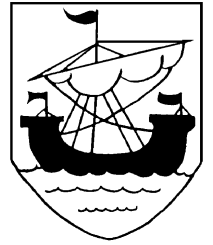


Canterbury Tales

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



November 2024

From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's,

When I first visited you in December, I quickly realized what a fantastic place and people you are. Well into my ninth month as your priest, I am still awed by your grace, strength, and perseverance as individuals and a community.

Now, we've come to the season when we remember those who have gone before us: those whose lives inspired us. This is also the time of year when, in some places, we check our storehouses, pantries, and storm shelters, making sure we have enough to get us through the rainy season and, in some areas, the winter. We also plan to sit at a table with our family, friends, and neighbors to give thanks.

This, too, is the season when congregations like ours invite members to consider their annual giving and to give prayerful, loving attention to the places and people that sustain and inspire us.

On Sunday, November 3rd, St. Anselm's will celebrate All Saints Day. We will pray for those who have died and give thanks to the community of saints that surrounds us. Please bring a photo of a loved one who has passed to share as we remember them and celebrate their continuing influence on our lives. St. Anselm's will also invite members to place their pledge cards in a basket and ask for God's blessing on these commitments and our life together as a parish. If you've already sent in your pledge, thank you!



On All Saint's Day, I will be thinking of my paternal grandmother, who passed away in October 2016. Betty Sue Scott nearly died of rheumatic fever as a child and struggled her whole life with asthma. Whenever she gave my brother or me a gift of money, Grandmama would say, "10 percent to the church and 10 percent to other people." She'd talk about moments of challenge in her childhood when money was short or her parents had a hard time making ends meet, and somehow, once they began giving in this way, everything worked out. They didn't become wealthy, but they weren't destitute either. Needs were met, and joy won.

With so much ahead in our lives, we'd probably all agree that we'd prefer not to worry about the financial health of our place, people, and parish. So, as our stewardship commission has previously, I am asking you to join us on Sunday, November 3rd, whether in person by bringing your pledge card to be blessed or online via our digital pledge card.

(continued on page 6)

Anselm's Angels

A very big thank you to chair **Joni Pearce**, and to **Anne Brown & Eva Woo-Slavitt** and all the volunteers who helped during Winter Nights. Please read page 5 for a list of all the volunteers and for more information on how you can continue to assist the Winter Nights organization.

Special thanks to Katie Taggart and the Stewardship Committee for all their hard work. And to our reception hosts **Peg Matson, Duane Nelsen, John Powers, Marian Mulkey, David Rowe, Julie Rinkenberger** and **JP Zhang** for welcoming everyone into their homes.

Many thanks to **Keith Pearce, Marty Fischer, Al Eames, Iris Hillman** and our choir for their support of music.

And much appreciation to **JP Zhang** and the Property Commission for repairs and maintenance, including hvac and plumbing.



(continued from page 1)

With so much ahead in our lives, we'd probably all agree that we'd prefer not to worry about the financial health of our place, people, and parish. So, as our stewardship commission has previously, I am asking you to join us on Sunday, November 3rd, whether in person by bringing your pledge card to be blessed or online via our [digital pledge card](#).

Ten or five percent may feel like a heavy lift, but I hope you'll join us in prayerfully considering your gift to St. Anselm's annual campaign.

Our Stewardship Commission shared in last month's message:

To support full-time clergy, offer meaningful worship and program offerings, continue smooth business operations, maintain our facility, and invest modestly in outreach, we need to secure pledges of \$295,000 for 2025. To meet stretch goals, for example, hiring a permanent part-time choir director, setting aside prudent maintenance reserves, supporting community outreach at robust levels, and planning for program investments to support future growth—we need to secure pledges of \$350,000.

If we all step up, I trust there'll be enough to get us where the Lord intends.

In faith and hope,

The Rev. Will Scott
Priest-in-Charge



Do NOT miss.....
Ingathering
Sunday, November 3rd

A special day to celebrate
our 2025 Stewardship Drive!
Bring your pledge cards to church for blessing,
and after the service, enjoy a delectable brunch
in Jackson Hall

hosted by our Vestry in thanksgiving
for your care and support.

Your Stewardship Commission:
Katie, Julie, John Keith and Doug

Advent & Christmas at St. Anselm's

Save the Dates

Sundays in Advent

Each Sunday in December following the 10 a.m. service, we'll gather in the parish hall for a craft and reflection on the season led by a member of the Christian Formation Commission.

