

The Piper

March 2018



In this Issue

- Ramblings in the Redwoodspg. 2
- Excerpt from Along the Kings Highway. . .pg 5
- Message from VCUM. pg 6
- Angels in the Kitchenpg. 9
- A Thought from the Junior Wardenpg 10
- Calendarpg. 11



Ramblings in the Redwoods

Lent has, in the past, often been a time of growth for me. Back when I was still using tobacco (I am still a tobacco addict, just not a tobacco user; I am in recovery) I was able to quit smoking twice for long periods beginning in Lent; two years on one occasion and six months on another. Being an addict in denial, I thought I could have one cigarette after that much time had passed and within a week I had a pack in my pocket and was smoking a pack a day again. Addicts of any kind know what I'm talking about. AA members will tell you that one is too many and two is not enough.

Back when my body was in better condition I was a runner. Some of us called that a positive addiction. It wasn't positive for everyone but for most of us it was (there were people who couldn't sleep at night and would get up and run for hours; some people with anorexia would use running to burn up calories that they didn't replenish). But I would spend hours out on the road, and rather than being dreary I found it an opportunity to be more in touch with creation and with God. That's been something I have been able to expect from Lent even after I had to stop running. Needful growth is on my mind during Lent in ways that it is not always on my mind during other times of the year.

Lent often seems to be a little too long for me, maybe by a week or two. But it is during that time of impatience that the true power of my "fallen" nature – the part that Paul called "The Flesh" – becomes clear. Whatever pathway I have chosen in order to draw closer to what God wants from me starts to seem like much more than I want to continue. It's during that time that I find most clearly the gap between what God wants from me and what I am willing to give.

What do you want to call this? Human nature? Our sinful selves? Our divided hearts? The Fall of humanity? Those words and phrases are all trying to say the same thing: we are addicted to self-indulgence. How do we break an addiction? Simple: we stop doing it and we start on a program of spiritual awakening and recovery. That's what twelve-step groups are all about. We had a candidate for the Bishop of Colorado while I was still living and working there, who said during his presentation that his parish in New York had a worship space upstairs and twelve-step groups that met downstairs. He said he thought it was his job to get the downstairs people

upstairs and to get the upstairs people downstairs. I voted for him on every ballot until the convention elected someone else.

The twelve steps started as a church program of spiritual awakening known as the Oxford Group. The Rev. Sam Shoemaker, an Episcopal Priest, carried the Oxford Group concept to America, where Bill W. saw its potential as a program for recovery from alcoholism. But the Church can still learn a lot from it, even having been adapted as a tool for recovery from addiction. The Oxford Group Movement was a response to the decline of faith following World War I, but Bill W. saw it as also having the potential of healing the mind and soul of the alcoholic.

The Wikipedia article on the Oxford Group states the following: “To be spiritually reborn, the Oxford Group advocated four practices set out below:

1. The sharing of our sins and temptations with another Christian.
2. Surrender our life past, present and future, into God's keeping and direction.
3. Restitution to all whom we have wronged directly or indirectly.
4. Listening for God's guidance, and carrying it out.”

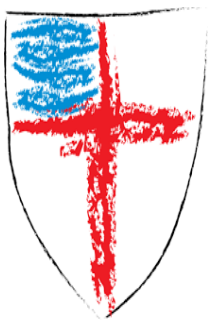
You can see in there the heart of the AA 12 steps. Once upon a time I rewrote the 12 steps to refer to a situation I was facing in another congregation. I offer an update on that for your reading pleasure, with apologies to all twelve-step programs:

1. We admitted we were powerless over our own nature and that our life as a Parish had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves (the Holy Trinity) could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God (Jesus of Nazareth gives us Christians the clearest understanding)
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves (Ouch! Ouch!)
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. (Some of us need to confess to a priest when confession to God won't quiet our consciences.)
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

7. Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings as individuals and as a community.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal and community inventory, and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others (addicts, codependents, members and leaders of sick congregations, believers in a sick concept of God, and others in need) and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

The AA Twelve Steps do not take much tweaking to fit back into the life of a church. Particularly in a time when the congregation is looking at a major change, reflections on these steps, especially during Lent, can help clarify for all of us who we are, who we ought to be, and what we need to do.

-Blaine



Why I am an Episcopalian: Reason 67

Episcopalians believe in moderation in all things,
including moderation.

Sheena Lawrence, Diocese of Atlanta
From 101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian

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.



Excerpt from: Along the King's Highway, 2-21-2018

Forgiveness is critical and aids the learning of new behaviors and the resetting of cultural norms to something more holistic and respectful for all people. After all, the gospel is about freedom from sin and glorifying God in yet more ways through holy living.

In Lent we engage particular spiritual practices:

“self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, self-denial, and reading and meditating on

God’s Word.” Our own engagement with the

realities of the power imbalances we

experience in many spheres of life and culture

can cause us to feel uneasy, confused,

cautious, angry, ashamed – or maybe

empowered. Such feelings can alert us to an opportunity for

transformation. Forgiveness is usually involved, of both self and

others.

