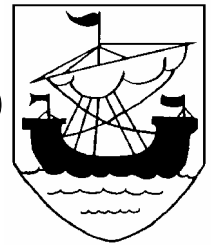


# Canterbury Tales



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

February 2012

## *From The Rector*

### The Anglican Dance of Love

Based on my experience in pastoral care in the church, I have compiled a list of what I am and what I am not authorized to do:

- I have permission to visit at the hospital and the nursing home.
- I have permission, calling in advance, to visit at home.
- If I ask, I generally have permission to anoint and say a prayer for someone who is ill, facing surgery, or a prolonged recovery, (even for those to whom it seems weird.)
- Quoting scripture is generally not on the approved list for pastoral visitations. I do it occasionally anyway, but very quickly and then I move it along with a comment along the lines of 'How 'bout them Bears!'

A while back I was with a parishioner whose cancer had metastasized. When it made sense, I quoted 2 Corinthians 5:2, "*For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling.*" Except I tripped up on 'heavenly dwelling.' That was okay with him; he didn't want to go there anyway. He didn't talk much at the time; I think it was painful for him to do so. And he wouldn't say so. But he knew the truth in the statement, of that I am certain.

It was sometimes like water witching with this individual, knowing what to say, how to say it, when to come, when to go. One thing did work though, I think. I was driving home after visiting him in the rest home. It was shortly after I became aware of his trajectory with cancer. I was praying for him beneath the canopy of the oaks above Wildcat Canyon Road and I had the overwhelming sense that God was going to be with him. The next time I saw him, I told him about my experience.

He thanked me. And my instincts told me it meant a lot to him; a lot more than any Scripture I might quote to him.

We Episcopalians are a pretty self-reliant bunch. It is not that we exclude God from our lives. Far from it. It is just that we aren't all that comfortable with talking about God, even with our Priest.

But I have found in the Episcopal Church showing up, writing the note,

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## *Anselm's Angels*

Once again the Epiphany Party was a truly fun event! Thanks to **Gail Clarke** for her organizational skills; **Avon Wilson & Jill Schon** -- decorating and support work at the party **Matt Gibson** -- procuring supplies; **John, Arthur & Evan Powers** -- table setup; **Pam Carey** -- Sophia Extraordinaire and everyone who brought food, gifts, and helped to clean up.

Thanks to our out-going Vestry members: **Chris Ayles, Anne Brown, Betsy Donovan & Andy Orear.**

We welcome our new Vestry members: Class of 2015: **Bob Eddy, Marty Fischer, Doug Merrill & Shanda Young.**

Congratulations to our new Senior Warden, **Marian Mulkey**, our new Junior Warden, **Matt Gibson**, and our new Clerk of the Vestry, **Shanda Young.**

Congratulations to our new Deanery Delegates: **Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, John McGraw, Sara-Anne Nelson & Judy Peak** and to our new Deanery Alternates: **Gail Clarke, Matt Gibson, Inge O'Neill & Alicia Rolen.**

A big thank you to **Neil Wilson** for his assistance in getting our email issues straightened out.

(Continued from page 1)

delivering the meal, making the call are always valued. It is called the ministry of presence. Today the mother of a parishioner called to thank me for all the people of St. Anselm's had done for her and her daughter while the daughter was recuperating from surgery. Many of you brought meals to their home. It made all the difference to the two, one who had trouble moving about, the other who has trouble seeing. And I know they will not soon forget the kindnesses offered in their time of need.

I left one thing off my list of what I am permitted to do in my pastoral ministry. It is the one thing that you and I have carte blanche to do any time:

Love you,  
John+

### **Rector's DVD Pick of the Month: Downton Abbey (series)**

A British costume drama that takes place at the fictional Yorkshire estate of the Earl and Countess of Grantham in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Similar to Upstairs, Downstairs the series displays the life challenges of interwoven yet separate aristocracy and working class folks living under the same roof, during a time of considerable societal upheaval.

Maggie Smith is wonderful as the cold, scheming dowager Countess.

Season One is available on Netflix via streaming or DVD. Season Two has been completed but isn't yet available. Season Three will be filmed this year.

## **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**

Following services on Sunday, February 5, the Youth Group will be taking its annual collection to benefit the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano.

