

THE PIPER

MAY 2021



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A Message from Our Senior Warden

PENTECOST



That's the way we have always done it

Pentecost is upon us! It is when the Spirit of God, the same spirit that rested upon Jesus and also rested upon those first gathered as apostles and followers appears among us. It was the beginning of what we call the church and this movement of those who follow Jesus. We as Episcopalians know this as the Jesus Movement. It is part of us, part of our church and it started with Pentecost. However, this year we celebrate that beginning in the midst of a pandemic. That might be a problem, but the Holy Spirit will prevail and the Jesus movement of the Episcopal Church will march on.

St. Paul wrote in Romans, chapter 5 the following:

“We. . . boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (who) has been given to us.” At Pentecost the Holy Spirit was given to all of us forevermore. Alleluia!

While the title of this article seems far from the Pentecost message. It is not, I assure you. Paul would seem to tell us that surviving the pandemic gives us strength. Receiving the gift of Pentecost is what regenerates our spirit, our faith, and our hope. Let us talk about what detracts from the Holy Spirit and stands in the way of the movement born at Pentecost. Each person has gifts to share with each other, the church and the world. Being open to

receiving gifts means ridding ourselves of our self-centeredness.

In the 17th Century, Galileo said that the sun was the center of the universe. He was promptly put on trial for heresy by the inquisition, imprisoned, and died in captivity. Indeed, the sun is the center of our universe. What prevents us from trying new things, from thinking out of the box, from accepting others ideas? It is when we see ourselves as the center of our universe. It is when our egos take over and prevent the Holy Spirit from changing our lives, the way we look at things, and the actions we take. When we see ourselves as the center, we prevent the love of the Jesus movement from becoming part of us. When we are at the center, there is no room for accepting or receiving others ideas, love, or forward thinking.

What is the result of this? Well for Galileo it meant being confined. In a sense it also means we confine ourselves to doing things the same way over and over. Let me share two stories. One is the myth of Sisyphus. He was King of Ephyra and his crime was cheating death twice. Zeus in his anger, condemned him to roll this huge rock up a hill. At the end of the day while he slept exhausted, Zeus pushed the rock back down the hill and Sisyphus was forced to roll it back up each day. Zeus finally released Sisyphus of the torment, and gave him an obsession for rolling that rock uphill. Now he did this task willingly. When we limit ourselves to doing this only one way over and over, we, like Sisyphus, condemn ourselves to only one way of doing things and repeat that action over and over. There is no room for anything new. We become stagnant.



Another thought is from Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk. In his book, New Seeds of Contemplation, he tells us why we do things the way we have always done them. He says, “We are so convinced that past evils must repeat themselves that we make them repeat themselves. We dare not risk a new life in which the evils of the past are totally forgotten; a new life seems to imply new evils, and we would rather face evils that are already familiar. Hence we cling to the evil that has already become ours, and renew it from day to day, until we become identified with it and change is no longer thinkable.”

This is the way we have always done it. The Jesus movement, the church, St. Andrews is at a crossroad. We will survive the pandemic. Humanity will continue. BUT, will we move forward? Darwin talks about the survival of the fittest. He also tells us that survival is to those who can adapt to change. We need to examine our lives, the way we do things, the way we worship, the way we tell others about the love of Jesus if we are to survive and grow in our lives, in our congregation, in this world.

We all are bound by chains. They have been heaped upon us, they may be of our own making. Their weight prevents us from doing a lot of good in this world. The burden of them prevents us from sharing the love of God with each other. We need to let go of them, let go of the past, and move forward into the light of Pentecost and experience the warmth of the Holy Spirit --- let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Don't be afraid of change . . . it is what will save us. Jesus is a symbol of change and his message of God's love for all is the same today as it was 2000 years ago.

Rochelle Kelly & Honored Women's Day

Episcopal Church Women of El Camino Real held their annual "Honored Women's Day" Saturday April 24th. Women leaders from around the diocese had hoped they'd be free to meet in person as in years past, but instead had their gathering via ZOOM. It turns out having a ZOOM event allowed St. Andrew's Honoree, Rochelle Kelly, to attend while traveling out of state.

Senior Warden Steve LaFever chose Rochelle as this year's nominee because it was absolutely clear that she has led St. Andrew's Church with a deep faith through this difficult year of loss and pandemic challenge. Please read the fantastic words of honor Steve wrote for Rochelle's certificate (see next page), which was read during the event by Pastor Mary Blessing.



In addition to the presentation of Honored Women from throughout our diocese, it was lovely to hear Bishop Lucinda Ashby as key note speaker. Our bishop offered reflections on spiritually strong women who influenced her, including her mother who was a strong missionary leader in South America, and 14th century Saint, Catherine of Sienna.

Soon more and more of St. Andrew's members will be returning to church in person on Sundays. When you do, chances are you will see Rochelle helping to lead worship, and you will be able to congratulate her in person. Please also look on the bulletin board in the parish hall to see a copy of this beautiful certificate honoring her.



