

You want to put your  
Treasure where your heart is. Where  
Have you put your heart?

April, 2015

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
PO Box 293  
Ben Lomond, CA 95005

# The Piper April, 2015



The new St. Andrew's Library.

Or maybe it's the Canterbury Cathedral Library.

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~ Where God is worshiped and the people are fed ~

# Ramblings in the Redwoods

## Mommy, What Was a Library?

Libraries have always been among my favorite places. So I was delighted, upon becoming an Episcopalian, to hear about our background of working for a more literate population, and for an education for children before that was one of our expectations for our society. Wherever I have worked as a priest I have tried to improve the library of the congregation.

There have always been other members of the congregation who have worked with me to achieve that goal. Here, Paula Jansen and Sharon Fishel have been active in that effort. We have also had large donations of books from several sources, most notably when Marj Gulliver and her son donated a large number of Ralph's books, and when Jennifer Kennedy recently donated a number of books from Fr. Joe's collection.

I was somewhat surprised to learn, as I was trying to reorganize the parish library recently, that it is hard to find bookends any more. People don't buy them as much as they used to, I suppose because you don't need bookends for your Kindle or other electronic reader. Now, granted, Kindle books are cheaper and they aren't nearly as heavy or require as much space. But it is hard for me to think about getting away from paper and print, either for myself or for the parish.

But this library has a few problems. It is upstairs in a parish hall that doesn't get many upstairs visitors. We have a nice space to sit and read, but it isn't always open for visitors. However, it is a library that more and more rewards a thoughtful visit.

Do you remember when the subjects of theology and churchmanship (there's a word that has almost disappeared from our vocabulary) were topics of popular conversation? Do you remember when the daily newspapers – in a time when they were much bigger – had a weekly religion section, or even a daily column? Do you remember when there were talk shows on network TV featuring clergy and theologians from different denominations, sometimes including Jewish rabbis? The input into society from the Church was considered authoritative by many, and it was sought out and respected. So, yes, things have changed.

But it is still important for thoughtful Christians to consider the claims of different points of view, to seek out the impact of people's experience, to look at the Gospel proclamation of people who are working with our scriptures and traditions. It is important to know our history, the impact of

## Being the Body

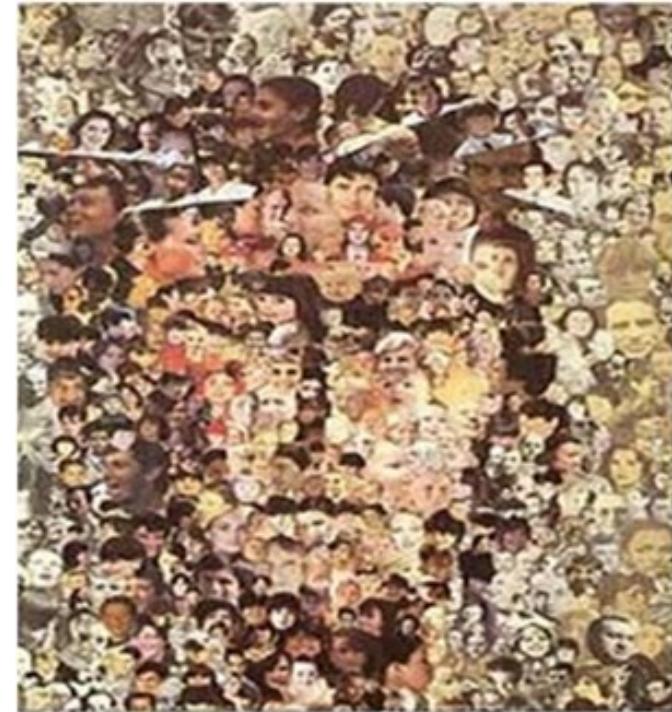
“...What you see is simply bread and a cup. But your faith demands far subtler insight: the bread is Christ's body, the cup is Christ's blood. My friends, these realities are called sacraments because in them one thing is seen, while another is grasped. It is your own mystery that is placed on the Lord's table. It is your own mystery that you are receiving. You are saying 'Amen' to what you are. Be what you see; receive what you are.”

