

Canterbury Tales

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



October 2026

From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's,

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

That famous line from L.M. Montgomery's 1908 novel, *Anne of Green Gables*, perfectly describes my own feelings as I think about our life together at St. Anselm's. Our October calendar is bursting with opportunities to connect with one another and experience God's grace. We will bless animals and celebrate Gene Bozorth's 100th birthday on St. Francis Day, gather for our parish BBQ and Safety Day, and join our friends at Trinity Center's Harvest Festival. At the same time, we will be prayerfully discerning how we are called to *Fund Our Vision* through our 2027 Pledge Campaign.

October is also when we celebrate our parish's anniversary, 66 years ago on October 22nd St. Anselm's was dedicated. We are so blessed by the generations who have supported the vitality of our congregation's life, who have made our sanctuary a place "where prayer has been valid" to borrow a line from T.S. Eliot's "Little Gidding." While the chapel Eliot refers to is ancient compared to our mid-century space, both are relatively modest structures where the gathered congregation is invited to sit facing one another.

Since coming to serve St. Anselm's I have enjoyed getting to explore different aspects of our parish's history, but also the life, writings, and prayers of our namesake, St. Anselm. The Italian born Benedictine monk who served as Archbishop of Canterbury for over 15 years from 1093-1109. Below is Anselm's "A Song of Christ's Goodness" which I invite you to pray throughout this vibrant month October.

*Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Often you weep over our sins and our pride,
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,
in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life;
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.
In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.*

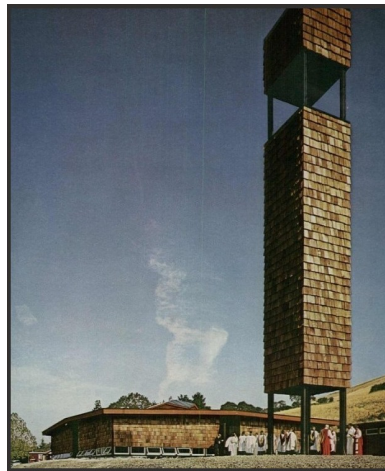


Photo from Architectural Forum, 1961

See you soon!

Peace,
Will



Anselm's Angels

Thank you to everyone who stepped up in response to the Winter Nights closure, especially **Joni Pearce, Eva Woo, Marty Fischer, Susan Crawford** and **Anne Brown**.

Thank you to **Judy Peak** for her continuing support of our Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Worship Commission, we give special thanks to **Elisabeth Ward** for her years of service, and **Eva Woo** for stepping back into the role.

Thank you to **Keith Pearce, Kayce Rane**, and **Julie Starr** for convening our parish's vocation discernment committee.

Thank you to our Vestry for all their work on our strategic vision, and to our Stewardship Commission, especially its chair **Katie Taggart** for all their work putting together our 2027 Pledge Campaign.

From The Senior Warden

My backyard quail, which I feed every morning, ar beginning the gather into a “Covey” for the winter. My two feline house-mates, Cricket and Duffy have already claimed their favorite heated bed, which I plug in when nights are cold. We, at St. Anselm’s are also preparing for our fall and winter schedule: Blessing of the Animals, Vestry leaders gathering information to work on Goals for the Strategic Plan, Stewardship Drive beginning Oct. 4th, Parish BBQ dinner October10th, to mention several of many events coming up. Plans are in the works to plant large areas of daffodil bulbs at each entrance to the parking lot after the rains start softening up the ground, in hopes of drawing attention with a show of blooms in the spring. Everyone is invited to share the opportunities to work together, enjoy getting to know others better, and feel connected by being in communication. Some of us oldsters can participate by doing some of the minor chores needed to put all of this in place. We can support others by just being present. Please know that you are missed when absent. Here’s a quote that caught my attention: “AUTUMN IS GOD’S WAY OF SHOWING US HOW BEAUTIFUL CHANGE CAN BE.”

Iris Hillman
Senior Warden



Vestry Updates

The Vestry met on Sept 20, 2026. St. Anselm’s sponsored a table at the Trinity Center Harvest Festival and there are some spaces left. We would like a good turnout given our history with Trinity Center.