Mindfulness at Holiday Time

hosted by Wendy Beckerman & Christian Formation Commission, Thursdays, December 5, 12, & 19 at 7 p.m. on zoom

Costumes, Carols, & Cocoa

Sunday, December 22 at 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
We'll gather for a fun afternoon of festive music, poetry, treats, and a special bearded visitor. Try on a pageant costume or wear your ugly Christmas sweater! We're thinking of this as an all ages holiday variety show, so if you have a talent to share email parish@stanselms.us to sign up.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24th at 5 p.m.



From The Senior Warden

“So Great a Cloud”

The church of my youth didn't mark All Saints Day, but over the 33 years I've been Episcopalian, I've grown to love the occasion. Some of the hymns frequently sung on that day I find moving (“For All the Saints”); others are fun and a bit silly (“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God,” with its Fierce Wild Beast). But what I appreciate most about the day is that it invites me to remember the remarkable yet ordinary people whose love, faith, hope and good works have enriched my life and those of many others.

In my life I've been blessed to have had many people who were saints to me. My parents were wonderful examples of Christian faith and dedication; clergy members at various stages of my life have helped teach and support me; the lives of many other friends, family members and colleagues have inspired me. But in this column I'll focus on three people I've encountered in church settings who influenced and encouraged me in ways they likely never suspected.

Dick R. was a lovely man and an active member in my childhood church. He worked for the Sacramento Bee as a political reporter; he and my dad were friends partly because on many Sundays together they were the entire tenor section of our small choir. Dick's passion was to faithfully author a “news and notes” column in our church's mimeographed weekly newsletter. Every Sunday after church, Dick stood on the steps next to our pastor, notepad and pencil in hand, and engaged attendees in conversation to learn about their lives. Who had visitors or was planning a trip? Who had achievements to share? Who was confronting a new challenge? His remarkable ministry helped members connect and learn about their fellow churchgoers. Key to Dick's outreach was his genuine curiosity, his eagerness to learn about and report even the most mundane news from all comers: young children and seniors, people he knew well and people he'd just met. Today we might say that he helped us all feel seen.

A couple of decades later, when our children were very young, John and I were members of St. Paul's Episcopal, Oakland. In a casual coffee hour conversation, I mentioned that I hadn't been reading much and missed it. Before I knew it, two faithful church mothers, Liz H. and Naomi P. -- each a generation or more my senior -- had organized a new monthly book group in their homes. They nudged me to join and let me pick more than my fair share of the books we read. At the time, I took at face value that they too were excited to have a regular reading group focused on Christian themes and spirituality. That may have been true; but looking back, I realize they were providing me with nurturing and support that went far beyond the group's nominal purpose. Many of our book group conversations focused on the challenges of parenting young children, on what it takes to balance family, work and individual needs. Naomi and Liz offered their wisdom and experience with grace and care. They empathized with my circumstances and went out of their way to lift me up in ways I wasn't fully aware I needed.

One of my favorite Bible verses is Hebrews 12:1: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.” What an amazing gift it is to be surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, over the course of our lives and today at St. Anselm's! What a privilege it is to join a cloud of witnesses that supports and inspires others to persevere and to thrive! Happy All Saints Day!



Don't Miss The November 16 Harvest Festival

from 5 to 8 p.m.

Trinity Center, 1888 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek

This year's Harvest Festival at Trinity Center is just a few weeks away. With the support of its congregation and St. Anselm's Golden Autumn Sponsorship and other sponsors and activities, the event promises to be a memorable kickoff to the Holiday fundraising campaign. Help to support the work of Trinity Center on behalf of the most unfortunate in our community and especially the Winter Shelter program that keeps a roof over homeless folks during the cold, wet winter. There are still some dinner reservations left, so sign up now as tickets are limited. To donate or make reservations just sign up online at [Harvest Festival 2024](https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E351021&id=32) or paste the following URL into your computer browser.

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E351021&id=32>



Vestry Update

The vestry held its regular monthly meeting on October 20. Business items included:

A review of the St. Anselm's Balance Sheet -- the summary financial report of "what we own and what we owe" -- and recommendations from the Finance Committee to combine and simplify Balance Sheet accounts. After discussion, the vestry approved a slate of recommendations that will provide a streamlined yet accurate picture of existing financial commitments and available resources.

