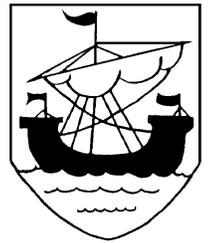


Canterbury Tales



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

September, 2019

From The Rector

So Long Harold

Not too long after I arrived at St. Anselm's an elderly widower called me to tell me he was going to remarry, and asked me to marry him and his fiancée. I told him I would love to, but we would have to do pre-marital counseling. He had been married 45 years in his previous marriage. There was a silence on the other end of the phone. Then a gruff: "I could teach you a thing or two about being married!"

He was right of course.

Yesterday we said farewell to Harold Mason, who had been associated with St. Anselm's for nearly fifty years. When I first arrived at St. Anselm's, Harold and his wife Marian were a fixture at the church. They were both people of science -- Harold had been a chemical engineer, Marian a medical doctor. And they were people of deep faith.

Harold's son Chuck shared at the memorial how when Harold was a boy he developed a love for astronomy. As agile as Harold's mind was, and he was always learning new things until the day he died, he recognized the limitations of the mind, and was able to step beyond knowing into awe. I can imagine that ability may have started like it does with so many of us— looking at the stars and asking ourselves, 'What is beyond?'

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote:

In the hour of vision, there is nothing that can be called gratitude, nor properly joy. The soul raised over passion beholds identity and eternal causation, perceives the self-existence of Truth and Right, and calms itself with knowing that all things go well. Vast spaces of nature, the Atlantic Ocean, the South Sea, — long intervals of time, years, centuries, — are of no account. This which I think and feel underlay every former state of life and circumstances, as it does underlie my present, and what is called life, and what is called death.

I wonder if Harold's wondering as a boy became enraptured wonder when he died. There is something in what Emerson articulates that speaks to us at a profound level not beyond, but beneath knowing. It whispers to us that 'we will know fully, as we have been fully known.'

John+

Anselm's Angels

*"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."*

~ John Wesley

Thanks to all who graciously assisted at the vow renewal service for **Roseanna Conlon & Marc Lee**. Ushers: **Doug Merrill** and **Gordon Repp**, Chalice Bearer: **Eva Woo**; Jackson Hall set up: **Sara Nelson** and **Michael Hollinger** and the members of the **St. Anselm's Choir**.

Thanks to those who assisted at the memorial service for **Harold Mason**. Ushers: **Doug Merrill** and **Dick White**; Chalice Bearer: **Judy Peak** and Jackson Hall set up: **Arthur Powers, Evan Powers** and **Sara Nelson**.



OPPORTUNITY FAIR COMING ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

New to St. Anselm's? Want to know about activities that you might participate in?

On a ministry team/guild/commission that could use some new members?

On Sunday September 29th, St. Anselm's will be holding an Opportunity Fair. After both services, tables will be set up in Jackson Hall to allow our parishioners to learn more about how they might serve in the church and beyond.

If you would like to reserve a spot for your activity, please contact Cathy Witkay in the office no later than September 23rd so that we can reserve your ministry team a spot. You should bring a sign that states your activity, and have someone to staff your table location. If you would like to include posters/photos - all the better!

Questions? Contact Father John.

MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer! I just returned from a European vacation, the highlight of which was seeing my son Julian, for those of you who remember him, and my granddaughter Zoe. Peg, Rebecca, Colleen and I will soon be back at school prepping for another year at Michael Lane Preschool. We are happy to report that we are starting the year with full enrollment! We will have seven families who are new to the school. The children will be starting earlier this year in order to better match up with the schedule of the Lafayette School District. Our first day is August 27! Our Family Social is August 21 and Parent Orientation is August 26.

See you soon,
Kim



OFFICE HOURS ARE CHANGING

Effective Wednesday, September 11, 2019 the church office hours will be:

Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

YOUTH SUNDAY

Be sure to join us on Sunday, September 8th for our next Youth Sunday when our youth members will perform many of the major functions of our worship service typically performed by our lay adult parishioners.

FOOD BANK

Did you know that St. Anselm's can make it easier for you to donate to the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano? Bring your dry goods in unbreakable containers to church and put them in the basket just inside the door of the church, to the left. The basket is taken to the altar by the ushers at the same time as the collection plates; the contents are then transferred to the huge barrel in the cloakroom area of Jackson Hall, until there is enough to warrant our Office Manager making a call to have the items picked up. This is another way we can expand St. Anselm's ministry and you can personally help the homeless and others in need.

