

The Piper

January, 2017



...Walking the Way in the Spirit

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St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Ben Lomond, CA 95005
831.336.1069 saintAndrew'sbenlomond.org
Where God is worshiped and the people are fed

Ramblings in the Redwoods

I believe that when we become Christians that we are supposed to respond to God's voice. I also believe that it is not necessarily easy to understand what God is saying. I have had many kinds of experiences trying to figure out what God is saying to me, and asking of me. Let me give you some examples, with a bit of history first.

I was not ordained until I was 41 years old. Between the ages of 16 and 26, I did not consider myself a Christian. I rarely attended church services during that time, usually only for funerals (my mother's among them) and weddings, or one memorable occasion when I attended a service in German at the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in Berlin in 1964. That church is the one you could see in the background of the news about the terrorist attack at the Christmas market recently. It was bombed out in World War II, and though it has had additions built, the Germans decided to leave it in its bombed-out state as a reminder. At the time, the Berlin Wall was only a few years old, but many people had already been killed trying to cross it. The weekend I was there was a memorial weekend for those victims, and every few feet along the Wall was a person standing at attention with a bouquet of flowers at his or her feet. Each site was near where someone on the other side had been killed. Such experiences remind us of the privileges and rights we take for granted.

I understood a fair amount of German, but not enough to follow a sermon. So I sat and drank in the atmosphere. The nave, which had some size to it, was full; since it was less than 20 years since World War II ended, the older people in that congregation had lived through it and some had taken part in it. I wondered what their experience of God had been, what their experience of life had been, what they believed God was asking of them at this time, surrounded on all sides by a murderous and repressive Stalinist regime, having only recently been under a murderous and repressive Nazi regime.

At the age of 26, in the early '70s, I (along with Elizabeth) had an experience of the living God at a Pentecostal Church, and immediately believed that God was calling me into ordained ministry. However, my family and financial situation was such that I could not immediately answer that call. So I began doing whatever else I felt God was calling me to do, and if that call was not clear, I tried things out. Within a year, we found our way to an Episcopal Church, where we learned about liturgy and sacrament.

That first Episcopal congregation we attended was St. Luke's in Seattle, where Fr. Dennis Bennet had inaugurated one of the first two charismatic Episcopal churches in the U.S. (for those who don't know the term, "charismatic" refers to non-Pentecostal churches which believe in and practice the baptism in the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues). I tried to volunteer for some things I'm glad I was rejected for, but I did serve as a Sunday-school teacher for 5th and 6th graders. That turned out to be a sad misadventure, but I did not know how to get out of it; so for more than two years I functioned at a volunteer position where I felt over my head and out of place. I did not leave that until we depart-

ed for the United Methodist church, the tradition of our youth, because I thought I had unfinished emotional business there.

At University United Methodist Church (UMC) in Seattle (where my mother's memorial service had been held years previously), I joined the choir, and together with another choir member who played mandolin, did folk music for the early service. The Pastor at one time asked for people to volunteer to teach adult education classes for a period of time, and I signed up to teach organic gardening. At the time, Seattle had a Pea Patch program, pieces of city land that were divided into small plots and rented by residents to grow vegetables (think of the garden next to the Laundromat in Boulder Creek to get the picture of what that looked like). I remember being at one of those with one of my students as he dug a giant Idaho Russet out of the ground and said "Now that's a potato!" It was at University UMC that, for the only time in my lay experience, the pastor asked me to fill a position – he appointed me to the Worship Committee, and later asked me to serve as chair. He didn't tell me until after I agreed that there was a major confrontation coming that would affect that Committee. I had to guide us through that one. I also was asked to preach on one occasion. When we moved across the lake from Seattle, we attended Woodinville UMC, where I was again asked to preach.

When we went to Denver for me to attend seminary, I discovered that I was not really a Methodist. We returned to the Episcopal Church at Christ Church in Denver. There I again signed up to teach Sunday-school, this time high-school. It again became clear that Sunday-school was not my calling, though it wasn't as bad as it was at St. Luke's. Elizabeth and I also taught confirmation classes, but we did that as part of a team, which worked out better. But I had chosen badly for a congregation that would sponsor me for ordination, and at the advice of an interim rector, we moved to St. Matthew's Church in Parker. There I formed a music group when the organist suddenly resigned, a group that also became a jug band for a community fair where we sold grilled ears of corn. I helped to lay bricks for a courtyard. It eventually had to be pulled up and re-laid, but that was not my fault! I also served on the Vestry. That was the congregation and priest that sponsored me for ordination.