One of the spiritual practices we continue to encourage in our

diocesan culture to help us bridge the multitude of divides in our

world is [Living Room Conversations](#). LRC has a set of questions

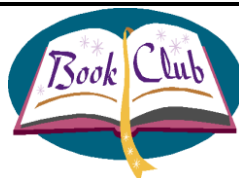
called “Let’s Talk About Power in Relationships.” I encourage you

to try this conversation (or another) to deepen your listening and

discernment skills, as well as your awareness of the variety of

perspectives regarding our complex world. All topics may be

found at [Livingroomconversations.org](#), under [“Topics.”](#)



St. Andrew’s Women’s Reading Group

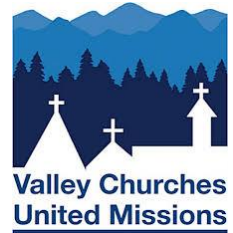
When: Monday, March 12th

Where: Barbara Bain’s

We will be discussing: *Talk Talk* by: T.C. Boyle

VCUM Needs St. Andrew's

If the Spirit is nudging you to be of service to others, you might want to check out this opportunity. Valley Churches United Ministries runs largely on volunteer energy and opportunities abound. How about forming a St. Andrew's VCUM Team!



The Pantry is where VCUM actually serves the clients. In the Pantry volunteer opportunities are:

- ✦ Sit at the intake desk and help clients with their updated documents in order to receive food or other assistance.
- ✦ Help bag the food from the pantry shelves that is given to clients.
- ✦ Help organize the donated food that comes to the pantry throughout the week.
- ✦ Drive the Valley Churches van to the local grocery stores to pick up donated food.
- ✦ Help on regular distribution days such as Friday when Grey Bears uses the parking lot, or the USDA monthly distribution.
- ✦ Sorting the donated food happens in the main building and is needed all year round.

Seasonal volunteer opportunities happen at Easter, The Back-to-School project, Thanksgiving and Christmas when we get especially busy with lots of projects. Volunteers can:

- ✦ help fill Easter Baskets,
- ✦ fill backpacks,
- ✦ help with the big distributions on Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- ✦ wrap presents at Christmas,
- ✦ work in the gift shop in November and December,
- ✦ bake holiday cookies and more
- ✦ be an extra driver to pick up donated food at Christmas time

Says Lynn Robinson, Executive Director, "This is an overview but it gives you an idea of the scope of the volunteer opportunities. I am happy to walk anyone around our facility and let them learn more about what we do and how they can help!"

A time to hate evil and love good

February 14, 2018 | Author: Supreme Executive Committee

Lent Madness - www.lentmadness.org

Dear friends in Christ,

One day each year, we take a pause from the usual madness to be serious about Lent. On Ash Wednesday, all distractions fade away, and we are reminded of a simple fact: we are all dying, and this precious life of ours is a gift to be savored.

If you said Morning Prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer today, you might have noticed a little tidbit in Amos. “Hate evil and love good.” It’s easy to say, but it’s very hard to do. It’s not all that difficult to hate evil in other people, but hating evil in ourselves is never easy. And that’s the point of Lent. We confront our own failings, so that we might make room for God’s grace to create new hearts in us.

The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us we are not alone in our struggle to hate evil and to love good.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Hebrews 12:1-2)

It’s not that the saints are sitting in the Lent Dome and watching us all on the big screen. That’s not what Hebrews is talking about when it says they are witnesses. Rather, we are surrounded by a cloud of martyrs, women and men who witness to us by their deaths. We are preceded in our earthly pilgrimage by those who struggled, like us, to hate evil and love good. And they loved good more than evil, Jesus more than life.

We hope you make it to church today to hear the solemn reminder that life is short. The time to repent is now. And then we hope you enjoy this whole season of Lent, an opportunity to return to God, to make our hearts new. Lent Madness may be mad, but it also draws us

together in community as we learn from those who hated evil and loved good. Tomorrow the madness begins. Today, we give thanks that we have a redeemer in Jesus Christ. Today, we give thanks for boundless grace to help us learn to hate evil and love good.

Tim+ Scott+

LOOK! BOOK! TOOK!

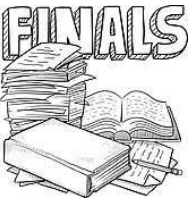
**Support and Fellowship group for Women
with spiritual inspiration and guidance**

Next meeting: Tuesday March 6th at 6:30 pm

New Families Office, 6062 Graham Hill Road, Felton

To RSVP or get information call Janet Parske at 246-1839 or Sharon Fishel at 336-8192.

Says Mr. Preston Boomer: At grading time at SLVHS, I would play the *Dies Irae* and sing the words below. And explain that the Computerized



Grading System was the "The Book Exactly Worded."

Lo The Book Exactly Worded
Wherein All Hath Been Recorded
Thence Shall Judgment Be Awarded.

From *Dies Irae*

No loafing! Never miss an assignment!

Then there's this one from Fr. Blaine: I had a Pastoral Psychology professor at seminary who would put a quote from the Psalms at the top of his tests:

"I will accept no bull from your house."

Modern translations say it differently but I never forgot that quote.