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
web site: 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

THE SENIOR WARDEN

I was having dinner with a past editor of the Contra Costa Times last week and asked if he had any ideas for my next Canterbury Tales article. He first wanted to know my thoughts and I suggested “new beginnings” as it was the start of the new school year. His eye roll could be seen across the restaurant. “I would be asleep after the first line” was his response. “You need to write about gun control.” My initial reaction was to back away quickly from such a thorny subject but he was right, of course: we all need to be talking about gun control.

Since 1990 Gallup has asked Americans whether laws governing the sale of firearms in the U.S. should be made stricter, less strict or kept as they are. In October 2018 61% of Americans supported stricter gun laws. In another Gallup poll, in December 2018, 66% of Americans said it was “extremely” or “very” important that Congress and the White House deal with the issue of gun policy in the following year. However, in July 2019 only 1% said guns were the number-one problem facing the country so, although public opinion is generally moving toward gun control, it has not yet been dramatic or consistent enough for politicians to act on it.

Fortunately, organizations of which we are a part are contributing to the discussion and, hopefully, helping the movement towards change. In March 2019 the Episcopal Church released its policies on gun safety and reform. In August 2019, the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County’s web page provided a link to the Interfaith Peace Project’s powerful statement made in the wake of the shootings in Gilroy, El Paso and Dayton (see links below).

It is reassuring that our Church and local interfaith group are making stands but what can each of us do personally? We can support grassroots organizations such as Every Town for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action and Sandy Hook Promise so that our national politicians feel compelled to act... and we can make sure we don’t balk at discussing gun reform whenever the opportunity arises.

Caroline Huddart

References:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/ogr/episcopal-church-policies-gun-safety-and-gun-reform>

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/how-views-on-gun-control-have-changed-in-the-last-30-years/>

<http://interfaithccc.org/not-one-more-a-statement-from-fr-tom-bonacci-and-the-interfaith-peaceproject/>

WOMEN’S RETREAT

This year our Women’s Retreat will be at Bishop’s Ranch in Healdsburg from October 25th to 27th.. For those of you unfamiliar with the setting, beauty and serenity are good descriptors. It is on a plateau overlooking a valley, with hills on the other side. There are lovely trails for hiking among trees. The food is delicious. We have our own house, with comfortable rooms, a kitchen, living room with fireplace, and a patio.

We have not yet settled on a theme for this year’s retreat, though we have a number of ideas to choose from. What I have always found to be the most important for me at the retreats is the time away, time in which to focus on me, my heart and spirit, my connection with God, away from the busyness of my everyday life. I also appreciate how my connection and friendship with other women from St. Anselm’s have deepened over the years. For any of you new to St. Anselm’s, this is a good opportunity to get to know fellow women parishioners.

The retreat is also fun - sharing, laughing, knitting, crocheting, free time, happy hour (We are Episcopalians, after all!). We share this weekend with a high energy San Francisco church, St. Gregory’s. We see them at meal-times. They sing grace, as well as other songs. They have a dance program on Saturday night, which they invite us to. It’s usually something like line-dancing, with a leader/teacher, making it easy for us all to participate.

The costs are as follows: \$264/double room or \$234/room with 3 or more beds. There are scholarship funds available, so *please do not make your decision about coming on the basis of cost!!*

I will soon be putting a sign-up sheet in Jackson Hall. If you have questions or want to know more, please e-mail me: annechalfantbrown@gmail.com. My cell phone number is: 925-788-0664.

Hope to see many of you there!!

Anne Brown

WINTER NIGHTS

St. Anselm's will be hosting homeless families through the Winter Nights program from Monday, September 9 until Monday, September 23. Our guests will be with us about a month sooner than usual, because the Winter Nights program is trying to expand to cover the entire school year. That way, children who are homeless can concentrate on school rather than experience the insecurity and embarrassment of living on the streets or in cars. Winter Nights is hoping, by next year, to have raised enough money to do that.

Eva Woo has put, in the Sunday bulletin, a list of the tasks for which we need volunteers, along with the dates when we need them. We need volunteers to do supply shopping on the day before our guests arrive and others to help set up tents the day they arrive. We need breakfast volunteers to serve and clean up and dinner volunteers to bring a main course, salad, dessert and to clean up. We like to have a Greeter from St. Anselm's to welcome them back at 5 pm every day and also to provide snacks. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Eva. Her cell phone for calling or texting is: 925-876-9435. Her e-mail is: eva94549@gmail.com.

