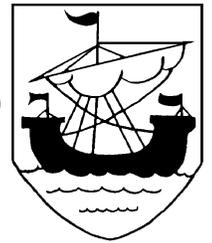


# Canterbury Tales



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

March , 2019

## *From The Rector*

### Inside Out. Outside In.

When I was in high school the three best teachers I had were gay men. Two of them lived together in a high rise by Lake Merritt. They never told me, I just knew. During morning recess, I used to hang out with them in the classroom. They were my friends.

After I graduated from high school there were many seminal moments that united the gay community. Shared anger over the murders of Harvey Milk and Matthew Shepard. Collective grief of those lost to AIDS. Shared joy in marriage equality. I don't know if my three friends spoke to their students about any of these events. I am nearly certain that by virtue of who they were, they continued to be extremely effective advocates to everyone that gay people deserve full acceptance.

This month our Lenten series will be focusing on LGBTQ issues. The letters stand for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning. For some of us this community represents 'the other.' And yet they are not. They are people among us, fellow parishioners who have a story to tell, and it is a Christian story. In the Lenten spirit of introspection, I invite you as you read this article into a first exploration: can you make time to be with us on four successive Tuesday evenings beginning on March 12<sup>th</sup> to come and hear what the journey of some members of the LGBTQ community has been like? It will be a tangible way of exploring just how broad God's reach is in making his word become flesh.

I am aware that this exploration can be fraught with the peril of politics.

After 9/11 I was approached by a couple of parishioners about placing the American flag in the sanctuary. With some reluctance, I agreed. We had been attacked and the flag offered strength to the grieving.

Two and a half years ago after a gunman murdered 49 people and injured 53 more in his attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando, we draped a rainbow banner over the railing of our staircase on Michael Lane. We have continued to do so during the month of June when the shootings occurred and when Gay Pride week occurs. For me, the original statement we made when we mounted that flag in 2016 continues to this day- we are not a place that sanctions violence against anyone. And we are a place where we continue to explore how we can broaden our reach to include those who have not only been targeted, but marginalized.

But I am grounded in a realization- there is no flag under the banner of heaven that in seeking to unite cannot also serve to divide. Symbols made with the best of intentions, even crosses, crescents and stars are crafted

## *Anselm's Angels*

*"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." ~ Francis of Assisi*

Thanks to all who contributed to the **Souper Bowl** collection and to **Preston & Jordan Lipscomb** and **Liam Perry & Allen Zhang** who stood outside with soup pots in hand. We donated \$2260.56 to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano!

Welcome to our new class of 2022 Vestry members: **Peter Grace, Alex McDonald, Keith Pearce,** and **Eva Woo.** Congratulations to our new Senior Warden, **Caroline Huddart.**

Congratulations to our new Deanery Delegates: **Cindy Eisenberg, Jane House, Chris Stone** and **Liz Sutton** and to our new Deanery Alternates: **Sara Nelson & Gerry Starr.**

The Crab Feed was a huge success with thanks to the many hands who participated:

**Coordinator: Michael Hollinger**  
And his many helpers: **Gary & Wynne Bacon, Lindsay Brown, Laura D'Anna, Bob Eddy, Cindy Eisenberg, Sally Fischer, Norm Gorsuch, Don Helmholtz, Jane House, Lori Lipscomb, Sara Nelson, Arthur & Evan Powers, Sally Roberts, Gerry Starr, Chris Stone, John Sutton, Sara Swimmer. Paul & Cathy Witkay** and **Eva Woo.**

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## 2019 LENTEN SERIES

### *Welcoming LGBTQ People Within Our Faith Community*

This year's Lenten Series (**March 12, 19, 26 and April 2**) will focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) people and the faith community. Personal stories and lived experience will be our primary focus.

On March 12, parishioner Shanda Young will provide context based on her professional and personal experience. On March 19 we will welcome community member Jorge Flores to share how his identity and interactions with church and faith communities have unfolded. On March 26 we will continue to hear stories and discuss relevant historical and cultural context. During the final session on April 2, we will explore how St. Anselm's might more fully realize its ministry to the LGBTQ community.

Each night begins at **6:30 p.m.** with a simple soup and salad supper. Program will begin promptly at 7 p.m. and end by 8:30 p.m. Dinner is provided and an offering to benefit the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties is invited.

Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall; please let us know if you will attend so we can plan food and seating accordingly. We welcome volunteers to provide soup, or bread and salad, for about 25 attendees. Questions can be addressed to Anne Brown ([annechalfantbrown@gmail.com](mailto:annechalfantbrown@gmail.com)) or Marian Mulkey ([marianmulkey@comcast.net](mailto:marianmulkey@comcast.net)) of the Christian Formation Commission.

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

The youth of St. Anselm's will be serving pancakes, sausage and orange juice on Shrove Tuesday, March 5th in Jackson Hall. The supper will begin at 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 and all proceeds will go to the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano Counties.



## TRINITY CENTER GALA: SAVE THE DATE

The Trinity Center "Night of Hope" will be held on Thursday, May 16, at Boundary Oak in Walnut Creek from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. This is the fifth annual Spring Gala for the Trinity Center, which is a key part of their annual fundraising efforts. Your support will help provide housing, employment, meals, temporary shelter, substance abuse and mental health treatment, showers, laundry, and more. St. Anselm's will be organizing a table at this great event; please contact John Powers ([johntpowers@gmail.com](mailto:johntpowers@gmail.com)) to participate.

## SOCK COLLECTION

Dear St. Anselm's Family,

It's that time of year again when deacons collect new white warm socks for our homeless brothers and sisters. I will be collecting new, white sport-type socks for our folks at Trinity Center from March 10th to Palm Sunday, April 14th. There will be a basket in the back of the church designated for socks. Periodically during Lent I will be delivering our socks to the folks at Trinity Center. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,  
Deacon Naomi



*Canterbury Tales* is the monthly newsletter of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA  
Phone: (925) 284-7420  
e-mail: [cathy.w@stanselms.ws](mailto:cathy.w@stanselms.ws)  
web site: [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

Editor:  
Cathy S. Witkay

**Sunday Services:**  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**St. Anselm's Staff**  
The Rev. John Sutton, Rector  
The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon  
Cathy Witkay, Office Manager

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## *The Senior Warden*

Welcome to our new Senior Warden Caroline Huddart. Since she just assumed this role last week, we've given her this first month off from her *Canterbury Tales* article. So watch for her introductory message in April!

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*(Continued from page #)*

### **Rector continued. . . .**

with human hands, and thereby subject to understandings that have limits. It is ironic that in our time, a rainbow flag of inclusion can actually serve to divide. I heard a podcast recently where a woman said, "Everyone of us has a voice that can be heard even if we have to shout to do so!" Except on airport runways, my experience has been that the louder you shout the less people listen.

I am willing to deal with the phone calls left on the answering machine to 'Take that flag down. Churches are not supposed to be involved in politics.' (Yes, we have received that call.) And I welcome the possibility that any LGBTQ person might see in such a flag an invitation to a community in which they would be welcome. My concern is more internal, to those in our fold who honestly struggle to fully accept others. We all have a history, including one of scriptural interpretation, and we don't know how that history might make it harder for another to share an inclusive view.

As a straight white male who in every way comes from a background of privilege, I am aware of what that privilege accords me. In the church, it accords me the trust of others like me. When I preach the gospel, and as long as I stick to the gospel, they will walk with me as I share my view. There are times when I see the honest and pained struggle on the faces of those who are with me on this path and may not agree with what I am saying. In the church, that one moment, that one expression is worth more than a thousand votes in a polling place. Behind it I see Jesus smiling back at me saying, 'He's with us too.'

Our brothers and sisters speaking from the margins tell us that we have all been created by God and in some ways we may not yet recognize, and created differently. Holy Scripture does too. We are called to seek to expand our view, and to meet people where they are so others can as well. How we do that, how we listen and speak is where the world gets healed.

Three high school teachers inspired me. I admired them, shared brotherly love with them, and to this day I am grateful to them. Gentlemen - Thank you for everything you taught me. Everything.

