



Church Mouse

News & Events from St. John's Episcopal Church • Oakland, California

May 2011

Apr. 30 – 11 a.m.
Confirmation of CnC youth
at Grace Cathedral, SF

May 1 – 2nd Easter
7:45 – Early Eucharist
10:00 – CnC Confirmands
“Come and Teach”
No Eucharist at 10 a.m.
Noon-ish – CnC celebration
party

May 7 – Parish Work Day
And BBQ

May 8 – 3rd Easter
Earth Sunday
7:45 – Early Eucharist
8:55 – Family Eucharist
10:45 – Choral Eucharist

May 13-15 – Parish Retreat
at Bishop's Ranch

May 15 – 4th Easter
7:45 – Early Eucharist
8:55 – Family Eucharist
10:45 – Choral Eucharist

May 22 – 5th Easter
7:45 – Early Eucharist
8:55 – Family Eucharist &
Youth Choir Concert
& Food Raiser
10:45 – Choral Eucharist

May 29 – 6th Easter
Summer Schedule starts
7:45 – Early Eucharist
10:00 – Choral Eucharist



Rector's Message

“To Everything There is a Season”



We are all familiar with that famous passage from the third chapter of Ecclesiastes that reminds us that there is a time for all things:

6 A time to search, and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep, and a time to throw away.

7 A time to tear apart, and a time to sew together; A time to be silent, and a time to speak.

Apparently, for St. John's, this is a time to say “goodbye”. We are about to bid farewell to several key players on staff. So get out your calendars and make ready your Kleenex.

On May 22nd we will say goodbye to Sara Evinger who has been our Youth Choir Director for decades. On that Sunday Sara will direct our youth for the last time. Long before I arrived at St. John's Sara was well on her way to legendary status as a music leader. The hundreds of youth

impacted by her ministry, as well as her ministry to all of us, cannot be easily captured. How can one even begin to ponder the impact of such devotion? Fortunately, Sara will not be leaving St. John's and will continue to sing in the Chancel Choir and assist Ernest as needed.

On June 5th we will celebrate Frank Sterling's ministry at St. John's. Frank has recently been reassigned by Bishop Marc and this will necessitate Frank's resignation from the staff as well as Outreach Ministry Catalyst. Frank has been the heart and soul of outreach here at St. John's. But Frank's ministry at St. John's goes back long before he was ordained. I have a special relationship to Frank because he was the very first person I met from St. John's when I was an applicant for the position of rector. He came out to Boston to check me out and when I met him I knew that if Frank was representative of the people of St. John's, I wanted to be there.

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Senior Warden Speaks

I have been silent in this column space over the past few months trying to stay with and enable closure to the work we started with the Appreciative Inquiry process in April 2010. After all of the “one on one” conversations around an appreciative inquiry about life and service at St. John's; the discernment developed by Ann Halley and her core team and the development of conceptual (grouped) themes; the statements of “possibility” developed by the parish participants during the all day “Re-Wired” summit; discussions between the Vestry, the Catalysts and our Financial folks began transforming all of the earlier thoughts and concepts into attainable operational goals as well as goals of aspiration.

Following a two month period of researching and talking with others who would be involved in implementing activities to enable the goals to become realized in the next year or so, the proposed goals and objectives were presented to the Vestry during its March meeting. (See the posted minutes and minute attachments for full details.) The following groups are the ones that ultimately evolved to establish and develop these target objectives based upon all of the earlier work:

- **Worship:** Make physical improvements to the worship environment (see operations below), resolve banner / music storage conflicts, develop the acolyte program.
- **Stewardship:** Develop a year round educational effort of an “attitude” of being grateful, glad and giving and a year round understanding of stewardship.
- **Education:** Develop year round educational activities for all age groups (pre-school through adults) with a particular emphasis for kids that are pre CnC and post CnC.
- **In-Reach:** Advance the “welcoming of newcomers” program, market our emerging educational programs, create and implement a plan to retain and re-incorporate post-CnC & post-college youth.
- **Out-Reach:** Consolidate all outreach programs for coordination purposes and develop new concepts for enabling additional outreach programs.

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Rector's Message

—Continued from Page 1

I am afraid I have more. On June 12th we will bless Annie Pierpoint as she leaves for Virginia Theological Seminary. We will have a party following the 10 AM service that will also be an opportunity for us to contribute to her seminary fund. Annie grew up here at St. John's and I know she will always see St. John's as her spiritual home. She has been an amazing leader in her short time as our Sunday School Coordinator and it is clear to all that she has found her calling as she seeks ordination.

With all this transition, that prayer from the Compline service in our prayer book comes to mind. It asks God to protect us "so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness". It always helps me to remember that the God who brought such talent to St. John's will continue to do so. And if Karma really works, then given the talent we have sent forth from St. John's to work in God's field, we can expect some amazing folks to come and take up the cause.

There is a time to say goodbye. But let us also remember that for every "goodbye", God will also bring us a new opportunity to say "Hello"!

Scott+

The Year in Worship

Eucharistic Lectionary: A
Daily Office Lectionary: Year One
Advent 2010 to Advent eve 2011

St. John's Episcopal Church

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*It is a sotyll mouse that slepyth
in the catty's ear.*

—Hilles *Commonplace Book*, 1530

Senior Warden

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- **Operations Management:** Address on-going facility needs including signage, exterior repairs, accessibility and a ramp, and pew repair and refurbishing.

