

# The Piper

## May 2025



### In This Issue

A Message from Father Martin	2
Garden of Eatin'	4
From the Diocese	5
Birthdays	6
Diocese of El Camino Real Events	7
Thoughts from a Parishioner	8-9
St. Andrew's Activities	10
Easter Celebration at St. Andrew's	11



## **A Message from Father Martin**

*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 our Lord. Amen. BCP p. 288*

Dear Friends,

We are midway through the Easter Season, which is a 50 day season (up to Pentecost) to celebrate and reflect on the significance of Christ's Resurrection for our lives. As we pray (above), all of us share in the gift and dignity of being human. And Christ's resurrection restores and renews our identity and beloved-ness as God's children – everyone of us, no exceptions. So let us live into our resurrection identity and our ministries as Easter people – showing forth God's love and grace – “practicing resurrection” in the words of poet Wendall Berry.

Holy Week and Easter here were wonderful – thank you to all who worked together to prepare and present our services. Certainly a lot of people gathered together here for Easter, with many new visitors through the week. The Holy Spirit is moving among us here, in ways we may not yet fully understand.

Thank you to Myra Ratzesberger and Emily Kjaergaard and others for the Easter Egg Hunt following worship, and to Eve Yabroff and many others for hosting our Easter reception.

Please consider attending the Spring Renewal event for our diocese, Friday and Saturday, May 16 & 17 in Carmel Valley. I will be happy to offer rides each day until my car fills and registration help is available. More information at: <https://www.realepiscopal.org/events/spring-renewal-2025-2/>

See also the diocesan e-newsletter article on St. Andrew's and our partnership for long-term fire recovery – printed in this Piper issue.

As we welcome new members to St. Andrew's, we also say goodbye to those moving away. Long-time member Shirley Greenwood will be moving at the end of May to Medford OR to be nearer her daughter. Her new address will be in the next Parish Directory.

Our weekly Bible Study continues on Tuesdays, 11 am to Noon in the Parish Hall. No background or Bible required. And the next Women's Circle will be on May 14 at 10 am (2nd Wednesday of each month in the Parish Hall).

We are using a new Eucharistic Prayer on Sundays during Easter Season. It is from Enriching our Worship, an authorized liturgical resource, and

uses more inclusive language and imagery. Let me know how you experience it.

Finally, since last year, we have had a local sound engineer use our church occasionally to record various music groups. (They contribute when they use our space.) Here are links to two videos from two different groups:

“Flight Risk” – by Moving Van: [https://youtu.be/cECJEXo78cI?si=k\\_9SoswN\\_qkXsgHj](https://youtu.be/cECJEXo78cI?si=k_9SoswN_qkXsgHj)

“Abuela” – by The Rumba Madre: [https://youtu.be/dhJzFv5u-YM?si=HLd5yLOfVI\\_87Nlx](https://youtu.be/dhJzFv5u-YM?si=HLd5yLOfVI_87Nlx)

Chili Cook-off is this Sunday, May 4, after church. Nine entrants so far.

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.**

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Martin+

Photo at right: dogwood tree behind the church.



**St. Andrew’s Current Vestry Members**

Susan Greer, Senior Warden  
John Woolliscroft, Junior Warden  
Steve LaFever, Clerk  
Sara Hector

Sheryl Mello  
Jane Pomeroy  
Ray Rischpater

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'

## **Peanut Butter Cookie Squares**

1 cup Sugar

1 cup White Karo Syrup

Dash of Salt

Combine and bring to boil, stirring until at boiling point. Remove from heat and add:

1 teaspoon Vanilla

1-1/2 cups Chunky Peanut Butter

1 cup Coconut

Pour over 6-8 cups cornflakes and mix well. Stir in 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips. Press into 9x13 buttered pan. Cool and cut into squares.



## **HeeHeeHee!!!**

A laywoman was driving down the street in a sweat because she had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking space. Looking up toward heaven, she said, "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I'll go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up drinking wine." Miraculously, a parking space opened up right in front of her destination. The woman looked up to heaven and said, "Never mind, Lord; I found one on my own."



## Partnership Fuels Recovery in the Santa Cruz Mountains

In the disaster-prone Santa Cruz Mountains, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ben Lomond and St. Philip the Apostle Episcopal Church in Scotts Valley are helping lead the way in long-term fire recovery—not alone, but through creative and committed partnerships.

Nearly five years after the CZU Lightning Complex fire destroyed almost 700 homes, rebuilding is still underway. Only a fraction of those homes have been completed, and progress remains slow and hard-won. In the midst of this challenging reality, these two churches are living out their call to serve—by responding to real, practical needs.

When the Santa Cruz County Long Term Recovery Group (SCCLTRG) needed affordable office space to continue their work with survivors, St. Andrew's said yes. The county agency had been struggling to find a location within budget that would allow them to stay close to the communities they serve. Thanks to St. Andrew's hospitality, SCCLTRG can now operate from a central, affordable space—keeping their focus and funding on helping people rebuild their lives.

That partnership opened new doors. When SCCLTRG learned of a volunteer crew ready to rebuild a home that had been waiting four years, they reached out again. This time, St. Philip's stepped up, offering lodging for the volunteers over Holy Week—a generous extension of the hospitality they regularly provide as hosts of a rotating overnight shelter.

Both congregations are continuing to explore how they can strengthen this work. St. Andrew's is seeking a generator to ensure its building can serve as a resilience hub even during power outages, while St. Philip's is looking into restoring old motel-era showers in their building to better host volunteer groups in the future.

