



Church Mouse

News & Events from St. John's Episcopal Church • Oakland, California

August Calendar

- August 1- Fiesta Fellowship,
6:30 p.m.
- August 4 - Tenth Sunday after
Pentecost
7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist
10:00 a.m. - Eucharist with Summer
Choir
Sunday School
- August 8 - Fiesta Fellowship,
6:30 p.m.
- August 12 - Twelfth Sunday after
Pentecost
7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist
10:00 a.m. - Eucharist with
Summer Choir
Sunday School
- August 19 - Thirteenth Sunday
after Pentecost
7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist
10:00 a.m. - Eucharist with
Summer Choir
Sunday School
2:00 p.m. - Sacred Space
- August 26 - Fourteenth Sunday
after Pentecost
7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist
10:00 a.m. - Eucharist with
Summer Choir
Sunday School

Upcoming:

- September 3 – Parish Work Day
and BBQ
- September 9- Pride Sunday,
CnC Starts, Choir Returns
- September 16- Quesadilla Sunday,
Stewardship Theme
Announced



Rector Says, "It's Time to Level UP!"



I would like to introduce you to, and invite our younger families to register for a new and innovative program called "Level UP". Created by and offered only at St. John's Oakland, Level UP is a pilot program for young families that equips parents, empowers students and tracks and celebrates progress through levels of spiritual development by using age-appropriate lessons, activities and projects grounded in Episcopal faith practices. Unlike any other program for children, Level UP is based on sociological research which shows that children who have developed practices which affirm a higher, loving and guiding power in their lives also succeed in other areas of their lives as well.

Fun fact: Did you know that scientists at Columbia and Oxford University have found that students who have practices that affirm a higher power in their lives handle failure better, are less likely to develop addictions, and show increased academic performance over those who have no such practices? Maybe it's time for families to stop excusing themselves from church commitments due to soccer practice

and instead excuse themselves from soccer for spiritual practice.

Level UP involves mutual commitment from staff and parents including "home visits" and parent-teacher conferences which assist staff in creating custom goals for each child based on who and where they are in life.

St. John's has already created a successful confirmation program for teens that hundreds of congregations are using across the country. Last year 276 congregations signed on to purchase Confirm not Conform (CnC) and this year is on target to reach that goal as well. This program has continued to spread throughout the Episcopal Church and to other denominations as well. Much like CnC, Level UP has been inspired by a profound disappointment in available programs for children and families that fails to promote not only values but also skills. Level UP is our first step toward creating a truly powerful and effective program for younger families.

All are welcome to participate in this program. Please contact me at rector@stjohnsoakland.org for more information or to explore joining the ranks of our inaugural year.

Scott+

Welcome Dr. Ben Riggs



It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to Dr. Ben Riggs, our new Minister of Music. Ben recently moved to California with his husband, Rev. John F. Dwyer, the new Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley. Ben was previously the full-time Artistic Director of Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, a 160-member volunteer arts organization in Minneapolis, MN.

While in Minnesota, Ben also served as the Chancel Choir Director at Richfield United Methodist Church in Minneapolis. Ben was formerly the Director of Music at Atonement Lutheran Church in Boulder, CO, and Director of Worship at Christ Church United Methodist in Denver, CO. Ben was also an adjunct faculty member at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, where he directed the Iliff Choir,

assisted in planning community worship, and team-taught the Ritual and Worship class.

Ben holds a Bachelor of Music in piano from Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, a Master of Music in choral conducting from the University of Colorado-Boulder, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Literature and Performance from the University of Colorado-Boulder.

Ben was introduced to the church community on Sunday July 22nd and will begin work on August 6th. We will have a special celebration of his appointment as Minister of Music on September 9th when the choir officially returns.

A special thank you goes to Cheryl Keller, chair of the search committee including Sara Evinger and Jim Hasler for doing a remarkable job finding and interviewing candidates. God has blessed us richly. —Scott+

Strategic Planning: Where Will We Be in 5 Years?



