

Canterbury Tales

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



August 2026



From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's,

August is here and lots is happening at St. Anselm's. Over the past few months our vestry has been working closely with Kayce Rane on a strategic plan building on all the positive momentum of the past few years. On Sunday, August 16th during our 10 a.m. service we'll be sharing details and inviting your feedback. I am so grateful for the dedication and work of our vestry and the tremendous gift of Kayce's time and expertise.

This week work is taking place to spruce up the Education Building ahead of Michael Lane Preschool's reopening. An Eagle Scout is set to begin much needed repairs on the stairs that lead from the road up to our parking lot. New groups are using our parish hall and last Sunday's All Ages Service was full of positive energy.

Within this edition of Canterbury Tales, you'll find more encouraging news from long time parishioner, Eva Woo and our First Sunday All Ages service music leader, Sean Potts. You'll also find an invitation to our 2nd Annual Parish/Preschool Picnic just one of the ways we're seeking to deepen our congregation's connections with our preschool families.

While up in Portland last month Matt and I walked past a building with a name I recognized on it, William Temple. Temple was Archbishop of Canterbury for just 2 1/2 years during World War 2 and is celebrated for his scholarship, commitment to social justice and interfaith relations. One of his most famous quotes reminds us that even as St. Anselm's parish grows; our call is to be of service to those beyond our immediate community. "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members."

See you soon!
The Rev. Will Scott

Photo taken from July train trip up north.

Anselm's Angels

Thank you to everyone who turned up to help at our June work party, **Bob Eddy, JP Zhang, Joni and Keith Pearce, Katie Taggart, Pamela Green, and Jeff Boero.**

Be sure to thank **Katie & Pamela** for the new stain on the Memorial Garden benches.

Thank you to **Iris Hillman** for hosting our vestry at her home in July and **Kayce Rane** for all her support of our planning work.

Thank you to everyone, especially our Altar Guild and tech support crew (**Dave Rowe & Chris Young**) for supporting Bob Crawford and Jeannine Makely's memorial services.

Thank you to our Property Commission and **Peg Matson** for guiding multiple facility related projects.

Thank you to **Laura Fischer** for supporting our first "Ride with St. Anselm's" in which six kids and five adults from St. Anselm's rode scooters and bikes together from Lafayette to Moraga.





From The Senior Warden

The Vestry continues to work on a strategic plan for the next couple of years, which we began to develop at the Vestry Retreat in May. Much has been accomplished in recent past and there is much to consider and agree upon in the need for further repairs to our physical plant, increased rental and use of the parish hall, and setting up a Liturgical Calendar that includes the work and events planned by all Commissions and Ministry groups. We are attempting to streamline our calendar events so that everyone is informed ahead of time about what and when a special service or event is planned. There is a lot of work to be done and if everyone undertakes & owns a small part, it will be highly successful.

The Vestry is eager and excited to present this plan to the congregation in August. With your prayers, support and input, we hope to be more visible and accessible to our neighbors, offer interesting events and services to the public, and hopefully attract new members. Apologies for sounding like a broken record, but STAY TUNED and be sure to attend church on August 16th to hear the Presentation!

Iris Hillman
Senior Warden

Dear St. Anselm's Community,

I want to share with you an important next step in my spiritual journey: I have decided to enter into a formal period of discernment.

St. Anselm's has always been my place of worship and spiritual home. It is where my boys grew up, where our family has been rooted, and where I have found friendship, comfort, and faith through every season of life. Since moving to Lafayette in 1993, I have watched our little church evolve and grow — welcoming new families, celebrating milestones, and saying goodbye to dear ones we have loved.

This parish has been woven into the fabric of my life. I remember my boys in Sunday school, the joy of leading our youth on ski trips and camping adventures, gathering together at our annual Crab Feed, and serving during Winter Nights. These moments — both sacred and ordinary — have shaped me and deepened my understanding of what it means to be in Christian community.

Through all these years, St. Anselm's has remained a constant source of grace in my life.

After serving the last five years as Canon at Grace Cathedral, I have felt a deep and persistent call to explore what God may be asking of me next. Retirement has opened a sacred space for reflection, prayer, and listening, and I feel led to begin this discernment process with humility and hope.