These partnerships—between churches, nonprofits, and county agencies—are helping communities heal. Through generosity, flexibility, and faithful presence, St. Andrew's and St. Philip's are embodying how the Church can be a vital partner in recovery.

*Want to get involved in disaster response and recovery in your area? Reach out to Katie Knapp at [katie@realepiscopal.org](mailto:katie@realepiscopal.org).*



## St. Andrew's Birthdays

### May Birthdays

2	Cindy Garay	12	Barry Holtzclaw
2	Sandi Lewandowski	18	Katie Garay
3	Cathy Newfield	21	Tim Caldwell
7	Preston Boomer	22	Mike Banke
8	Janet Parske	28	Logan Hudson
8	Tricia Leslie	29	Mark deHass-Johnson
10	Jaden Ruff		

### June Birthdays

2	Corinna Stevenson	11	Dawn Townsend
4	Laura Lewandowski	14	Bonnie Wolfe
8	Franceska Lewandowski	18	Joe Mello
9	Karen VanGroningen	21	Roxanne Spring
10	Jamie Mello	25	Duquan 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

Andrea Dubov 831-291-2869 May 4 (Chili Cook-Off)

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 Greenwood 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.**

... 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



May 16–17, 2025

**Spring Renewal is a time for everyone in our diocese to gather for fellowship, formation, and fun. @All Saints' Day School in Carmel**

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

What's next?

Every day I read about another scientific discovery. The amount of new information that is found every day is estimated at 407 terabytes. Fortunately, a lot of new discoveries make the current information wrong or obsolete. Science is no longer afraid to simply say "We don't know."

What about religion? How many times have you heard the "church" say, we are wrong or simply don't know. It is a different world out there. Religion finally agreed that there are no such things as witches. It now believes slavery is wrong. It now accepts the fact that we are all equal in the eyes of God, just not in the eyes of each other. There are approximately 10,000 religions out there. Many disagree with some of the most fundamental beliefs, many point fingers at each other, and many try to keep up with the facts. Few, if any, say they are wrong anymore.

This leads me to a conversation I had with a friend in the parish. It concerns the "after life." I have shared with some that before I moved here, I had a coronary arrest. I stopped breathing. I had no pulse. An EMT gave me CPR and saved me. In the hospital the next day, he asked me if I had seen a bright light at the end of the tunnel. I said no. In fact, I remember nothing other than opening my eyes in an ambulance and not aware why.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross said her research encountered many who had died and brought back and did see a light. By the way, science cannot explain this. So, I ask myself, why didn't I? Perhaps the light was entrance into oblivion. Perhaps it was entrance into the Elysian fields. It doesn't really matter, I guess. The point is that I am here. I wasn't transported anywhere. No judgement was made about an afterlife for me.

I don't think a lot about the "after life." I don't know where I will end up at judgement day. Many religions believe in reincarnation. That would be great. But if my life is judged as less than acceptable, I could be reborn as a cockroach. Perhaps reincarnation is not what I should aspire to or believe in. The most I can hope for is that the good that I have done, the compassion in my heart, and my acceptance for others will allow that part of me to mix with the cosmic dust of the universe and be reborn, and that the negative will disappear into the void of a black hole.

I think that's as good a belief as any out there. Neither religion or science can prove me wrong. Perhaps my second chance at life is to do good and resist the temptation of evil. If there is any way I can prove this right, I will find a way to come back and let you all know – one way or another.

Thoughtfully and sincerely, Steve Lafever

**Have you ever asked why there is a highway to hell but only a stairway to heaven?**



## LIVING IN US NOW

**How many years must my people exist before they know they are one? How many times must their blood be shed before they know that its mine? How many times will you break my bread before you give me to eat? The answer my friend is living in us now. The answer is living in us now.**

**2. How many times must the sick look up and find there's no one to care? How many times must I stumble and fall before you offer your hand? How many times must I reach through the bars before you hand me the keys? The answer my friend is living in us now. The answer is living in us now.**

**3. How many branches still cling to the vine without their share of its life? How many people still pray to their God with hate in their hearts like a knife? How many years will it take till we know the hurt we cause by our pride? The answer my friend is living in us now. The answer is living in us now.**

**4. Why can't we sing a song full of love in a spirit open to all? Why can't we have a world without hate so no one else has to die? Why can't we find somewhere in our lives the courage we need just to try? The answer my friend is living in us now. The answer is living in us now.**

**With education being attacked, where will our students learn? Mark Twain, "God created war, so that Americans would learn geography. He was a prophet and didn't know it. Steve Lafever**

In keeping with the religious history of our nation, National Day of Prayer is annually observed on the first Thursday of May. On April 17, 1952, President Truman signed a bill establishing the National Day of Prayer as law. Twenty years later, in 1972, the National Prayer Committee was formed to assist the nation in its observance of the occasion. Subsequently the National Day of Prayer Task Force was formed for the intended purpose of coordinating events for the National Day of Prayer. The exact day to observe was decreed in 1988 when President Reagan signed a bill into law establishing the first Thursday of May as National Day of Prayer.



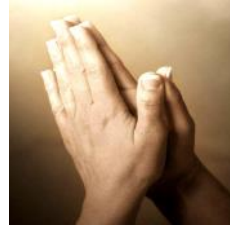
# St. Andrew's Ministries

## 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.

## Easter Sunday at St. Andrew's





Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2

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.