When you look at the history of St. John's in five year chunks, it is amazing to discover that we have been travelling through stages of development. In the last five year chunk we spent large amounts of energy reacting or responding to outside forces. The great sewage back up of 2014 was magnificently handled by the vestry and construction team but the energy draw was significant. Add to this the ongoing obstacles to moving forward on our building plans and it might be fair to entitle the chapter heading of the last five years "Overcoming Outside Forces". But now, with many challenges behind us, it feels very much like we are becoming masters of our own destiny in a new way.

Having a long-term strategic plan can help us weather the bumps in the road and keep us from being in reactionary mode. Having a clear step by step set of goals with benchmarks to assess how we are doing will keep our eye on the prize.

What will the chapter title be for the next five years? The vestry has been working on a five year strategic plan and assigning leaders who will run point in each category. As part of my goals for the coming year, I am responsible in supporting the development of this plan. To support this massive effort I called together an advisory group (SPAG, The Strategic Planning

Is your will in God's will?

*The only way we can pay
our debt to the past is to put
the future in debt to us.*

Advisory Group) to support the vestry in analyzing where we are as a church and where we want to go. The members of this group include Senior Warden Kathy Araujo, Cathy Crocker, who is running point on the Strategic Plan for the vestry, Debi Stebbins, David Brown and Susan Pierpoint, who have been senior wardens in the past and have extensive experience in developing strategic plans, and Mike Helms, who has tremendous experience in helping organizations develop fiscal strategies. The analysis of trends across the Episcopal Church as well as understanding which churches are growing and why, is an important part of our future planning. It is also important to have this as a guide to how we staff this five year vision.

Please reach out to me or any vestry member or member of the advisory committee to ask questions or share your thoughts about what our future could look like. There will be more to come in the coming months.

Scott+

St. John's Episcopal Church

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*It ys a sotyll mouse that slepyth
in the catty's ear.*

—Hilles *Commonplace Book*, 1530

The Year in Worship

Eucharistic Lectionary: B
Daily Office Lectionary Year Two
Advent Eve 2017 to Advent Eve 2018



Senior Warden Suggests, "Gear Up!"



Wow. This is a busy, exciting time for St. John's! With the departure of both Krista and Jun, we are faced with both new opportunities and new challenges to "do the work we have been given

to do". Now, more than ever, (hmmmm – where have I heard THAT before!) St. John's needs you to show up, gear up and help "git'er done"!

In the coming weeks you may be approached and asked to fulfil some role in the workings of the church. My hope is that you will say an enthusiastic YES!, and join the merry band of workers who faithfully manage the present and envision the future for St. John's. Likewise, if you see something that needs doing, feel free to volunteer!

In particular, I am thinking about committees like Buildings and Grounds (helping to maintain and manage the physical campus), In-Reach (providing opportunities for spiritual and intellectual development for our congregation), and Invitation & Inclusion (greeting or ushering on Sunday). There is much to do and many opportunities to help.

September will provide a "ministry fair" to help you see what is available at St. John's and what calls you to action.

October will see the start of the Generosity Campaign (formerly known as Stewardship), and there will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer!

November will see the completion of the Generosity Campaign when we will celebrate our blessings together.

On a more personal note, a word about volunteering. I know that every time I have raised my hand to volunteer at St. John's, it has brought me closer to the community. I experience St. John's and God's blessings differently because of my involvement. I invite you to deepen your connection with all that is St. John's by volunteering your time and talent.

Kathy Araujo, Senior Warden

Building Project Updates

The Building Project committee and the Invitation Bridge committee have been working continuously on this ongoing project in two arenas:

1. The Shade Mitigation mandated by the Environmental Impact Report

The amount of shade cast by the new bridge must be compensated by creating a proportionate amount of daylight or greater, preferably on Temescal Creek. We have been working in conjunction with Montclair Presbyterian Church (MPC) down the street to accomplish this by removing a condemned foot bridge over the creek and by providing considerable improvements to the creek bank in front of their church. This will be accomplished by removing endangered species and replacing them with native plantings as dictated, primarily, by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The joint committees have completed their review and MPC's landscape architect is preparing the final drawings to submit to the agencies for their approval.

