

The Piper

October 2020



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Miracles Do Happen

Message from our Senior Warden

In this tragic time, I hold all of you in my prayers and keep telling myself that “This too shall pass.” But, in the meantime while we struggle through the devastation, loss, fear and uncertainty, I have witnessed miracles. Let me tell you about one.

As you know, our house burned to the ground. We couldn’t even get in to see our house until last Sunday, the 13th. It is devastating and we shed a lot of tears.

When we were leaving and got to the gate on our road, a white pickup truck was just driving by. On the side of the truck it said “[Samaritan’s Purse](#).” The couple in the truck stopped and we spoke. Samaritan’s Purse is an international volunteer organization that sifts through the ashes of burned out homes for people. You will see their trucks at the Felton Bible Church which is their headquarters during our CZU fire tragedy.

Two days later, they called us and we met their crew at our house to begin the painstaking and labor-intensive task of sifting through all the rubble. They arrived with a big box truck full of protective clothing and tools. Twelve volunteers were on site from places such as North Carolina, Southern California, Pismo Beach, Felton, and Scott’s Valley. They told us to sit back and they did all the work, showing us their finds while we wrapped and boxed what we would save.

(You can find our story with pictures of their work with us on their Facebook page.)

They worked for three days at our house. Most of our collectibles, holiday decoration, tools, jewelry, etc. were in pieces or mangled. But, one thing that they did find buried amidst the ashes was the bust of Jesus that had been in our upstairs bedroom. Jesus was clean and whole.

How could such an amazing thing happen when all around was rubble? Well, see my picture below and know that there are miracles. God’s peace to you all and may you be surrounded by miracles, too.



Rochelle

News from the Diocese

Episcopal Relief to support local communities impacted by fires and COVID-19

reprinted from Real Episcopal <https://www.realepiscopal.org/episcopal-relief-to-support-local-communities-impacted-by-fires-and-covid-19/>

People who are suffering due to the wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic will benefit from emergency funds approved this week for the Diocese of El Camino Real. **Episcopal Relief & Development** will provide \$10,000 in relief funds to aid those affected by wildfires in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara counties. An additional \$5,000 will support people across the diocese who have been financially hurt by COVID-19. **Grants are intended for both non-Episcopalians and members of parishes.**

The relief will come in the form of gift cards for food and everyday needs and reimbursement for expenses such as rent and utilities. Those with the greatest need include residents whose homes have been damaged or destroyed, those who evacuated homes and/or could not work, agricultural workers and their families who lost income due to intense smoke conditions, plus homeless residents who were displaced. The COVID relief funds will specifically focus on those who have lost job income due to the pandemic.

If you know of individuals or families who are in need, [please contact us here](#); parishioners are urged to contact their local clergy who will help direct funds.

Bishop Lucinda and the diocesan staff are grateful to Episcopal Relief & Development for their support during this time of crisis!

Volunteers Offer ‘Glimmer of Hope’ After Wildfires

SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 • UNITED STATES

Please click on the link below to see a video and see how this group of people helped our friends, neighbors and the Kelly's.

<https://samaritanspurse.org/article/volunteers-offer-glimmer-of-hope-after-wildfires/>

Thoughts from Steve LaFever

Charles Dickens, started *A Tale of Two Cities*, with the line, “It was the worst of times, it was the best of times.” I think I am still trying to figure out where the “best of times” is. Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas are dates which will be so very different than in the past. I think that is an understatement. We bypassed St. Patrick’s Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day and Memorial Day. None of those reflected the great celebrations of the past. Many of us, unfortunately, have become used to Zoom for most all gatherings of people. The youth will remember this as one hic-cup in their early life. The good news about Zoom is if the host is not pleased with what someone is saying, they can simply mute them or exclude them from the room. It has been a year of seeking justice for those who have been ignored in the past, it has been a time of protesting injustice. Then on top of all that . . . it has been a time of fire and brimstone. Dedicated men and women spent countless, dangerous, hours battling nature’s attempt at destroying our area. In some respects she succeeded, in other situations, the fire, rescue, and police safeguarded our homes and businesses, and fought the fire endlessly until it was extinguished. All that stress from those who were evacuated, from all those who lost their homes, and the past stress experienced by those who were and are on the front lines who dedicated their lives to safeguard this plot of land called San Lorenzo Valley will forever be remembered. We now return to the pandemic, politics, and rebuilding lives.

I hope that Dickens was right and there will be a “best of times” in our future. When I returned from evacuation, I walked around in a daze for several days almost catatonic. Then the calls came from my church family asking how I was doing. I finally realized that there are people out there who care and show support. Renee, unsolicited, baked me banana chocolate bread and an apple pie, Susan gave me spaghetti sauce and squash and we ate at Cosa Nostra, Sharon gave me cake, and last night there was a knock at the door and it was my friend Diana who handed me an order of KFC as she knew I liked that a lot. Everywhere I turn, people have come together to support each other. Our little red church is overflowing with generosity in the form of all kinds of things donated to give to people affected by the fire. Amazed is what I am. Thankful is what I

am. Through all this, there has to be the hand of God working to bring out the best in each of us. So, perhaps, the “best of times” reflects people helping people. Perhaps it was caused by a disaster. I know one thing, I can feel God’s love in each smile, in each gift, in the outpouring of support and love. This is what loving your neighbor is all about, and this is what Jesus intended from us. However, it happened. . . it is beautiful, and I hope it has become a catalyst for something larger, longer and sustaining. Glory Glory Hallelujah. His truth is marching on. His truth is with us now. Peace!

