

The Piper

November 2017



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Where God is worshiped and the people are*

Ramblings in the Redwoods

The days of the Season after Pentecost are winding down. Daylight Savings Time is done for 2017 and the weather tells us it is definitely Autumn, at least while I am writing this. Who knows what will happen though? Weather has not been consistent as the earth warms up, and el Niño and la Niña swap places back and forth. As we move up to Advent it would be a good time to remember that God is present with us already, even though we are waiting for the return of Christ.

One of the things I have heard often enough to last me for a long time, as perhaps you have also, is “My church is the forest.” Actually, I also feel close to God in a particular way when I am in the non-human creation. I like to say that I want to be out in nature until my pulse matches the pulse of the earth. Of course that’s not strictly accurate, but it feels right.

I have sat still against the stump of a tree as a doe walked up to within less than a foot of me and sniffed me to see what I was, with her yearling buck behind her. I have sat on a cliff and watched crows a few feet away playing with the air currents. I have watched as half a dozen magpies watched me right back, all of us silent in our observation. I have been within about 30 feet of a black bear and a similar distance to bald eagles. I believe in the spirit of these animals and that the Spirit of God is present in and with them all, even while recognizing that a close encounter with any of them could be fatal to me.

I have camped in the snow in the Cascades and the Rockies. I have walked the coast of the Puget Sound when the weather was about 50 degrees and the water was no warmer. It was cold enough that my feet hurt but I stayed out there for over an hour. I have walked for over two miles when it was 20 below zero, and run for over three miles when it was 13 below. I used to like to walk barefoot in powder snow. I have gone to sleep outdoors in the desert when it was in the 90s and in the lower 30s when I woke up shivering hard in the early morning.

With this part of my own spiritual life being so important to me, it is very difficult for me to face the reality of the changing climate and the culpability of human behavior in affecting that change.

When I was in Colorado, there was a high-level teaching seminar held at the University of Colorado in Boulder. They even had a representative from the United Nations taking part. The only people among those who cared about the environment who weren't invited were religious organizations. I had had a founding role in a group called the Colorado Coalition on Religion and the Environment (CCRE) and one of our officers went to the organizers and demanded that we be allowed to hold a workshop. They caved and gave us a room. It turned out to be the best-attended of all the workshops. The diversity of religious beliefs was surprising to me. I expected the more progressive Christians and Jews, but we also had fundamentalists, Pentecostals and Mormons, and at later meetings we added Hindus. I realized then the depth of concern for creation; but the reason they hadn't thought of including religious groups was sobering.

They thought religions were part of the problem.

The experience of most of the environmental groups was that Christians in particular opposed environmentalism. That was sad, because we are among the ones who are supposed to care the most about what God has done in creating the world and the cosmos.

It is important that we resist the theology that says "God is going to destroy it all anyway, so what's the point in trying to save it?" We need to remember that the biblical account says that God blessed the creation and called it good, and has never taken that back. It is also important to resist the theology that says we are supposed to have dominion in a negative way. It is part of what we call the Fall to think that we are supposed to exercise dominion as tyrants. We are supposed to exercise dominion as God does; that is, with loving care.

We need to not only resist theology that pulls us away from our appreciation of and care for creation, we also need to be proactive in trying to protect and care for what God has blessed and called good. We can argue about methods and means, but we should not argue about the objective.

One of the tactics being used by people who want us to ignore or disregard our responsibilities is to pretend that the science of climate change is still out, that there is honest disagreement among scientists about what is happening or about the human role in it. This is not true. More than 90 percent of scientists (from articles I have read) agree that climate change is happening and that humans are responsible; and among those who disagree, a large percentage are being paid by those who have a stake in having the science disregarded (also from articles I have read).

At Diocesan Convention on November 3rd and 4th, Resolution C was titled "Paris Pledge." I want to quote the Resolved sections:

"Resolved, That this 37th Convention of the Diocese of El Camino Real calls upon the Diocesan Staff and the Board of Trustees to take the 'Paris Pledge' for Sargent House (which is the headquarters for our Diocese); and be it further

"Resolved That deaneries and each deanery clericus be encouraged to engage in education and discussion of the spiritual and moral implications of climate change; and

encourages all congregations to discover their current carbon footprint, to consider taking the ‘Paris Pledge,’ and to take all necessary actions to reduce their negative impact on the planet; and be it further

“Resolved, That the Board of Trustees is called to present the 38th Convention (next year’s Convention) with a report about the steps that have been taken throughout the diocese.”

I don't know how to find out our carbon footprint, but the "Explanation" section points us to the website <http://www.parispledge.org/> to find out. I encourage us all to practice good environmental stewardship and exercise caring and loving dominion over creation.