Please check under your seat cushions for spare change and support this worthy cause by putting money in the soup pots following the service. The Rector's Discretionary Fund will match these contributions, and all checks made out to St. Anselm's with *Supper Bowl Sunday* on the memo line.



## **THE CRAB FEED IS COMING!**



Date: February 25th  
Place: Jackson Hall

5:30 p.m.—Cocktails  
6:00 p.m.—Dinner

Cost:  
\$40/Adult  
\$20/Tweens (6 yrs.-16 yrs.)  
\$10/Child (under 6 yrs.)

## **BAKE SALE Sunday, February 12th**

Come and enjoy home-baked goodies being sold to support the Women's Retreat and work of the Christian Formation Commission.

Goodies will be available for sale between services and after the 10:00 AM service. They go quickly! So come early!!!!

**DONATIONS** of baked goods are being requested from all bakers in the parish. Cakes (whole or divided into pieces), pies, breads, bars, cookies, and candies are possibilities. Use your imagination!!! Please drop off your goodies in the parish kitchen on Saturday or by 8:30 AM on Sunday, February 12th at the latest so they can be priced. Please prepare your goodies by wrapping them ready for sale. Questions? Call Katie McGovern 925-708-1987.



*Canterbury Tales* is the monthly newsletter of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA  
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Editor:  
Carol J. Fontana

**Sunday Services:**  
8 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
(Nursery and Sunday School)

**St. Anselm's Staff**  
The Rev. John Sutton, Rector  
The Rev. T.C. Yao, Associate  
Carol Fontana, Office Manager

## *The Senior Warden*

Being Senior Warden this year has been a privilege and a growth experience for me. Ever since joining St. Anselm's in 2004, I've felt at home and appreciated our spirit of friendliness and inclusion, our worship and activities. However, it wasn't until serving on the Vestry that I realized the energy, personal dedication and talent that goes into making St. Anselm's what it is. We are so fortunate! Take Fr. John, for instance – pre-Vestry I knew him to be a person with an open and loving heart, Spirit-filled, able to listen and to make sense of theological conundrums. Now I know him also to be a superb administrator. This combination of talents is rare in one person. So how lucky are we! He, and all of us, are supported by the willing, competent, and big-hearted Carol, who's been ever-patient and encouraging with me.

Pre-Vestry, I enjoyed events and perks, saying to myself, "Crab feed, Epiphany Party – such fun!" "We have such a well-kept church and property, beautiful altar flowers, great choir. I love inviting people to come here." "I'm so proud of us for our outreach." "I love that we do both traditional and non-traditional worship services during the church year." Etc., you get the point. After three years on the Vestry I realize the time, energy, intentionality, and good will that go into creating all this. At every Vestry meeting we have Commission Reports. I now know that those "fun" Parish Life events involve lots of planning and work, with a Vestry member liaison for each one. I know that months ahead of the Harvest Festival we were talking about it, meeting with Amy Orear, Yvonne Grace, and Peggy Matson, and that they and their team made possible the success that we had. Ditto for Eva Woo and Winter Nights! I now know the thoughtfulness and care with which Bill Donovan and the Property Commission oversee our property. Months ahead of Lent and the Women's Retreat, Katie McGovern is thinking about programs and running ideas by her team. I now know the thought and concern that Paul Witkay and his team put into planning the yearly stewardship drive. I know that Gail Clarke and her team are putting creativity and determination into making St. Anselm's visible. I suspect that the Worship Commission, led by Fr. John, is allowing itself to be led by the Spirit. Now every Sunday I join with Naomi "in thanksgiving for the gifts and presence of one another."

Kudos to my fellow members of the Class of 2012. Andy Orear, our Jr. Warden, funny and kind. He kept bringing up congregational concerns and issues, not letting us forget them. At one point he was the only one to vote against a Vestry proposal for a budget cut, because he thought it wasn't what the congregation would want. Chris Ayles, dry sense of humor, willing to ask tough questions and draw attention to issues. He and Peter Grace joined the Altar Guild when they heard at a Vestry meeting of a membership shortage. They may be the first male members in the history of Christendom! Betsy Donovan was our clerk for 2 years. She'd be busily writing notes on her computer and would suddenly raise her head, with some very spot-on, discerning question or comment. A skilled pilot, she's good at paying attention to detail, while not missing the big picture.

