

The Piper

December 2025



Epiphany

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A Message from Father Martin

Dear Friends,

Our Christmas Eve service here was wonderful, with candles and carols, choir and communion, and a very full “stable”. And the power stayed on at 101 Riverside Avenue, although we could hear generators just down the street.

I hope that these twelve days of Christmas are meaningful times for you to pause and be thankful for God’s love for each of us as we are. God is with us where we are in our lives and on our journeys, and is with us in the places, challenges and relationships we are in now. May God bless us with both patience to remember God with us and to live with awe and wonder that our Lord comes to us where we are.

This January, we will have our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2026. We begin with worship at 10 am (I will make my report as part of the sermon) and then continue in the Parish Hall to talk about our ministries, where we have been and what lies ahead. A special topic will be celebrating our 125 th anniversary as St. Andrew’s, Ben Lomond!

Standing for Vestry (to be elected at our meeting) will be Rochelle Kelly and Brand Moyer for 3 year terms, and Joan McVay for a one year term. Our 2026 Parish budget was approved by our Vestry in December. Copies of it and other reports will be available the Sunday before the meeting (January 18) and discussed on the 25th.

Please do your best to be in Church that Sunday to discuss and look forward to our ministries in 2026. The church is all of us – everyone is needed and called to share in God’s work through St. Andrew’s.

January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, the beginning of our Epiphany Season of light. Here is a prayer to guide us into this season of light (which we especially need amidst all the dark, cold and rain of these winter days.

Hear us, O never-failing Light,
Lord our God, our only Light, the Fountain of Light,
the Light of your angels, thrones, dominions,
principalities, powers, and of all the beings of this world;
you have created the light of your saints,
the bright cloud of witnesses around us.

May our souls be your lamps, kindled and illumined by you.
May they shine and burn with your truth,
and never go out in darkness and ashes.

May we be your dwelling, shining from you, shining in you;
may we shine and our light never fail;
may we worship you always.

May we be kindled brightly and never extinguished.

Being filled with Christ's splendor,

may we shine within, so that the gloom of sin is cleared away,
and the light of everlasting life abides within us. Amen.

An ancient Mozarabic prayer (from Enriching Our Worship 3,
published by The Episcopal Church)

Yours in Christ,
Martin+



The Best Place to Worship

Garden of Eatin'



Lavender Lemon Bars

Yummy, taken from Rusty Acres Herb Farm Website by Sue Roe

1 Cup Flour
1/2 Cup Butter
1/4 Cup Powdered Sugar
2 eggs
1 Cup Granulated Sugar
1 Tbls. Culinary Lavender (dried lavender flowers)
1/2 Teas. Baking Powder
2 Teas. Grated Lemon Peel
2 Tbls. Lemon Juice



Heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix flour, butter, and powdered sugar. Press into ungreased 8 or 9 inch square pan, building edges up a bit. Bake 20 minutes. Beat remaining ingredients until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Pour over hot crust. Bake for 25 minutes or until no indentation remains when touched lightly in center. Cool and cut into squares.



HeeHeeHee!!

A Sunday School teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he with just two worms?"

Leisure

By W.H. Davies

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare

No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this is if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

Submitted by John Woolliscroft



St. Andrew's Vestry Members

Jane Pomeroy , Senior Warden

Sara Hector

John Woolliscroft, Junior Warden

Sheryl Mello

Susan Greer

Ray Rischpater

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

The Twelve Days of Christmas

The Christmas carol we know as The Twelve Days of Christmas originated in England in the mid-1700s. It is a code that reveals many basic elements of the Christmas Faith.

(Our colleague the Rev. Roger Wharton, who is serving regularly as Supply Priest at St. Philip's, Scotts Valley, shared this last Sunday there. I had never heard this explanation. – Martin+)

1. A Partridge in a Pear Tree

The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.

2. Two Turtledoves

These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So, in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of the Christian faith and God's plan for the world. The doves are the biblical roadmap that is available to everyone.

3. Three French Hens

These birds represent faith, hope, and love. This gift hearkens back to 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter written by the Apostle Paul. It also represents the Holy Trinity: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

4. Four Calling Birds

One of the easiest facets of the song's code to figure out these fowl are the four Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

5. Five Gold Rings

The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

6. Six Geese a-Laying

These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation when God "hatched" or formed the world.