*Augustine of Hippo, selections from Sermon No. 272*

It's not how many people we gather on a Sunday, it's how many people we send out on a Sunday.”

*relevantmagazine.com/*

That's what worship on the Lord's Day is all about, after all: receiving and becoming Christ's body.



Elizabeth Forbes  
the back page

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**Rock-a-thon Youth Retreat**

**April 11-12th:** Back by popular demand, our Rock-a-thon Youth Retreat. This will be our major fund-raiser, so please sign up and sponsor us. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Parish Hall, or you can see one of our youth on Sunday after church (if you can catch them - food usually works as a good trap). This will be a 24-hour lock-in event where we will be "rocking" literally and figuratively. We will also be doing youth retreat activities. It will be amazing so make sure not to miss it!

**Annual Chili Cook-off -**

**May 17th:** This year the Youth Group will be putting on our annual Chili Cook-off. Get your recipes ready! Sign-up sheets will be coming out soon. This is a great time to invite neighbors, friends, and family members to join the competition. More details soon to come!

April		May	
Ed Butler	2	Cindy Garay	2
Henry ValldeRuten	5	Sandi Lewandowski	2
Sharon Fishel	6	Cathy Newfield	3
Donna Brough	11	Moe Garay	3
Barbara Banke	14	Preston Boomer	7
Pauline Syres	16	Janet Parske	8
Sheryl Mello	18	Jaden Ruff	10
Iain Holtzclaw	19	Barry Holtzclaw	12
Susan ValldeRuten	22	Katie Garay	18
David Waller Jr.	22	Tim Cadell	21
Tom Fogarty	27	Michael Freeman	22
Joan McVay	27	Logan Hudson	28
Tillie Cunningham	28	Mark de Haas-Johnson	29



different movements and personages who have moved us and moved our churches in times past and in recent times.

The authors and officials who informed people and who infuriated people in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century are represented in our shelves. Information about our denomination can be found there. Ethical and societal issues from past and present are discussed, attacked and defended. There are many books to help you learn about and understand the Bible and the central figure of Jesus. We have art and poetry, and some books for youth and children – but too few.

Have you looked it over? Have you asked anyone what books would be good to help you find out things you have wondered about? Have you allowed your opinions and perceptions to be challenged and widened?

When you have a library you don't have to buy new texts for your Kindle – in fact, I would guess many of these books are not available in Kindle form, and maybe never will be. When you have a library, you can spend time with it, take a few minutes with different books to see if they would be helpful, and move on to another if they aren't. You can sit on a couch or a chair and flip through a chapter that looked interesting as you considered the Table of Contents.

Now, it is true that we need more books reflecting our modern church, or the writings of the Millennial generation. We need more books in several subjects. We need to know what you would like to see there so that you can spend some productive time there.

In my dream for St. Andrew's, I see those shelves expanding up the walls, taking up more space, and receiving more visitors. A parish library is a unique kind of resource, unavailable in other places, including public libraries. How could it better serve you? What days and times would it be better to have it available?

I don't mean to put down the readers of books in electronic form. It is far better to read those than not to read. Use what it takes to get you where you need to go. But let's not forget about libraries and let them drift into history. If we do that we will all be poorer for it.

-Blaine



I have had some conversations with St. Andrew's neighbors across the parking lot fence. The Bingham's have a row of parking spaces in front of their house which have proven handy for parishioners trying to get to church on time (or maybe a little late). But there is a problem – one of those attractive-looking spaces is actually in front of the fence which is across their driveway. That space has to remain open for them to be able to get in and out.