- **Communications:** Update the Website and develop small group networks on line to provide the tools for support, communication / dialogue and be the creative format platform for St. John's. Always give the parish multiple ways to get information.

All of the objectives proposed were discussed and accepted as targets for the next three years moving forward. I urge you all to become familiar with the specifics of these goals and feel free to talk with me, any Vestry person or a Catalyst regarding them. We welcome additional objectives, ways and means of working towards these goals, and any refinements to these goals as we move forward; this is a continuing process.

As we move reflectively through Lent, I pray that we all remain open, creative and strong as we move into the call and challenges in the new "light" and life of the resurrection.

Robert Davidson,
Senior Warden

Black Episcopalians

Article by Brenda Richardson

Follow the link below to CDSP's quarterly newsletter and read about black Episcopalians' spiritual roots. This is the first time the magazine is available strictly online. To download a copy of the issue, people can also go to the homepage of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP.edu) look to the right of the page and open the link for Crossings 2011. The story is entitled "Spiritual Roots."

http://cdsp.edu/docs/crossings/Crossings_Winter2011.pdf

Lenten Series - Reflections on non-violence:



Our focus during this Lenten season has been a community partnership with Corpus Christi Catholic Church examining the subject of non-violence. I was pleased to be invited as a guest speaker, yet aware of the difficulties regarding my selected topic; Warfare.

I knew there would be an emotional connection with nearly everyone in attendance. Many in attendance including myself, were Veterans, many had family members and friends that were Veterans or currently serving in harms way. My goal was not to be controversial; yet examining the subject of warfare in regards to our Christian faith is not an easy task. When discussing a controversial subject, I believe it's important to be aware of the common reactions experienced by many in attendance.

It has been said that all truth passes through three stages. 1) Denial 2) Vehement opposition 3) Acceptance as common knowledge. During our Lenten discussion of warfare and non-violence, those in attendance may have experienced similar reactions. In category one, immediate denial arises by thinking "this can't possibly be true". In category two, some may vehemently deny and resort to discrediting the messenger rather than listening to the message. In category three, some may sit back and think "I knew it all along, that's how I've always felt, but no one has ever raised the issue"

For those who could not attend, our discussion was centered on "re-thinking" the centuries old doctrine of a Just War Theory, which states:

- War must be waged only for a just cause.
- Peaceful means of settling the conflict should first be pursued.
- The war must not target innocent civilians
- The war should not cause greater evil than that which it is trying to eliminate.

Lenten Series

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- The war must be waged by a legitimate authority.

We examined the Just War Theory in light of our Christian faith, and theologian Walter Wink's "Myth of Redemptive Violence" which states:

- The myth of redemptive violence promotes peace through war with the belief that violence saves, war brings peace, might makes right.

- Redemptive violence is one of the oldest continually repeated stories in the world.

- The god of redemptive violence is not the impartial ruler of all nations but a tribal god worshipped as an idol. Its symbol is not the cross but the crosshairs of a weapon. Its offer is not forgiveness but victory. Its good news is not the unconditional love of enemies but their final elimination. Its salvation is not a new heart, but a successful foreign policy.

Through personal experience I have found violence as a means to solve conflict as repetitive, not redemptive. As Christians, I believe our faith calls us to be peacemakers. Through the life of Jesus we can observe the incarnation of non-violence, the teacher of non-violence, the model of non-violence, and the prophet of non-violence. In a world filled with violence, wars, and unrest, the Church can be a powerful agent for peace. What is needed most at this crucial time in history is dialogue and communication. I believe that on a local and international level, the first step towards peace is bringing communities into healthy dialogue to discuss these challenging issues. I am pleased to see the communities of St. John's and Corpus Christi moving in the right direction.

For anyone interested in further examining the topic of non-violence, please check out the Episcopal Peace Fellowship. This can give you an idea of other Parishes within our faith tradition that are following Jesus' call for peace, connecting Episcopalians doing justice, dismantling violence and striving to be peacemakers. <http://epfnational.org/>

Blessings and Peace,
Andrew

Service Project for Marines in Afghanistan

On Friday, April 15, Elaine Reichert invited her friend Jan Darmody to join a group from St. John's to make cooling scarves for our Marine unit in Afghanistan. At 10am sewing machines appeared, along with two irons and several volunteers: Marian Barnes, Barbara Cadwladar, Jill Winegarden, Sandra Davidson, Sara Evinger, Nancy Hall, Lone Beeson, Maddy Kho (an 8th grader and soon-to-be-confirmed), and Nancy Everett.

Jan, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Marin County, taught us how to cut, sew, press and assemble the cooling scarves, and in record time over 60 were completed. With leftover supplies, Elaine Reichert completed another 12!

(Note that Jan gained her experience sewing cooling scarves for her son's unit of 80 when he did a tour with the Army in the Middle East.)

Elaine, Lone, Barbara, Nancy and Sara served a delicious lasagne lunch to the stitchers (there was minimal bitching). Actually the whole thing was quite convivial and we all felt so productive as Jan told us stories and read us a thank-you from a soldier who received one of the scarves we had knitted.

Sunday's Episcopal 101 was transformed into a jolly service project party: Adults were joined by an enthusiastic crew from CNC, and all 74 cooling scarves were quickly folded and packaged and are now ready to send to our troops. As soon as seminarian Andrew Hybl provides us with our new contact, four boxes of toiletries, snack foods and cooling scarves are ready to be mailed.

