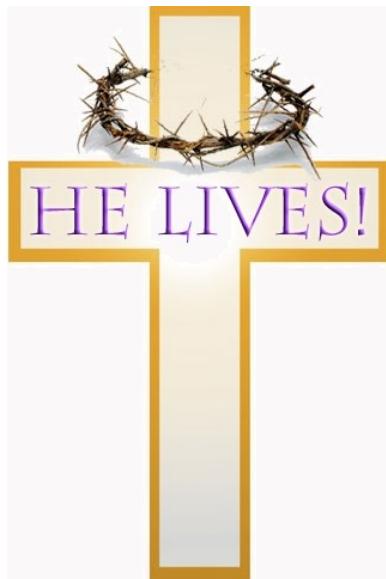


# The Piper

## April 2025



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## **A Message from Father Martin**

Dear Friends,

We are mid-way through our Lenten pilgrimage towards our Celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. On this pilgrimage, we have been worshipping, praying, learning (Bible Study and Lenten Class), reading Scripture (one of the four gospels) -- as we live in our relationships of family, church and community, and as we are aware of the beauty of nature around us. Remember that the Holy Spirit is moving in our lives and midst even beyond what we can ask or imagine.

Soon we shall enter into the mystery and drama of Holy Week:

- ◊ **Palm Sunday** – April 13 – we wave palm branches, share in a dramatic reading of Jesus' last hours, and share Holy Communion.
- ◊ Tuesday in Holy Week – our **Bible Study reviews the Easter stories** in the four Gospels. Invite friends and neighbors.
- ◊ **Maundy Thursday** – April 17 – we will join St. Philip's Episcopal Church at their church in Scotts Valley for hand or foot washing, Holy Communion together, and the Stripping of the Altar.
- ◊ **Good Friday** – April 18 – we will offer TWO services at St. Andrew's:
  - ⇒o 12 Noon – a **Community Prayer Service**, co-sponsored by six local congregations
  - ⇒o 7:00 pm – the traditional **Good Friday liturgy** with a meditation on the 'hard wood of the Cross'.
- ◊ **Easter Sunday** – April 20 – our worship celebration will be at 10 am. Please sign up to help with the children's Easter Egg hunt and to bring extra cookies for the festive reception following the service.

In the midst of all that may be going on in your life, your household, and our community and world, take time to rest and reflect on how much God loves you and all God's people. Take time to be thankful and to share your concerns with God, trusting that God is listening, is always merciful, and is unimaginably gracious when we turn towards God.

May our Lord bless our journey together towards Easter Sunday and beyond.

Yours in Christ,      Martin+

***This is the group renting our upstairs rooms.***



## **Long Term Recovery Group of Santa Cruz County Volunteer Rebuild Program**

The Long Term Recovery Group of Santa Cruz County is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to supporting families through disaster case management and hands on support services as they rebuild their lives after disasters. Our Volunteer Rebuild Program is a key component of this mission, providing hands-on support to those affected by the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire and 2023 Atmospheric Rivers. We construct modest, affordable homes from the ground up for eligible households who have lost their primary residence due to a disaster. We also support completion of rebuilds or repairs in progress to achieve safe and sanitary housing for clients. Our program offers a sense of hope and community to our disaster impacted neighbors, helping them rebuild their lives and regain a sense of normalcy.

Our rebuild program works through:

- ⇒ Collaboration with local, state, and national volunteer organizations.
- ⇒ Training and deployment of volunteers under the supervision of our licensed general contractor and our volunteer coordinator.
- ⇒ Unmet needs funding allocations for eligible households.

How you can support our mission:

**Volunteer:** We are always looking to expand our volunteer base. No experience is necessary, and we can accommodate both individuals and groups. Corporately sponsored builds are also welcome, as are student groups that are looking for some hands-on field experience or student service hours.

**Pro bono Services:** We welcome any opportunity to engage with professionals that wish to provide services pro bono in exchange for a tax deductible donation receipt. Please contact [admin@sccltrg.org](mailto:admin@sccltrg.org) for more information.

Contact [volunteer@sccltrg.org](mailto:volunteer@sccltrg.org) to volunteer with us.

### **St. Andrew's Current Vestry Members**

Susan Greer, Senior Warden	Sheryl Mello
John Woolliscroft, Junior Warden	Jane Pomeroy
Steve LaFever, Clerk	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.



### Cheese and Chili Treat

10 eggs – break into large bowl and beat about one minute. Add 1/2 cup melted butter.

Add: 1/2 cup flour, 1 teas. baking powder, salt and pepper to taste. Blend well.

Add: 1 pint cottage cheese, 1 lb. grated jack cheese, 1 can (7 oz.) chopped green chilis, 1 jar (4 oz.) chopped pimentos. Blend gently until combined.