God created the heavens and the earth
God created the sky and seas
God created the land and plants
God created the sun, moon, and stars
God created fish and birds
God created land animals and man

7. Seven Swans a-Swimming

It would take someone quite familiar with the Bible to identify this gift. Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Ministry, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leading, Compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for spiritual gifts.

8. Eight Maids-a-Milking

As Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who would receive his word and accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The Eight Maids represent the 8 Beatitudes, from Matthew 5:3-10:

Blessed are...
the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Those who mourn: for they shall be comforted.
The meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be filled.
The merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
The pure in heart: for they shall see God.
The peacemakers: for they shall be called children of God.
They which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

9. Nine Ladies Dancing

These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. The Fruits of the Spirit include: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control.

10. Ten Lords A-leaping

This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for the Ten Commandments was fairly straightforward to Christians.

Thou shall have no other gods before me
Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image
Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain
Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy
Honor thy father and mother
Thou shalt not kill
Thou shalt not commit adultery
Thou shalt not steal
Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor
Thou shalt not covet

11. Eleven Pipers Piping

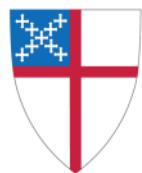
This is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of the dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, only eleven men carried out the gospel message. Therefore, the Eleven Pipers Piping signify the 11 Faithful Disciples:

Simon (whom He named Peter)	Matthew
Andrew	Thomas
James	James, son of Alphaeus
John	Simon, who was called the Zealot
Philip	Judas, son of James
Bartholomew	

Judas Iscariot was later replaced with faithful Matthias.

12. Twelve Drummers Drumming - The drummers are the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed.

Bishop Lucinda's Christmas 2025 Message



Peace. The word is both on our lips and in our hearts as we connect with the realities of our world. Prayers of the People throughout our diocese mention the hope for peace in Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, South Sudan and other places in the world torn apart by violence. Some people fear total extinction at the hands of others who have forgotten that those they profess to hate are all Children of God.

As long as people believe that peace is a commodity to be bought or a trophy that declares victory, peace will remain elusive. Neither is “peace” a soft conversation to be held or a concept to be hoped for without a call to action. The ultimate prize is the longed-for peace that exists when there is justice — when people everywhere are fed, clothed, freed, and belong to a community. God’s peace is shalom, and the pursuit of that peace should cause each of us to amend our ways. With a nod to the prophet Isaiah, we are each to take the swords of our own words and turn them into plowshares of action for world peace.

Nelson Mandela had much to say about peace, and he gave us this gem to consider: “Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.”

The Prince of Peace was born in human form over 2,000 years ago. As an adult, Jesus challenged dehumanizing structures through his words and actions and taught his disciples to focus on what needed healing and reconciliation. He bent their hearts toward understanding and love.

Please join me this Christmas donating to The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Jesus’ disciples work tirelessly amidst ongoing violence to bring relief to those who are displaced and those protecting their children from war. Let us also pray for Archbishop Hosam Naoum and his family.

“Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

(BCP p. 823)

May your heart “prepare him room,” and may you have a very Blessed Christmas.

Faithfully, Bishop Lucinda

Ramblings from a Wanderer

Celebrating the Advent and Christmas season and New Year's in San Miguel de Allende has been so interesting, fun, and exciting. The preparations that are made in all the public spaces are enormous, colorful, and so beautiful. Street corners with nativities built along the sidewalks; sparkling and twinkling lights and lighted silver stars spanning the streets; doorways with garlands of ribbons, lights, ornaments, and poinsettias



(flores de noche bueno); the city square (Centro Jardin) filled with poinsettias, a huge Christmas tree set in front of the

Parrocchia (parish church) lighted with alternating colored lights. Weeks of posadas (parades through neighborhoods) and fireworks. And, the people, filling the Jardin, eating at sidewalk vendors, listening to bands playing in the square, visiting with each other — totally magical.



I've been so used to driving by houses sporadically lit up with lights, though over the years the lights have been fewer, except for those neighborhoods that get together and light up their street or cul-de-sac; city lights are usually only on lamp-

posts; you may see a nativity in the front yard of an occasional church, though generally only inside the church. The celebrations are usually accompanied by a sigh of relief that the rush for gathering gifts is done and the days (and maybe weeks) of baking are over. The weeks prior to Christmas are spent rushing, agonizing over what gifts should be bought, whether the recipient will like the gift (or it will be returned); trying to get all the chores (decorating, baking, shopping, mailing, and on and on) finished in time. My experience (until about 8 years ago when I changed my philosophy on the "necessary" activities and things that HAD to be done) was so stressful, even feeling guilty about taking an afternoon or evening "off" in order to attend a holiday gathering.