• **Tidbits and FYI**

Buy SCRIP-See Sharon Fishel for details and to purchase.

Bring non-perishable food for Valley Churches United.

Bring your CLEAN recyclable cans and bottles in tied plastic bags-no paper bags please. Drop off is on the south side of the parish hall.



Angel in the Kitchen
Feel'n good when cook'n
Sharing the love of God through your love
of cooking



COLCANNON

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 pounds russet potatoes (could also use red potatoes)
- 1 cabbage, trimmed, shredded or chopped (4 cups)
- 1 leek, cut into 1/2-inch dice (soak in warm water to remove sand, then drain)
- 1 cup milk
- 4 T buttermilk 1/4 tsp. Freshly grated nutmeg
- Coarse salt

Directions

- Peel and quarter potatoes, and place in a medium saucepan; add enough cold water to cover. Bring to a boil over high heat; reduce heat to simmer, and cook until tender when pierced with a fork, about 45 minutes. Drain potatoes and return to saucepan. Mash with a potato masher; cover pan to keep warm.
- Meanwhile, in another saucepan, combine cabbage, leek, milk, 2 T butter, and nutmeg, season with salt. Cover, and cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until cabbage and leek is soft but not browned, about 15 minutes. Stir into potatoes.
- Spread mixture in an 8-inch square baking dish. Make a small well in the center, and place remaining 2T butter in well. Keep warm until ready to serve.

• Your 2018 Vestry Members are:

- Rector Blaine Hammond

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| • Michael Freeman-Senior Warden | Steven LaFever-Junior Warden | |
| • Janet Butler | Cindy Garay | Rochelle Kelly |
| • Cathy Newfield | Kim Rooks | Judyth Suttle |



A thought from your Junior Warden

I really dislike having to discuss money in the church. Somehow, it seems irreligious. Nevertheless, I find myself saying some things I really don't want to say.

Priests have a calling and follow that call by going to seminary, being ordained and then seeking to find a parish that will hire them as their spiritual leader. Priests have no insurance, no pension, no tangible means of support except that which has been given them by God. Therefore each parish, when calling a pastor, accepts the responsibility of sustaining that person. We are embarking on that process with the departure of our current rector in June. In working with the diocese we have to answer several questions. One of which is the salary we will be able to pay this person. I have heard personally some members of the congregation say they are not pledging until a new pastor is called. We are about 10 pledges short of last year. I hope you all can make the connection and realize that building a budget with 10 pledges short means we have much less funds for calling a new pastor. This translates into a terrible position for St. Andrew's. I, for one, want to be able to hire the best possible person who will continue to lead us in a positive direction, stimulate congregational growth, provide the best possible pastoral care, make us a prominent member of the community, relate to the youth of this valley, and spread the good news to all people in this area. Therefore, to succeed, we must be able to have the support of the entire congregation in marching forward and calling a new spiritual leader for St. Andrew's.



St. Andrew's Annual Plant Sale

St Andrew's will have its annual Plant Sale on **Saturday May 5 from 9 to 2 PM.**

Gardening Guild members and others are encouraged to be growing plants or seedlings to make money to support our enhanced landscape plans.

Donations of hanging planters or unique pots would be great, too. Contact Judyth Suttle at [831-334-9112](tel:831-334-9112) or judythsuttle@yahoo.com



Calendar Events

Date	Time	Event	Notes
Sat 3/3	11am	Bowlathon-Call Janet Butler to sign-up and purchase raffle tickets for great prizes.	Boardwalk Bowl
Sun 3/4	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite II Lenten Soup Supper-Potluck/sign-up	Sanctuary Sanctuary Parish Hall
Tue 3/6	6:30pm	Look! Book! Took!-Women's Support-RSVP to Janet Parske or Sharon Fishel	New Families Office, Felton
Sun 3/11	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite II Lenten Soup Supper-Potluck/sign-up	Sanctuary Sanctuary Parish Hall
Thurs 3/15	6:45pm	Vestry Meeting	Parish Hall
Saturday 3/17	9am 3:30pm 6pm	Vestry Retreat Willowbrook Services-Meet in parking lot at 3:00 to carpool. St. Patrick's Day Dinner	Offsite Offsite Parish Hall
Sunday 3/18	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite II Lenten Soup Supper-Potluck/sign-up	Sanctuary Sanctuary Parish Hall
Sunday 3/25	8am 10am 6pm	Palm Sunday-Holy Eucharist Rite I Holy Eucharist Rite II Lenten Soup Supper-Potluck/sign-up	Sanctuary Sanctuary Parish Hall
Thursday 3/29	7pm	Maundy Thursday-Foot washing	Sanctuary
Friday 3/30	6pm	Holy Friday	Sanctuary
Saturday 3/31	8pm	Easter Vigil	Sanctuary
Easter Sunday 4/1	9am 11am	Feast of the Resurrection Feast of the Resurrection	Sanctuary Sanctuary



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Ben Lomond, CA 95005

831.336.1069 staoffice@sbcglobal.net

saintAndrew'sbenlomond.org

Where God is worshiped and the people are fed