IMPORTANT SOURCES

St. Andrew’s Website: <https://saintandrewsbenlomond.org/>
 St. Andrew’s email: staoffice@sbcglobal.net
 St. Andrew’s Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/standrewsBenLomond/>
 The Episcopal Diocese of El Camion Real: <https://www.realepiscopal.org/>

The Bishop’s COVID-19 Fund has been expanded in response to the needs of communities impacted by the River, Carmel, Dolan, and Lightning Complex fires in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara counties. Gifts made to the **“Bishop’s COVID-19 and Disaster Relief Fund”** will be distributed to those impacted by either the fires or by the COVID-19 virus, based on urgency of need.

To give online, visit the diocesan **Donate page** and choose “Bishop’s COVID-19 and Disaster Relief Fund.”

Or mail a check to:

Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real
 PO Box 689
 Salinas, CA 93902

Please state “Bishop’s COVID-19 and Disaster Relief Fund” in the memo area of checks. Thank you! Bishop Lucinda and diocesan staff have also secured financial assistance from Episcopal Relief & Development for those in need. Watch for updates on our News page.

Donations can also be directed to The Red Cross, the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz Volunteer Center, the California Lions Foundation, and other local nonprofits.



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



LASAGNA - STUFFED ZUCCHINI (a family favorite!)

Ingredients:

3 Large Zucchini, halved lengthwise (more of you have a bigger family)

1 Tbsp. Olive Oil

1/2 Onion, diced

2 Cloves Garlic, minced (I use the minced garlic in a jar if in a hurry)

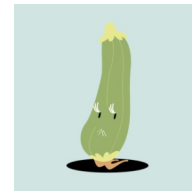
1 lb. Ground Beef

Seasonings to taste: salt, pepper, Italian seasoning (red pepper flakes if you want to add a little kick)

1 jar Favorite Pasta/Marinara Sauce (I rinse with a little red cooking wine- 1/4 cup)

1 Cup Ricotta

1 Cup shredded Mozzarella (I also use grated Parmesan)



Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Score zucchini (like you're dicing an avocado) and scoop out insides (I usually add these bits to the meat sauce but the recipe doesn't- up to you).

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, heat oil. Add onion and cook until soft, then add garlic and cook until slightly brown. Add ground beef and seasonings and cook until no longer pink, breaking it up well. Drain if necessary. Add marinara sauce (and wine and/or the red pepper flakes if using) and simmer while you're preparing the zucchini "boats".

Prepare 9 x 13 casserole dish with Non-stick spray and cover the bottom with a thin layer of the marinara sauce, then add zucchini boats:

Spread thin layer (or as much as you like) of ricotta on the bottom of each zucchini boat (I sprinkle with a little salt & pepper but not in the recipe), then spoon meat sauce over ricotta and sprinkle with mozzarella (I sprinkle with grated Parmesan then the mozzarella).

Bake until zucchini is tender and cheese is melted, about 15 - 20 minutes.

Bon Appetite!

Give Away

St. Andrew's put together a "Give Away" for those affected by the fires. We accepted donations from the community from September 14-17 and held the event on September 19. The generosity and outpouring of donations and help from the community has been overwhelming. The folks who came and got clothes, cleaning supplies, toiletries, kitchen items, toys etc. were outspokenly thankful. It was moving to hear the stories of those affected by the fires. We still have an abundance of everything so we will be holding another "give away" **October 3, from 10am to 4pm.** We could use help setting up and cleaning up. We will try to get rid of everything that day. We cannot accept any more donations, we are over filled with everything. If you know of folks that might be in need, but are not able to come on Oct. 3rd they can contact Sharon Fishel or Steve LaFever to arrange an appointment.

We would like to thank so many who helped including Corie Marello and her daughter and friends, Diane McCormick and her friends. Barbara Banke, Ray Wentz, Cathy Newfield, Dustin and Renee Katz, Steve LaFever, Rachel McCullough-Sanden, Judyth Suttle and Jaime Butler and Cindy.

Sharon Fishel and Sue and Jim Roe



1	Judyth	Suttle
3	Rick	Garay
4	Jonathon	Smith
6	Kerry	LeRoux
13	Joey	Kerns
17	Maggie	Neville
18	Paul	Balch
18	Jean	Templeman
22	Cathe	Lieb
25	Mitsuno	Baurmeister
27	Ray	Wentz
29	Steve	Ruff
30	Blaine	Hammond
31	Stephen	Mello

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If you shop Amazon you can add your favorite charitable organization (insert St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Ben Lomond) and AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?>