From mid-1991 through early 1996, when we lived in the Bay Area, in Vancouver, WA (not Canada) and in Seattle, and from mid-2008 through mid-2009 after my employment at St. Peter's in Seaview, WA, I was unable to find paid employment in the church. So I hunted up parishes and missions and asked the clergy there if they would like some help. Surprise – I immediately found clergy who would; in some places they sounded desperate. I also continued to participate in music programs.

And I have offered time at St. Andrew's, shoveling with Ray, and in our neighborhoods picking up trash with Ray, Ed and Janet. I have also put asphalt patches on the parking lot, together with Clark, and worked on rebuilding our library.

* * * * *

One thing I learned from all these experiences is that we need the freedom to make decisions about how God is speaking to us, and the freedom to try things out without getting stuck. I have tried, everywhere I have gone, to give

people that freedom, and to ask them to back out of things they don't feel called to. I have seen too many times how people can get overcommitted and feel stuck. In my first experiences here in SLV, I talked to some people who no longer attend St. Andrew's and discovered stories of over-commitment, burn-out and resentment.

At the same time I have sometimes been unaware of that very thing happening during my oversight – and I mean that word in both senses. Despite my great intentions people have felt overcommitted here. For that I apologize; I never wanted it to happen. Partly because of that, and because of my experience on the Worship Committee at University UMC, I do not generally ask people to fill specific positions without asking them to discern whether God is calling them to do that, themselves or in conversation with me or with others. Sometimes we have trouble filling positions or getting things done; if the Holy Spirit is not moving someone to act, we may need to re-visit what we are doing.

Many large churches have programs staffed by paid people. That is convenient, and those churches prosper. You just have to show up on Sunday and then go home, and I know there are people who want exactly that. But I do not believe that is what God is asking from us. God is asking for our lives.

The membership of St. Andrew's has been remarkable. Have you been inspired here, have you learned to follow and love God here? You have a lot of company, present and past. I believe that God is very present in these buildings and in this people. There has been a vision here that we are a resource to our community, and that vision has been lived out for decades. It continues to be lived out today, through long-time members and through new arrivals.

What do you want to do? What do you want this Parish to do? Come to the Annual Meeting, and let's share about that.

Some of us are very busy, and I appreciate that; and it has often been the busy people who offer their time. Some of us have been called to ministries outside the church walls, and I appreciate that also; you are responding to God's call.

What is God calling you to do at St. Andrew's to keep it blessing others, to enliven it? If God calls you it will not be a burden but a joy. A true calling of God will never take us to someplace we resent going. If you try something out and believe you made a mistake, you can change your mind.

* * * * *

A new time is beginning in the experience of St. Andrew's – that is, we now have an office without a Secretary, and we have a Treasurer who is only serving until we can find someone else. The job of Treasurer is one of the essential officers' positions of a congregation, whether Parish or Mission. Even though I (or someone else who is on the bankcard) could sign the checks and pay the bills, a Treasurer is needed to fill out and sign the Parish Report, among other things. We are fortunate that Sharon has agreed to stay on until we find a replacement, and then train that person.

Fortunately, we have some people who are willing to take on parts of the Secretary's job so that much of it will be done. But we won't have someone in the office unless one of us steps forward to say "I will do that." The secretary's job can be divided into parts, making it easier for someone to pick out the

piece they feel called to do. The Treasurer's job also; see p. 10.

I am truly grateful for all of the time and talent that has been offered here. Let us rejoice in that offering and learn to appreciate what it is we each bring.

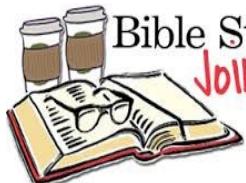
I have heard from many of you what that gratitude is about: where else can we go where we feel what it is we feel here? Where else can we find a community like this one?

St. Andrew's will continue as long as we have people who believe in us and what we do in San Lorenzo Valley, and who continue to listen to God and offer their time, talent and treasure to the work of Christ in the Episcopal Church here. We are part of a long line of people who love this church and its ministry. Whatever we need, God is willing to supply it. We just have to listen.

-Blaine



Last Call for Classes!



Bible Study! Some people have already responded to the request for information about a **Bible Study**. If you want to be part of such a study, please give Blaine a call soon, or attend the Annual Meeting (January 29)

where we will decide whether we have a critical mass. Please let Fr. Blaine know the days and times you have available.

