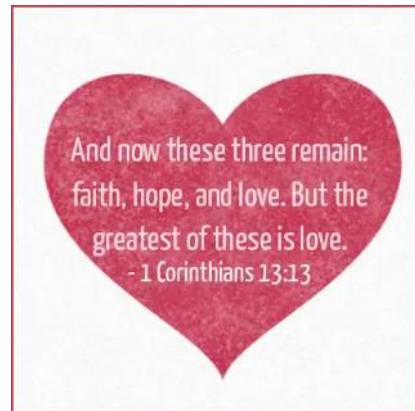


The Piper

February 2025



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A Message from Father Martin

Dear Friends,

We had a great visit last Sunday from our bishop, The Right Reverend Lucinda Ashby. She confirmed three persons: Ann and Brad Moyer and Ray Rischpater (the first confirmations here since 2017) and blessed Barbara Banke who reaffirmed her baptismal promises. She preached (watch on our Facebook page), celebrated the Eucharist, and shared a potluck lunch and conversation with us all afterwards.

She reminded us that our baptismal promises are good guides for living these challenging days in our nation and world. In the face of all that we cannot control, we can, with God's help:

- ◊ continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers
- ◊ persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever we fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord
- ◊ proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ
- ◊ seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves
- ◊ strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being

These are things we can all strive to be about, where we are, as we are able. They are responses to the turmoil around us.

Her blessing from the Altar was also powerfully relevant for these days. Here it is (author: Sr. Ruth Fox, OSB, 1986):

May God bless you with discontent with easy answers, half-truths, superficial relationships, so that you will live from deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, abuse, and exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice, equality, and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and to change their pain to joy.

(continued next page)

This Season of Epiphany, which extends from January 6 to the beginning of Lent (March 5, 2025), focuses our attention on the journeys of our lives – our growing in faith, our living through challenges, our pilgrimages in and towards God and holiness. I pray that you may practice what will help you grow in faith. Maybe by serving others; maybe by resting and reflecting on where you are on your own life-journey, and maybe by listening for God to call you further or deeper or to be open to love.

May our souls be like thirsty ground to receive the grace that God rains upon us all.

Yours in Christ,

Martin+

St. Andrew's Vestry Members

Susan Greer, Senior Warden

Steve Lafever

John Woolliscroft

Sheryl Mello

Jane Pomeroy

Ray Rischpater

Sara Hector

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.

Garden of Eatin'

SUGAR COOKIES

This is my mother's recipe. I've never found a better sugar cookie recipe. For Valentine's Day, cut them in heart shapes and, after baking, decorate them with red, pink, and white frosting and sprinkles. Sue Roe

2 cups sugar
1 cup butter
3 eggs
2 teas. vanilla
2 teas. Calumet baking powder
2 Tbls. milk
4 cups flour



Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla. Add flour and blend well. Dissolve baking powder in milk and blend into dough. Chill dough.

Roll out on floured board and cut into shapes. Bake at 375 degrees for 15



HeeHeeHee!!!

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Little Johnny cried all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him what was wrong and finally, the boy sobbed, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys.

Submitted by Shirley Greenwood

A PRAYER FOR PEACE IN OUR TIMES -

Composed by Fr. Peter Scagnelli
reprinted from The Catholic Crusade

O God, author and giver of peace, in whose image and likeness each of us has been created with a human dignity worthy of respect on earth and destined for eternal glory,

Listen to the cry that rises from every corner of this fragile earth, from our human family torn by violent conflict:

Give peace in our time, O good and gracious God, that peace which, as your Son Jesus Christ told us and as we have experienced in these days, is a peace which the world cannot give.

To world leaders grant the wisdom to see beyond the boundaries of race, religion, and nation to that common humanity that makes us all your children and brothers and sisters to one another.

To those who have taken up arms in anger or revenge or even in the cause of justice grant the grace of conversion to the path of peaceful dialogue and constructive collaboration.

To the innocent who live in the shadow of war and terror, especially the frightened children, be a shelter and strength, their haven and hope.

And to those who have already lost their lives as victims of human cruelty and chemical warfare, open wide your arms and enfold them all in the embrace of your compassion, healing, and everlasting life.

Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Mary, Mother of all and Queen of peace, pray for us.

St. Andrew's Birthdays

February Birthdays

2 — Dena Robertson
4 — Rochelle Kelly
7 — Alexander Cadell
13 — Tedd Parske

13 — Ray Schmidt
17 — Mike Leslie
20 — Teresa Ruff
24 — Angela Bauer
25 — Ralph LeRoux
26 — Brett McPherson



March Birthdays

4	Gina Carling	16	Renee Katz
5	John Brough	16	Nia Woolliscroft
6	Sabrina Vall de Ruten	24	Tom Spring
7	Clark McPherson	27	Steve Lafever
8	Aiden LeRoux		

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 refreshments, 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

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 Dubova 831-291-2869	March 23
Barbara Banke 345-2992	March 30

THE COLD

It should have been a short flight. The weather was bad but that shouldn't matter that much in flight time. The plane, a small Cessna, was headed north into a little stormy weather. Four strangers were traveling on this cold wintery night in this small craft. The turbulence began rocking the plane and the "fasten seat belt" sign came on.

Nervously they complied. In a large passenger jet this weather would hardly have been noticeable, but for this small prop plane, it was very noticeable. As the plane rocked more and more, they became aware that something was very wrong, and that they were losing altitude. They braced for a crash landing.

In spite of no landing strip, the pilot found a clearing where they could land. The plane crashed on ground. They were in the middle of the forest with no towns close by. It was cold out and expected to snow. The plane crash landed and they disembarked in case the plane exploded. There they were -- four strangers. The pilot decided to stay with the plane and start a signal fire. The others were convinced they needed to look for shelter. They moved into the woods and stared searching. The pilot had radioed a may-day message but didn't know if it was heard. He gathered green wood which would burn and create a lot of smoke.

It was evening, and the others went further in the woods looking for shelter. They knew instinctively that shelter was a necessity. They walked further into the woods and eventually discovered an old abandoned cabin that was in need of a lot of repairs. As they gathered in the cabin and looked around there was an old wood stove. Excellent!

One of the passengers had a lunch bag, another a match, another had a large bottle of water. Their survival was secure for the night. However, a strange thing happened. Each stranger looked at each other. One was Black, one Hispanic, one was a White supremacist and one was a Gay activist. It was clear that the white supremacist didn't want anything to do with the others. One by one, each realizing their own prejudices refused to share their contribution with the others. Each sat in a corner. Each was determined not to share anything with the other. After all, hate is as powerful an emotion as is the need to survive.

Darkness came, the snow came, and the cold came. During the night each fell asleep in their comforting blanket of bigotry. The storm outside raged on and eventually the morning sun brought light inside the cabin. A rescue team finally arrived and entered the cabin and found all four of them dead – frozen.

The sad moral about this story is that they didn't die from the cold without, but from the cold within.

Thoughts from a Member of the Parish



Many years ago, I mentored a student who wanted to become a nurse. I prodded and pushed until he enrolled in nursing school. Halfway through, he contacted me and decided there were other fun things to do in life. I prodded and pushed again, and he stayed in school. One day, I received an invitation to his graduation. On it he had written, "Please attend, I would not be graduating if it weren't for you."

As I sat in the audience, I listened to the head of the school give the commencement address. Her charge to the class was to go out into the world and care for others. She then explained that the word "care" came from an old gothic word meaning "to cry out with." She instructed her nurses to cry out with others in their times of distress. What a beautiful concept. It is one that is lost in our times.

Remembering that everyone is our neighbor, we should be crying out with them, not ignoring their distress. I believe that the translators of the Bible meant that the weeping John was talking about was Jesus crying out with them. It was a profound feeling of love on his part in being able to identify and absorb their pain and lament with them in a very real and personal way.

A lot of things are happening in this world. Many decisions are being made that affect our neighbors. Many decisions are being made that will disrupt lives, the country, and the earth. I am guessing we are powerless to do anything. Jesus wept.

The Book of Common Prayer, Prayers of the People, Form VI leads us like this:

We pray for the sick, the friendless and the needy. We pray for the victims of hunger fear, injustice and oppression. We pray for those who are in sorrow. We pray for all who work for justice, freedom and peace.

