

The Piper

August 2025



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A Message from Father Martin

Dear Friends,

Here are some notes on our parish life:

- Susan Greer was sent out with prayers and blessings on pilgrimage to Mexico and then to where God will guide her. Our new Senior Warden for the rest of 2025 is Jane Pomeroy.
- Junior Warden John Woolliscroft has been busy, with others, managing several facility issues lately, including plumbing issues upstairs, septic pumping, and the trimming of the liquid amber trees in front of the parking lot which have been dropping large branches.
- The Vestry is moving ahead on a plan to patch, seal and stripe our parking lot. More news to come.
- The Santa Cruz Baroque Festival had a grand event, known as “Boomeria”, at St. Andrew’s on July 12.
- The Reverend Mary Lou McKenney presided at two Sunday services while my family and I were up at Lake Tahoe (at Tahoma, on the West side, near sugar Pine Point State Park). It was delightful to have Mary Lou with us again, and I had a good vacation and am happy to be back with you all.
- Our Tuesday Bible Study has completed John’s Gospel and will begin next week Paul’s Letter to the Galatians, where he explores the grace and freedom we have in Christ.

As one who loves Summer weather, these are wonderful days in the San Lorenzo Valley. And yet our hearts are breaking with the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Gaza and with the continuing war in Ukraine, and with the challenges many face in their households among us and in our community.

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As I lift up these concerns of our hearts to the Lord, I am reminded of the words of Isaiah 30:15

**For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:
in returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength....**

May we all turn our hearts beyond ourselves to God, however you sense, conceive or Name the Holy One, and may we find in these Summer days God's renewal and God's peace.

Yours in Christ,
Martin+

The Women's Circle

Dear Friends,

The Women's Circle will meet on August 6 and 20. Please bring your stories, your thoughts and hopes. And invite anyone you think would enjoy this time of sharing our lives. Ann Moyer, 619-321-8596



St. Andrew's Current Vestry Members

Jane Pomeroy, Senior Warden

John Woolliscroft, Junior Warden

Steve LaFever, Clerk

Susan Greer

Sara Hector

Sheryl Mello

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'



Here is a great recipe for a summer BBQ. Sue Roe

Hawaiian Honey Burgers

Combine...

2 lbs Ground Beef

1/2 cup Honey

1/4 tsp Cinnamon

1/4 tsp Paprika

1/4 tsp Curry Powder

1/8 tsp Ginger and Nutmeg

Form six patties. Barbecue or broil. Baste well with soy sauce. Serve on buns with broiled pineapple rings.

HeeHeeHee!!!

Before beginning the service, our pastor read aloud a note he'd been handed moments earlier. "It says here that I should announce that there will be no B.S. tomorrow morning," he said. He tucked the piece of paper into a pocket and added, "I'm hoping they mean 'Bible Study.'"

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

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.

Thoughts from a Parish Member

When they come for me . . .

will there be anyone left to speak for me?

*"First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist*

*"Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me."*

— Pastor Martin Niemoller

Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe presented his Fourth of July message to the Episcopal Church and to the nation. In it he said "Once the church of Presidents, The Episcopal Church must now be an engine of resistance." "The reckoning, if we are honest, is long overdue."

As I read those words, somewhere deep in my soul there was an echo that I have been listening to for a long time and in the past 25 years, I have kept it repressed. There is an unfair difference between Christianity and Politics! The church asks the nation and the world to create policies which reflect the teachings of Jesus. That abyss is growing farther and farther apart.

We are a church, a religion, a community, built on love, acceptance, justice, and equality. When you come for communion, to be given the symbolic sacrifice of God's ultimate love for us all, you are not asked for proof of being a card carrying Christian. God's love, His sacrifice was and is for all people unconditionally.

Here I stand again on the soapbox of Christianity. If that's a problem, read no more. I often see those who appear to understand the Gospel, cutting down a tree to stand on the stump to give a speech about conservation. I see those in power waving the Bible as they enact laws that bring us back to the world before the Civil War, to the world where slavery, prejudice, and relegating women to the kitchen was an acceptable way of life. All right, now I have said it, now you have heard it. We need to return to the kind of patriotism our founding fathers believed in and fought for.

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, so help me God."

I believe that it is Christianity whose voice can be powerful enough to be heard and has the capability of summoning the unconditional love from God to encircle all of humanity. We are one of the remaining pillars of hope for a peaceful world that accepts all people.

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Thoughts from a Parish Member (cont'd.)