2. The New Bridge

Due to code updates (primarily seismic footings and abutments) as well as the cost of steel and concrete, our original bridge design is far too costly. We met last week with our engineers and general contractor to determine alternate solutions. A rectilinear pre-cast design using more steel and less concrete will reduce the weight and the cost significantly. The structural engineer is in the process of revising the drawings with new calculations. At the same time, the geo-technical engineer is reviewing the calculations for the number and depth of the piers to be drilled for supporting the abutments and the new bridge.

3. Landscaping

As we move forward past the governmental agencies we intend to enlist the services of the church's landscape committee to assist in selecting and placement of the landscaping and lighting design and materials.

Needless to say, this is, and has been, a long and tedious process and I am grateful to the members of both committees as we continue on this journey.

Jerry Moran

Treasurer Shares "Perceived Value" Concept



It's been a while since I wrote for the Mouse and as many of you know I am super busy with all the transitions at church and especially with the task of closing my husband Jim's office as he steps off into retirement.

This is a joyful launch for us as we accept where we are as "well enough off" to glide through the rest of our lives together. It made me want to share one of my old letters from July, 2015 Mouse which discussed "Perceived Value" and the joy of giving.

I was walking Caramel at the Trudeau training center Sunday, John Kater's sermon still very present in my mind. A man approached with his dog and announced that his dog was quite friendly. I had to warn, "Caramel is also very friendly – usually – but at the moment she has found a rock. She loves rocks and can become quite territorial if she thinks another dog wants her rock." "I totally understand," said he, "it's all about perceived value." We laughed and parted, but his phrase stuck in my head. I continued my walk, delighted with the phrase – it's all about perceived value.

Isn't that what rules our lives with money and with giving? Hasn't that been the crux of what I have been writing about these past four months? Caramel had given perception of value to a rock – and, oh, she does so with such joy. You should see her smile when I pick up a rock – any rock. "Throw it for me, mom, I will chase it, I will find that one rock that has your scent wherever it lands." That's the game we play. I have often said how fortunate I am that she loves rocks – they are plentiful and cheap (i.e. free). Silly Caramel, the only worry is that it cannot be good for her teeth, and she does get quite possessive about her rocks; she feels threatened if she thinks someone else wants her rock. I wonder if we aren't sometimes like Caramel. If God would look at us and our possessions and wonder "why are they so obsessed with rocks?"

Yes, I had wondered about writing this next Mouse Article, and John Kater's sermon was right on point. When he described parishioners in Africa dancing to bring their offerings to the altar, he was describing their joy in giving to God. On

that Sunday, I felt really inspired by his message and with this vision of parishioners dancing their offering to the altar, the folks at the 7:45 witnessed me dancing to each member to share the offering plate and dancing the plate down the aisle to the altar. Oh how I have longed for a joyful relationship to what we have and what we share.

As Episcopalians we say, "Walk in love as Christ loved us, and showed himself an offering as a sacrifice." As a statement of giving, it always seems so depressing. We are not sacrificing when we give to St. John's. We are privileged in where we live and what we have and should be joyful donors. I feel we should be saying, "Dance in love, embrace with joy the privilege of being able to share what we have been given, show joyful gratitude that Christ showed us a path of love and service."

Ronald Roth wrote in his article, "Characteristics of Joyful Giving" that the 10 elements of joyful giving are:

1. That we desire the best that man can give for God.
2. That we are generous.
3. That in giving we are willing to be an example.
4. That we give joyfully as a response to being asked.
5. That joyful giving views giving as a means of consecrating oneself to the Lord.
6. That joyful giving gives willingly and wholeheartedly.
7. That joyful giving is a thankful acknowledgment of God's greatness and ownership of all things.
8. That it is a privilege to give.
9. That joyful giving comes from a humble spirit that recognizes man's poverty and underserving nature.
10. And that joyful giving results in the prayer that others too may experience this joy.

I hope that we will all understand that much of the stuff we cling to, things that we believe we need, are really just rocks to which we have attached value, and in realizing God's callings in our lives, we embrace these elements of joyful giving – and dance as we give, dance in the knowledge that we have been given so much. What a privilege it is to be able to share!

You can see this in this video that John shared with his students. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RK2KOJ-fwoE>

Lilab Greene

Getting to YES!