Pour into buttered 9 X 13 pan. Sprinkle with chopped or sliced black olives. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 325 degrees and bake for about 45 minutes more.

Cool and cut into 1 inch squares to serve as an appetizer or snack.



### HeeHeeHee!!!

Nine year old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned at Sunday school.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

"When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely.

"Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"



Dear Beloved of El Camino Real,

Last week, I attended the Spring Meeting of the House of Bishops at Camp McDowell in Alabama. Hosted by the Diocese of Alabama and Bishop Glenda Curry, the setting offered a beautiful backdrop for an informal and deeply productive gathering. A total of 118 bishops were present from across the country and beyond. I came away with one word clearly imprinted in my soul: HOPE.

The House of Bishops meets twice a year for conversation, learning, and business. This particular gathering felt especially effective, marked by honest dialogue and a spirit of mutual respect. We explored several critical topics through presentations and small group conversations that extended to the whole House. Among the “deep dive” areas were: Christian Nationalism, Immigration, Church data and trends, Title IV (our disciplinary canon), Property and Possibilities, and the College for Bishops. Affinity groups also met at mealtimes, including the “Green Bishops,” where I joined conversations about forming ecological networks around Creation Care. And, as always, I reconnected with my own bishops’ class from 2019/2020.

Much of the content was presented by fellow bishops and staff of the Presiding Bishop, which helped foster a strong sense of collegiality and insight. Bishops from a variety of contexts offered powerful reflections, grounded in their own ministries and communities.

It was evident that we, your bishops, carry a shared sense of the world’s burdens—and an equally strong commitment to leading with fierce love, pastoral care, and holy action. Although we did not issue a collective statement, if there is a statement to be made, I believe it is this: It’s a challenging time to be a follower of Jesus. It’s a risky time to be a proclaimer of the gospel. It’s a provocative time to live into our Baptismal Covenant. We were made for times such as these. Let’s roll up our sleeves and let our actions be our proclamation. Keep going. We are people of determination and courage. We know who we are and whose we are, and we are hopeful. Nothing and no one can take our hope in Christ away.

I am grateful to be with you in this time in history, serving as your Bishop.

Faithfully, 

Fourth Bishop of the Diocese of El Camino Real



## St. Andrew's Birthdays

### April Birthdays

5	Luke Banke	18	Sheryl Mello
5	Henry Vallderuten	22	Susan Vallderuten
6	Sharon Fishel	26	Hyacinth Bevan
11	Donna Brough	27	Joan McVay
13	Tetiana Davidson		
14	Barbara Banke		

### May Birthdays

2	Cindy Garay	18	Katie Garay
2	Sandi Lewandowski	21	Tim Cadell
3	Cathy Newfield	22	Mike Banke
7	Preston Boomer	28	Logan Hudson
8	Janet Parske		
8	Tricia Leslie		
10	Jaden Ruff		

We would like to celebrate your birthday—if you are not on our birthday list, please give the date to Susan Greer, [sgreerincruz@gmail.com](mailto:sgreerincruz@gmail.com), so you can be added.

### 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 831-423-8290 April 6
- Barbara Banke 831-345-2992 April 13
- Eve Yabroff 253-225-8683 April 20 Easter
- Emily Kjaergaard 408-221-3830 April 27
- Andrea Dubov 831-291-2869 May 4
- Jennifer Kennedy 831-251-1471 May 11
- Rochelle Kelly 408-691-2571 May 18
- Jane Pomeroy 408-472-1586 May 25
- Ellen Terry 415-516-9123 June 1
- Shirley Greenwod 831-423-8290 June 8
- Barbara Banke 831-345-2992 June 15
- Eve Yabroff 253-225-8683 June 22
- Emily Kjaergaard 408-221-3830 June 29



## Episcopal Church Women 2025 Honored Women's Day ‘Leadership in Challenging Times’

Saturday, May 3, 2025: 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
St. John’s Episcopal Church, 125 Canterbury Drive, Aptos

- Eucharist presided by Rev. Eliza Lindley
- Communication from Bishop Lucinda
- Honored Women of 2024 Presentations
- Live Music

Registration, including Catered Luncheon: \$35

[Download and fill out the registration form](#) and email to Donna Seelbach [dsdonnaseelbach2@gmail.com](mailto:dsdonnaseelbach2@gmail.com)

### Spring Renewal

Believing Belonging Beloved  
Creer Pertenecer Amar  
Spring Renewal is a time for everyone in our diocese to gather for fellowship, formation, and fun. @All Saints' Day School in Carmel

May 16–17, 2025

Each year, we combine worship, ministry tables, presenters, and food (YUM!) to center around a particular theme. This year, our theme is “**Believing, Belonging, Beloved.**”

Registration will be opening soon with early bird pricing through April 18th.