It is a gift to have both the time and the support of this community as I step into this season. Discernment is, by nature, a process of discovery — and I hope that together we may uncover new ways for me to share God's love in service to you and to the wider world.

I ask for your prayers, your wisdom, and your companionship along the way.

With gratitude and love,
Eva Woo Slavitt



Outreach Drive-of-the-Month



Thank you to everyone who contributed to St. Dorothy's Rest for our June outreach. We collected lots of towels and sunscreen for campers as well as \$1,290. Your generosity is appreciated!

In July we collected food for the 10,000 lunches program.

This month we are collecting backpacks for Lamorinda Care Collective to help their clients get ready to go back to school shopping. We will take any color.

Joni Pearve
Service Chair
Outreach Chair



Michael Lane Preschool

Happy Summer! Michael Lane Preschool is closed for the summer and our class birds are vacationing with various families. Holly is still giving tours and finishing up our fall enrollment which is looking good with just a few openings left. We make a yearbook every year for our families and this month, the children came by the school to pick them up and play.

Holly will begin home visits to each new family in August, and we look forward to our school picnic with St. Anselm's and various beginning of the year activities on the horizon.

Until then, enjoy these sweet summer days!

Warmly,
Holly Higgins
Director, Michael Lane Preschool



Fall Enrollment

We are busy touring families and getting ready to welcome new preschoolers to our program this August! If you know anyone looking for a preschool please send them our way.

There is more information about our school and an application on our [WEB-SITE](#). Scheduling a tour is a great first step for families to learn about our program and see if we are a good fit.

Welcoming the Stranger: Reflections on Service Work in the Diocese of Mexico

Join Sean Potts for stories, photos, music, and conversation from a recent volunteer journey to the Anglican Diocese of Mexico. Together we'll reflect on what it means to welcome the stranger and build communities of belonging, hope, and compassion.

Aug. 23 (Zoom) • Aug. 30 (St. Anselm's, Lafayette)

Details and registration: <https://linktr.ee/spiritsongs>
seanpottsmusic@gmail.com



A reminder about St. Anselm's, Lafayette Endowment

Celebrating 65 years & counting

Why an Endowment?

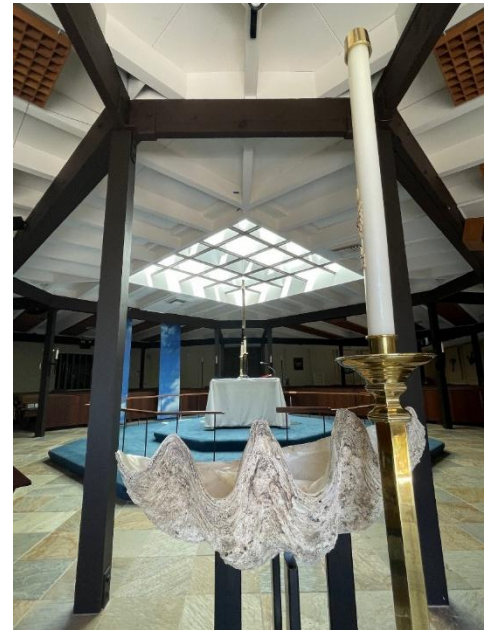
On October 22, 1960, St. Anselm's was dedicated. In 2025, in preparation for our parish's 65th anniversary, St. Anselm's Vestry voted to establish an endowment to support our parish's long-term continuity and vitality. The Vestry seeded the endowment with memorial funds of \$32,500.

With donations since then and asset appreciation, the endowment is now ~\$100,000.

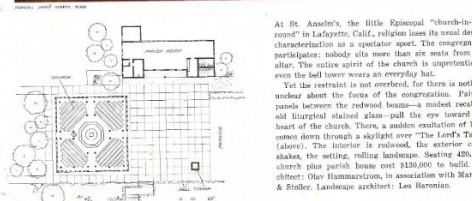
Purpose

Income from the St. Anselm's Lafayette Endowment will support music, education, and the upkeep of sacred spaces.