The program has both paid and volunteer tutors. Tutoring is another volunteer opportunity, if you are interested. The tutoring is very important and effective. One little boy, who was in the program last year, had missed school so often that, although he was supposed to be in second grade, was just at kindergarten level. By the end of his stay in Winter Nights, he was at grade level!

Winter Nights also has a paid staff member who works with the parents to find jobs and housing. Of the 17 families served this past year, 7 found homes during the year and another 6 were helped after they left the program in the summer.

I encourage any of you who are interested to volunteer. Over the years, it has been a very rich experience for me, talking with the parents, playing with the kids, getting to know them, appreciating their courage, intentionality, and faith, despite the difficulties that they have been and are experiencing. All my stereotypes about homeless people have disappeared in the face of the reality of who these people are.

St. Anselm's will provide the meals and service for the first week that our guests are with us. The Latter Day Saints church in Danville will take over in the second week.

As is usually the case, Winter Nights has a wish list. Needed right away are new sleeping bags and new pillows. Big 5 will give discounts on the sleeping bags. Kohl's has a good price on the pillows.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, as well as Eva. My e-mail address is: annehalfantbrown@gmail.com. My cell phone number, for calling or texting is: 925-788-0664.

Anne Brown





Celebrate your Harvest. Join the Festival.

After last year's blockbuster fundraising with over \$54,000 raised for the Trinity Center winter shelter program, our work for 2019 is getting under way. The Annual Harvest Festival will be held on October 12th starting at 5 PM. The Harvest Festival Team is putting together an amazing list of live auction items with more games and activities to raise as much money as possible and to have a fun evening for all.

All proceeds go to Trinity Center to provide support for those in our community that have no roof over their heads during the cold wet months. Here's how you can help in addition to attending the dinner:

Live & Silent Auction: You can offer up wines, antiques, collectibles, condos and timeshares, meals, gift baskets, services and other items for the raffle and live auctions. If you have such an item, please contact John Powers (johntpowers@gmail.com).

If you Can't Attend: The Harvest Festival is a full congregation event and isn't just for one night for those who attend. It is our single biggest fund raiser each year. So, if you can't attend, please consider making a contribution in advance of the event by writing a check to St. Anselm's with a note "HF Contribution". This can be dropped into the collection any Sunday, mailed to or dropped off at the church office. Let's get 100% congregation involvement.

Matching Money: Make a pledge or cash donation now to be matched by others the evening of the event. This will help us to double your contribution and it's all tax deductible! If you are interested, see either Father John, Marty Fischer or John Powers!

Bring Friends: The Harvest Festival is a great time to invite a friend or another couple who can afford to help, especially people who are tuned into the homeless issue. They might even share our beliefs and get involved.

Volunteer: Trinity Center is always in need of help with services at the center, seeking gifts and supporters and enlisting the support of the local community. If you are interested, please see John Powers or Marty Fischer.

With last year's net gift of over \$54,000, we have a real challenge...let's beat that in 2019! More on how you can help will follow in the weeks and months ahead.