Those who say “My church is the forest” often mean that they don’t need to seek God anywhere else. That is not so. It is important to find God among the non-human creation; it is also important to find God in the human creation. This is true even when we disagree with each other about theology, tactics or points of view on particular issues. We find God in each other when we gather together for worship and learn more about who God is. I go to church because that is where I can find God in and among people. See you there. –*Blaine*



Evening Prayer-Wednesdays - 5:15-5:45 PM

It's brief, quiet, and a great way to refill your spiritual tank half way through the week.

Join us.

How Is God Calling Me to Participate at St. Andrew's?

God calls us all, and part of our call might be to take part in the ministries of St. Andrew's. As we move closer to the time when the transition to the Rector's retirement takes place, it could be good for each of us to ask what God is up to in our lives, and whether that relates to ways in which our own pledges of time and talent can match up with how God is calling us to help St. Andrew's move into whatever the future looks like.

Here are some of the ways in which people can take part:

Secretary: We have gone quite a while now without a Secretary. Sharon Fishel continues to help out with some of those tasks, but she has been trying to retire from that

ministry. Unless some of us pledge more, or more people contribute, we will be unable to pay a Secretary but we have had volunteer Secretaries at other times in our history. For the present, we are not able to pick up all messages in a timely way. For the future, we are in danger of beginning to lose institutional memory as to how things are done, and what things need to be done. Sharon is willing to train anyone; ask her if you want to know more or to help out.

Treasurer: Sharon Fishel has been trying to retire from this for a while also. She has been willing to continue to do the job, but who knows how long that will last? Without a Treasurer, we cannot function as a Parish, or even as a Mission. If we don't have a Treasurer, St. Andrew's disappears. The Treasurer prepares a monthly report to the Vestry, and attends Vestry meetings to present that report. The Treasurer also fills out part of the yearly Parish Report, and sits on the Finance Committee. (The Finance Committee consists of the Treasurer, the Rector, and current and prior Senior Wardens.) Sharon again is willing to train; ask her if you want to know more or to volunteer.

Diocesan Convention Delegates and Alternates: Each year, we need to have people who represent St. Andrew's. Right now, we need two of each, but if our attendance should begin to increase we may be able to send more to Convention. The commitment is to attend Convention, which is held the last Friday and Saturday in October or the first in November; in 2018 it will be in October. Delegates and Alternates are also asked, if possible, to attend Deanery meetings three or four times during the year. Retiring members of the Vestry are looking for anybody who wants to take on this role. If you want to know more, ask Elizabeth Forbes or Teresa Ruff.

Vestry Members: The Vestry is the Board of Directors for the Parish. A Vestry term is three years. Meetings are once a month, usually the third Thursday of the month, in the evening. Members are also asked to participate in activities of the Parish. A Senior Warden is usually appointed by the Rector each year from the members, and a Junior Warden is elected by the Vestry. They serve for one-year renewable terms. The Senior Warden works with the Rector, or serves as the spiritual officer when there is no Rector in place. The Junior Warden is responsible for building and grounds, and for keeping tabs on what congregation members are thinking. Two members of the Vestry are retiring this year, and they are searching for people to take their places. We can also have more than two, if more than two are willing. We must have six members, and we could have up to twelve. Talk to Elizabeth Forbes or Teresa Ruff to learn more or to sign up.

Preschool Board Members: The Parish has two members on the Board, besides the Rector (or Senior Warden when there is no Rector), one of whom has to be a Vestry member. One of the St. Andrew's members serves as Chair. Preschool Parents contribute two members, and the Preschool Director also sits on the Board. See Senior Warden Michael Freeman or Fr. Blaine if you want to know more.

Liturgical Ministries: Ushers greet people who attend worship services, handing out bulletins and doing other tasks in the service. Talk with Ray Wentz if you want to know more or to volunteer. Altar Guild members prepare the worship space, clean up after

worship, and take care of the things used in worship, such as linens and vessels. See Janet Butler to find out more or to volunteer. Lectors read lessons at services. See Rochelle Kelly to learn more or volunteer; likewise see her about Eucharistic Ministers, who read lessons, carry the processional cross (crucifer), read the Prayers of the People (intercessor), help to prepare the Altar for worship, and distribute the wine during Communion (chalice bearer). Eucharistic Visitors carry Communion to people who can't be at worship because they are hospitalized, institutionalized or homebound. Ask Elizabeth Forbes if you want to know more or volunteer. We have not had Acolytes for quite a while, but if you or your children want to be Acolytes, let Rochelle know. Acolytes can be crucifers, they carry candles in procession (torchbearers) and help prepare the Altar for worship. Adults can be Acolytes too! Musicians and Singers help add that musical dimension to our prayers and worship. Talk to Music Director Tanya Davidson if you want to join the choir or contribute something instrumental, or to join the Folk Music group. Worship Leaders are licensed to lead daily offices. See Fr. Blaine to learn more.