Marian Mulkey, Treasurer, presented much information to the Vestry about the current assets, reserves, and endowment. The majority of this information is available in the Vestry Meeting Minutes posted on the Conference Room wall.

- The Vestry approved moving 100,000 from the Memorial Funds to the Endowment.
- The Vestry approved the delegation of decision-making power to the Finance Committee regarding exact timing of funds transfer. The Finance Committee will consult with the Endowment Committee in making these decisions.
- The Vestry approved the use of \$50,000 to support physical plant improvements aligned with the Vestry’s recent strategic plan. Funds and any additional revenues raised for this purpose will be accounted for separately from other revenues and property expenses.

The Vestry received reports from the subcommittees working on the Strategic Vision. Work on the parish calendar, signage, physical improvements, and welcoming is under way.

The Vestry received reports from the Property Commission, the Stewardship Commission, the Outreach Commission, and the Preschool. Of note: Painting continues on campus; the Parish BBQ is October 10; Preschool enrollment is at a healthy number.

The next Vestry meeting is October 18, 2026, in the conference room at 11:30AM. All are welcome to attend Vestry meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Starr, clerk.

Stewardship Campaign: Funding Our Vision



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|-----------|--|
| Oct.4th | Introduction of Stewardship Drive by Katie Taggart & Julie Rinkenberger |
| Oct 11th | Goal 1: Strengthening our internal capacity to serve by Sarah Vickers-Webb & Dana Santa Cruz |
| Oct 18th | Goal 2: create an accessible and vibrant spiritual home by Sue Crawford & Alan Swimmer |
| Oct. 25th | Goal 3: welcome & Attract new members by John Powers & Keith Pearce |
| Nov. 1st | Ingathering Sunday: bring pledge cards to church
celebratory coffee hour: coffee cake, quiche & champagne |

Outreach Drive-of-the-Month

For the month of October, we will be collecting toiletries for [Lamorinda Care Collective](#). We will collect full size containers of toiletry items for the clients of Lamorinda Care Collective. We are collecting:



- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Bath wash
- Toothpaste
- Individually wrapped toothbrushes
- Lotion
- Feminine products
- Shaving cream
- Razors

Please bring items in throughout the month of October. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Joni Pearce, Outreach Chair

First Sunday at St. Anselm's

Worship. Wonder. Community.

Expect joyful music, an interactive sermon, engaging moments for kids, and plenty of opportunities for everyone to participate.



Sunday, October 4th

St. Francis Day with Blessing of the Animals (and stuffies)

Sunday, November 1st

All Saints Day with an interactive sermon & a seasonal craft. Costumes welcome!

Sunday, December 6th

A visit with St. Nicholas of Myra & St. John the Baptist

All ages welcome. Bring your children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends.

Michael Lane Preschool Updates

Hello from Michael Lane Preschool!

We are settling into our school year over at Michael Lane Preschool! Our puppets Billy and Sally continue to teach and remind us of our school rules. They also model how to follow directions and how “not to” follow directions. It’s incredible how well the children listen and laugh when the puppets are the teachers. The kids have been exploring the themes of “Colors” and “Family.”

October will also bring back our parent volunteer program. We are excited to welcome parents into the classroom to help with activities and see their children in action. This month, we will also have a Fundraiser at Headlands Brewery, a great time for families to get to know each other. These are all goals of our school - to help build community with both the children and parents, and I’m thrilled to offer both!

I forgot to thank Peg, Will+, and the St. Anselm’s Community for a lovely Back to School picnic in August. A wonderful new tradition for all of us!

Warmly,
Holly Higgins
Director, Michael Lane Preschool



St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals

*Bring your Family Pets/Stuffed
Animals to be blessed*

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

682 Michael Lane, Lafayette

10 a.m. Sunday, October 4, 2026

For the First Sunday All Ages Service
BLESSING and FUN including, snacks,
crafts, activities and a bouncy house!

FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS

Rescue dogs from Nonprofit **HUGS FOR HARRY**



SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY OCTOBER 10th. 4-7PM
St. Anselm's Parish dinner (in the parish hall)

4pm-5pm Appetizers & Beverages
5pm Dinner from Back Forty Restaurant
Music by "The Touchstone Trio"

Donation: \$25. per person
Children under 5 yrs. free
Your donation is your reservation
Make check to St. Anselm's
Write "Parish Life" on note line
& send to the church:
682 Michael Lane, Laf. 94549



RSVP to hosts, Suzanne & Hank Gatlin
for questions/reservation information.
Cell: 310-987-8445 or Email: hg3dodgers@yahoo.com
(If, for any reason, the cost is a hardship, please let Fr. Will know
and it will be taken care of.)
Signup deadline: Sunday October. 4th

**4th Annual
Lamorinda Public Safety Day**

October 24, 2026

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Fun for kids, free food and information for everyone!!

Bring the whole family!

Participants include:

Lafayette Police Department

Contra Costa County Fire

Prevention Department

Community Emergency Rescue Team (CERT)

Contra Costa County Search and Rescue

Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group

American Red Cross, PG&E and MORE!!

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

682 Michael Lane, Lafayette

**Fire Truck at
10 a.m.**



**Search
& Rescue**



October Birthdays

Gene Bozworth
Duane Nelsen
David Rowe
Doug Merrill
Elisabeth Ward
Sharyn Barrington-Carlson
Ronda Garcia
Amy Orear
Allen Zhang
Kate Ruby
Margaret Young
Mark Stewart
Audrey Miskelley



October Anniversaries

Matt Chayt & Will Scott
Bob & Georganne Eddy



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.

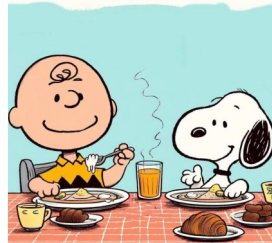
Canterbury Tales

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

You're invited to join The Lunch Bunch



WHEN? Oct. 20th at 11:30 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of the month

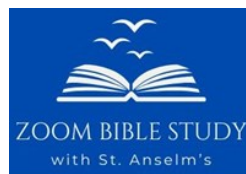
WHERE? Mona's Burgers
1574 Palos Verdes Mall
Walnut Creek

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](#)

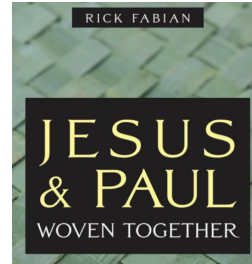
Thursday Evening Bible Study



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

Every Thursday at 7 p.m. on Zoom

Member I.D. 815 0705 2148
Passcode 442879



Sundays:
November 8th & December 13th
at 11:15 a.m. during Coffee Hour

Thursdays:
November 12 & December 10th
7 p.m. on Zoom

St. Anselm's Christian Formation Commission is excited to welcome the Rev. Rick Fabian, cofounder of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, San Francisco and author of "Signs of Life: Worship for a Just and Loving People" and "Jesus and Paul Woven Together". More to come in future editions of Canterbury Tales.



