

# The Piper

## January 2025



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## **A Message from Father Martin**

Dear Friends,

I believe that a good way to enter this new year, with all its opportunities and uncertainties, its blessings and challenges, is with two watchwords: gratitude and light.

Let us be thankful for all that is good and true and beautiful – for the people around us and the place where we live, for the gift of being alive, for God’s love for each one of us which passes our understanding. Such gratitude, practiced day by day, moment by moment, can ground us as we face our anxieties and uncertainties.

And light. Christ is the Light of the world. As we heard last Sunday, God’s light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Let us walk into this New Year with grateful hearts and with open minds and eyes for the light of Christ.

We have a busy January ahead. St. Andrew’s Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19, beginning with worship and Pastor’s Report at 10 am and continuing in the Parish Hall for elections and discussion. I hope that the Annual Reports and Financial Statements will be available a week ahead – January 12 – for you to pick up and read.

We will elect members to our 7 member Vestry and two Delegates and one Alternate for our Diocesan Delegation. If you are interested in being a Delegate and interacting with other congregations and leaders of our diocese, please let me know.

Then on Sunday, February 2, our bishop, The Right Rev. Lucinda Ashby, will make her Visitation, beginning with 10 am worship. We will follow the service with a parish potluck and open discussion with our bishop, as we did last year.

If you are interested in reaffirming your faith through Confirmation, Reception or Reaffirmation of Baptismal Promises when the Bishop visits, please see me ASAP to talk about this and to prepare. (You can learn more about Confirmation in the BCP pp.413-419; 860.)

Also in January, we welcome the Long Term Recovery Group of Santa Cruz County ([sccltrg.org](http://sccltrg.org)) to rent the upstairs main meeting room of our Parish building Monday-Friday, 9-5. They will be coordinating further disaster relief after the CZU fire and helping households rebuild.

The ACA twelve-step group will continue to meet weekly in the evening.

Bible Study continues on Tuesdays from 11 am to Noon. We are beginning the gospel of John. All are welcome – no Bible knowledge or background required.

Finally, we have received a grant from our diocese to replace the emergency back ramp to the second-floor meeting room. That work will take place in January. Thanks to our Junior Warden John Woolliscroft for his work on the upstairs restrooms and office.

St. Andrew's is a vital and (slowly) growing congregation serving our community and world with the love of God through Jesus Christ. I encourage you to participate in our Annual Meeting (January 19) and our Bishop's Visit (February 2). Share in what God is doing in and through this church! And celebrate in these sometimes dark days that the Light cannot and will not and shall not be overcome. Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,

Martin+



#### St. Andrew's current Vestry Members

Rochelle Kelly, Senior Warden

John Woolliscroft, Junior Warden

Susan Greer, Clerk

Sara Hector

Sheryl Mello

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, please forward them to any of the Vestry members. Vestry meetings are usually held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 1 pm in the Parish Hall.



This recipe is very quick and easy to make. You can also use chicken rather than turkey, but it is great to use up those turkey leftovers.

### Turkey Enchiladas

1 can Cream of Chicken Soup  
6 ounces Sour Cream  
1 small can diced Green Chilis  
1/4 cup Milk  
2 cups shredded Cheddar Cheese (or Mexican Cheese mix)  
2 cups dices Turkey (or Chicken)  
1/3 cup chopped Onion

Flour Tortillas

Combine cream of chicken soup, sour cream, and green chilis. Separate into two halves.

In the first half, add turkey, cheese, onion. Spread some of the filling on each flour tortilla and place in a lightly oiled baking dish.

In the second half, add milk and stir well. Pour the sauce over the enchiladas. Top all with remaining cheese.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes until heated through and browned on top.



### HeeHeeHee!!!

There were two brothers who were the worst criminals in town. One of them died. The surviving brother went to the local priest and said, "I'll donate \$10 million to the church if you give the eulogy, but you have to say that he was a saint. You have to actually use those words."

