



Church Mouse

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

February Calendar

February 3-Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist
10:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist

February 5 - Tuesday
6:00 p.m. Pizza Club

February 7- Thursday
5:15 p.m. - Primary & Junior Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. - Senior Choir Rehearsal
7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

February 8-10 Vestry Retreat

February 10 - Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist
10:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist

February 14 - Thursday
5:15 p.m. - Primary & Junior Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. - Senior Choir Rehearsal
7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

February 17- Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist
10:00 a.m. - Family Service with Choral Eucharist

February 21 - Thursday
5:15 p.m. - Primary & Junior Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. - Senior Choir Rehearsal
7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

February 23 - 1 p.m. Barbara Cadwalader Memorial Service

February 24 - Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist
10:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist

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Rector Brings Us 'Back to the Future'

Some of you may remember a really fun stewardship campaign we ran about a decade ago. The theme "BACK TO THE FUTURE" was borrowed from a popular 1985 movie by that title. Directed by Robert Zemeckis and starring Michael J. Fox, the story was about a young man who traveled through time in a retrofitted DeLorean car, in an effort to change the future. One of our members actually owned a DeLorean and during the campaign it was parked on the patio with our promotional banners. Good times.

That campaign was inspired by a realization that our goal for the stewardship drive was actually the amount we achieved several years earlier. Pledging had drifted lower and we realized we needed to stop this drift by getting back to the future God was calling us to.

I think that theme could work today. We have been drifting. The drift is understandable given the obstacles to our bridge project and a sewage flood that devastated our first floor and distracted us for over a year. Add to this significant staff turnover, and an awareness that some of our programs had grown tired and become ineffective, and it was clear that we needed to get back to remembering why we are here and where we are being called.

In early 2018 I appointed a strategic planning group to advise the vestry in creating a 5-year strategic plan. They have just finished a proposed plan that will go before the vestry for consideration. Thousands of hours have been devoted to this plan which is about 100 pages

long. It includes a thorough analysis of where we are and recommendations for how to move forward.

While this plan was being developed, other exciting things have also been happening. The bridge project has made huge advances in the last year and momentum has been regained. A new program "Level Up", designed for younger families, is ready to be piloted and we already have other Episcopal congregations in our diocese asking to be part of this program. Another pilot program focused on developing small groups is already underway helping us strengthen our connection to one another. It all feels very much like we are coming out of our drift and getting back to our future. It is all very exciting!

In the months ahead you can expect some things. You will all be invited to small gatherings in people's homes to be updated about our strategic options and to learn more about the bridge project. At these gatherings you will see a short film, professionally created, that efficiently summarizes the story of this project and how it celebrates and enhances the vision of St. John's: "To manifest God's love through, invitation, inclusion, faith and action".

We are, indeed, getting back to our future. I hope you all commit to be part of this exciting time in the story of St. John's as we write a new chapter in our history.

Grateful to be your Rector,

Scott+

St. John's Welcomes 2019 Vestry



New Vestry members Laura Kroger, Victoria Robinson, Ruben Simpliciano (not shown: Katie Kroger)

On Sunday, January 27th, St. John's held its Annual Meeting. With more than 120 people in attendance, the parish thanked the leaders of 2018 and welcomed in the new Vestry and Deanery.

Having faithfully and excellently served St. John's were Cynthia O'Malley (People's Warden) and Louise Miller (Personnel Chair, Finance Committee), Shirley Saunders (Technology) and Steve Baronian who completed a fourth year due to serving out Greg Slatoff's term. Steve's work on Buildings and Grounds has been so important in maintaining our properties.

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February Calendar

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February 28 - Thursday
5:15 p.m. - Primary & Junior Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. - Senior Choir Rehearsal
7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

March 1-3 - Women's Lenten Retreat at
Bishop's Ranch

March 2 – 2 p.m. 'Tim Williams' Memorial
Service

March 3 - Last Sunday after the Epiphany
7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist
10:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist

March 5 - Tuesday
6:00 p.m.- Pizza Club

March 6 - Ash Wednesday
6:30 a.m. - Eucharist with ashes
12:00 p.m.- Eucharist with ashes
7:00 p.m. - Eucharist with ashes

St. John's Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Scott Denman, Rector

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

—Hilles *Commonplace Book*, 1530

The Year in Worship

Eucharistic Lectionary: C
Daily Office Lectionary Year One
Advent Eve 2018 to Advent Eve 2019



St. John's Welcomes 2019 Vestry

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The 2018 Deanery attended quarterly meetings to represent St. John's and also attended the Diocesan Convention in October. The members were Carolyn George, Nancy Swearingen, Kathie Heller, and Bob Middleton.