So many things come to mind when I think about Stewardship. Ah, that dreaded word! Why is it so hard to talk about? Why does it make us back away rather than come forward? Why is it so difficult to get to YES, so

easy to say NO!

Giving is complicated! When I think back to my own history of giving, I see a little girl, me, dressed in my Sunday best (complete with hat and little white gloves), being given a dime for the collection plate and feeling so proud when it was time to put my dime in with all the other contributions. Then as I got older, that dime became a dollar from my babysitting money. Then the college years and beyond when I was better acquainted with what money really was, with what it meant to have it and what it meant to be without. Scarcity, fear, anxiety set in causing hands to close and purse strings to tighten. Until I stopped going. Until I stopped giving.

I came back, which is a story for another time, but hands were still closed, and the purse strings were still tight. But some-

thing had shifted. What changed me? What got me to YES! What made the difference? A loving community that was willing to teach me about commitment, hold my hand through the fear, and model generosity for me.

When I finally understood that it was the commitment, not the amount of my pledge that mattered, something opened in me. Tithing became a goal. Supporting the people and the structure that helps me to “do the work God has given me to do” became a focus for my time, talent and treasure.

So where am I going with all this?

Invitation. This year I invite you to replace the word Stewardship with Generosity. We have a Generosity Team this year, and we are exploring all the ways that generosity works in our lives. This is about so much more than asking for money. In fact, that is the least of all we will be tasked with in this campaign. I promise. This is about supporting our mission at St. John’s – about who we are, and who we want to be in church and in the world.

Stay tuned! We have work to do!!!

Kathy Araujo
Generosity Team Chair
kathyaraujo@me.com

St. John’s Honored by Genesis

At the 6th annual Genesis fundraising breakfast in June, St. John’s was honored as a co-founder of Genesis and for our policy work in the Bay Area supporting youth bus passes, working to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and supporting justice for those with disabilities.

The Genesis Breakfast was a success. Almost 100 people came to support Genesis and raise money for its projects.

The goal for the breakfast was \$20,000 and they made \$17,385. Thank you to all of those who donated. Genesis wants to close this gap and welcomes everyone to help them complete this.

If you would like to help, you can send a check to Genesis (2501 Harrison St., Oakland) or donate here: <https://www.genesisca.org/donate>



Victoria Robinson, Sandra Ahn, Sarah Blain, Tim Williams and Rev. Scott Denman accept the Genesis award on behalf of St. John’s.



We Remember Margie

Margaret Ashton Bowman
Feb. 22, 1928 – June 24, 2018

On July 21, hundreds of people crowded Piedmont Community Church to honor and thank Margie Bowman and her family for a life of service, love, and compassion.

St. John’s was a major recipient her dedicated good works and volunteerism. From ecology, vestry, world hunger and world peace, Margie always spoke up and supported her causes and her family. Margie and Tom were a shining example of togetherness, deep love, and respect for one another, made possible by God’s grace.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. John’s Episcopal Church or to Yosemite Conservancy (Tenaya Restoration Fund) 101 California Street, Suite 1700, San Francisco, CA 94104.



“Meditation Garden Queens” Margie and Nancy Swarengen in 2014

Rev. Krista Honored on July 8

With bitter sweet tears and laughter, St. John's sent Rev. Krista Fregoso off to become the Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek. Celebrated with a stole embroidered with Oakland acorns from Judy Jackson, knit hats from Sara Evinger, and a plunger from Rev. Scott (because every priest is also a plumber), Krista's last Sunday also included a 'high tea' party after both services and many fond farewells.



Krista will be installed as the rector in her new parish sometime this Fall when Bishop Marc can attend and celebrate. All of St. John's is invited and more festivities and gifts are being planned.



Jun Departed St. John's on July 15



Jun and girlfriend Judi

After almost four years as St. John's Music Minister, Jun Kim was called to New Jersey on family matters. St. John's choir showed its gratitude with gifts of national park passes, sheet music gift card, and a fantastic brunch following the service. The parish also contributed funds to underwrite his move and trip to the East Coast.