The priest thought a minutes and said, "ok, I'll do it." The brother was shocked that he agreed so fast, but he kept his word.

At the funeral the priest gets up and says, "This man was thief, a rapist, a liar and a crook. There wasn't one good thing about him!" Then he stares at the brother in the audience and continues, "but compared to his brother, HE WAS A SAINT!"

## **Random Thoughts**

I came across the diary of Jesus and it went like this:

I watched her today like I always do. She rolled out of bed and into her fuzzy slippers. She trudged into the bathroom and began her normal routine—washing her face and putting her creams and makeup on and curling her hair. She became frustrated when a piece of her hair wasn't doing the right thing and she got mascara on her eyelid. After finishing, she looked in the mirror and smiled. Not the smile she smiles when watching babies and puppies, but the smile she smiles to convince herself that everything is okay. She sighed and started her day. I wish she had heard me when I whispered, "you're one of my best creations", but she didn't.

She was already pouring herself a hot cup of coffee and running about her day. She went out the door without grabbing breakfast. She thought lunch would taste better if she knew she hadn't wasted calories on breakfast. Lunch came and I was looking forward to the talk we always have before she eats but a coworker distracted her and she forgot about it. I blessed her food anyway. She was exhausted when she got home, but she took time to run to the gym and get a workout in. She's determined to lose the five pounds I gave her during the summer pool parties and dinners, catching up with her family and enjoying the s'mores she had sitting around the fire laughing and talking. I tried telling her she was perfect during her treadmill time, but the music in her Airpods drowned me out.

Dinner came and went without a word from her. She's been so busy today but she always talks to me before bed. I look forward to it every day. She crawled into bed and sure enough she said, "hi, I missed you today. I'm sorry I got busy and forgot about our conversations." I reminded her that I was there the whole time. She promised to try harder the next day and although I already knew how tomorrow would be, I whispered, "I'll be here tomorrow too."

## St. Andrew's Birthdays

### January Birthdays



5	Nicki Kerns	15	Larry Laufenberg
6	Luna Mello	17	Sari Mitchell
6	Sara Hector	19	Beth Leslie
10	Kim Rooks	28	Malachi Erdman
12	Sandra Cadell	30	Vera Erdman

### February Birthdays

2	— Dena Robertson	13	— Ray Schmidt
4	— Rochelle Kelly	17	— Mike Leslie
7	— Alexander Cadell	20	— Teresa Ruff
10	— Paula Madonia	24	— Angela Bauer
13	— Tedd Parske	25	— Ralph LeRoux
		26	— Brett McPherson

### Coffee Hour Organizers

#### THANK YOU FOR ALL THE YUMMY THINGS YOU BRING US

This is an updated list of folks who will bring Coffee Hour and the dates we anticipate they will bring it. If you are unable to bring coffee hour, please call someone else on the list and also please let the office know so we can put the correct provider in the bulletin. Office Sharon Fishel 831-247-5572

Shirley Greenwood 423-8290 January 5

Andrea Dubov 831-291-2869 January 12

Eve Yabroff (253) 225-8683 January 19 (Annual Meeting)

Barbara Banke 345-2992 January 26

Emily Kjaergaard 408-221-3830 February 2 (Potluck)

Jennifer Kennedy 251-1471 February 9

Rochelle Kelly (408) 691-2571 February 16

Susan Greer (207) 624-2569 February 23

Jane Pomeroy (408) 472-1586 March 1

Ellen Terry (415) 516-9123 March 9

Shirley Greenwood 423-8290 March 16

Andrea Dubov 831-291-2869 March 23

Barbara Banke 345-2992 March 30

## THE BALLAD OF BEFANA

Befana the Housewife, scrubbing her pane,  
Saw three old sages ride down the lane,  
Saw three gray travelers pass her door -  
Gaspar, Balthazar, Melchior.

"Where journey you, sirs?" she asked of them.

Balthazar answered, "To Bethlehem,  
For we have news of a marvelous thing.  
Born in a stable is Christ the King."