There are 2.8 billion people who proclaim to be Christians. Can you imagine if all those people cried out with those in distress? Just think of millions of voices crying out from the depths of Death Valley, to the swamps of Florida, from Times Square to San Francisco, from Maine to San Diego, from Texas to Montana and from the top of Mount Denali in Alaska to the beaches at Diamond Head Hawaii. All of us joining in would quake the foundations of our world. Jesus wept. He cried out with the others. God heard his cry and Lazarus walked out of his tomb.

Or we can keep silent. Or we can do nothing. Or we can ignore the commandment of love thy neighbor. We can remain apathetic; we can condone the violations of that commandment. We can ignore our responsibility as Christians. Myself, I sit back watching all that I worked for all these years retreating backward into an unenlightened bigoted world. I sit back and say, “I did my part.” I marched, protested, spoke to city councils, television, radio, organized and, yes, even screamed. I fought for the rights of all people. Now I am a senior and can sit back and do nothing. I am too old to make a difference. How wrong I am. My voice can be just as strong today as it was back then. So can all of yours. Age has nothing to do with it. It takes all of us, one voice, working together, crying out with others in one loud tumultuous din to make a difference.

Martin Luther King said “none of us are free, until all of us are free.” It is only by stepping forward, in one loud resounding voice, of all of us crying out against injustice, that we will find freedom for all of the children of God. There is a new Jerusalem out there! It begins with one voice crying out. Mine? Yours?

— Steve Lafever

Diocesan News and Opportunities

Our diocese, the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real, extends from Palo Alto to Arroyo Grande (south of San Luis Obispo). Our diocesan website is www.realepiscopal.org

You are invited to sign up for the free Real Episcopal e-Newsletter. It is sent out every two weeks. There you will find news about our diocese the Episcopal Church, unique parish programs, photos, diocesan events and conference announcements, and messages from Bishop Lucinda.

Subscribe at <https://www.realepiscopal.org/subscribe-to-real-episcopal-e-news/>

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



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 619-321-8596



Outreach Committee

Our fourth quarter distribution of our 5% of parish income for outreach went to Episcopal Relief and Development for Los Angeles fire relief (\$407), Limitless Horizons IXIL in Cajul, Guatemala (the school we have supported before) (\$407), and Valley Churches United Missions (\$814).

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.

2025 Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 19, we held our 2025 Annual Meeting. Rochelle Kelly, Cindy Garay and Judyth Suttle were thanked for their service on Vestry. Jane Pomeroy, Ray Rischpater and Steve Lafever (2 year term) were elected to the Vestry. Susan Greer will be our Senior Warden for 2025.

Our Diocesan Delegates will be Barbara Banke, Rochelle Kelly and Sharon Fishel (alternate).

Copies of the Annual Reports are on the entry table in the Parish Hall for all who want a copy.

Church Periodical Club Quilt Raffle Challenge

The Church Periodical Club gives grants to organizations in or connected to the Episcopal Church for written materials. The National Book Fund (NBF) gives grants for materials for adults. The Seminarian Fund gives grants to persons studying at the nine Episcopal seminaries. The new Diaconate Fund gives grants to persons preparing for the vocational diaconate. Our funding is solely from donations and the annual quilt raffle. The raffle is open from January 23rd through March 9th.

Details

- Tickets will be \$10.00 for 10 tickets, \$25.00 for 30 tickets, \$50.00 for 75 tickets or \$100.00 for 200 tickets.
- If you add an extra \$2.00 bonus to help pay for the Rally expense, you will receive 5 extra tickets.

Recycled Hearts are folks that find a way to reuse materials, etc. They share items and all items are donated where there is a need. They usually use a table cloth or sheet for their backings, sometimes a curtain. It is a loose organization without an email or website.

The link is: <https://go.rallyup.com/cpc2025/Campaign/Details>
For pictures and more details see our website: <https://churchperiodical.com/quilt-raffle/>

Contact Jane Pomeroy for more information.

LATOYA MONIQUE 2012

"IN Happy
MOMENTS,
PRAISE GOD.
IN DIFFICULT MOMENTS,
SEEK God.
IN QUIET MOMENTS,
trust GOD.
IN EVERY MOMENT,
THANK God."

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