Discussion of a potential endowment to permit some funds to be set aside for long-term returns. At this meeting the vestry affirmed our intent to establish an endowment over the next 2 to 3 months. In November or December the vestry will decide how much from our existing reserves to use as endowment "seed money." A working group of Keith Pearce, Iris Hillman and John Powers will continue to work with Rev. Will to recommend next steps, including the purpose and use of endowment proceeds, as well as endowment governance structure, institutional home and investment strategy. The intention is to be ready in early 2025 to receive endowment gifts related to St. Anselm's 65th anniversary.

Exchanged information and discussed plans for upcoming stewardship, outreach, property and parish life activities.

For more information, contact any member of the vestry. Meeting minutes and financial reports are available on request. Vestry minutes from the previous month's meeting are posted in the Jackson Hall conference room. Our next vestry meeting will be after church on November 17, in person in the conference room (with Zoom accessibility on request). Any parishioner is welcome to attend.



Michael Lane Preschool

October brought HOT days on the playground and now we are all enjoying some cooler and sunny temps as the kids play and grow. This month we sang about pumpkins, acted out songs, decorated our school with ghosts, bats, and a pumpkin patch, did some cooking and science activities like making a witches brew and making music with glass bottles, water, and spoons!

Our school is now full, as we had our final 2 spaces absorbed this month. We continue to reinforce good table manners as we eat our daily snack together. These include not talking while we are chewing our food, making eye contact with the person who we are asking to pass the food basket, and trying new foods even if they don't "look" delicious. The children are doing great.

We are enjoying watching the Ash trees change colors around the St. Anselm's campus and look forward to taking our rakes out to the parking lot this November.

We hope you are enjoying this special season!

Warmly,

Holly Higgins

Director, Michael Lane Preschool

WINTER NIGHTS

As our time with Winter Nights comes to an end, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your help and support. Thanks to so many of you, 3 families were able to have a safe shelter and delicious meals for 14 days. Thank you for cleaning, shopping, serving, cooking, talking, laughing, and praying with these people. I would like to thank some people specifically, and hope that I don't leave anyone out!

Eva Woo - for laying the groundwork, and helping me every step of the way! *Jeff & Connie Boero* - for all the shopping before our guests arrived, and all the offers to me of "Do you need anything else?" *Greg Rodalari* - for unloading the trucks and shining you bright spirit. *Marian Mulkey* - for welcoming the set up crew and preparing food *Eli Chan* and the students of The Springstone School - for all the cleaning, egg boiling, and wonderful welcoming artwork! *JP Zhang* - for making sure our pipes were clean, and answering the call when they weren't! *Katie Taggart* - for cleaning and prepping before the guests arrived *Kate & John Ruby* - for providing bagels and other items for guests. The Breakfast Crew - *Sally Roberts, Pam Greene, Tom Henry, Jeff Boero, Anne Brown, John Powers, Bob Eddy* - for rising early and making sure the families had a great start to their day. Dinner Crews - *Izabella Wu & family, Sara Swimmer & Julie Rinkinberger, Cathy Chang, Eva Woo, Vicki Pappas & Will* for helping me with my dinner! Thank you for providing nourishment for these families! Our New HS Choir members - *Audrey Leung & Lesley Trowbridge* for helping us with dinner serving and clean-up. And thank you to everyone who donated gift cards too!

Winter Nights seemed like a huge, daunting task to me when first asked. It turned out to be anything but! It was a wonderful way to give back and to connect in a way that was reflective of the warm, generous spirit of St. Anselm's. We made this sanctuary a home! - *Joni Pearce, Winter Nights Chair*



Once again, St. Anselm's generously hosted Winter Nights guests in Jackson Hall from September 30 until October 14. There were three families with us this year - a mother with a 9 year-old son, a father with a teenage son and daughter, and a couple with a young son in elementary school. The couple had recently come to the States, and the mother was struggling to speak English, needing the help of her son to translate. The families were all very grateful, polite, and got along well with each other, making hosting them very easy. The single dad was actively looking for work. The single mom had some health issues to deal with. The immigrant family was just settling in. The Winter Nights program would like to help more families, but they currently have only one van. Two of the families didn't have a car. Winter Nights would like to get another van, but can't afford to buy one. They are hoping for contributions towards a new van.

Our volunteers were wonderful. The breakfast team arrived at 6 am to set out breakfast, make the coffee, unload the dishwasher, and greet the families as they got up, and see them off after breakfast. On the team were *Jeff Boero, Anne Brown, Pam Green, Sally Roberts* and *Tom Henry*.