"Give Him my welcome!"

Then Gaspar smiled,  
"Come with us, mistress, to greet the Child."

"Oh, happily, happily would I fare,  
Were my dusting through and I'd polished the stair."

Old Melchior leaned on his saddle horn.  
"Then send but a gift to the small Newborn."

"Oh, gladly, gladly I'd send Him one,  
Were the hearthstone swept and my weaving done.  
"As soon as ever I've baked my bread,  
I'll fetch Him a pillow for His head,  
And a coverlet too," Befana said.  
"When the rooms are aired and the linen dry,  
I'll look at the Babe."

But the Three rode by.

She worked for a day and a night and a day,  
Then, gifts in her hands, took up her way.  
But she never could find where the Christ Child lay.

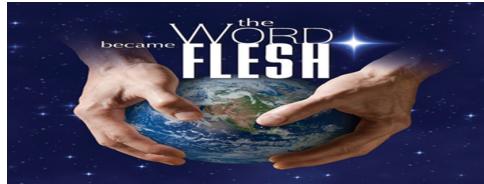
And still she wanders at Christmastide,  
Houseless, whose house was all her pride,  
Whose heart was tardy, whose gifts were late;  
Wanders, and knocks at every gate,

Crying, "Good people, the bells begin!  
Put off your toiling and let love in."

## Thoughts for the New Year [2025]

--- from Steve Lafever

Our presiding Bishop Sean Rowe tells us that “of the Christmas Gospels, Luke is surely the crowd pleaser. Nearly our entire visual vocabulary of Christmas—



the manger, the shepherds, the angels—comes from the second chapter of Luke. But if you go to church on Christmas Eve, you will hear the beginning of the Gospel of John, which includes other words we all know: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” He said that Christmas does not truly begin for him until he hears those words.

Bishop Rowe continues by saying that “While Luke paints us a picture of a noisy and chaotic birth, in John we encounter the powerfully quiet mystery of the Incarnation. John brings us the astonishing truth that God lived among us as a person, “full of grace and truth,” ready to share the pain and sorrow of being human. Especially this year, our hurting and divided world is desperate for the Incarnation. We live, as have many generations before us, in a time of fear, division, and instability. The Enemy has turned us against one another, sometimes in our own families and communities. The land of Jesus’ birth is torn apart by violence and tremendous suffering, and across the globe, we have hardened our hearts against the strangers among us. All too often, we hear voices that claim the mantle of Christianity calling most loudly for exclusion and conquest.”

Those sobering words of his message caught my attention. The theologian Paul Tillich said that the church is a hospital. In a sense that is true. (But please let it be a good hospital). If we want to help animals who need rescuing, we join the SPCA. If we are against drunk driving we join MADD. There are so many “healing” organizations out there for whatever cause you advocate. What do we join to stop war, killing, exclusion, and other hate? Many of us turn toward the church. We come together to be part of a better world.

Sometimes I hear people say, “What can one person do?” That’s a good question. And then the cold water of reality slaps me in the face. Over 2,000 years ago, “the word became flesh and lived among us.” That one man believed there is a better world. He recruited disciples.

From that beginning, from one person, the idea was planted and it has blossomed. Today there are over 2.4 billion people who identify as Christians. That’s what one person can do! That’s what one person did! I am not saying that we always get it right. I am not saying that Christianity is perfect. It can only be as perfect as the people in it. I am saying that the ultimate goal of Christianity is to love and accept all people. Christianity is people gathering to spread the good news, to feed the poor, to bind the wounds of the people, and to release the

chains that bind us and keep us from giving and experiencing that unconditional love. Another new year is upon us, Another opportunity to reach out to others, another year to try and get it right.

My mother was sick and ended up in a nursing home for a short period of time. My brother came East to be with us. He was a great support to her and me. We would go to the home a couple times day and spend time with her. On entering the home, in the main lobby, were a group of elderly patients arranged in their wheel chairs in a circle. They were silent for the most part and just looked at each other with this blank stare.