Who are *Episcopalians*

We also have a few candidates for an ***Episco-what?*** class. We will be starting this in early February, so that we can complete it before Bishop Mary visits on April 30. Again, let Fr. Blaine know soon, before the Annual Meeting if possible, so we can plan.

Please let Fr. Blaine know the days and times you have available.



Carpool or rent a bus, but don't miss this amazing day of inspiration!

Experience Presiding Bishop Michael Curry January 7, Sherwood Hall in Salinas

Bishop Mary invites all congregations to a special visit from
Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
and his Canon for Evangelism and Reconciliation,
The Reverend Canon Stephanie Spellers.

Revival-style keynote addresses, panel conversations and audience
Q&A.

Below is the approximate schedule:

9:30 am Gather and worship
10:00 am Morning Session: Welcome to the Jesus Movement
12:00 noon Lunch
1:00 pm Going Deep and Going Long
3:00 pm Adjourn

More than 1,000 attendees are expected.
This is a **free** event, but we ask all attendees to
bring their own lunches.

St. Andrew's Women's Reading Group

When: January 10th, 7 pm

Where: Karen's house

Book: *The Underground Railroad*,
by Colson Whitehead

All are welcome!

Call Jean for more info, 335-5682.

A festive background image featuring a variety of colorful balloons (red, blue, green, yellow, purple) and streamers in shades of blue, green, and yellow, set against a white background with small confetti-like dots.

January

Christa Shanaman	4
Christopher Mello	6
Kim Rooks	10
Jaime Butler	11
Sandra Cadell	12
Larry Laufenberg	15
Sari Mitchell	17
Kris Waller	18
Sofia ,Victor Davidson	24

February

Dena Robertson	2
Rochelle Kelly	4
Gene Kodner	4
Alexander Cadell	7
Paula Jansen	10
Tedd Parske	13
Ray Schmidt	13
Isabella Landeros	19
Teresa Ruff	20
Anabelle Bauer	24
Brett McPherson	26



The Deacon's Bench

by Jim Lieb

Many years ago I quit my job repairing dictating machines and Cathe and I moved from our tiny (first) apartment in Mountain View to Santa Cruz so I could return to school and start my 3rd year in the Information Sciences program at UCSC. We lived in Live Oak for the first six months so when Cathe got pregnant that Fall, she found a Santa Cruz local OB. One day at one of her scheduled appointments, one of the nurses looked very familiar, like someone I knew (and dated) during my first year of college. The last time I saw her was the year before I enlisted in the Air Force so if you add up four years of service, two years of college after and a year of working, it had been a while. Not being sure but wanting to find out, I went up to her and asked, "You look familiar. Is your name Rene?" She at first looked puzzled and then recognition came over her face and she said, "Bob! How are you?" We later met her husband Tom and we became great friends and kept in touch for many years. They were so impressed with how cute our Joshua (Daddy to the twins) was that they made the big decision to start a family of their own.

Christmas arrived on schedule during those early months and we asked Rene and Tom where we could get a nice Christmas tree. Rene put us in touch with one of her nursing colleagues who was married to a guy whose family owned a Christmas tree farm, Rose Acres it was called. So off we went into the mountains to find Felton and a Christmas tree. Ron's mother was still running the place back then. It had been raining that week so the ground was still soft, enough that we decided to dig the little tree up rather than cut it down. The ground was also wet enough that by the time I dug it out of the ground my pants were soaked and muddy up to my knees. We all had plenty of time to get acquainted as I dug it up, wrapped the root ball in burlap, and lugged the heavy mass up to our Volvo sedan. We got a wine barrel planter for our little tree so after it performed its duty in the living room of our (thankfully first floor) apartment it got a nice sunny spot just outside our front door. We moved up to student housing apartment on campus a few months later and our tree came with us. It got one more year of indoor duty before I planted it by the parking lot just outside our door. We continued the tradition long after we moved away to places closer to my work. For most of those years we made a yearly expedition of it coming over from Fremont so the boys could pick out the tree and, when they got bigger, carry it to the car.

Starting with that first year when Cathe and I were growing from newlyweds to a new family, we got invited into the warmth of their home for a visit, cookies, and

hot drinks. Forget the theology and liturgy, Advent is Christmas trees and hot cocoa.