Thanks to all who contributed snack food, toiletries, and crafty talents to support our troops!

Sara E



Chancel Choir's Palm Sunday Concert

A delighted audience of well over 100 attendees awarded a standing ovation to the Chancel Choir, guest soloist Angela Cadelago, and an instrumental ensemble, conducted by our Minister of Music Ernest Knell, for their Palm Sunday concert performance of John Rutter's Requiem.

Rutter's Requiem (1985) is one of the most beloved pieces in the choral repertoire. We sang Rutter's own ensemble version scored for harp, cello, flute, oboe, organ, tympani and – glockenspiel! Those of us who had the privilege of studying and performing it under Ernest's expert tutelage and baton, and reinforced by supplemental singers drawn from his professional associations (including the San Francisco Opera Chorus), were richly rewarded for the extra hours of rehearsal and preparation. In fact, we had an absolutely wonderful time.

The program also included Francis Poulenc's Litanies à la Vierge noire de Rocamadour, winningly and gracefully sung by our outstanding regular soloists, sopranos Elizabeth Gallagher and Sara Evinger and alto Julianne Booth Knell. The composer – previously known for his almost flippant secularism – wrote this affecting trio in 1936, upon returning to Roman Catholicism after the death of a close friend.

Audience and musicians lingered at a lively reception following the concert, ably organized by Ray Reiss.

These questions kept coming up at the reception: "will you perform this again? Will you do more concerts?" Only Ernest knows the answer to that. We can only hope that this event – and the enthusiastic response – will prompt a reprise or more. For those of us in the choir, this concert was a thrilling launch for our several Holy Week musical offerings.

Sylvia Abern

P. S. Have you thought about joining the choir? We welcome newcomers, and it's a rare and wonderful opportunity for interested amateurs to learn and perform gorgeous sacred music together with top-notch professionals. Talk to Ernest!

St. John's Financials

I We continue to show a loss year to date, but now we are in line with both the budget and last year. As I mentioned in last month's Mouse, we will be updating the budget based on progress reports to make certain that we do not end as we did last year, but rather turn this ship around with God's help. As I witness the commitment to contribute to outreach without the outreach grants I am inspired to confidence that we will have a greater year than ever as our hearts remain committed to reaching out with our blessings to share with others in all ways - sharing our time talent and treasure even as we struggle as all are struggling with budget constraints. With your continued support and God's continued blessing and guidance we will all succeed in these efforts.

Yours in Christ,
Lilab

P.S. Remember to sign-up for eScrip! Do you know about eScrip? Do you shop at Safeway, the Village Market, Andronico's, Piedmont Grocers? Please go online to www.escrip.com and register your Safeway Card and your credit cards. These merchants and many others will sent up to 3 sometimes 5% of your purchase money to St. John's through the eScrip program. These receipts are deposited into the Samaritan Fund to support Outreach efforts at St. John's. (St. John's ID number for eScrip is 136952675.)

Also note that if you have signed up in the past, you need to renew your eScrip commitment for your Safeway Card at least once a year - so if you think you had signed up but haven't checked in a while, please go online and renew!

Transitioning Out of Real Estate?



Sometimes one cannot wait for the real estate market to fully recover before having to sell one's property. Other factors may rule when it comes to timing.

Whenever you sell, here are some strategies that you may wish to consider:

1. If capital gains taxes will be a consideration, you may use a "Wealth Preservation" (Charitable Remainder) Trust to avoid or reduce upfront taxes, preserving the capital to produce reliable life-long income.

Saint John's Operating Budget 2011 January to March 2011

Accounts	YTD Actual 2011	YTD Budget 2011	YTD Actual results Last year	Annual Budget 2011
Revenues				
Total Pledge	110,298	112,701	113,876	456,000
Total Other Contributions	2,909	2,988	4,225	57,500
Total Revenues	113,207	115,688	118,101	513,500
Expenses				
Total Personnel	92,440	95,463	84,159	369,854
Total Assessments	25,961	25,461	24,551	102,844
Total Utilities	4,536	6,289	6,052	18,187
Total Insurance	11,936	10,765	11,004	17,333
Total Administration	8,698	5,700	7,027	24,778
Total Property	2,563	2,844	3,121	11,763
Total Youth	941	1,448	1,380	7,810
General Programs				
Total Outreach Programs	0	0	3,025	250
Total Education Programs	27	562	650	4,000
Total Inreach Programs	544	2,364	3,161	8,000
Total Worship Programs	1,211	1,253	1,182	3,950
Total Communications Programs	19	50	0	800
Total General Programs	1,801	4,229	8,018	17,000
Total Expenses	148,875	152,199	145,311	569,569
Net Total before rental operations	-35,668	-36,510	-27,210	-56,069
Rental Income net of rental expenses	8,761	11,454	7,097	56,069
Net Operating Total	-26,907	-25,056	-20,113	0

2. Even if capital gains taxes will not be an issue, placing a portion of the property in a charitable remainder trust before selling will result in very significant income tax deduction, reducing taxes and thus increasing disposable income.

3. Placing a portion of the property in such a trust prior to sale results in the seller receiving both a lump sum plus a lifetime income, often a desired formula for those entering a retirement living arrangement.

When the income from such a trust is no longer needed, the remaining principal is distributed to whichever charities have been designated, or may establish a named endowment fund to fund these charities in perpetuity.