It became my brother's and my routine as we walked through the circle to stop and say hello to each of those lonely people. They smiled. The nurses were surprised. No one does this, they said. We learned that their families abandoned them to the nursing home and some were never visited by relatives or friends. Something inside me said, this is wrong! How can you just leave your mother or father or sister or brother here and not come and continue to love them? Who could do that to a loved one?

It's 2025, we and the church have another year to try and get it right. We have another year to make a difference in others' lives. It doesn't matter how small or large a difference, what matters is that we do something. Jesus gave his life. What we do with the time we have left is important. There is a world out there that needs our help. Take this New Year and reach out and make a difference to another person. Show the world that God is Love!

In conclusion: Christ said, "Love thy neighbor." When asked "who is thy neighbor?" He talked about the parable of the Good Samaritan. Everyone is your neighbor. If this is true and a necessary component of Christianity, then substitute the words Immigrant and Palestinian for Samaritan. Many modern day Christians would object to this. It would show them how far they have strayed from the original message by Christ. "Love one another as I have loved you!"

Steve Lafever



## St. Andrew's Ministries

### Prayer Team

We have an active prayer team at St. Andrew's led by Sue Roe. When a prayer concern is made known to Sue, she sends it out to the group so they can be praying for you. Please contact Sue if you would like some prayers.

Also, if you would like to be one of the pray-ers, let Sue know and she will be happy to add you to the group.

Please contact Sue at Phone 562-243-4080, or by email [suemhr@aol.com](mailto:suemhr@aol.com)



Next Women's Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 8, 10:00 -11:30 in the Parish Hall. We have just started meeting; you can help shape the circle. We have agreed to share leadership for this gathering. If you have an idea for sharing or would like to bring food to share, please let Ann Moyer know. We hope to see you there! [annbmoyer@hotmail.com](mailto:annbmoyer@hotmail.com)  
619-321-8596



### Outreach Committee

If you know of or support a non-profit organization and would like it to be considered for a grant from St. Andrew's, please provide information on its programs to the Outreach Committee. The members of the committee are Susan Greer, Joan McVay, and Ray Rischpater. We are looking for additional committee members, so if you are interested, please contact Susan, Joan, or Ray. The committee meets after Bible Study, generally on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

**LOSS (WINGS)** Associated with Suicide Prevention Services of the Central Coast, it is a support (not therapy) group for anyone who has lost someone to suicide, years ago or recently. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 pm (please note this is a change in time) in the Parish Hall. The Facilitator is Dr. Joan McVay of St. Andrew's. For more information, contact Julie Cory at 831-246-8750.

**ACA** (Adult Children of Alcoholic and Dysfunctional Families) meets every Wednesday evening upstairs.

### **St. Andrew's Annual Meeting**

On Sunday, January 19 at our Annual Parish Meeting, we will talk about our hopes and visions for St. Andrew's. We will also be voting for 3 members of the Vestry and for diocesan delegates. Additionally, the proposed budget will be presented for discussion.

Please plan on attending!

We will be voting for delegates from St. Andrew's to the Diocesan Convention at the Annual Meeting. If you would like to be one of the delegates, please let Father Martin know.

### **Report from the Outreach Committee**

The Outreach Committee made a recommendation to provide grants to the following organizations for the fourth quarter of 2024. The Vestry approved these grants.

Limitless Horizons Ixil — 1/4 of available funds for the Guatemalan school.

Episcopal Relief and Development — 1/4 of available funds for general relief.

Valley Churches United — 1/2 of available funds for their projects that benefit many in the San Lorenzo Valley.

### **The Collect for the Second Sunday after Christmas Day** (BCP p. 214)

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

Glory to God  
in the highest,  
and on earth,  
**peace,** good  
will to men.



 Luke 2:14 

Join us for Worship Services on Sundays at 10 a.m.  
and the social hour after. The sermon may be watched  
on St. Andrew's Facebook page, if you are not able to  
attend in person.