On the evening of Friday, May 16th, it will be the Bishop’s pleasure to gather us at a banquet to honor Joanna Shreve, who is the recipient of the 2025 Pilgrim’s Path award. We will also honor two of our long-time leaders, Jerry Drino and George Lockwood, who are recipients of this year’s Bishop’s Award. The banquet will end with a brief talk by our presenters and a service of Compline. Our presenters for the 2025 Spring Renewal are the Rt. Rev. Barry Beisner, Bishop Provisional of the Missionary Diocese of Navajoland, and Canon Cornelia Eaton, a Navajo priest who serves as Canon to the Ordinary for that diocese. On Saturday May 17th, they will share presentations about their ministry together in Navajoland, the challenges and joys of the work they share, and the unique experience of meeting Navajo spirituality and the spiritual tradition of The Episcopal Church, which they both embody in their respective roles. Our presenters are candid, thoughtful, and deeply committed to the calling they will share with us.

Additionally, our Truth Telling Taskforce will give a brief presentation introducing an educational tool that is the product of many hours of thoughtful work. This is a website that highlights indigenous peoples in our area and in the state of California. This is a fine piece of work that will be available to share in our congregations and our schools. The two-day event will be interspersed with liturgies and the musical genius of Juneau Rowe of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Corral de Tierra. As always, our Spring Renewal will close with a joyful Eucharist. Please join us to welcome Bishop Barry and Canon Cornelia to the Diocese of El Camino Real and connect with your fellow diocesan parishioners from all around the diocese!

<https://www.realepiscopal.org/events/spring-renewal-2025-2/>

## Thoughts from a Member of the Parish



“and when from death I’m free , I’ll sing and joyful be, and through eternity, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on. (from the hymn, *What Wondrous Love is this?*)

As I write this article, I am sure that many of you who have read some of the things I have written, sigh and say that they have heard this before. Well, perhaps that’s true. However, thoughts come to me and I feel compelled to write them. Blame technology which has given me a laptop.

Many of our spirituals come from the agony of slavery. I read that one slave ship captain heard the cries of the imprisoned in the belly of his ship. The haunting melody, he set to words and it became the most famous of the spirituals. Those human beings on his ship who were still alive, were unloaded and auctioned off. Families were separated and mothers would never see their children again. However, their song will sing on. Their agony will be felt for eternity. Their despair and pain can still be felt through those “slave hymns.” In 1863 Lincoln freed the slaves. Their plight was far from over. It wasn’t until the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that laws were enacted to protect those same children of slaves. No longer was it lawful to have facilities labeled “white only” or “colored only.” Finally, politics caught up with Jesus and proclaimed we are all the same in God’s eyes. It only took 100 years for government and politicians to reach this conclusion and do something about it.

Over and over we hear about the love of Jesus. One verse in the hymn *There is a Balm in Gilead* says “If you can’t preach like Peter, if you can’t pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus, and that he died for all.” The hymn is classified as a spiritual and its words were inspired by Jeremiah 8:22. When decisions are made, we should first ask . . . what would Jesus have done? The prodigal son is an excellent parable.

The rebellious son returns home and the father restores his position in the family. His brother is angry. He stayed with the father and was loyal and didn’t believe his brother deserved forgiveness. Following Jesus would help the brother understand that by helping his father celebrate his brothers return would be an admission, recognition, that the father loves him also and would do the same for him. It should not have been about jealousy but about the revelation that the father’s love is for both

of his sons – unconditionally, just as God's love for us is unconditional. He missed the opportunity to understand unconditional love, and he missed the opportunity to show his own.

Slavery, human trafficking, abuse, is still part of our society. People who engage in it use drugs to quiet their victims. The agony and pain inflicted are muffled. Our society is sometimes indifferent to those things which do not affect us. What kind of person would feel is it permissible to own another person? Both laws and religion proclaim it is wrong. What kind of person would do this?

I am afraid this article will jump around a bit. It is where my mind is right now. I have shared this story from my life with a few. I was living in Nashville and doing ministry internship work at a Methodist church. We had a help line staffed by volunteers. One day, when I was there, I received a call from a young man. He said he had just taken an overdose of pills and suddenly felt a need to talk to someone while he was dying. He just wanted to talk. He wouldn't give me his address. I finally got him to tell me why he decided to die. He said it was because he was gay, and his parents and their religion would never accept him. I told him he was a child of God and that he was loved. I told him about the love of Jesus. I told him he was accepted. I finally got him to tell me where he was.