The reason I tell you this story is that starting with that tree in 1972, we have had a Rose Acres Christmas tree every year but two up until Ron called it quits a few years back. I even stopped by the following year on my way home from St. Andrew's one December Sunday just to visit and see how Ron was doing. We have gotten a tree from different places since but it is not the same. There have been over four decades (really??!!) of family tradition performed in this one place. That is important. This year our tree has come from the Abbot's Thrift lot in Felton so we continued part of the tradition because we had our grandkids with us and they picked out the tree.

I am writing this on Tuesday after Christmas. As I looked out at everybody during the two Christmas Eve services, I saw many of you who are here week after week. There were also many whom we may only see in church once or twice a year. I am glad to see you these one or two times because I also know that you contribute other times and in other ways. Like Ron and Christmas trees, we have been together and attended to these things for a long time but sometimes we move on and what used to be a local relationship is now a visit from somewhere else. What matters is that we are here together as a community, especially on the special days. It is these simple things, regularly done, that mark the blessings, changes, and passage of our lives. It was good to see you.

Blessings to all of you in the new year.

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TREASURER'S JOB

Here is Sharon's breakdown of how the Treasurer's duties could be divided into more than one person doing it. Someone would have to be named as Treasurer for the record, however.



Could be done by one person

Weekly:

- ⇒ Post the income to Excel from the weekly collection and from the credit cards.
- ⇒ Input the expenses into Excel. This is your working budget sheet. I create a new one at the end of each month. Checks could be written by this person and posted to Excel.
- ⇒ Charge the credit cards and make sure they are posted on a sheet for the pledge secretary and the person who does the QuickBooks. A copy of counter sheets and credit card charges and Paypal income needs to be made for all persons who are inputting data and kept in the counter sheet file.

Could be done by another person , this person should be the treasurer

- ⇒ QuickBooks input . *Details on access and how to use QuickBooks available to anyone who chooses to do this.*
- ⇒ Reconcile the bank statement to the Excel sheet and QuickBooks. A report is made for the Vestry each month. Canon law wants the Treasurer to attend the meeting and present the report and field questions, and then can go home if you choose. You will first balance the checkbook to the bank statements, the Excel sheet and QuickBooks. Generate a report from QuickBooks, correct it (its often got things in different budgeted areas) and make up a report for the vestry on Excel. The Auditor will look at all of this.
- ⇒ Make sure the designated funds and the savings are balanced to the bank.

There are a lot of rules as to maintenance of designated funds etc. These have to be followed carefully. The diocese has a class that can help with understanding procedures.

- ⇒ The annual report needs to be done for the national church each year.
- ⇒ The audit needs to be prepared each year

Could be done by a separate person, and make sure there are counters .

- ⇒ Every 3 months update the counter schedule. It is your responsibility to make sure there are two people each week to count the money.
- ⇒ Payroll is done at the end of the month. 941 forms and EDD; forms done quarterly and the W2's and 1099s annually. **Could be done by another person**
- ⇒ Scrip needs to be ordered and reconciled and profit transferred quarterly.

Could be done by another person.

Bank account is Union Bank. Access details available to whoever wants to do this.

You will be asked to negotiate with copy machine companies, PGE etc. You are the link between any expenses made and payments made to companies.

If any piece of this sounds like something God would like you to do, let Fr. Blaine and Sharon know. Thank you!



Thank you to all who have given so much of your time, talents, and monies in the support of our ministries. As of noon December 30th, St. Andrew's has received 31 pledge card responses totaling over \$60,000 (not including two designated gifts) in support of the 2017 budget.

There are at least 9 regular pledgers/givers who have not indicated their intentions as yet, but we expect to hear from them soon. New pledgers are always welcome! Our goal is at least 40 pledges with an increase to 50 or more during the New Year, and with a total income of \$75,000. or even \$80,000. What a miracle that would be! Let's make it happen!

Why pledge? Because it gives our finance committee a basis for planning a budget. Without some idea of our expected income for the year, it would be impossible to plan and carry out the ministries of St. Andrew's. Your pledge is what creates and sustains the ministries we as a community of Christ have determined that we want to carry out.

The church is here to help us grow our faith, to nurture our lives in Christ, and to increase our joy in sharing the Good News of God's love with all of our neighbors. The very physical presence of St. Andrew's Church, and all it represents, on the corner of Riverside & Glen Arbor, is a testimony to God's faithfulness. Together let's take God's message of love, joy, and peace beyond our corner and out to the entire San Lorenzo Valley.

Your Stewardship Committee



Weds. 5:15 pm
It's spoken, brief & quiet. A wonderful way to slow down & be in the Spirit for a moment in the midst of our busy days.
Join us.