2020 HONORED WOMAN

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BEN LOMOND

ROCHELLE KELLY

Rochelle was Senior Warden for the past three years. Currently she is in charge of our worship service and schedules Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors. Since we only have a couple EMs, she has willingly stepped up and assists our supply priests most every Sunday. Our church is in turmoil. First, she had to let our Priest-in-Charge go due to finances, and then she had to deal with the pandemic and keep the church going. While Senior Warden, she was also in charge of recruiting supply priests for each Sunday. During the CZU fire, her home of many years was destroyed. She and her husband have been living in rented space until they can decide what to do. Her family also has had serious health issues. Add that all up and we are amazed how she is able to continue with the positive attitude she has. Her smile would signal someone without any problems, and she is always concerned about others in our congregation. Having worked with many dedicated people in the past, I will say that she is indeed a rare person. God has indeed blessed her with a glowing, caring spirit. When I became Senior Warden in January, she gave me an (Anglican) rosary and told me how saying those daily devotions has helped her get through those setbacks in her life. As a retired school principal, she also home schools her grandchildren. She is an amazing person who I am privileged to know --- and I have known many amazing people in my life. There is no doubt in my mind that her spirit and soul have been touched by God who supports her and blesses her each day of her life. The lives she touches are evidence of the positive good she gives to this world. I have never heard her say a negative word about any one or any group of people. She understands that we are all one, that diversity is something to be embraced, that God's has no step-children, and that we are all children of God --- no matter our circumstances in life. One short story. When she was allowed to go back to the pile of rubble which once was her home. She and her husband sifted through the ashes. Many years of memories perished; nothing remained. Then they found in the midst of those ashes a small white figurine that was untouched by

the fire. It was of Jesus. When all was destroyed, this solitary white piece of porcelain was spared. I can only imagine the tears of joy that trickled down her cheeks to have her faith affirmed with that small little image of our Savior. I nominate her, her life nominates her, and her faith and work nominate her!

Steve LaFever, Senior Warden.
Awarded this day 24th of April, 2021.

St. Andrew's Virtual Ministry

By Cathy Newfield

Saint Andrew's has been hosting Worship on Zoom for over a year now. We have been sharing the Gospel reading and Sermon on our YouTube channel and our Facebook page and group.

We have regular viewers from across the nation and even from Africa. Several of our kids who are in college now watch our recordings regularly. It has been an outreach that just happened as we were trying to get through the pandemic. Even as we return to in person services the Facebook and YouTube viewing audience continues to gradually grow. Zoom continues to be an option that several parishioners are enjoying.



To be added to the Zoom invite list for Sunday Worship email standrews441@gmail.com and you will start receiving links via email. Here's the link to our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/standrewsBenLomond/?ref=share>

Here's the link to our YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCsDQhTOzrOY4HF96JF8eWqw>



May is here! The sun is shining. It is getting warmer. We are in the orange tier! My power has stayed on for more than a month and I have only lost cable/internet once recently. Indeed things are getting better. Rev. Mary Blessing continues to worship with us and lead us with her wisdom and celebration of the communion which we now can receive. May will also see the return of Rev. John Buenz on May 16. Rev. Blessing will be with us on Pentecost and share that important celebration and share a special message. On May 30, Rev. Bruce Bramlett will celebrate with us. You will not be disappointed with the message he brings to St. Andrew's. Recently, he was at St. Jude's in Cupertino. He was raised in New York and has lived many places in this country and travelled to many places where his myriad experiences give him insight into many areas of the pastoral, priestly, and prophetic parts of the ministry. I have not yet scheduled June. I hope that as we all receive our vaccinations and the pandemic subsides, the diocese will allow us to return to some form of normalcy and worship inside our little red Church. Peace!

Steve Lafever – Senior Warden

Bishop Curry Pentecost prayer in the pandemic

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God

God of all power and love,
we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:
a people who pray, worship, learn,
break bread, share life, heal neighbors,
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
Wherever and however we gather,
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*





Angel in the Kitchen

*Feel'n good when cook'n
Sharing the love of God through
your love of cooking*

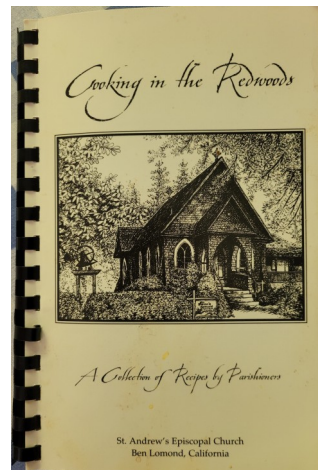


This month's recipe is brought to you from *Cooking in the Redwoods*, our own St. Andrew's cookbook. The following recipe was contributed by Tillie Cunningham.

Tortilla Chicken Casserole

4-5 chicken breasts	1/2 lb. Monterey Jack cheese
1 doz corn tortillas	1/2 lb cheddar cheese
2 cans Ortega green chili salsa	1 onion
1 can cream of chicken soup	1 cup milk
1 can cream of mushroom soup	

Bake chicken in foil for 1 hour @ 400. Cool and debone. Cut chicken to bite size. Slice tortillas into 1/2" strips. Grate cheese and mix the two cheeses together. Combine chilies, chicken soup, mushroom soup and onion. In 9x13 buttered pan layer 1/3 of tortilla strips, 1/3 of chicken, 1/3 of sauce and 1/3 of cheese. Repeat 2 more times. Cover with foil and refrigerate for 24 hours. Bake uncovered @ 300 for 90 minutes. Serves 8-10



May Birthdays

2	Cindy	Garay	11	Donald	Kerns
2	Sandi	Lewandowski	12	Barry	Holtzclaw
3	Cathy	Newfield	18	Katie	Garay
5	Erica	Snyder	21	Tim	Caldell
7	Preston	Boomer	22	Mike	Banke
8	Janet	Parske	22	Tracie	Synder
8	Tricia	Leslie	28	Logan	Hudson
10	Jaden	Ruff	29	Mark	deHass-Johnson
11	Evan	Evans			

June Birthdays

2	Corinna	Stevenson	11	Sarah	Townsend
5	Mario	Landeros	14	Bonnie	Wolfe
4	Laura	Lewandowski	17	Sandi	Templeman
8	Franceska	Lewandowski	18	Joe	Mello
9	Karen	VanGroningen	21	Roxanne	Spring
10	Jamie	Mello	25	Duquan	Ruff





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Where God is worshiped and the people are fed