The 2019 Deanery will be Carolyn George, Bob Middleton, Greg Slatoff, and Alexandra Slatoff.

St. John's is fortunate to have Laura Krogger, Katie Kroger, Ruben Simpliciano, and Victoria Robinson as the vestry 'class of 2019'. They will join the continuing members (Senior Warden Kathy Araujo, Paul Brumbaum, Cathy Crocker, Mike Helms, Bryan Culp, Ian Storrar, and Lone Beeson. The new Vestry will retreat to St. Dorothy's Rest from February 8-10 to set its goals, review the proposed Strategic Plan, and get to know each other better.

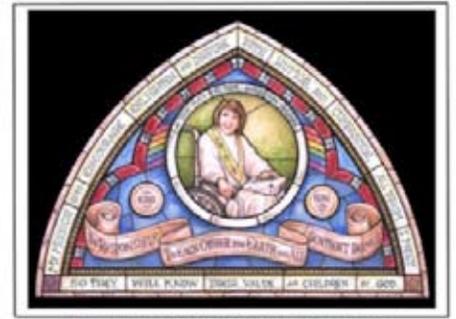
The Annual Meeting Report was emailed to the parish on January 25th. It contains short biographies of our new vestry members and all Vestry contact information, a special report from the Strategic Plan Advisory Committee, reports from all the Ministry Catalysts, financial summaries for 2018 and a proposed budget for 2019, and a calendar of events for the winter and spring.

On Jan. 27th a paper copy of the parish directory and a list of the current ministry chair people were available. Copies are still in the Narthex for those who were unable to attend.



Have you signed up for REALM, the St. John's online directory?

Adult Education Forum on Feb. 24



THE REV. ELINOR ROBENSON
GREENE - MEMORIAL WINDOW

Church of St. Martin-in-the Fields
Episcopal Church - Philadelphia PA

Come hear Lilah Greene discuss the life and legacy of her sister, the Reverend Elinor Greene, who was born on July 21, 1952 and died on August 5, 2016.

Lilah writes, "I cannot begin to sum up in a few sentences the impact of Nell's life on my spiritual growth and so I have decided to dive into the adult education forum to try to say it in an hour of photos, exhibits and conversation. Nell was described by one writer as Katherine Hepburn in the Philadelphia Story when her world came crashing down in the form of an auto accident that resulted in debilitating brain damage. And yet she found joy, love and rebirth in her new life teaching able bodied people to love and appreciate "other-abledness." Lessons of patience, perspective, compassion and forgiveness are wound in love and laughter. Come sit with me and learn about this amazing life and this amazing spirit."



Lilah and Nellie in 1995

Women's 2019 Retreat Registration Closes Feb. 17

Women's Lenten Retreat is March 1-3 in 2019 at Bishop's Ranch. With the theme, "Honoring Perspective: Considering 'We' Space and 'Me' Space, Andrea Bryck will facilitate our Saturday morning sessions and Lisa Thorpe will guide our creative instincts in the afternoon. Consider inviting a friend or relative to come with you this year.

Registration forms were sent to prior participants by email. Paper forms are available in the Narthex. Registration for the weekend and 'Saturday only' participation closes on February 17. Contact either Anne Meyer (anne.meyer5023@gmail.com) or Laurie Bennett (lebennett1950z@gmail.com) if you have questions or suggestions.

Don't miss an amazing opportunity to explore this topic, bond with the women of St. John's, and enjoy Bishop's Ranch.



2018 Women's Retreat was a blast.

Memorials



Barbara Cadwalader's memorial service will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 23.

Tim Williams' memorial service will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 2.

Loretta Sheridan's family has not scheduled a service.

Unable are the loved to die,
for love is immortality.

Emily Dickinson



Painting of Ranch House by Bob Davidson

Men's Retreat 2019

March 8-10
Bishop's Ranch – Healdsburg, CA

In this our 16th annual retreat, our focus is on how we can be the Good News and raise each other up to be our best selves in our families and our communities, and especially the St John's community.

The cost is \$228 for the retreat, checks payable to St John's (memo Men's Retreat). Please give your check to Paul Brumbaum (NOT the church office). If you need any scholarship assistance please let Scott or Paul know. Paul's email is pbrumbaum@earthlink.net.

Help Wanted:

St. James Food Pantry

Sallie Sadler's pleas for more volunteers have netted three more St. John's parishioners. But twice that are needed so that coverage is good when people go away for a while or are sick.

St. James Food Pantry is located in the parking lot of St. James Episcopal Church, 1540 12th Ave. East. YOU can help in 2 ways:

1) **VOLUNTEERS:** There are two shifts of volunteers needed. The first shift involves setting-up to ready the area for the Pantry operation. The time period is usually 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The second shift involves food distribution/ dismantling equipment, etc. and runs from 3:00 pm to 5:30 p.m. Both shifts require some very moderate lifting.