Examples:

- When Ed and Anne wished to liquidate their depreciated rental holdings at retirement, they avoided capital gains taxes and the hassle of handling the sales themselves

by using a charitable remainder trust that was trusted by the Diocese of California and will eventually benefit several different charities as well as their church.

- When Sarah sold her longtime \$49,500 home for \$1 million, she saved \$100,000 on taxes by placing \$200,000 of the proceeds in a charitable trust which paid her monthly fees at the retirement center to which she moved.

- Virginia's laundromat was sold upon her death with the proceeds designated to fund an endowment fund that has been supporting social ministries in her name for 25 years.

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Food for Thought

Here's a perspective that Bob Davidson picked off of the Internet that reminds us of where we have been as we work to understand where we need to go. Chuckle and enjoy.

It's All About the Green Thing

In the line at the store, the cashier told the older woman that plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized to her and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

That's right, they didn't have the green thing in her day. Back then, they returned their milk bottles, Coke bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, using the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

In her day, they walked up stairs, because they didn't have an elevator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks. But she's right. They didn't have the green thing in her day.

Back then, they washed the baby's diapers because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts – wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right, they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one TV, or radio, in the house – not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a pizza dish, not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for you. When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used wadded up newspaper to cushion it, not styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.


Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right, they didn't have the green thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty, instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled pens with ink, instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But they didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar and kids rode their bikes to school or rode the school bus, instead of turning their moms into 24-hour taxi services. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But that old lady is right. They didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Do You Hear What I Hear?

 We really hear with our brains. No matter what your age, one of the best ways to exercise the hearing part of your brain is with musical training. The brains of older musicians were found to perform as well as those of younger musicians when listening attentively to sound. Older non-musicians demonstrated decreased listening performance typical of normal "aging." This means that even though older musicians might need hearing aids at some point, they are likely to function better with their hearing aids than many older non-musicians who have hearing loss. Since musicians spend much of their time paying attention to the details of sound, that experience may be responsible for enhancing auditory brain function. So if you want to exercise the hearing part of your brain, come join the choir!

Dimitra Loomos



your life . . . your home . . .
your way

a membership organization
to support aging in place

News from North Oakland Village

We are open for business! Yes, we have members for whom we are providing services. For example, we have taken photographs of items valued by two of our members and burned CDs/DVDs for them. Another member has needed our Medical Companion service from a volunteer fir transportation and help with doctor's appointments. Providing a referral to a paid service provider is another member's need we have met. Of course, a volunteer has been provided transportation to grocery shopping.

Since our first public appearance last May, 2010, North Oakland Village has been growing itself into the village it knows this area of Oakland wants and needs. We just made three 'house meeting' informational presentations in March!

Would you like to be a part of making this happen? We welcome MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, and DONORS! Also, feel free to recommend NOV to friends and neighbors by sponsoring an informational meeting in your home for people you think might be interested.

How do you get involved? You can do this in three ways: 1) check the web site northoaklandvillage.org for information about us; 2) download membership applications, volunteer applications, or paid service provider applications, fill them out, and mail them to P.O. Box 21573, Oakland, 94620; 3) and of course, make a tax deductible donation to NOV. You can have a 'donor' membership which is tax deductible or an active 'service' membership.

Memberships are \$600.00 a year for a single person, \$750 for a couple. You get a %10 discount if you pay by the year. When your family asks what you would like for Christmas or birthday, tell them a membership in NOV.

Please feel free to call me for anything concerning North Oakland Village.

Sandra Davidson 652-4924

Northoaklandvillage.org

PO Box 21573 Oakland CA 94620

Phone (510) 450-4895

Adult Faith Formation

Talking the Talk:

Getting Behind and Beyond Christian Clichés with Marilyn McEntyre



Teacher, poet, and author Marilyn McEntyre will consider some of the ways language is used in Christian communities and the ways language develops usage that both enable and inhibit understanding and unity.

- Using the Lord's name – discussion of how we use, and sometimes perhaps abuse, the names we are given for the Holy One.
- These words are my very life – which translation of scripture we use makes a difference in how we define and develop our relationship with God and each other.
- I cry unto you – discussion of various language practices in prayer that can open up and deepen relationship to the Lord.

Marilyn McEntyre writes for Weavings: A Journal of Christian Spirituality; her books include Christ, My Companion: Meditations on the Prayer of St. Patrick, and Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies.

Singles Group Springs Out

St. John's Singles Group is contacting other San Francisco Bay Area congregations to begin co-sponsored activities. Here are some events that they are considering.

1. San Francisco International Film Festival - April 21 - May 5th: sffs.org
2. The University of California Alumni Chorus is presenting: "Faure' Requiem" The North American Premiere of Paul Ayres' 4A Wreck (A reinterpretation of the Faure' Requiem) Sunday, May 1st@ 7:30 PM at Hertz Hall on the UCB Campus
3. Chris Hedges KPFA Radio 94.1 FM May 2, 2011 "Dispatches on the Myth of Human Progress" First Congregational Church of Berkeley 23445 Channing Way <http://www.kpfa.org/events/evening-chris-hedges>. This enough in advance to make plans.

Where: St. John's, reception room, 1707 Gouldin Road, Oakland

When: Sundays, June 5, 12, and 19, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Contact / RSVP: Sandra Ahn, sjahn_vienna@yahoo.com, 510.290.2850

Coming Soon:

The Green Bible

So have you heard about The Green Bible? Would you like to discuss questions like: Is God green? Did Jesus have anything to say about the environment? What is my role as a Christian in caring for the earth? The Green Bible has ten narratives written by famous scholars, a subject index, a "Trail Guide of six themes for discussion, and if you wish, a supplemental Green Bible Devotional. Note: it is called the Green Bible because pertinent verses are written in green.