Last, but not least, we have the ubiquitous Doug Merrill, our shadow Vestry member for three years, now an actual one. He spearheaded the drive to have the T-Mobile project approved by the Planning Commission, encouraging us to attend the meetings, suggesting talking points, and translating the issues into language we non-techies could comprehend. He showed up every time there was a budget issue and helped us formulate our budget every year. On a personal note, he shepherded me through buying space in the columbarium for Brad's ashes. He's on several commissions, a sensitive, dedicated person.

I owe special thanks to Susan Barnes, not only for her hours of work on our financial reports, but her willingness to take extra time to educate me on how to read those reports and make sense of them! Thanks also to my predecessors, Walter Blount and Peter Grace, who were supportive and encouraging at every turn.

What was growth-producing for me? Those dreaded *Canterbury Tales* articles. Writing about my faith deepened it. Also, I have wanted to write a book about Brad's program and ideas. Having only written term papers and a dissertation, I wasn't sure I could make anything interesting. Not only did I enjoy the writing, but I was encouraged by your feedback. I feel very much at home now at St. Anselm's and celebrate the relationships that have developed with so

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### Senior Warden cont.

many of you. Thank you so much and thank you, John, for this honor and opportunity.

So now..... There's a new warden in town! Someone I respect deeply, who's spirited, intentional, full of ideas, humor, and common sense. Go Marian!

*Anne Brown*

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## ANNOUNCING!

### The Women's Retreat Scholarship Fund

The Christian Formation Commission is pleased to announce the formation of the Women's Retreat Restricted Fund for retreat scholarships. We hope that this fund will give all St. Anselm's women access to the annual Women's Retreat. The weekend retreat is a nourishing and affirming experience for many participants. If you or someone you care about benefits from retreat experiences, consider making a small donation to this fund. In making a gift, please note Women's Retreat Fund on the memo line.

And thank you to **Betsy and Fred Fielding**, Betty Fielding's daughter and son, for seeding the fund in Betty's memory.

## MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL

Upon returning to school after the winter break we quickly got right back into the swing of things. The children in the Mon-Wed-Fri class spontaneously began playing with the aerial maps that Betsy Donovan, a former preschool parent and pilot, donated to our school a couple of years ago. We observed the children with the maps and pencils as they planned "trips" to take as they filled the backpacks from the classroom with needed supplies: plastic food, stuffed animals, dishes, jewelry, you know, the essentials for any hike. Taking their lead we decided to explore the use of maps with them and introduce the many types of maps that people use. We have discussed "maps" of buildings (floor plans), snow maps, city maps, the world map, a map of our country, a driving atlas, to mention a few. The children made maps of their neighborhoods and we also made a map of the neighborhood of Michael Lane Preschool before taking a walk on the path of Murray Lane. We are continuing to explore this study more as we now are talking about the world and all the places in it and how people in different parts of the world speak different languages. We made a web of all the places people in our class have been to. It is pretty impressive.

The Tue-Thu class is continuing to become more and more comfortable with the whole preschool experience as they begin to play and work together. Children are forming friendships now and cooperative play is increasing. The focus of the class is truly to create a comfortable community for the children that is "theirs". The children as a whole are beginning to participate in more cooperative activities such as board games and cooking. We recently did a web of the safety rules necessary while riding bikes. Firefighter play continues to be a dominant theme in the play we see in this class.

We have also been exploring some of the traditional topics for this time of year for both classes. We have snow in the sand table, we have played penguin board games, thrown "sock" snowballs outside, and have done sock ice skating. All the winter books are out in the classroom. It has been a bit strange to discuss winter with the warm weather we've been having, and we have been discussing a winter drought in Lafayette. But now winter has finally arrived!

*Kim Olson*

## ***ST. ANSELM'S WOMEN'S RETREAT!***

**March 2 – 4, 2012 at Mercy Center, Burlingame**

This year the theme of the retreat is "The God We Know"; it builds on ideas taken from Marcus Borg's book The God We Never Knew. Borg writes about how, for many Christians, the images of God that they first knew as a child linger throughout life. These early images of God shape our relationship with God and people in important ways--- for better or worse. He suggests that it is worth our time to examine these images, where they come from, and how they influence us. This will be the project for the retreat.