Other Ministries: Do you want to take part in our activities and fundraisers, or create one yourself? Talk with Senior Warden Michael Freeman or Fr. Blaine. To help with the gardening tasks, talk with Tillie Cunningham. If you have ideas you want to run past anybody, ask Fr. Blaine or Michael Freeman. Let us know if we have missed anything!

St. Andrew's is a group that is dependent on each other in order to function. Some of us are not able or willing to be a joiner at this time and that is all right. But if you want to be active, and are waiting for someone to come and ask you personally, remember that God is asking too! Remember to listen and respond. And be careful not to overcommit; that can get you into a difficult place.

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St. Andrew's Women's Reading Group

When: Tuesday, November 14th, 7 pm

Where: Barbara Bain's house

Book: *The Japanese Lover*, by Isabel Allende

All are welcome!

Call Jean for more info, 335-5682.

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The Piper is now coming via email. Don't miss a single issue!

Due to the cost of paper and postage, we are minimizing mailed, paper copies. If you would like to receive a paper copy, please call Elizabeth (831-338-3312) with your mailing address, or fill out this form and mail it to me at 196 Mountain St., Boulder Creek 95006.

Name _____

Mailing address _____

There is no charge for the paper Piper, but a small donation is appreciated.

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Angel in the Kitchen

*Feel good when cookn
Sharing the love of God*



A HARVEST DINNER TREAT: PUMPKIN TORTE DESSERT

by Donna Brough

Ingredients:

1 large or 2 small cans of pumpkin puree

2 cans evaporated milk

2 tsp. cinnamon

½ tsp. cloves

1 tsp. ginger

1 tsp. salt

4 lightly beaten eggs

1 cup sugar

1 pkg. dry yellow cake mix

1 1/3 cups cubed butter

1 to 1 ½ cups chopped walnuts or pecans

sweetened whipped cream

Mix pumpkin, evaporated milk, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, salt, eggs and sugar.

Pour mixture into a lightly greased 13 x 9 inch glass pan.

Sprinkle the top evenly with dry cake mix and dot the top with the cubed butter.

Bake at 350 for ½ hour.

Then sprinkle the top with chopped nuts and bake for an additional ½ hour.

“Serve to many with sweetened whipped cream.” Donna

A HARVEST DINNER THANK YOU:

Our Harvest Dinner this year was a true group effort, and your Stewardship Committee is more than grateful. There were so many events occurring that weekend that it is a miracle it happened at all. But it did, and the food was great, the decorations festive, and our speaker informative. Lynn Robinson, Executive Director of Valley Churches United shared her story, as well as that of V.C.U.M. and the many services that they are able to provide in times of need and disaster for residents of our Valley. St. Andrew's helped to start this resource after the floods & slide of '81-'82, and has been a supporter ever since its founding. Any volunteer time you would care to offer them is needed, and would be greatly appreciated.

To those of you who gave of your time and talent to make the dinner happen, we are most appreciative. Kudos to our cooks, Mary Woolliscroft, Tillie Cunningham, Cathy Newfield, Judith Suttle, Sue Roe, Jen Kennedy, (casseroles); Barbara Banke (bread, butter, wine), Kim Rooks (rice/quinoa, salad, wine); Shirley Greenwood (coffee); and Donna Brough, Mary Jo Neish, and Steve LaFever (Desserts). Thanks, too to the Appetizers Committee.

Both Ed and Janet Butler set up and cleared the Parish Hall, helped decorate the tables and room, and provided table settings for two tables, as did Judith Suttle, and the Committee. Roxanne Spring put the final touches on the table decorations with candles, leaves, and flowers....so pretty! We were also grateful for those who helped clean up after the dinner.....The Butlers, Ray Wentz, James Banke, Jerry Fishel, and Shirley Greenwood in the kitchen. If we left anyone out, please let us know. We certainly missed our Father Blaine, due to illness.

Again, thank you to all who participated in this evening of good food, fellowship, and grateful hearts.

Blessings on you all,

Kim Rooks, Barbara Banke, Rochelle Kelly, Jennifer Kennedy



Why I Am An Episcopalian: Reason #64

God love you, and there's not a thing you can do to change that.

