 26, 2024, we invite you to a service to celebrate the life of Alice-Jean May Starr aka "AJ", a parishioner from 2002 or so until 2023. The service will be held immediately after the regular Sunday service, and we hope you will stay for it and for refreshments afterward.

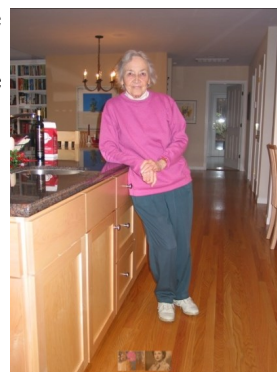
Alice-Jean May was born in New Jersey in 1920, the younger of two daughters. Her mother Jenny emigrated alone from Stavanger, Norway, at age 16, and so we know where AJ got some of her courage and will. AJ's childhood included friendships she would keep for life and the Episcopal faith. She loved sports, nature, art and music, and the exciting new field of aviation. After high school, she attended art school, held a job, took flying lessons, soloed, and kept flying. In 1942, while working as a Link Trainer (early flight simulator) instructor and operator for the US Navy, she got a telegram that changed her life: the Army Air Corps told her to report to the little Texas town of Sweetwater to be trained as a Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP). As a WASP, AJ and 1073 of her sister pilots did every stateside job to free men for combat duty. AJ was assigned as a ferry pilot and took brand new planes from the factory to points of departure for Europe or the Pacific; her favorite plane to fly was the P-51 Mustang. She continued to fly after the war and met her husband, Theodore Starr, an aviation mechanic, back in NJ. They raised their children, Gerald and Julia, as Episcopalians. A lifetime later, we remaining Starrs are here with you to remember Alice-Jean on a day that honors those who died in service to our country, and that includes 38 WASP, one of whom was AJ's dear friend.



Please join us for coffee hour: This is AJ's particular wish. She enjoyed the fellowship and the refreshments after Sunday worship and wanted to give you a lovely spread (which we usually have anyway, so this one's gotta be good). Personal remembrances of AJ will be spoken during the coffee hour.

We are so grateful for your love for AJ and for us.

Gerry and Julie Starr





## ST. ANSELM'S MICHAEL LANE LANDSCAPE PROJECT



Pamela Green, a professional landscape designer and longtime member of St. Anselm's has completed a design plan for the front portion of the parish's property facing Michael Lane. A budget estimate for the entire project which includes planting and irrigation is \$12,500. Thank you to everyone who has already donated toward the project. To date we have raised \$3500. If you would like to contribute to the effort please send a check to the parish office and include on the memo line "Landscape Project."

If you would like to sponsor a particular plant (tree or shrub) here's a list of the plantings, please indicate on the memo line which plant or plants your gift is intended to cover.

### Trees = \$200, \$400, & 800 each

Quantity/Size Latin Name Common Name

5-24" Arbutus 'Marina' (multi-trunk) 'Marina'

3-24" Arbutus unedo (multi-trunk) Strawberry tree

5-15 Aesculus Californica (multi-trunk) California buckeye

2-15 Cercis occidentalis (multi-trunk) Western redbud

### Shrubs = \$200 each

7-5 Arctostaphylos 'Howard McMinn' 'Howard McMinn' manzanita

3-5 Arctostaphylos 'Wayside' 'Wayside' manzanita

2-5 Arctostaphylos Dr. Hurd Dr. Hurd manzanita

6-5 Heteromeles arbutifolia Toyon

Please reach out to Pamela Green ([simondsdesign@comcast.net](mailto:simondsdesign@comcast.net)) or to Rev. Will if you have any questions.