For six Sunday mornings, we will discuss our responsibility to our planet and environment from a Christian perspective. Anne Meyer and a second co-leader will walk us through these thought provoking discussions. Questions: Sandra Ahn at sjahn_vienna@yahoo.com or 510-290-2850.

4. Piedmont Avenue Neighbors Annual Spring Mixer Saturday April 23, 5-7 PM.
5. Balenciaga & Spain March 26th - July 4th at the de Young Herbst Exhibition Galleries - This is a real treat (probably more for the ladies) as it chronicles the Haute Fashion over the past 70 years. The link: <http://deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/exhibitions/balenciaga-and-spain>
6. Zellerbach and the Cal Performances are well underway for 2011 and the Spring and Summer 2011 schedule is amazing. Link: <http://calperformances.org/community/events>
7. Gefelte Fish Cupcakes Anyone? KQED's Check Please Event was January 26, 2011, but they are planning additional outings this year.

Contact Bette Ingraham at thegooddocmedbil@yahoo.com if you have questions or ideas.

A Lectionary Reader's Benefits

As a Reader lately I have remembered something long forgotten about scripture that I learned in Sunday School decades past: The Word of God is not like any other written word—it is a living thing with the capacity to heal, nurture and comfort. They have power that no other words have spiritually. As I set about learning my Reader's assignment, I became more and more familiar with the reading, I noticed inflections of speech: A pause or an inflection of speech soon sent me back to my commentaries for clarification.

I decided to submit this to informal scientific redress. If the Word possesses these traits, it should have a measurable impact on subjective my day-to-day living and the challenges associated with it. I placed a copy in strategic places where I complete mundane tasks (washing dishes, brushing my teeth, etc.) and began memorizing each verse.

Somewhere between the daily contemplation and rote repetition, I found myself more God-conscious—more aware of the scripture's message and of the biblical book from which it was taken as well as its place in the Episcopal calendar of Holy Days. I became aware of the person in scripture to whom the verse is credited for having first rendered the scripture by the power of the Holy Spirit. But, what I did not expect was the impact that the verses would have on my daily living. I found myself easily discerning the best plan of action when faced with complicated choices on critical problems in my life. I was calmer during difficult negotiations whether at work or with friends. The particular randomly assigned scripture seemed to fit my personal struggle to a "T." It reminded me of those pictures of Jesus so popular in years past where his eyes seem to follow you wherever you go.

Most of all, I have the most incredible sense of well-being and peace, even on my most hectic days and the memorizing was a lot easier than I thought it would be. I would love to hear the thoughts of fellow Readers and members of the congregation on similar experiences.

Bette Ingraham

Aptos Youth Retreat - Spring 2011

In the 48 hours of the youth weekend on April 8-10 we experienced rain, hail, cold wind storms, and even sun. But weather did not slow down 22 youth and the six young adults at the youth retreat on the beach.

The topic this year was the “Masks We All Wear”. This topic was selected by the young adults who ran the retreat. They all remember a similar retreat topic when they were in the youth group. It was important to them then and now. It is a great example of recycling and reusing of ideas, talents and energy!

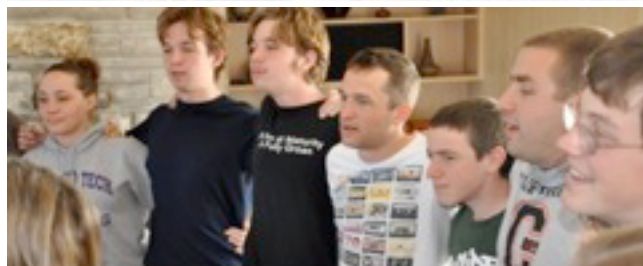
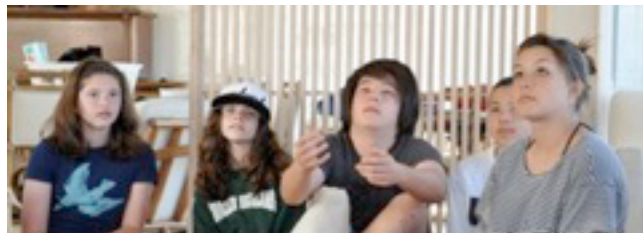
The leaders were Lucas Denman, Annie Pierpoint, Charlie Stebbins, Liz Clayton, and Will Berkey who all who grew up at St John’s. Plus we had Andrew Hybl, our seminarian, Sarah Jones, and myself working with all these wonderful young adults. It was inspiring and a special gift to everyone. For me personally my heart was full of joy as I worked along side all of them. I have not laughed so hard and so often in months.

The youth ranged from 6-12 grades – a great mix of girls and boys. They all got along great and had so much to offer each other about their daily ups and downs of being a teenager today.

They were open, honest and funny about their lives. I was impressed by the young adults who were great mentors.

But all the youth and adults agreed, “What happens in Aptos stays in Aptos”.

Kellor



Who says Thanksgiving has to be the fourth Thursday in November?