Scott Bingham is one of the good guys. He works with the Ben Lomond Fire Department, and is one of the people who may show up if you have a fire. His family is well-mannered and respectful. They want to have good relationships with us. But we haven't always been good to him. He told me of one day when someone parked in front of their driveway and he asked them to move because he needed to get out, but they just kept on and went into the church. He showed up at the church door that morning, and told us he needed the owner to move the car. The response? "Nobody came." They could not drive out until church was over.

If he was a man to get mad, he could have caused a lot of trouble and discomfort. But as I said, he wants good relations with us. Maybe we can do better about being good neighbors to him.

-Blaine

## St. Andrew's Women's Reading Group

**When:** Tuesday, April 14th, 7 pm

**Where:** Barbara Bain's home

**Book:** The Husband's Secret, by Liane Moriarty



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then but I didn't follow all that well. We at least knew our speaking parts. He chanted, "Dominus vobiscum.", and we replied, "Et cum spiritu tuo."

Out of darkness into light. I am now old enough to have seen in some very dark times. There was one very dark time that taught me how the death on Calvary and the hope of Easter are deeply connected. This actually happened on a Good Friday. I had to confirm that someone who had our trust up until that point, had betrayed us. Our friend was a predator and criminal. That was not a good day nor were a number of Easters after that. I learned the meaning of a Dark Night of the Soul.

But the light does return. We must remind ourselves that when all is dark it is still there – somewhere. We must look around, find its reflection, and take a bearing. I can't remember exactly which year it was but I do remember the lifting joy at seeing that light once again at the Vigil.

*"All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light."*

I had a better singing voice in those dark days but I don't think I could have pulled it off. I needed to have had hands-on experience of Easter inevitably following Good Friday to do the Exultet justice. I appreciate it better now, especially the one phrase that stands out to me each time I practice it:

*"How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son."*

Beyond all knowing indeed. Who notices a slave other than to calculate the replacement cost of their labor? And to give His son, himself, for us, both the betrayed and the betrayer? Indeed.

At some point in our Protestant history, the body disappeared from the Cross and liturgies like the Vigil fell "out of favor". All that is left in many churches is a "Sunrise Service" of some kind. All happiness and Easter eggs. The most important truth in Christianity got sanitized. You cannot have the joy of Easter without the agony and darkness of Good Friday. How else can we hope to see our way through our inevitable Good Fridays?

Lumen Christi.





## The Deacon's Bench by Jim Lieb

April, 2015

My Lenten discipline includes my yearly rehearsing of the Exultet for Easter Vigil. It is a long and challenging piece that I managed to avoid for many years. My musical training ceased when I dropped out of the boy's choir (nope, no girls allowed back then) to be an Altar Boy.

The Vigil and I go back a long way. My most vivid memory of it was when I was in High School. Through some mysterious chain of command, I was tasked, along with my older brother Tom, for the Vigil at my mother's Alma Mater. Tom was crucifer and I was one of two acolytes carrying (unlit) torches. The college chapel was huge and when the lights went out it was completely dark. We three were on point and we couldn't see anything except for the faint reflection of the light of the Paschal candle behind us on the polished marble of the altar some 40 pews ahead of us. We had only that light to keep us from banging into the pews or tripping over each other.

*"Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts in radiant light resound with the praises of your people".*

Not quite enough light, actually. The priest paused at the door to the nave and raised the candle. "Lumen Christi", he chanted. The assembled sisters ahead of us replied, "Deo Gratias". We took our bearings on the altar.

We started off guided by the flickering reflection from the altar and paused half way down. "Lumen Christi". "Deo Gratias". We took a new bearing. We were now in the middle of the congregation and we could somewhat see the white bits on the black habits on either side.