Giving thanks to the saints, planning ahead



Mission-in-the-round



At St. Anselm's, the little Episcopal "church-in-the-round" in Lafayette, Calif., religion loses its usual deal characterization as a spectator sport. The congregant participants; nobody sits more than six seats from the altar. The entire spirit of the church is unpretentious even the bell tower wears an everyday hat.

Yet the restraint is not overdone, for there is nothing unclear about the focus of the congregation. Paint panels between the redwood beams—a modest recall of the stained glass—pull the eye toward the heart of the church. There, a sudden exaltation of light comes down through a skylight over "The Lord's Table" (above). The interior is redwood, the exterior on shakes, the setting, rolling landscape. Seating 400, church plus parish house cost \$180,000 to build. Architect: Olav Hammarstrom, in association with Mary & Butler. Landscape architect: Lee Barnstein.

A huge thank you goes out to all the St. Anselm's members who have made gifts in memory or honor of a loved one or have included St. Anselm's in their wills. These gifts from past and present parishioners have enabled our endowment's initial funding.

Funds for the St. Anselm's Lafayette Endowment are managed by the Episcopal Church Foundation, which manages endowments for hundreds of Episcopal churches, dioceses, schools, and church-related organizations. A long-term focus allows the endowment to invest in longer-term assets.

Contribute to St. Anselm's Endowment

Please Do NOT Divert from Your Pledge – Annual Pledge Comes First!

Donations Can Be in the Form of:

- Check – to St. Anselm's, with "Endowment" on the memo line
- Zeffy – to St. Anselm's, please contact the office to let them know it's for the Endowment
- Stock – please contact John Power or Peg Matson for our Wells Fargo account number
- Check from your IRA – to St. Anselm's, with Endowment on the memo line
- In your estate plans (will), designating St. Anselm's Lafayette Endowment as a beneficiary

Stock

- We're not your tax advisor; this is not tax advice – contact your tax advisor.
- If you buy a share of ABC stock for \$10, and it goes up to \$30, you can:
Sell it, and pay capital gains taxes on $\$30 - \$10 = \$20$. Or Donate it, pay no capital gains taxes, and take a \$30 deduction against your ordinary income.
- Depending on your tax bracket, this can be a great deal. Ask your broker (e.g. Schwab) for a donation form. Contact me or Peg for St. Anselm's Wells Fargo account number

IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

This not tax advice – contact your tax advisor.

Most IRA and 401K plans require that you take a minimum distribution each year starting at age 73. Usually, any charitable contribution can be included against your RMD.

That means, if you have \$500,000 in your IRA when you turn 73, you must take (about) \$20,000. Instead, you can:

- Take a portion of your RMD as income
- Make a donation from your IRA or 401K to St. Anselm's Lafayette Endowment
- Count that donation as part of your RMD
- Take a deduction for the charitable contribution
- Pay income tax only on the portion you do NOT donate
- Such Donations May Be of Special Benefit if You Inherit an IRA (Roth or Ordinary)
– If This Applies to You, Please Consult your Tax Advisor

Estate Plan

You can designate the St. Anselm's Lafayette Endowment as a beneficiary in your will:

- Lowers the total (potentially taxable) portion of your estate
- Leaves a legacy for the long-term benefit of St. Anselm's
- Really as simple as that – consult your estate planning advisor

St. Anselm's, Lafayette Endowment Committee

John Powers
Keith Pearce
Iris Hillman

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

682 Michael Ln.
Lafayette, CA 94549
stanselmslafayette.org

St. Anselm's Tax ID # is 94-6040081

Updated August 5, 2026



Saturday, August 15th
From 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



**St. Anselm's 2nd Annual Summer
 Parish/Preschool
 Family Picnic**

Please join us
Saturday, August 15th
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**A community gathering celebrating
 the end of Summer and the
 return to school**

Food, Fun and Games
Including a Bounce House

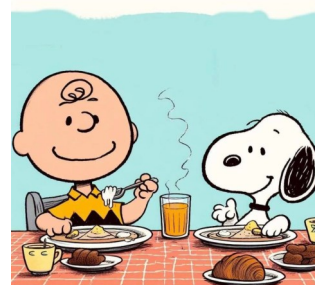
EVERYONE WELCOME!
Children welcome to bring
bikes and scooters