With a working title of ThanksGiving, Sara E is preparing a special 8:55 a.m. service for May 22 (heavy on music) to celebrate the Youth Choirs at St. John's. In addition to lots of choral music there will be lively hymns and a sermon of reminiscences covering the last 30+ years. The Youth Choir will combine with the Pizza Club for an end-of-year party on Tuesday, May 10 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rehearsal will follow from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

If your offspring has ever been in the Youth Choir, they are welcome to attend this party and rehearsal – please RSVP ASAP to Sara E so we can have enough food and music (sevinger@comcast.net/510-658-2792).

Check out the Youth Choir event on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=196982983654911>

Youth Choir Reunion – Sunday, May 22

Former members of the Youth Choir are invited to attend the 8:55 a.m. service on Sunday, May 22 to celebrate the Sara E's retirement, and to participate in a special service with current and former members. Rehearsal will be held from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10; there will be a short rehearsal at 8:20 a.m. on May 22 before the 8:55 service. Following the service there will be a party on the patio. Please RSVP ASAP to Sara E at sevinger@comcast.net. You are invited to sing some of our greatest hits – please let Sara know so she can have enough music bulletins for everyone. Songs will include: Yellow Pages, Beautiful, Fruits of the Spirit, You Don't Need a Phone to Call Jesus, Let There Be Peace on Earth and All for One.

Child care will be available (as always) beginning a little before 9:00 a.m. – and of course, your children are welcome at the service. If you are unable to attend, please send updates on your life to Sara E for a special edition newsletter (sevinger@comcast.net).



"Way to Pray!"
 The Youth Choir
 presents: The Morning
 News on KSTJ
March 27, 2011
Youth Sunday



Do you recognize any of these young people?

Church School News

Annie's Farewell



Change has been one of the overarching themes for us this year at St. John's. There are so many stories of new ideas, changing lives, and re-wiring in our parish. But the bottom

line in all of them is that we continue to be blessed, and we continue to flourish. I am now adding my own story into the fray. May 29th, 2011 will be my last Sunday at St. John's as the Sunday School Coordinator. I'm flying the nest that I've called home since I was four to begin studies at Virginia Theological Seminary in the Fall. It's my hope to be ordained to the priesthood, and to serve the church that has given me so much over the years. I'm following in the footsteps of many other St. John's parishioners – the rate at which we “crank out” seminarians has become a kind of inside joke. But I'm so excited to begin the next step on this journey!

I can't express my gratitude to St. John's adequately in words. How do you thank a group of people that helped raise you, challenged you, and loved you without fail? St. John's is so much more than nice folks to worship with. It's family, the kind that calls you to be who you are. No matter where I end up, my roots remain here.

*Love to you all,
Annie Pierpoint*

May is a mini-month for Church School!

St. John's is a vibrant, active parish – it's the thing that brought many of us through the doors. What a blessing! However, this means that we get really busy around here. The month of May is notoriously crazy, not just at St. John's, but in all our communities. In light of that, Church School is being held May 1, May 8, and May 22 only. There's the Parish retreat, confirmation, farewells to Sara E and Annie, Earth Sunday,

Summer Church School

All-ages Church School will be held this summer from 10:00am – 10:45am in the

Fischer room. The curriculum will be mostly video-based, and will include a snack. It'll be a relaxed, casual atmosphere – just like summertime! Children will be escorted into the Sanctuary during the peace to join the congregation for communion. Summer Church School will begin on June 5th.

Are YOU called to teach?

We are seeking fresh faces to join our team of wonderful, dedicated volunteer teachers! There are opportunities in our 4th-6th grade classroom, as well as Godly Play. Start thinking about the Fall – or maybe you're ready now! Our children benefit from hearing a variety of voices. No experience is needed! We'll train you. Contact Annie for details!

Godly Play Stories – May Calendar

In May, the children will hear stories about how Jesus' life and ministry has manifested itself in our traditions. They'll also have the chance to choose a story on May 22! This is a wonderful series that links Christian tradition and ritual to scripture. You won't want to miss these stories!

Date	Time	Pre K/K Room	123 Room
May 1	10am - 11am	1 room school house in the Fischer Room FOE 4: Jesus' Desert and Discovery Experience	
May 8	10am - 11am	Jesus and the Twelve	The Good Shepherd and World Communion
May 15	No Church School		
May 22	10am - 11am	The Good Shepherd and World Communion	Jesus and the Twelve
May 29	No Church School		

Church School Calendar – May 2011

Activity

Day	Date	Time	PreK-3rd Grade	4th, 5th, and 6th Grade	Youth/CnC	Church Calendar
Sunday	May 1	10am - 11am	1 Room School House in Fischer Room: Movie and a snack!			iConfirm Service @ 10am
Sunday	May 8	10am - 11am	Godly Play	Sundays with Spongebob	Sundays with Spongebob	Earth Sunday/Mother's Day
Sunday	May 15	No Church School				Parish Retreat
Sunday	May 22	10am - 11am	Godly Play	Sundays with Spongebob	Sundays with Spongebob	Youth Choir Performs at 8:55/Celebration of Youth Choir and Sara E!
Sunday	May 29	10am - 11am	No Church School			Summer Schedule Starts; No 8:55 service 'til Fall

St. John's Family

Nuptial news

The REV SCOTT DENMAN and KENDACE O'DONNELL will be married in early May and a reception held at The Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg on Saturday May 14, at 2:00 p.m....Our seminarian ANDREW HYBL announced his engagement to JULIE WILKINSON on Sunday, April 17 during the Birthday/Anniversary/Transition prayers. They are already prepared for priest/lawyer jokes... IAN GREENSIDES, our former director of Church School, has announced his engagement to KAREN FRIAS. They were recently married and will be celebrating with a reception in June at Church of the Resurrection in Pleasant Hill...