2) **MONETARY DONATIONS** can be made by writing a check to St. John's Episcopal Church and making a notation in the Memo section of the check - For St. James Food Pantry.

If you are interested in volunteering for this worthy service and/or have any questions, please contact Sallie at (510) 531-7090.



Good News

We love, because He first loved us.
– 1 John 4:19

Loving our neighbors as ourselves – being the Good News - is the central job description of a Christian. It has also never been more important or needed, amidst a world facing multiple crises and challenges.

Youth Notes



MLK Service Day Project

After the 10 a.m. service on January 20, fifteen youth and three of their parents gathered to assemble Blessing Bags and make notes for our friends at Sacred Space. In two hours this industrious group made 75 notes and bags containing toiletries, snacks, and personal items. These will be distributed on third Sundays in the coming months.



Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast



Getting an early start on Mardi Gras and Shrove Tuesday, St. John's Youth Group hosts its annual pancake breakfast after each service on Sunday, March 3. Mark your calendars and come hungry! Lent begins March 6th and Easter is April 21st this year.



January 27 meeting with parishioners helps to define outreach project.

CnC Class of 2019

A major component of the Confirm not Conform (CnC) program is a local or world focused outreach project. The youth are encouraged to work through a series of spiritual and social justice lessons together to define the project.

Thanks to the many church parishioners who were interviewed by the youth in December and filled out questionnaires, the class began to understand the concerns of the congregation. They were amazed to hear how the needs of the homeless and education in Oakland were at the top of many of your concerns. This helped them make a decision on a project.

Along with some research and group discussions, they are creating an outreach project with the goal of handing out books to some children in Oakland. They know that they are privileged to have books in their homes to read. They want the books to be given to kids who do NOT have a lot of books to read for pleasure in their homes or shelters. Books of racial and cultural diversity, special needs, family and economic situations, and most importantly good books that they would want to read themselves are the focus of their book collection drive.

Their goal is to donate 1000 books by the end of this school year. But they were not sure how to do that alone. So on January 27th the youth invited and met with teachers, librarians and others from St John's who care and support their goal.

"Wow, they had so many good ideas and contacts. I never thought that they (adults)

would go so deep with their ideas and really care about our ideas for an outreach project." a CnC youth was heard saying at the end of the meeting. Now with ideas of how to collect the books, fundraise, and how to distribute the books, they will make a final plan in early February.

Please look out for their flyer on how you can help them reach their goal of 1000 books to the children of Oakland.

Rev. Scott and I are excited about their hard work and passion for this project that will reach so many children and families in our city.

"It has been proven that books in a home equals success" for those in that home.

Kellor

Pizza Club

February 5th from 6-7 pm. We will play Sardines. Meeting includes pizza, games, writing of prayers and meditation time.

See the flyer on the St. John's Bulletin Board for details.



St. John's Family



MIKE and MARTHA HELMS welcomed their 13 year-old grandson (CHRIS ATEGAKA's son), MATT into the family in January. Matt has already joined the Youth Choir and we look forward to getting to know him...



Update from our Fun Development Director



Join us on Sunday, February 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek for a Lamp-lighter's production of S. Sondheim's "A Little Night Music."

The enchanting story of three couples and their romantic machinations is set during the magical and romantic midsummer of Sweden at the turn of the last century. This exquisite blend of theatre and musical styles provides an enchanting adventure as it explores the themes of lost loves, the yearning of the young, the sometimes foolishness of re-discovered middle-aged love and the gilded memories of the old. We have a block of 10 tickets, and can add more if needed. For additional information, contact PETER FREEMAN at 510.847.7376 or pcfreeman52@gmail.com.

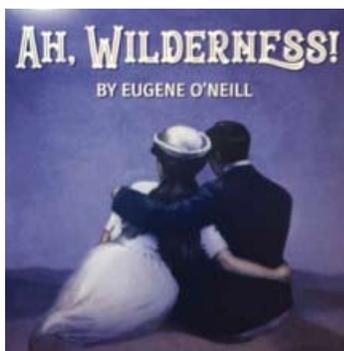


The Church of the Epiphany in Oak Park, CA "made the most of its feast day today by installing its gracious and devoted vicar, the Rev. GREG BROWN." Greg is shown here with his wife, the Rev. Stefanie Wilson...



Frequent visitor ERIC MONTOYER who is associate for congregational ministries and liaison to multicultural ministries with the Episcopal Diocese of California in San Francisco, and former seminarian MONICA WHITAKER, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Sedona, Ariz., participated with Ana Hernandez at a healing racism workshop in Spokane in December. Read all about it...