During his tenure, Jun developed and instructed the youth choirs to become integral members of St. John's worship and community. Jen Howard-Lukens and choristers Jaden and Keller couldn't attend, but they sent a note and pictures that capture Jun's ministry perfectly.

"Jun Kim has profoundly touched our lives and left a permanent imprint that we will always cherish. He taught my children to sing, but also to cooperate, to be patient, and to truly let their little lights shine!

Despite our son Keller's best efforts to get himself kicked out of the choir at nearly every rehearsal, Jun never ever stopped believing in him, or in the idea that the true purpose of the youth choir was to share God's love. We are so grateful for this gift. St. John's youth choir is a truly special place of love and acceptance and was best described by Jun, in his own words, in this excerpt of an email he wrote to me. I was asking for the umpteenth time whether or not we should consider pulling Keller out of the choir.



Jun's response: Yes, Keller is a distraction for other choristers, but what I see is this: Every single one of the choristers caring for Keller and patiently taking responsibility for Keller...this is something I wished to have formed in the children's music program... choristers forming a bond of friendship and caring so soon...I am just humbled by this, and will never mess with it. Choristers bring unique gifts to St. John's. I consider Keller, with all his "miracles", a precious gift... Children demand so much individual attention and patience...However, the things that take place at the rehearsals are just amazing. Having Keller at the rehearsals may slow down the pace of choristers' musical learning, but I have always believed that teaching music should never be my ultimate goal... it is a mere tool for nurturing and sharing God's love. Keller is playing a vital role in this, and for that I am so grateful. I hope this puts your worries to rest."

This brought tears to my eyes then, and still does now and I just wanted to share it with all of you today as a reminder of the beautiful gift Jun has been to so many of us.

We are so lucky to have shared this time with you Jun and we will miss you!

Love,
Jen, Trevor, Jaden and Keller"



Come Labor and Eat



Labor Day, Monday September 3rd, is one of my favorite days when we join together for small and large work projects plus eating great food. Please arrive early if possible or after lunch if that's better for you. We start around 8:30 or 9 a.m. and go till 4 p.m.

Like gardening? We always have areas that need some TLC and others that just need the weeds removed. How about dusting off those pews and getting the cobwebs off the kneelers, or go up high and remove them from the ceilings and light fixtures? Windows? The school storage room can also use a little attention prior to the new school year. Then there is always the kitchen which gets so much use.

We have also been asked to attack the play area which needs raking and cleaning. Why not take an area of the church and claim it for your family, foyer group, committee, or whatever your small group is and refresh it on the 3rd and take responsibility for it for one year? Altar Guild is cleaning up and sorting the vestment room. Many times I have come to a work day and found someone who I did not know well or had not seen in a long time and we worked a project together.

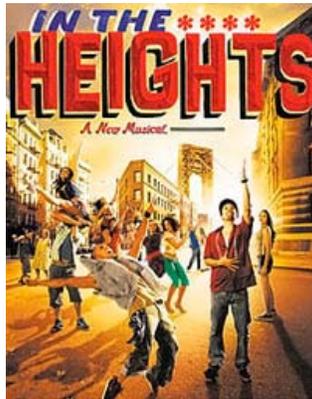
At around 4 pm. we put the tools away, get the trash and the recycling into their containers, load a truck with green recycling, and take a break. That's the time to start the barbecues up for a Labor Day picnic. All are welcome for the barbecue whether you were able to attend the work day or not. I understand if you were at an A's or Giants game earlier, but be at St. John's for dinner!

Always remember to bring hats, gloves, sun screen, and tools if attending the work party. And bring something to grill and something to share for the barbecue.

It's always fun to give to the church with your labor and clean up God's meeting place. Also, if you would like to donate something to eat or drink for the work day that would be terrific! The following Sunday is a big day and we want St. John's to sparkle for ourselves and visitors. You're gonna barbecue anyway on Labor Day, so why not do it at St. John's and have some comradery as we experience at The Ranch on Mother's Day Friday.

Ken Fuller, In-Reach Catalyst. Thunder572002@Yahoo.com, 510-531-7357.