And in other news:

KENDALL DAVIDSON and ALBERTO SANTOS-DAVIDSON are both looking at colleges, reports their proud grandmother, SANDRA...Ask MARIAN BARNES why some of us have nicknamed her "Tina Turner"...



CHRISTOPHER ATEGEKA HELMS will graduate from U.C.Berkeley on May 14, and has been accepted into the graduate program of mechanical engineering there. MIKE and MARTHA HELMS began supporting him through St. John's/Carol Adams' program when he was about 15. She actually sent him a CAL sweatshirt at that time, and they have a photo of him wearing it in Uganda. He has been here about 4 1/2 years. Christopher gave the sermon a few weeks ago at the 10:45 service. Martha writes that he recently gave a short talk at the major CAL alumni function, a dinner at S.F. City Hall. He was

selected to talk as a recipient of a Cal Alumni scholarship (really the only financial aid he was eligible for because he is an international student)...HILLARY and MARTHA HELMS spent their spring break in Paris... TRISTAN HELMS has been working at the Army Research Labs in Adelphi, MD. He has been accepted into the PhD program at U of Michigan with a full financial package. His sister, HILLARY, will graduate from the U of Washington at Seattle in English Literature in December. and plans to spend three months teaching in Peru in the summer...ASHLEY STEBBINS has graduated from law school and has a job as JAG with the Navy...

May 7 Work Day and BBQ

Spring Work Day is Saturday, May 7th.....all day, 8-5, with BBQ at end, as it was last May..... And like last year, folks can work as many or few hours as they can make it there, and may then return for the BBQ at the end of the day.

This work day will include carpet cleaning, painting the sacristy; finish the paint/stain on exterior of Ed building, paint the "new" kitchen storage room (it used to be the adult education room) and more repairs to the fences. We want a large crew to work in the yard! A sign up board is posted in the narthex. PLEASE let us know when you are coming and where you want to spruce up St. John's.

Ken Fuller – thunder572002@yahoo.com

around us and he is truly inspiring. Last, but not least, I'd like to thank Scott. There is a lot of harmony, diversity of ideas, and open-mindedness at St. John's and I recognize that is because there are a lot of big hearted, intelligent and loving people here. But I also think Scott's leadership style – to empower and lead by example – helps to foster risk taking, to embrace difference, to encourage us to bring our own Christian ethic into action in the world. And thank you, Scott, most of all for ensuring that St. John's is a place where ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOD'S TABLE (alleluia!). As they always say at the Oscars, there are too many to thank and not enough time to do so.....Thank you all! I'll be back, just not sure when. I'll give Dennis my new contact info for the parish directory. I hope to see at least some of you in the great Northwest.

*Yours in Christ,
Michelle Inama*

From Michelle Inama

Dear St. John's,

I As some of you know, my husband, Tim, has been transferred to Washington State for his job. He moved up in January and I will follow him in early May. I stuck around for several more months for two primary reasons: I wanted to complete my commitment to CnC as a mentor to Kate Walker (and what a great experience that has been!) and I wanted to complete my 3rd year in EfM.

I had other, less quantifiable, reasons for sticking around: I hate moving, I'm a Northern California girl through and through so how can I leave my beloved redwood trees, Golden Gate Bridge, Sierra mountains, and Russian River? Lastly, and equally important, I've come to love being a part of St. John's. I'm not looking forward to establishing myself in yet another parish, but it'll happen. But it won't be the same. I have been an active member at St. Matthew's in San Mateo and St. Martin's in Davis. Both parishes were vibrant and full of wonderful people. But St. John's has been the best for me, in part because you have nurtured my spiritual growth and church knowledge more than any other place. Many of you have touched my life, have invited me to be a part of a class, a group, an outing, have made me always feel welcome and equal. For all of this I want to thank you! And there are a few people in particular I want to publicly thank.

Soon after joining St. John's, Carolyn Calhoun encouraged me to consider becoming a subdeacon and a reader. The former was something I knew little about and had even less thought about joining and the latter was something that scared me to do – but what a gift they have been! Thank you, Carolyn, for always poking and prodding us in the 7:45 a.m. service to be active participants. Sandra Ahn joined St. John's about the same time I did and it didn't take long for our paths to cross. Her spiritual journey, her generosity, her passion for pastoral care and Christian education has influenced my own journey. I want to thank the Ecology Group for not only existing but for constantly promoting care for all of God's creation. I had heard about (and admired) St. John's environmental ethic long before arriving here. Frank Sterling has had a big hand in inspiring my spiritual growth. Frank is a tireless advocate for Christian action in the world

—Continued at left

“Inspiring!” –*The New York Times**

“Two thumbs up!” –Roger Ebert*

“Not to be missed.” –Margie Bowman

Produced and directed by Alberto Santos–Davidson, *Single Stream Recycling* is a love story – starring St. John’s Oakland staff and parishioners – that traces the travels of stuff thrown in the (often confusing) colored trash cans. Join the conversation and be inspired to do more for Mother Earth.

Exclusive world preview screening.

Single Stream Recycling

Sunday, May 8th

10:00 a.m.

St. John’s Oakland

Admission: Free. Refreshments served.

Length: 20 minutes. Not rated.

*at least, we’re
mostly sure
they would
say this.