Angel in the Kitchen

*Feelin good when cookn
Sharing the love of God*



BRICKLE BARS

Prep Time: 5 Minutes

Cook Time: 12 Minutes

Ingredients

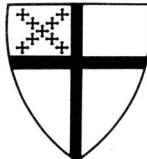
- * 12 full size graham cracker, broken into fourths
- * 1 cup butter
- * 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- * 1 cup chopped pecans
- * 1 cup semi-sweet morsels, melted (optional)

Instructions

1. Break graham crackers into fourth.
Line 15 X 10 X 1 inch pan with crackers.
Pan melt butter and sugar.
Bring to a boil over medium high heat, remove immediately
and pour over crackers. Sprinkle with nuts.
Bake in a 350 degree oven for 12-15 minutes.
Remove from oven very carefully and transfer to parchment paper.
Best way to do this is using two butter knives. Scoop each
graham cracker individually and transfer to parchment.
Repeat until all graham crackers are moved to paper.

(Optional step)

2. Spread or drizzle melted chocolate over each brickle bar.
3. Allow to set. Store these in the refrigerator.



Why I Am An Episcopalian: Reason #57

Anglicans can imagine the past and remember the future.

*The Rev. Nayan McNeill, Ph.D., Diocese of El Camino Real
from 101 Reasons to be Episcopalian*

This January start the year with an empty jar. Each week add a note with a good thing that happened.

On New Year's Eve empty the jar and read about the amazing year you had.



...Walking the Way in gratitude

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around the world wide Anglican communion...a book review

The Book of Joy:

Lasting Happiness in a Changing World

by Dalai Lama XIV, Desmond Tutu

Two great spiritual masters share their own hard-won wisdom about living with joy even in the face of adversity. The occasion was a big birthday. And it inspired two close friends to get together in Dharamsala for a talk about something very important to them. The friends were His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The subject was joy. Both winners of the Nobel Prize, both great spiritual masters and moral leaders of our time, they are also known for being among the most infectiously happy people on the planet.

From the beginning the book was envisioned as a three-layer birthday cake: their own stories and teachings about joy, the most recent findings in the science of deep happiness, and the daily practices that anchor their own emotional and spiritual lives. Both the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu have been tested by great personal and national adversity, and here they share their personal stories of struggle and renewal. Now that they are both in their eighties, they especially want to spread the core message that to have joy yourself, you must bring joy to others. Here they demonstrate by their own exuberance, compassion, and humor how joy can be transformed from a fleeting emotion into an enduring way of life.

from amazon.com Hardcover, 354 pgs, published Oct.18, 2016 by Avery



around the ECUSA...

Episcopal Church Announces 2017-2018 Revivals

The Episcopal Church is working with diocesan teams to organize a series of Episcopal Revivals in 2017 and 2018, six major events that promise to stir and renew hearts for Jesus, to equip Episcopalians as evangelists, and to welcome people who aren't part of a church to join the Jesus Movement. One of the revivals will take place November 17-19, 2017 in the Diocese of San Joaquin.

"I love the surprised response when people hear we're organizing Episcopal Revivals," said the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, the presiding bishop's canon for evangelism, reconciliation and stewardship of creation. "Why wouldn't we? A revival is a movement of the Spirit among the people of God, a concrete sign that we want to share God's love out loud with each other and with new people. That sounds like the Jesus Movement."

The six Episcopal Revivals will vary in design, but most will be multi-day events that feature dynamic worship and preaching, offerings from local artists and musicians, personal testimony and storytelling, topical speakers, invitation to local social action, engagement with young leaders, and intentional outreach with people who aren't active in a faith community.

the back page
by Paula Jansen

*St. Andrew's means community to me
and love
and friends
and God
and worship
and Jesus.*

*I came to St. Andrew's looking for a church
and got all of the above - who knew so much could
come from a church? A little, tiny, historic church in a
neighborhood in Ben Lomond?*

*St. Andrew's pulls me in when I feel like slipping away.
That's a very good thing.*

*St. Andrew's is there for me when all I want to do is
cry. Who could ask for more?*

*St. Andrew's had given me the opportunity to rise to
challenges I never thought I'd be ready for.*

*St. Andrew's is a gem in the heart of Ben Lomond.
Let's figure out how to share ourselves with more
people because we have so much to give.*

*Responses welcome. Contact Elizabeth, elizabethdhf@gmail.com
or Paula, pauladalejansen@gmail.com*



X

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