This year the LDS Church in San Ramon did most of the dinners. *Sara Swimmer* provided one of the dinners and *Peg Matson* another. *Eva Woo* made one of her delicious Chinese dinners one night. *Sheila Riedy* and *Anne Brown* brought lunch one of the Saturdays.

Peg Matson did a stellar job of enrolling and organizing volunteers, starting with the Monday that the guests arrived, getting the tents set up, greeting and welcoming them.

Last but not least, a big "Thank You" goes to all of us members of St. Anselm's. For two weeks we give up use of Jackson Hall for meetings and for coffee hour, so whether or not we volunteer, we are involved. This year, at one of our outdoor coffee hours, there were small pumpkins for sale with succulents planted in them - very lovely. They were donations from a friend of Winter Nights and all the money from the sales went to Winter Nights.

As always, Winter Nights needs donations. Those could come in the form of Gas cards (\$25.), a Target card (\$10.) or Wal-Mart card (\$25.), pillowcases or twin bed fitted sheets. Cash donations can help towards a new van or maintenance of the current one. If you want to donate cash, you can make out a check to Winter Nights, drop it off at the office or mail it to: Teri Lundvall, 404 Gregory Lane #7, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. Thank you so much! - *Anne Brown*

Mindfulness at Holiday Time

Connecting with kind presence

Thur., Dec 5, 12 & 19

7-8 PM On Zoom

REGISTER:



Sponsored by St. Anselm's Christian Formation Team

Each session will be inner nourishment for holiday time. We'll explore ways to navigate the season with more ease, compassion, and balance.

Whatever life brings—from busyness to loneliness—together we'll practice simple mindfulness techniques for slowing down, listening to your body's signals, and responding to each moment from the heart.

Includes guided meditations and breathing practices, gentle mindful movement, brief writing reflections, and a safe space for sharing.

All levels of experience welcome.

About the Instructor:

Wendy Beckerman has been teaching mindfulness meditation and yoga since 1998. Her teaching style is clear, calming, and centering. Her students describe her as "intuitive yet grounded," "compassionate and fully engaged."

eastbayyoga.com | 510-710-7102 | wendy@eastbayyoga.com





WARTIME
Prohibits of San Francisco, California
May 3, 1943

**INSTRUCTIONS
TO ALL PERSONS OF
JAPANESE
ANCESTRY**
Living in the Following Area:

KINTSUKUROI

1. Japanese art of repairing pottery using gold
2. Strength and beauty found in something that has been broken

**LAFAYETTE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SCREENING**

5pm November 17, 2024
584 Glenside Drive
Lafayette, CA

free admission, donations appreciated

Experience...


Taizé

A service of music... Images... Ancient Ritual...
All to bring a sense of the Other-worldliness of God

SATURDAY NOV. 2 3:00 PM
HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2925 BONIFACIO, CONCORD BY BALDWIN PARK

INFORMATION/CONTACT:
925-685-8859

EVERYONE WELCOME



BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays
7p.m. on Zoom

We will be sharing our favorite Psalms. All are welcome. Please email Deacon Naomi: orchidsnrch@yahoo.com for any questions.



Canterbury Tales
is the monthly newsletter of

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

Editor: Margaret Wolfe
email: margaret.w@stanselms.us

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



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Alex McDonald
Ron Hillman
Jasmine Frost
Bob Eddy
Peg Matson
Joan Yao



**NOVEMBER
ANNIVERSARIES**
Bob & Georganne Eddy



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 Pappas: vrpappas@gmail.com.

St. Anselm's Staff

The Rev. Will Scott, Priest-In-Charge
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon
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

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



Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is November 24th

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday November 5th/12th/19th/26th — 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.

Tuesday November 5th — Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon. To be invited, email Deacon Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

Thursday November 7th/14th/21st — Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. We will be sharing our favorite Psalms. All are welcome. Please contact Naomi at orchidsnrch@yahoo.com.

Sunday November 10th— Altar Guild will meet in the conference room at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday November 10th— Cancer Support Group will meet in the library and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. To be invited, email Julie Rinkenberger at jripmaggie@hotmail.com.

Saturday November 16th— Harvest Festival from 5 to 8p.m. at Trinity Center, 1888 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek.

Sunday November 17th— 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 November 24th — Stephen Ministers will meet in the conference room at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday December 5th/12th/19th — Mindfulness at Holiday Time hosted by Wendy Beckerman & Christian Formation Commission on Zoom.

Sunday December 22nd — Costumes, Carols & Cocoa from 3 to 4 p.m.

Tuesday December 24th — Christmas Eve Service at 5p.m.