The Episcopal Church over and over again has proclaimed that love extends to all people without reservation.

When we see hungry people, we have a moral duty to feed them. When we see people in pain from whatever source, we need to find a way to support them and help them. When we see the disenfranchised of society, we need to take them God's love. Jesus said, "whatever you do to the least of my people, you do to me." It is this church which can make love and acceptance a verb that transcends prejudice and bigotry.

"Blessed are the children." We leave this world to them. They will be asked to fix the things that are wrong. How will they do that? Children learn from experience, from what they are taught in school, from their parents, and from what they see going on around them. The church provides the children one model. The political world provides another.

What do you want children to learn? How do we protect them from learning how to marginalize people? I have hope that the church will continue to be that avenue of communication for children to learn how to care about each other and this world.

Our Presiding Bishop ends his message with a very simple statement. He says that we are now being faced with a series of choices between the demands of politics and the teachings of Jesus, and that is no choice at all.

"This is not the same kind of patriotism that has guided our church since its founding in 1785, but it may be the most faithful service we can render – both to the country we love and the God we serve." Seek ye first the kingdom of God.

- Steve Lafever

We would like to celebrate your birthday – please send you birthdate (month/day) to either Sharon Fishel or Susan Greer so we can update our birthday list.

Coffee Hour Organizers

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE YUMMY THINGS YOU BRING US

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

Eve Yabroff	253-225-8683	August 3
Emily Kjaergaard	408) 221-3830	Aug 10
Andrea Dubov	831-291-2869	Aug 17
Jennifer Kennedy	831-251-1471	Aug 24
Rochelle Kelly	408-691-2571	Aug 31

Ramblings from A Wanderer

When I first spoke to Father Martin several months ago about considering selling my home and looking for a new place to live my life, he was so encouraging and helped me to be able to imagine going into a new future. Then when my home sold so quickly and unexpectedly, he helped me to see it as a God-led happening and encouraged me to be more aware of God leading me onto a new path.

Even before considering selling my home, I had spoken to Father Martin about “downsizing”, ridding myself of things that no longer had meaning in my life – so many things gathered along life’s trail and kept for a variety of reasons. I had been trying to make conscientious and thoughtful decisions as to where and to whom those things went, hoping they would find places and persons where they would be appreciated and used, particularly those things that had belonged to my late husband David (and, boy, did he have a LOT!!).

In going through “stuff”, I was amazed at what had been kept ... how many memories came back of events long forgotten ... and also how easy and lightening it felt to move it along. Ribbons, certificates, and awards received during my 24-year military career; letters of appreciation and awards given to me during my even longer civilian careers. And, looking back on those remembering that even though at the time I was unsure I had earned them because I had simply been doing my job, now thinking maybe I had done a better than average job, put in more hours and effort than some. And having the thought cross my mind that did I not want to keep those awards, certificates, letters, etc. as a reminder of those careers, those interesting events and time... and realizing that I could always recall those times, and while those reminders have meaning for me, they don’t for anyone else. And, so it went for several months, clearing, cleaning out, and finally coming down to 2 book boxes and 2 small bins of photos, “special” cards, and 3 awards that I felt I had “really” earned!!

As for David’s stuff ... several boxes made their way to his daughter and brother in Tennessee over a 4-year period .. then I discovered the Veteran’s Transition Center in Marina. And now some of his field artillery memorabilia – model artillery pieces, flags, paintings, knives, challenge coins, uniforms, etc. – have been put in display cases for other field artillery soldiers to reminisce over; and his shop tools are being used to help repair and build homes and apartments for veterans. So, mission accomplished ...

All in all, it feels great to know that now in the 40 bins and 12 boxes of assorted sizes, and 3 suitcases that constitute all of my earthly belongings, only items that have a particular purpose or meaning attached reside, and I no longer need to worry about the load I’ve been carrying around for up to 45 years!!! And, I can actually put together a kitchen that is fully functional, a closet in which all of the clothes actually fit, and build picture walls that tell the stories of my travels throughout the world.

Sooo, now to discover where that place might be!!! And, as He has done so many times before, I’m just traveling along, waiting for God to say, “This is it”!! And now, I’m finding that San Miguel de Allende is definitely a good place to start.

God’s Blessings on your journeys... Susan Greer

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You



There is no longer Jew or Greek.
There is no longer slave nor free.
There is no longer male nor female
For all of you are one in Christ Jesus

Galatians 3:28

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

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.

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.