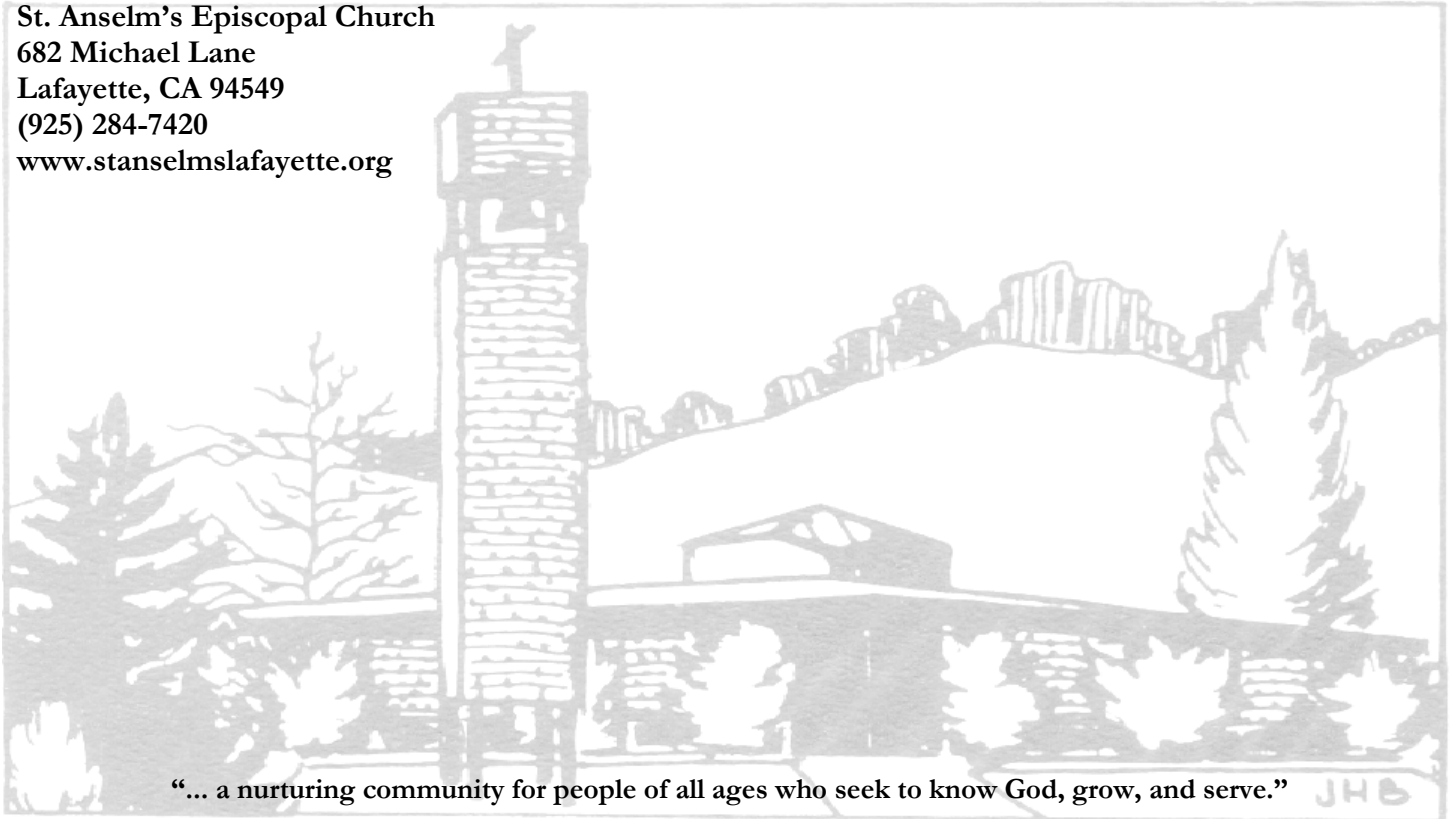
Saturday, October 3rd
9:00 a.m. to noon

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 — [Stewardship Commission](#)

Thursday, October 1st/8th/15th/ 22nd/29th — Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 2nd/9th/16th/23rd/30th — Lamorinda Village Strength & Balance class from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

Saturday, October 3rd — Work Party at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 4th — First Sunday All Ages Service– Blessing of the Animals at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 6th — Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon.

Tuesday, October 6th — Property Commission will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 10th — Deanery Youth at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 10th — Parish BBQ at 4:00-7:00 p.m..

Sunday, October 11th — Altar Guild will meet in the sanctuary at 11:30 a.m.

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

Wednesday, October 14th — Book Club meets in the library at 2:00 p.m..

Sunday, October 18th — The Vestry will meet in the conference room at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, October 20th — Lunch Bunch will meet at Mona's Burgers in Walnut Creek at 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 24th — 4th Annual Lamorinda Public Safety Day from 9:00 a.m.– Noon

Sunday, October 25th — Stephen Ministers will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m.