On another line, we called an ambulance, and he and I talked until it arrived. They took him to the hospital. I got in my car and headed there to make sure he was ok and not there alone. The hospital people had called his parents. As I walked down the hall towards his room, his family was leaving. They spotted me and asked if I was that person who called the ambulance. I said I was. His mother looked at me with an angry face and asked me what right I had to do that. She then asked me if I knew why he wanted to commit suicide. I said I did. She said he was better off dead and they had just told him that and then marched out of the hospital with their own brand of righteousness.

He and I talked for a while and when I left he promised me he would not do that again and realized that God didn't want him to do that. He was going to live with a relative and seek a new life. The anger burning on his mother's face and her piety is something I will never forget. I saw the face of evil that day and it exposed her religion as organized bigotry and hate.

Spirituals unlock the feelings of all persecuted people. I often wonder if politics and religion will ever come face to face with the unconditional love of God? I often wonder why neither ask what Jesus would do. Mark Twain said, "It does certainly seem that if man continues in his direction of enlightenment, his religious practice may, in the end, attain some semblance of human decency." The opposite of that is that, of course, if humanity follows the path of conditional love and blindness to God's message, we will never find an acceptable solution to the problems that bind our chains. We will strangle ourselves in the quicksand of greed, ambition, and prejudice.

(Continued on page 11)

## 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)



**Women's Circle** will meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 10:00 -11:30 in the Parish Hall. 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.

### **Thoughts from a Member of the Parish** (Continued from page 9)

"When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be. When we all see Jesus we will sing and shout the victory." I don't know about anyone else, but I want to sing that hymn way before I see God's kingdom.

My mind has stopped jumping around, so I will end here. Unless governments and religions have a sudden awakening experience and seek to practice the unconditional love of God we have been given, I am sure that I will persevere with another message about the unholy direction much of the world is headed. Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" The answer is the key . . . "feed my sheep."

Happy Easter! Steve Lafever

### **St. Andrew's Happenings**

Our **Lenten Soup and Discussion series** continue on Wednesdays from 5 to 6:30 pm, ending on April 9. Our four sessions will focus on the Way of Love: practices for following Jesus. There are 7 practices, and we will consider and discuss two at each session. The practices are: **Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest**. Father Martin will lead our discussions as we share what these practices might mean for each of us.



Greetings --

The Chili Cookoff is back again for 2025. Perhaps you're interested in bringing chili again?

The event is planned for Sunday, May 4th, starting after church: 11:00 AM until around 12:30 PM. We'll set out a volunteer sheet and entry forms in the Parish Hall. We'll be looking for people to bring chips, salsa, drinks and of course chili!

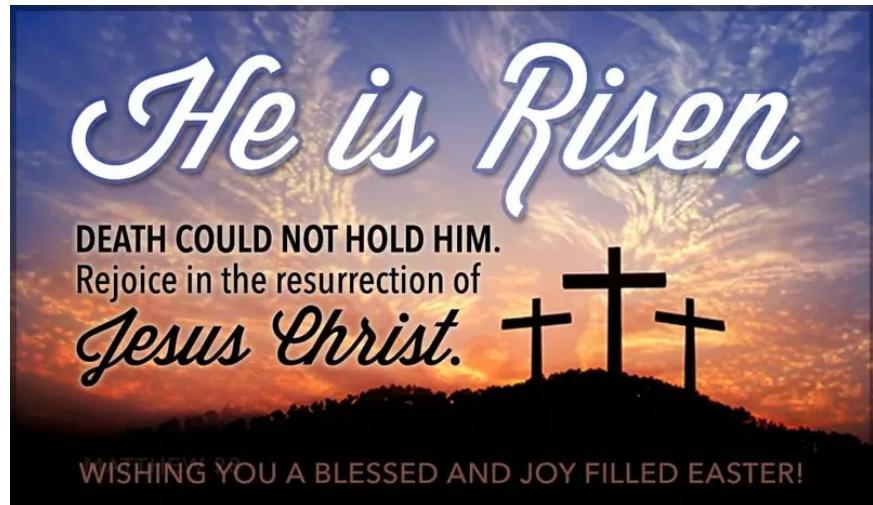
If you'd like to sign up before then, just send me an email. Don't forget to give your chili a catchy name!

Thanks,

John Postovit

[jspostovit1@comcast.net](mailto:jspostovit1@comcast.net)





*If you're grateful, you're not fearful,  
and if you're not fearful, you're not violent.  
If you're grateful, you act out of a sense of enough  
and not of a sense of scarcity, and you are willing to share.  
If you are grateful, you are enjoying the differences between people.  
You are respectful to everybody.  
And that changes this power pyramid under which we live.*

— **David Steindl-Rast**

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.