<http://www.thefigtree.org/jan19/010119wkshphealingracism.html>



DEIDRE BRODEUR COHN is among the cast of Eugene O'Neill's "Ah, Wilderness!" at the Douglas Morrison Theatre in Hayward from February 15 through March 3. For information and tickets, www.dmtonline.org or (510) 881-6777.



The Rev. ANNIE PIERPOINT MERTZ and ANDREW MACKAY MERTZ, along with their son AJ, welcomed new family member WESLEY JONATHAN in January...



OWEN DEVER was caught in C-SPAN and Politico videos and photos at Kamala Harris's well attended rally in Oakland on January 27...

Sacred Space

Under drizzle, we shared food, water and 50 new sweatshirts with our Oakland neighbors. "I was happy to see the gentleman pictured bottom right sporting one of the hats Sylvia and I made," reports Sara E. BONNIE and ALAN HOWE, JUDY MARR and SARA EVINGER assisted ANNE MEYER in sharing gratitude and concerns with those gathered. Please join us the third Sunday of each month (Feb. 17th is next) or speak to one of us if you'd like to help...



Annual Meeting Was BIG With Abundance, Information and Fun

St. John's held its 2019 Annual Meeting on Jan. 27th and packed worship, governance, finance, memorable videos and a community lunch into just three hours.

Cast members for the sermon were Rev. Scott Denman as Bishop Important, Walter Marion as the Narrator, Rebecca Faiola as the "Holly Spirit", and Semanarian Kathleen Moore as "Sad Girl".



Bishop Important lets people know that he is much bigger and important than anyone else. But the Holly Spirit brings him back to earth, raises up Sad Girl, and stresses the true importance of abundance, good will, and charity toward all.



We were delighted that Rev. Fran Toy was our celebrant and officiated at the Eucharist with Ian Storrar as sub-deacon.

Following the service, Senior Warden Kathy Araujo and Rector Scott Denman led the business meeting through the process of electing new vestry and deanery members, presentations from Treasurer Lilah Greene on the parish finances, and updates from Debi Stebbins on the Strategic Plan and Invitation Bridge Committees. The meeting ended with a video from 'da Rector Productions' that showed parish moments in 2018.

And then we had "The Barbara Cadwalader Memorial Non-Competitive Casserole Sharing Lunch", a potluck featuring more than 35 casseroles, salads and desserts and honoring the founder of the Casserole Brigade. This parish knows how to eat and socialize!



John Medford and Jim Kroger share a laugh.



Susan Field, Lea Seals, Bonnie Moran



Jen Howard, Laurie Bennett and Lara Pierpoint-Weir

Thank you to the more than 60 people who participated in report writing, printing, sermon production, liturgy, singing, meeting logistics, lunch setup, cooking, and cleanup.

St. John's is a very special community.



Paul Brumbaum, Ray Craun



Bryan Culp, Carol Kizziah

St. John's Bulletin Board

Newsletter Deadline is February 17



For the March issue of the monthly Church Mouse, articles, photos and volunteer "want ads" need to be submitted to Laurie Bennett, lebennett1950z@gmail.com, by end of Sunday, February 17. If you need more time, please contact her before that date.

If you have items about yourself or your family, send them to Sara Evinger, sevinger@comcast.net for inclusion in the St. John's Family column.

Smile! Amazon Gives to St. John's

Did you know that your Amazon shopping can benefit St. John's Episcopal Church by one simple click? Use and share this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1507026> and ask your family and friends to bookmark this link so all their eligible shopping will support St. John's.

It doesn't cost you anything to shop at smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com. Try it!



Information from the Bishop's Office

- Summer Camp registration is now open! Visit diocal.org/summer-camps for the list of the 2019 programs.
- Join Bay Area Episcopalians at Beloved Community Training Day at Grace Cathedral on February 23. This year's theme is "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" Register and learn more at diocal.org/beloved-community-training-day!



St. John's Episcopal Church **PIZZA CLUB** WINTER-SPRING 2019

WHO All children in grades 3 – 6

WHERE The Youth Room, upstairs at St. John's Episcopal Church
1707 Gouldin Road, Oakland

WHEN 1st Tuesday of each month from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

WHY To play games, talk, eat pizza/veggies & have fun with friends (yes, Sardines, too)!

COST \$5 per meeting for food

HOW Please RSVP to Kellor by the day before the meeting so we'll have enough pizza/veggies for everyone – 510-219-3156 or kellor@stjohnsoakland.org

FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

All children with great behavior are invited. Poor behavior may result in being asked to miss a meeting.

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



St. John's Episcopal Church

1707 GOULDIN ROAD, OAKLAND, CA 94611 510/339-2200