Participants are asked to read chapters one and three of Borg's book prior to the retreat, if possible. It can be purchased from Amazon or Barnes and Noble for about \$14 in paperback.

Carpools from St. Anselm's will be arranged. The cost of the weekend to participants is \$125 which should be paid to Carol Fontana **as soon as possible**. (The cost of the weekend to St. Anselm's is \$240 per person. Donations toward offsetting these expenses are gratefully received. Please make a note on your check.) The cost includes all meals from Friday supper through Sunday breakfast, coffee and tea throughout the day, and all bedding and towels. Participants need only bring comfortable clothes, toiletries, and reading/knitting/writing materials.

Questions about the retreat or requests for carpools? Call Katie McGovern at 925-708-1987. Please make your payments early so we can confirm our numbers with Mercy Center.

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## ***THIS YEAR'S: LENTEN SERIES- LITURGY: THE PEOPLE'S WORK***

This year's Lenten series will be held on the first four Tuesdays of Lent, beginning on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The evenings will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Jackson Hall with a simple meal of soup, salad and bread. (Donations will be taken for the Contra Costa and Solano County Food Bank.)

The word liturgy derives from a Greek word meaning, 'The People's Work.' It is an apt term, as anyone who has worked to develop a service of worship for a community recognizes the many tradeoffs involved in developing a spiritually meaningful experience for a variety of people.

The Lenten series this year will invite all participants to consider what is meaningful to them in worship. With what part of worship do you resonate? Music? A sermon? The Eucharist? Corporate prayer? Are there particular moments in the service where you are tuned in? Tuned out? Of the various liturgies that we use throughout the year, what do you like most? Least? Out of our discussions, we will develop a service that will be used on the Sunday following Easter, April 15th. The service that day will reflect The People of St. Anselm's Work!

We will start the program with a broad discussion around what in corporate worship brings us in touch with God and seek to define and develop a cohesive service that is meaningful for all. (Therein lies the rub...)

If you would like to provide a meal for one of the evenings, please contact Katie McGovern at 925-708-1987.

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**St. Anselm's Episcopal Church  
Summary Financial Report  
2011 Financial Results**

	2011 Actual	2011 Budget	Variance
<b>Revenues</b>	\$281,140	\$278,651	\$2,489
<b>Expenses</b>	\$270,471	\$278,651	\$8,180
<b>General Fund Addition/ Subtraction (Carry Over )</b>	\$10,669	\$0	\$10,669
<b>Line of Credit Balance 12/31/10</b>	<b>Line of Credit Balance 12/31/11</b>		<b>Yearly Debt Reduction</b>
\$72,240	\$39,273		\$32,967
<b>General Fund Balance December, 31, 2010</b>	<b>General Fund Balance December 31, 2011</b>		<b>2011 Change</b>
\$48,308	\$58,977		\$10,669
			<b>2011 Budget</b>
			\$0

### Revenues

Total Revenues for 2011 exceeded budget by \$2,489. 2011 Budgeted Revenue was \$278,651 and includes 2011 Pledge, Post Paid Pledge, Plate, Miscellaneous Income, Cell Tower Lease and Interest Revenues.

2011 Pledge revenues, which account for 83% of our budgeted revenues, were 102% of budget or \$5,533 higher than budget accounting for a positive variance to budget.

Offsetting this positive variance were negative revenue variances totaling \$3,043 as follows:

Plate Revenues, which accounts for 5% of our budgeted revenues, experiencing a negative variance of \$1,041;

Interest Earned, which accounts for *less than* 1% off the budgeted revenues, with a negative variance of \$659;

Post Paid Pledges (2010 pledges received in 2011), which account for 1% of the budgeted revenues, with a negative variance of \$505;

Verizon Revenues, accounting for 8% of our budgeted revenues, with a negative variance of \$528.

Miscellaneous Income, accounting for 3% of our budgeted revenues, with a negative variance of \$310.

All negative revenue variances to the budgeted revenues were reviewed and acknowledged during our monthly financial reviews.