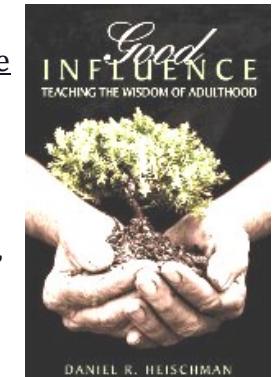
Our next obstacle was the gates to the marble altar rail. We were almost there thanks to the Church's love of polished stone. The gates were wide enough so long as we stayed centered on the aisle. We paused one last time just beyond the gates and before the steps, wherever they were. "Lumen Christi." This time from behind us, "Deo Gratias". Up the steps, feeling for each one.

The priest placed the candle in the stand and we lit our torches from it. We went down to the pews, easier now with some light of our own, and lit the candles of the sisters in the first row. The light spread to the back and sides, revealing the size of that space.

The Exultet was in Latin in those days. I had two years of Latin by



**Beginning April 12th  
After the 10 am service  
Upstairs,  
above the Parish Hall**



**St Andrew's women:** We are kicking off our group with a study in Good Influence: Teaching the wisdom of Adulthood, by Daniel Heischman. For right now, we will be meeting after the 10am service. The day and time will probably change after our kick-off series.

April 12th: quick meet, greet, and intro - about 15"

April 19th: Ch 1-2

April 26th: Ch 3-4

May 3rd: Ch 5-6

We will then take 3 weeks off to apply what we learned

May 31st: we will conclude the series and review.

After this series, we will discuss when and how often we want to meet.

The book may be purchased at: Church Publishing,  
[churchpublishing.org/products](http://churchpublishing.org/products)

or Amazon.com, or your favorite bookstore.

It is available in ebook format. There are funds available if you are not able to purchase right now. Let Teresa Ruff know if you need a book to be ordered. [ruff4sleep@gmail.com](mailto:ruff4sleep@gmail.com)



**At the annual St. Patrick's Dinner,  
some were seen to have been  
accosted by the leprechauns!**

## My Personal Tithe Journey:

My first experience with tithing came as a child at 4 years of age. My Christian parents were from the Bible Belt, USA. They took me to Sunday School & Church each week with a couple of nickels or dimes tied to the corner of my pocket handkerchief for my Sunday School offering. I watched, too, as they prepared their own offerings with a check in a special Church envelope.

As I grew into my teen years I had an allowance and babysitting money which I was gently reminded to share with others. In college I had two jobs, but continued to tithe. It had become a habit! God became very real to me during these years, and helped me to grow spiritually with many surprises, opportunities, and challenges.

When I was married, my husband was surprised that I tithed but was willing to give it a try. All our needs were met, (not necessarily on our time schedule, however). It was truly an adventure to see how God was going to get us through some months, but He always did! That's not to say that I didn't have to do some juggling of accounts and credit cards on occasion. But I was guided in that aspect as well. Sometimes money came from the most unlikely places, and sometimes just in the nick of time. Timing has always played a major role in my faith journey, and it has taught me the meaning of 'trust'. I've found that God has a real sense of humor, as well. He didn't toy with me, but He sure did put me to the test at times. I guess that's why my favorite hymn is "Great is Thy Faithfulness".

Jennifer Kennedy



"That was the best sermon on giving I've ever heard."



## St. Andrew's Annual Plant & Rummage Sale Saturday

April 25th, 9a - 2p

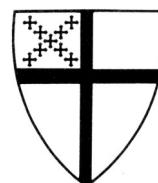
We have heirloom **tomatoes, squash** varieties, **eggplant**, succulents, sweet **peppers** and hot peppers, **cukes**, including Armenian cucumbers, ornamental trees — maples, dogwood, myrtle — and much, much more.

We have **treasures from the attic, toys, books, clothes, kitchen ware, and everything** you'd want to see at an excellent rummage sale!



⇒ Bring priced rummage to the church ASAP!

⇒ Bring plants to church on Friday



### Why I Am An Episcopalian: Reason #35

Because it's one religion where laughing at our own absurdities is a basic spiritual discipline and we're invited to rejoice in how much we have still to learn of God instead of how much we know.

William Countryman, Diocese of California  
from 101 Reasons to be Episcopalian