St. John's Is Going to Lin-Manuel Miranda's Musical **IN THE HEIGHTS**



Hosted by the Ministry Catalysts, St. John's has purchased 25 tickets for the Friday, September 7 production at Woodminster Amphitheater at 8 p.m. in Joaquin Miller Park. Contact Ken Fuller, thunder572002@yahoo.com to reserve the \$26 group rate in section 2. Tickets for children under 16 are available for \$13 each. We have reserved picnic tables for supper before the show.

Before there was Hamilton, there was In the Heights. The brilliance of Lin-Manuel Miranda's new vision of American Musical Theater is spectacularly realized in both shows, in all its blow-the-top-off-expectations exuberance. Like Hamilton, In the Heights' style is ostensibly hip hop, but characters sing and dance to a wide variety of musical styles and moods. Energetic and infectious, this is something completely different for the Woodminster stage.

In the Heights tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood – a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. It's a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams and pressures, where the biggest struggles can be deciding which traditions you take with you, and which ones you leave behind. In the Heights is the winner of the 2008 Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Score, Best Choreography and Best Orchestrations.

Rosie the Riveter Home Front Festival

Join us, Saturday, August 11, for a tour of the Rosie the Riveter Home Front Festival in Richmond, CA. This extraordinary local museum, the former Kaiser Factory was one of the most active producers of WW2 wartime ships, planes, and vehicles. You all know Rosie, the iconic figure known for Yes We Can! Contact Peter Freeman pcfreeman52@gmail.com or 510-847-7376 for more details on St. John's participation.

Don't miss this year's Rosie Rally Home Front Festival! Once again, people will gather to celebrate the legacy of Rosie the Riveter, an icon for women across the world. Join us for this free and family-friendly event for fun, festivities, great food, costume contests, dancing and more!

This year, instead of breaking the Guinness record, we encourage everyone to update Rosie or represent home front occupations in creative ways, or to come in traditional garb to join the largest Rosie celebration and festival yet. This year's event will honor original WWII Rosies and home front workers and celebrate the ordinary people from many backgrounds, races and communities across the U.S. who stepped up to extraordinary challenges during WWII.

TIME: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

DATE: Saturday, August 11, 2018

LOCATION: Craneway Pavilion,
Ford Assembly Plant, Richmond



St. John's Family



RANDY, LAURA and MEREDITH LEVANDOWSKI took a fantastic trip to Kenya, which included a camel ride...



Another generation of St. John's BREAD Camp counselors and attendees: ABBY SLATER, FREDIE TREVOR, MADDY JONES, WALTER MARION and MARGUERITE CAUCHOIS, Seasonal Camp Director this year...



The House of Bishops and ECCC (Episcopal Camps & Conference Centers) honored LISA KIMBALL with the Hero of Camping Ministry award on July 9 at the 79th Annual Convention in Austin, TX...



CHRIS MCQUEEN and MICHAEL DALY were married at St. John's in June, with several of the McQueen Family (MARY, RACHEL, REBECCA, SINEAD and JAMESON) singing at the celebration...



The Rev. PETER HOMEYER received the first of the new 2018 Sacred Space hats and many other gifts, including the Flaming Bible...



WILL SOOTER (left) was a "finisher" in the Triathlon (Olympic Distance) with the University of Oregon team at San Antonio Lake, CA in June...



LUCY KHO (shown with big sister, MADDY) appeared in the Oakland Ballet School's spring production of "Coppelia"...



ANDREW HYBL responded to Red Dress Day in style while participating (and completing!) the 545-mile ride from SF to LA for AIDS/LifeCycle...



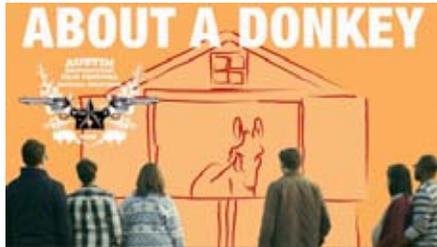
The LEHRKIND-KUNKEL family welcomed new member, OLIVER ARMSTRONG.



St. John's Family

Continued from Page 7

ALEXANDRA CLAYTON was nominated for Best U.S. Actress in the feature film, "About a Donkey" at the Austin Revolution Film Festival. Brava, Ali!