### Operating Expenses

Total Expenses for 2011 had a positive variance to budget resulting in our actual expenditures coming in less than budgeted expenses by \$8,180. 2011 Budgeted Expenses were \$278,651 and includes General Fund expenses directly related to staffing, Diocesan Support, Building Operations, Debt Service and Budgeted Outreach.

Accounting for approximately 90%, or \$7,343, of the positive variance of \$8,180 were lower expenditures in the following expense categories:

Office Supplies and Equipment were \$3,210 positive variance;

Building/Grounds and Maintenance were \$2,551 positive variance;

Diocesan Audit/Church Assessments were \$1,583 positive variance.

All variances to the budgeted operating expenses were reviewed and acknowledged during our monthly financial reviews.

### General Fund

2011 General Fund Additions/Subtractions exceeded our break even budget, or budgeted revenue equal budgeted expenditures, based on the net of the favorable revenue variance of \$2,489 and favorable budgeted expenses variance of \$8,180 to result in an increase to our General Fund balance of \$10,669. General Fund Additions in excess of budgeted expectations will be reviewed by the Vestry for either designation to a Discretionary Fund or Use in the General Fund.

### Line of Credit

Debt reduction for 2011 totaled \$32,769 and is reflected by the reduction in our Line of Credit Balance at 12/31/10 of \$72,240 and our 12/31/11 Year End Balance of \$39,273. Debt reduction was sourced from both the General Fund, via the regularly scheduled budget, and specific donations.

Of the \$32,769, 58%, or \$19,079, was directed through our 2011 General Fund Budget and 42%, or \$13,690 was sourced from Specific Capital Fund Donations. Approximately 27% of the General Fund Budget for Line of Credit Debt reduction was redirected, by the Vestry, to absorb legal and maintenance expenses associated with the T- Mobil application with the City of Lafayette.

*Upcoming Events in February*

1	Wed	9:00 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
4	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
5	Sun		<b>Souper Bowl Sunday</b>
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
7	Tue	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		1:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
		3:00 p.m.	Memorial Service for Ted Sawyer
8	Wed	9:00 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		12:15 p.m.	Michael Lane Preschool Board Meeting
11	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
12	Sun		<b>Women's Retreat Bake Sale</b>
		10:00 a.m.	<b>Stephen Ministry Commissioning</b>
14	Tue		<b>Valentine's Day</b>
		11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		3:00 p.m.	Christian Formation Commission Meeting
15	Wed	9:00 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		3:00 p.m.	Property Commission Meeting
18	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
19	Sun		<b>Canterbury Tales Deadline</b>
		11:30 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
20	Mon		<b>Presidents' Day—The Church Office will be closed</b>
		7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
21	Tue	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		5:30 p.m.	<b>Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper</b>
22	Wed		<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		Noon	<b>Service with Imposition of Ashes</b>
		7:00 p.m.	<b>Service with Imposition of Ashes</b>
25	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		5:30 p.m.	<b>CRAB FEED</b>
26	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Inquirers' Group
28	Tue	11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		6:30 p.m.	<b>Lenten Series</b>
29	Wed	9:00 a.m.	Hatha Yoga



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



**Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is February 19th**

### ***Actual Answers From Students On Music Exams***

Young scholars have expressed their rapture for The Bronze Lullaby, The Taco Bell Cannon, Beethoven's Erotica, Tchaikovsky's Cracknutter Suite, and Gershwin's Rap City in Blue.

The principal singer of nineteenth century opera was called pre-Madonna.

Gregorian chant has no music, just singers singing the same lines.

Sherbet composed the Unfinished Symphony.

All female parts were sung by castrati. We don't know exactly what they sounded like because there are no known descendants.

Music sung by two people at the same time is called a duel; if they sing without music it is called Acapulco.

A virtuoso is a musician with real high morals.

Contralto is a low sort of music only ladies sing.

Probably the most marvelous fugue was the one between the Hatfields and the McCoys.

A harp is a nude piano.

Refrain means don't do it. A refrain in music is the part you'd better not try to sing.

I know what a sextet is but I'd rather not say.

My favorite composer was Opus. Agnus Dei was a woman composer famous for her church music.

Johann Sebastian Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic.

Several famous post-romantic concerti were composed by Rock Monanoff.