Please RSVP to
Parish@stanselms.us

or

Signup in person in the parish hall

**You're invited to join
 The Lunch Bunch**



WHEN? Aug. 18th & Sep. 15th at 11:30 am.
 Third Tuesday of every month,

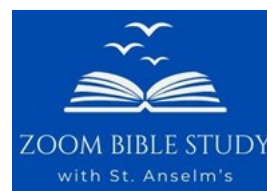
WHERE? Town Bakery and Café
 337 Rheem Blvd, Moraga 94556

Wide variety of food choices. Bring a spouse, relative, and/or friend.

In order to sit together vs being spread around the restaurant, **please call or send an email to Katie Taggart the day before**, to let her know you will be attending. She will alert the restaurant staff about the number of people arriving so they can accommodate us as a group. Katie: email: katietaggart@att.net Cell: 415-686-5790.

To view menu: [Our Daily Menu | Town Bakery & Cafe](#)

If anyone needs help covering the cost of lunch, please let Rev. Will know and it will be taken care of.



**Thursday Evening
 Bible Study**

All are welcome to join Deacon Naomi, Rev. Will & St. Anselm's friends as we explore sacred scripture together.

June - Exploring the Gospel of Matthew
 July - Challenge & Hope: Reading Micah
 August - Faith in Action: The Epistle of James

Every Thursday at 7 p.m. on Zoom
 Member I.D. 815 0705 2148
 Passcode 442879

Coffee Hour Hosts



Help provide refreshments following the service. To sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D45A5AF22A64-58747416-stanselms> or contact Sylvia Williams at 925-586-0730.



Donate Old Tech

Thank you to all who donated to support our new digital sound board. Al Swimmer has agreed to continue to collect and sell old tech to support St Anselm's. Donations welcome.

Counters Needed

Each week there is a team of two people, one Vestry member and one congregation member who will take responsibility for counting and recording cash and checks and preparing the deposit. Please contact Peg Matson for more information and/or to volunteer 925-381-1074 or plmatson@comcast.net.

Canterbury Tales

is the monthly newsletter of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA
Phone: (925) 284-7420
web site: www.stanselmslafayette.org

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

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



Celebrating...

August Birthdays

Elaine Sherwood
Ann Burns
Chris Stone
Carolyn Merrill
Margaret Nicholas
Georganne Eddy
Tom Pappas
Kayce Rane
Jon Martin
Hema Harichandran
Janet Nadol
Will Scott
Sylvia Williams



August Anniversaries

John & Leslie Weaver
Hank & Suzanne Gatlin
Carolyn & Doug Merrill
Julie Rinkenberger & JP Zhang
Joni & Keith Pearce
Marian Mukley & John Powers
Elizabeth & Henry Beadle
Joan & Jon Martin



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.

Altar Flowers



Each week the altar is graced with a beautiful flower arrangement that is donated by our generous parishioners.

Altar flower donations can be dedicated to the memory of a loved one, in honor of a family member or simply to the glory of God. The requested donation is \$50 per date. Please sign-up for your selected date and complete a green dedication card. The flower chart and dedication cards can be found next to the east entrance to the church.