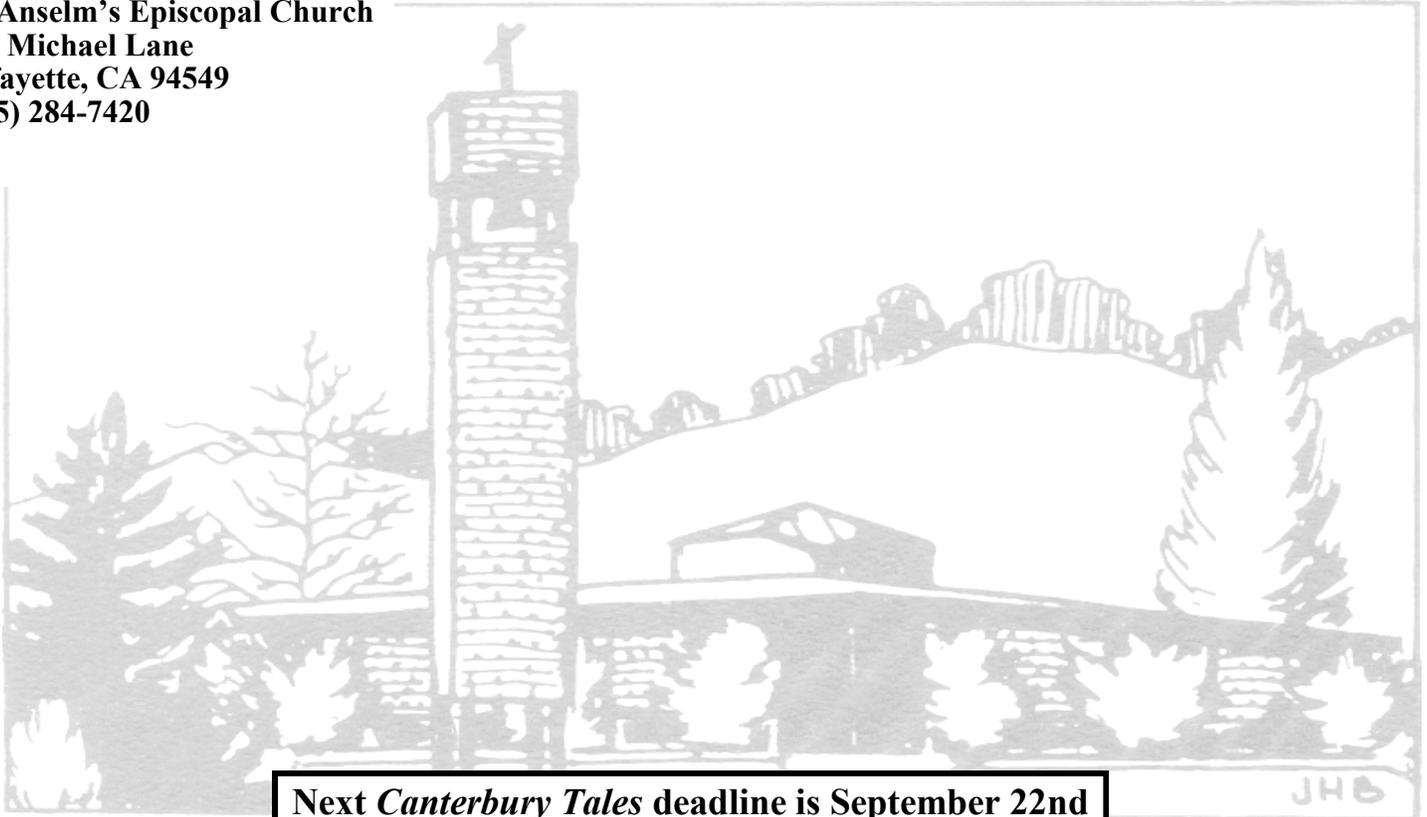
Marty Fischer
Chairman, HF Committee (mfsford@earthlink.net) or 925-247-4192

Upcoming Events in September

1	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		11:30 a.m.	Cancer Support Group
2	Mon	Labor Day – The Church Office will be closed	
3	Tue	12:15 p.m.	Michael Lane Preschool Board Meeting
4	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
5	Thu	5:00 p.m.	Deanery Meeting @ St. Anselm's
7	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
8	Sun	YOUTH SUNDAY	
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		9:15 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
9-23	M-M	WINTER NIGHTS	
10	Tue	10:00 a.m.	Stephen Minister Meeting
11	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
14	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		6:00 p.m.	Bridge Group
15	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
18	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
21	Sat	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
22	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		Canterbury Tales Deadline	
23	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
25	Wed	9:30 a.m.	Hatha Yoga
		10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Bible Study
28	Sat	9:00 a.m.	WORK PARTY
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
		7:00 p.m.	Michael Lane Preschool Parent Social
29	Sun	OPPORTUNITY FAIR SUNDAY	
		9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal



St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
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Next *Canterbury Tales* deadline is September 22nd

Just a few back-to-school thoughts to ponder. . . .

"Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school." — Albert Einstein

"On the first day of a college you will worry about how will you do inside the college and at the last day of a college you will wonder what will you do outside the college." — Amit Kalantri

"The difference between school and life? In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson." — Tom Bodett

"You learn something every day if you pay attention." — Ray LeBlond

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows." — Sydney J. Harris

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." — Nelson Mandela

"We don't stop going to school when we graduate." — Carol Burnett

"Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today." — Malcolm X

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere." — Chinese Proverb

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn" — Benjamin Franklin

"I've got a theory that if you give 100 percent all the time, somehow things will work out in the end." — Larry Bird

"The first day of school: the day when the countdown to the last day of the school begins." — unknown