This year, I hosted a couple of holiday gatherings (a tree-trimming dinner and a Christmas Day brunch) and attended several; I wandered through the artisan's mercados, marveling at the variety of things that were available and the workmanship that went into creating some of the items being sold; enjoyed walking in the square, and having lunches and dinners with friends. I also listened to a daily advent prayer and meditation, starting my day with a Bible reading from Luke, that centered my days and brought quiet to a busy day.

And, though I made an unexpected trip back to the States in mid-December, I came through this Christmas season without a pounding heart, without being exhausted, and without wishing I had "done more" and feeling as though I'd been wrung through the wringer. It was a lovely celebration of a very special time spent with my son and his partner, some new friends as well as a couple of old friends, and simply enjoying the time and learning new traditions.

And, again, thanking God for bringing me to this place that is beautiful, welcoming, and interesting.

May the New Year bring all God's abundance of love, peace, joy, health, and happiness to your and your loved ones.

Susan Greer

St. Andrew's Ministries

The Women's Circle



Dear Friends,

Women's Circle is changing meeting times to coordinate with the Men's Group and provide an evening option for working women. We will meet the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm, and the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30am. January will be altered to January 8 at 6:30pm and January 21 at 10:30 am. January 8 we will meet at the home of Rochelle Kelly ,230 W. Hilton Drive, Boulder Creek. Join us to share the journey as women in this amazing and complex world. Ann Moyer, 619-321-8596

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. There are no meetings in December; they will resume in January 2026.

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. The committee generally meets after Bible Study, on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

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

Men's Circle

The Men's Group had a good first meeting on December 4, and have decided to continue meeting on the first Thursday of each month. However, for January they will meet on the 8th as New Year's Day falls on the first Thursday. The plan is to meet at Tedd Parske's home 16100 Hwy 9, Boulder Creek. Questions? Call Brad Moyer 619-321-7316 or Christian Kjaergaard 650-864-4404.

COFFEE HOUR PROVIDERS

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE YUMMY THINGS YOU BRING US

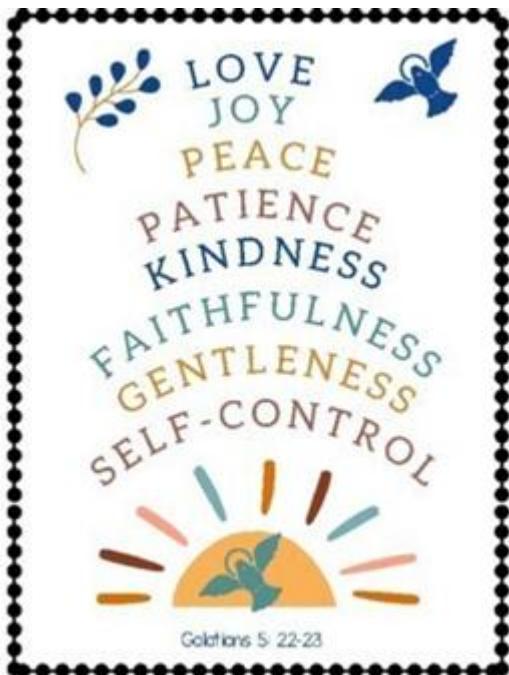
If you are unable to bring coffee hour please call someone else on the list and also, please let the office know so we can put the correct provider in the bulletin. To let the office know please email staoffice@sbcglobal.net or call or text Sharon. I type bulletins, etc. at home so don't always see the updates in the parish hall.

Sharon Fishel Office: 831-247-5572

Jennifer Kennedy	251-1471	January 4
Rochelle Kelly	(408) 691-2571	January 11
Jane Pomeroy	(408) 472-1586	January 18
Barbara Banke	345-2992	January 25
Eve Yabroff	(253) 225-8683	February 1
Emily Kjaergaard	(408) 221-3830	February 8
Janet Parske		February 15
Jennifer Kennedy	251-1471	February 22

Christmas Tea Party at St. Andrew's





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.