*The Rev. Tom Van Culin, Diocese of Hawaii
From 101 Reasons to be Episcopalian*



**KEEP
CALM**
AND GET READY FOR
**WOMEN
BISHOPS**

Saturday, November 18, 2017

followed by

The Feas

Shepherd's Pie, Salad, Bread
Coffee, Tea

Suggested Donation: \$10
\$5 (seniors and Kids under 12)
\$1 for soda/water

All proceeds benefit
Valley Churches United

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
101 Riverside Avenue
Ben Lomond, CA 95005
(831) 336-5994
www.saintandrewsbenlomond.org



Fill out the form below about your clan/
Place in collection plate today or tomorrow
Volunteer sheets are next to the door

Fr. Blaine recently preached on being called and/or being chosen. While being very thought-provoking in and of itself, it also brought to mind my recent house guests and friends, Kathleen and Diane, from Olympia, WA who were visiting here for their annual Fall retreat of Catholic Womenpriests.

This year there was a very special occasion for them: the ordination of two new Catholic Women Bishops from this Western Region. It took place at Temple Beth El in Aptos, where they were welcomed with open arms by the female Rabbi. She spoke briefly at the beginning of the Ordination service. Ten or more Women Bishops, from many corners of the earth, wearing brilliant red chasubles processed solemnly, with great dignity and joy to the front and down each side of the aisle of the Temple to begin the service. A very impressive visual for me. The music used was beautifully performed by Diane and two others. The liturgy, which was more or less directed by Kathleen, followed many of the rituals to which we Episcopalians are accustomed: The silent laying on of hands, the litany of the saints, the prostration before the altar, and of course, the Sign of Peace. The women Bishops concelebrated the Ordination and the

Communion was concelebrated by all the clergy, Bishops, and both women and men priests. It was a very impressive and touching ceremony. The people from Temple Beth el provided a tasty and tasteful reception.

That evening Christine, who had gotten the first call to Ordination as a woman in Austria, asked Kathleen, if she and her friend from London could see some redwoods. That brought me into the picture--I am blessed with being within walking distance of the famed Henry Cowell Redwood Loop. So Kathleen, who was ordained a couple of years ago and has known me since she was a 9-year old, called me from the convent where they had the retreat and asked if she, Diane, Bishop Christine and Dorothea, from London could come up to do that lovely walk. I said yes, of course. After baking some gluten-free brownies, Kathleen packed up a simple picnic and we took off to Henry Cowell Park. We ran into one of the docents who was delighted to share many redwood stories with our visitors. After enjoying the little picnic on the redwood deck behind the nature center, we walked across the path to Roaring Camp, following that with a brief walk over the old covered bridge. That all brings me back to Blaine's sermon. We had come back to my house where I made coffee, and the five of us sat and they told me of the struggle to have that first ordination. There were seven women who were called to the priesthood at that time. They consulted different clergy and found an ordained Catholic Bishop of the male variety that believed in them and what they were called to do, who oversaw their training to become priests as long as his name was not divulged until after his death. After a year and a half, these brave women were ordained to the priesthood and in another year and a half, in a boat on the Danube, they were ordained Bishops with the orders to go out and do likewise. Their stories were incredible and as I sat and listened I realized I was in the presence of people whose names will go down in history. Although I cannot tell all the stories, it was a powerful experience so I thought I would share this much with *Piper* readers. Pray for this important moment in history and the women brave and strong enough to accept the call as they were chosen to do even without the acceptance of the hierarchy. Pray also for Bishop X, as he is known to a few, for his willingness to perform holy disobedience and start this whole, healthy and growing movement by ordaining the first Roman Catholic Womenpriests and Bishops.

Donna Brough



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What is a Carbon Footprint?

The vast majority of energy we use today is derived from the burning of fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas, or coal. A carbon footprint, as commonly known, is simply the weight of carbon or carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere each year from the burning of fossil fuels. The carbon footprint, however, can be expressed in other ways that are more useful and more consistent with the original ecological footprint concept: the area of the Earth's surface needed to absorb those emissions. On average, it takes roughly 41 acres to

absorb one ton of carbon emissions. Other gases that contribute to global warming — such as methane from waste — are converted into "carbon equivalent" units then added to the carbon footprint.

Household Carbon Calculator

1. What is the location of your residence? State: Zip:
2. How many family members live at this residence?
3. What is the name of your congregation?
4. Can we show your calculated results on our website?
5. How many kWh of electricity does your household use in a year?
6. How much heating fuel does your household use in a year?
Heating Type: Amount per year:
7. How many miles do members of your household travel by air in a year?
8. How many gallons of garbage per week does your household produce?
9. Please provide information about your vehicles: make, model, year, mpg, yearly mileage.

Go to <http://www.coolcongregations.org/calculator/household.php>
and fill in the calculation form with the above information.
Then click on "Calculate Your Carbon Footprint."