## Bishop-Elect Austin Keith Rios Ordination and Consecration Service

**May 4th at 11 a.m.  
at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco**

<https://gracecathedral.org/>

### **TRINITY CENTER'S SPRING FUNDRAISER**

Our friends at Trinity Center are holding their annual spring dinner and auction starting at 6pm on May 9<sup>th</sup> at The Ruth Bancroft Gardens. A group of us attended last year and had a wonderful time. You can [buy tickets](#) or [donate](#) on line. Please consider joining this wonderful event. If you have interest in attending contact Marty Fischer (925 247-4192) who will be putting together a St. Anselm's table if there is sufficient interest. Come and enjoy as all proceeds go to support the many needs at Trinity Center in supporting the least fortunate in our community.



### **MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL RAFFLE TICKETS**

Want to Support Michael Lane Preschool? Please consider buying a Raffle Ticket! Some prizes include: a pitcher of homemade margaritas, a dozen farm fresh eggs, and gift cards to restaurants around town!

Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$5 each or 5 for \$20 with payment made via venmo to @Lucinda-Fuldner (last 4 digits 8398). Please email Holly at [michaellanepreschool@gmail.com](mailto:michaellanepreschool@gmail.com) with any questions or if you'd like to pay with cash or check.

## **Michael Lane Preschool Update**

We are sure enjoying springtime at Michael Lane Preschool!

We have been learning about how seeds grow and successfully planted radish seeds, mung beans, and bean sprouts. To wrap up the school year, each child gets to choose our snack for the final month of school. Along with the crowd

favorites (apples, graham crackers) this year we have some unique additions - caper and cream cheese sandwiches and pumpkin pie! We are also avidly bird watching and following a few nests that are being built around the St. Anselm's Campus. There is a nest on a light fixture right outside our window that gets lots of bird activity which we enjoy watching while we are playing!

In April, I completed Spring Conferences, a wonderful time to sit down with our families and reflect on our year and all the growth that has been made. On May 11th we will have our parent party and fundraiser - please consider buying a raffle ticket for some excellent local prizes!

Here's to a lovely Spring!

Warmly,  
Holly Higgins  
Director, Michael Lane Preschool



### ***THANK YOU***

Dear St. Anselm's Family,

My deepest thanks for your generosity in giving so many socks for our brothers and sisters at Trinity Center. The staff were thrilled with your gifts.

With love and blessings,  
Naomi



### **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Sheila Gorsuch  
Sara Swimmer  
Avon Wilson

### ***REACHING OUT TO THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ***

***Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>  
at 2pm  
in the church library***



Please join Deacon Naomi & Sharyn Barrington Carlson for a discussion on Madeleine L'Engle's book, *Two-Part Invention*, and join us in choosing our next book selection.

### **PRAYER CHAIN**

St. Anselm's Prayer Chain is a list of our parishioners and loved ones for whom prayers have been requested. Prayer is voluntary and on your own whenever you wish to pray. If you would like to receive the Prayer Chain or if there is someone you would like to add to the Prayer Chain, please email Vicki at: [vrpappas@gmail.com](mailto:vrpappas@gmail.com).

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

#### **St. Anselm's Staff**

The Rev. Will Scott, Guest Priest  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Margaret Wolfe, Office Manager  
Dawn King, Bookkeeper

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 May26th**

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

**Tuesday May 7th/14th/21st/28th — 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 May 7th — 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 May 7th/14th/21st/28th — 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).

**Thursday May 9th — Book Club** will be led by Sharyn Barrington-Carlson and Deacon Naomi 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the conference room. For more details email Deacon Naomi at [orchidsnrch@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidsnrch@yahoo.com).

**Thursday May 16th — Stephen Ministers** will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministers will receive a link from Vicki Pappas.

**Sunday May 19th — Cancer Support Group** will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at [jrpjmaggie@hotmail.com](mailto:jrpjmaggie@hotmail.com).

**Sunday May 19th — How Stories Can Save Us, An Interactive Conversation by Mark Yaconelli** from 1p.m. to 3 p.m. in Parish Hall.

**Monday May 20th — Vestry** will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Vestry members will receive an email from Marian Mulkey with the meeting link.