Image, “Blue Marble,” in the public domain. From the NOAA-NASA GOES Project

Extra Special Parish Retreat

The parish retreat is always terrific, but this year it features Scott and Kendace’s wedding celebration on Saturday afternoon, May 14. Everyone is Invited to this Phenomenal Annual Parish Retreat that starts on Friday, May 13 and continues through lunchtime on Sunday, May 15. Come for the weekend or come for the day, but how can you miss it? Download a registration form or pick one up in the narthex. <http://www.stjohnsoakland.org/content/st-johns-parish-retreat-2011>

For any questions, please contact Melissa Brauer at 531-8849 or melissabrauer@comcast.net.

Needs List

St John’s has started a “Needs List” that will be an ongoing clearinghouse for any special items that St John’s is in need of. This list is focused on physical items that are needed, as opposed to chores or talents, and will be published regularly in the Mouse and the bulletin.

Here is a list of real goods that St. John’s is currently looking for:

1. Two lateral 3-drawer file cabinets for Dennis’s office
2. Baking trays (4-8) for the kitchen (need to fit in standard ovens - half sheets not full sheets)
3. Plastic earthquake latches for the kitchen (that you have to push to release/open the cabinet)
4. Large font label maker (for more attractive signage for the cabinets in the kitchen)
5. First Aid supplies (to boost our first aid kits)
7. A large flat propane powered grill/griddle for pancake diners and other events
8. A new fridge for the youth room

If you would like to donate any of these items or you can think of any additions to this list, please contact vestry members William Berkeley at 510.914.3855 or william.berkey@gmail.com or Elizabeth Clayton at 510.301.9354 or elizabethclayton@gmail.com.

Do you long for a deeper understanding of the Scriptures, Christian tradition or theology, but don't have time to go to seminary?

Are you struggling to make Christian tradition relate to your 21st-century life?

Do you wish you were in a community of people that helped one another follow Christ with heart, strength and mind?

If you can answer "yes" to one or more of the above questions, you may be a good candidate for Education for Ministry!

EfM (Education for Ministry) combines the traditional functions of fellowship group and Bible study with a method of theological reflection designed to tap into our metaphorical and mythical ways of thinking, to help us make conscious connections between our faith traditions and the "post-religious" world we find ourselves in today. It is a distance-learning program created and administered by the School of Theology, University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. A group of six to eleven participants is led by a trained mentor for 36 weeks during the academic year, usually meeting for 3 hours a week.

Students commit to EfM one year at a time. Tuition is \$350 per year, with some scholarship support available. Students receive 18 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for each year completed and a certificate after the fourth year. Deadline for registering for academic year 2011-12 is July 30, 2011. Classes will begin in September, and meet on Monday evenings at St. Clement's in Berkeley (near the Claremont Hotel), from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Please talk with Laura Craig or Michelle Inama if you have any questions or would like to register for EfM at St. Clement's Episcopal Church in Berkeley.



Education for Ministry is an education-by-extension program of the University of the South, a seminary of the Episcopal Church in the United States. Tel: 1.800.722.1974. Web: <http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm>

St. John's Bulletin Board

Berkeley Julia Morgan Home to Host Bishop's Society May 22

If you have remembered your church in your will or estate plan, Bishop Marc would like to thank you in person. Please join him for a gathering at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, May 22 at 2821 Claremont Boulevard, Berkeley. Renowned architect "Julia Morgan" will make an appearance and Christopher Putnam will lead a hymn sing around the baby grand piano. For more information, please call The Rev. Richard Schaper at (415) 869-7812.

June - July Church Mouse

The next issue of the Mouse covers both June and July. Submit articles to dreeve@stjohnsoakland.org by close of day on Monday, May 16. If you have questions, ideas, or want to help edit the Mouse, contact Laurie Bennett at lebennett1950@yahoo.com. For all issues, the deadline for submissions is the middle of the month preceding publication.

Light Bulb Patrol

Wanted!! A parishioner once per month to check and change, if necessary, light bulbs, inside and outside. This does require ladder work (ladders and bulbs will be provided!). Please consider this ministry. There may be a few added tasks to go along with this. Should take about 1.5-2 hours of your time monthly. Please contact Ken Fuller, thunder572002@yahoo.com

Vision: Changes and Challenges

On Wednesday May 11, Dr. August Colenbrander, M.D. of the Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute in San Francisco will show a film and answer questions about living with vision loss. Glaucoma, Macular Degeneration, Diabetes and other health challenges can cause low vision or vision loss. He'll explain these conditions as well as adaptive devices that support living rich lives despite visual challenges.

Noon Eucharist followed by a delicious lunch. Film at 1PM.

May Java Corps

1-May CnC families/Saints & Sinners Kellor Smith/Sarah Jones (CnC Confirmity service at 10)

8-May Ecology Group
Bonnie Moran (Mother's Day)

15-May School for Deacons
Frank Sterling (Parish retreat)

22-May Youth Choir Families: 8:55 YOUTH CONCERT Sara Evinger

29-May Architectural Planning/Construction Committee

Jerry Moran (Memorial Day weekend)

Write a Will for \$75 May 14 or 21

Saturday appointments are being taken to meet with attorneys at St. Michael's, Concord on May 14 or at Epiphany San Carlos on May 21. Please call (415) 869-7813. Be a good steward, protect your family, benefit your church.

St. John's vision is to manifest God's love through invitation, inclusion, faith and action



St. John's Episcopal Church

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