John+

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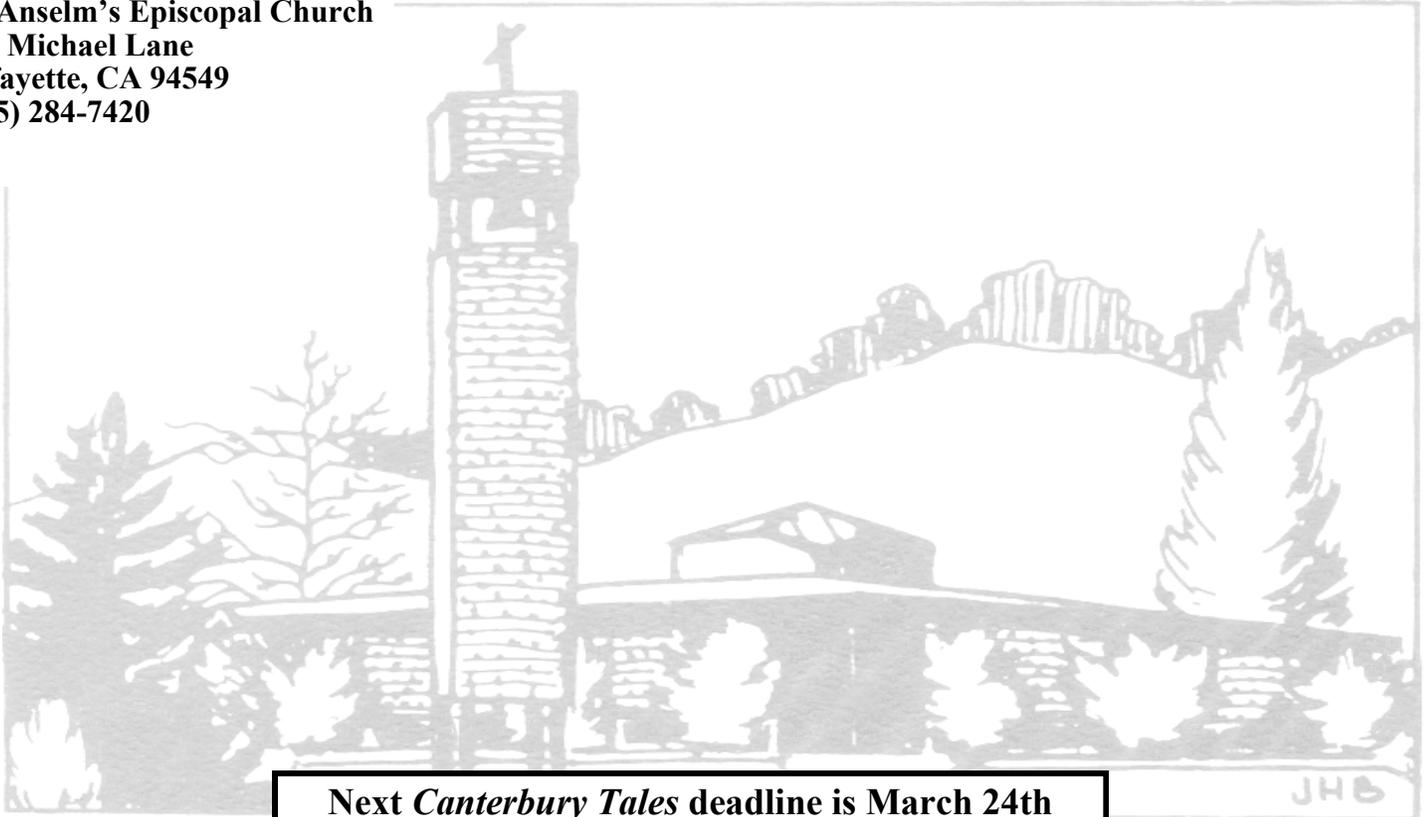
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## Upcoming Events in March

2	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
3	Sun		<b>YOUTH SUNDAY</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		11:30 a.m.	Youth & Parent Meeting
5	Tue	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Minister Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	<b>Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper</b>
6	Wed		<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>
		9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		Noon	Ash Wednesday Service
		7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
9	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
10	Sun		<b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
		11:45 a.m.	Confirmation Class
11	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
12	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Grief Support Group
		6:30 p.m.	<b>Lenten Series</b>
13	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
		2:30 p.m.	Property Commission Meeting
16	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
17	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:45 a.m.	Confirmation Class
19	Tue	6:30 p.m.	<b>Lenten Series</b>
20	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
23	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
24	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
			<b>Canterbury Tales Deadline</b>
26	Tue	6:30 p.m.	<b>Lenten Series</b>
27	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
30	Sat	9:00 a.m.	<b>Work Party</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal



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



**Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is March 24th**



- It's Daylight Saving Time, not "savings" time.
- Benjamin Franklin did not invent it. Though in 1774 he did suggest getting people up earlier as a way to save money on candles.
- It was first implemented during World War I as a way to save energy for war production. It was also referred to as "war time."
- Hawaii and Arizona (except for the Navajo Nation) do not observe it.
- It's used in over 70 countries around the world, though dates and times vary.

*So remember. . . . .*

*Daylight Savings Time Begins on  
Sunday, March 10th*

*Turn your clocks  
AHEAD one hour on  
Saturday, March 9th*

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