LINDA LONG had the thrill of hearing Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem" at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, "to remind us to reconcile our differences, she writes; only the exterior walls of this building remained in 1945." Her trip also included a concert at Westminster Cathedral and participation in the London March, pictured here...



FRED FELDER captured the entire YOUTH and CHANCEL CHOIRS on their last official Sunday in June...



Youth Notes

Youth Pilgrimage

The youth of St. John's Ross and St John's Oakland finished their 2018 California Pilgrimage with 14 youth and adults in two 15 passenger vans in eight days and covered 1364 miles.



During this time we traveled the back roads of California to explore the state's people, places and see the the stories of glossed over history. We looked for and found God in those people and places. We began to feel the pain as we came to better understand these people and their significant roles in our history. We compared the social injustice of their history and how similar social injustices are occurring every day now. We learned how the leadership arose in the worst of times.

To quote one youth, "We need to do more than just listen and learn all this for ourselves. We need to continue to share these personal stories to our generation now.

We need to step up and be the leaders of our lives now."

Our youth on this Pilot Pilgrimage (only the third Diocese in the USA) have had their lives changed through laughter, tears, hard conversations, Eucharists, prayers and hugs. Each of them now have a stronger sense of themselves as individuals and as a group . Our youth will continue to be leaders and creative problem solvers who have know that God is at the center of their lives.



Thank you to Scott Denman, Sarah Jones and Franny Baronian for their constant 24/7 support throughout this trip. And a very special THANKS goes to Tom Freogoso. Between the two of us we were able to get all of us on the road and share this pilgrimage with the youth.

Without our chaperones there would be no Pilgrimages!

Kellor



CnC Begins in September

The 2018 -2019 youth confirmation class starts on September 9th at 9 a.m. in the Youth Room. Following the first session there will be a covenant signing at the 10 a.m. service.

If you would like to know more about CnC, email kellor@stjohnsoakland.org and visit the national Confirm not Conform website. <http://www.confirmnotconform.com/>

St. John's Bulletin Board



Open the Doors Quesadilla Sunday

Sunday, September 16 marks St. John's official start to the Fall season and a Welcome Back from the distractions and relaxations of summer.

Plan to be here following the 10 a.m. service for quesadillas from the staff and CnC youth, ministry opportunities, and hear about new programs for the Fall season.



Welcome Andria!

On June 25th, Andria Kelley-DeBose began work as St. John's Parish Coordinator. She and Peter Homeyer were able to work together for his last two days and that eased the transition for all of us. Please drop by the office any morning and introduce yourself. She wants to meet everyone and put a face to all the names she sees.

Fiesta Fellowship Continues

The final Wednesday evening summer dinners are on August 1 and 8 at 6:30. All parishioners and friends are invited to the Reception Room for food, fun, fellowship, a family prayer service based on the New Zealand prayer book. Dinners are Mexican themed and no two will be alike! We begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. Bring a friend! It's fun and free!



Batter UP!

St. John's Saints & Sinners softball team is in full swing. The remaining games, all at Coaches' Field in Piedmont, are on Monday July 30 at 6:00 p.m, Friday Aug. 3 at 6 p.m. and play-offs TBD. To play or get more information, contact Sarah Jones at sarahcjones@sonic.net or 510-682-5327.

The team also has A's baseball tickets for August 7. Contact Sarah to join the fun.

CDSP to the Rescue!

Now that Krista has become the rector of St. Paul's, Walnut Creek, Scott found himself without coverage for his vacation in August. The Church Divinity School of the Pacific has come to his rescue. Scott will be away for two weeks including three Sundays in August and the preaching line up is exciting:

August 12:
The Very Rev. Mark Richardson
(Dean of CDSP)

August 19:
The Rev. Andrew Hybl
(Dean of Students, CDSP)

August 26:
The Rev. John Dwyer
(Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, CDSP, and husband of our new Minister of Music, Dr. Ben Riggs)

For pastoral emergencies call Scott's office line for direction (510) 339-2200.

Scott will be back in the office on August 28th.



St. John's vision is to manifest God's love through invitation, inclusion, faith and action



St. John's Episcopal Church

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