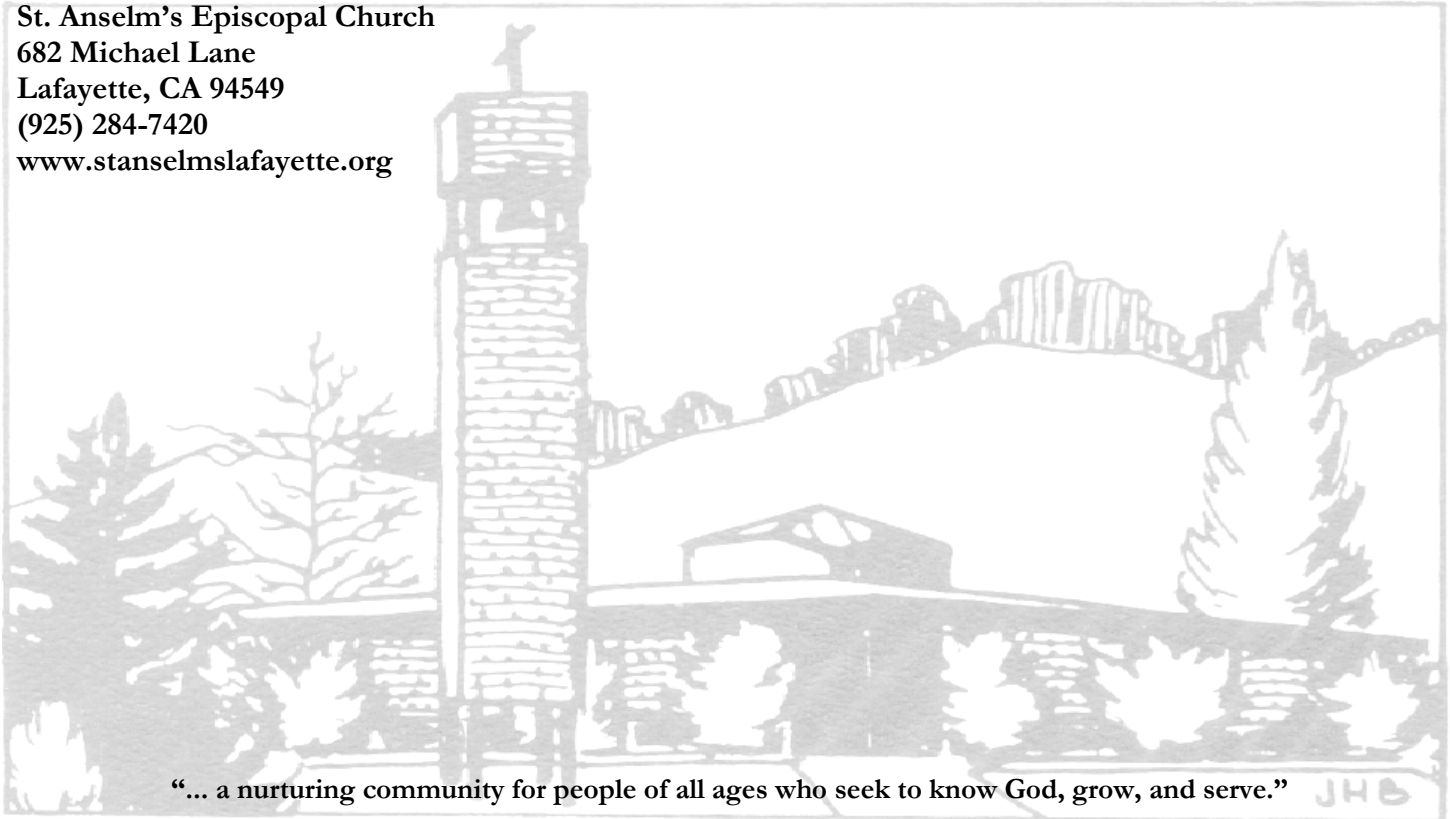
Please make your check payable to "St. Anselm's" and indicate "Altar Guild" on the memo line. You can submit the check and dedication card to the church office or put them in the collection plate. Thank you for your support!

St. Anselm's Staff

The Rev. Will Scott, Rector
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon
Chris Kula, Director of Music
Margaret Wolfe, Office Manager
Steve Zimmerman, Bookkeeper
Holly Higgins, Michael Lane Preschool Director

To schedule an in person conversation with Rev. Will,
email: rector@stanselmslafayette.org

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ministry of the Month — August: [Communications Commission](#)

Sunday, August 2nd — First Sunday All Ages Service at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, August 4th — Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon.

Thursday, August 6th/13th/20th/27th — Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, August 7th/14th/21st/28th — Lamorinda Village Strength & Balance class from 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

Sunday, August 9th — Cancer Support Group will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 11th — Property Commission will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 15th — Work Party from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00a.m.

Saturday, August 15th — Parish/Preschool Family Picnic from 4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 16th — The Vestry will meet in the conference room at 11:15 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, August 18th — Lunch Bunch will meet at The Wences Restaurant at 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, August 29th — Barbara Mascheroni Celebration of Life at 11:00 a.m.
