



Church Mouse

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

June-July Calendar

- June 2 - Saturday
4:00 p.m. - Choir Picnic
- June 3 - Second Sunday after Pentecost
7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist
9:00 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist & RSCM Awards
10:00 a.m. - Summer Sunday school
11:30 a.m. - Pilgrimage Meeting
- June 5 - Tuesday
7:30 p.m. - Singers' Forum
- June 6 - Wednesday
6:00 p.m. - Ministry Catalyst Meeting
- June 10 - Third Sunday after Pentecost
7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist
9:00 a.m. - Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist
10:00 a.m. - Summer Sunday School
- June 10-15 - College for Congregational Development
- June 17 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist
9:00 a.m. - Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist
10:00 a.m. - Summer Sunday School
2:00 p.m. - Sacred Space
- June 19 - Tuesday
7:30 p.m. - Singers' Forum
- June 20 - Wednesday
6:30-7:30 p.m. - Fiesta Fellowship
- June 22-29 Youth Mission Trip
- June 24 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist
9:00 a.m. - Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist
10:00 a.m. - Summer Sunday School
- June 25 - Monday
7:00 p.m. - Vestry meeting
- June 26 - Tuesday
11:30 a.m. - Just Elders

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Rector's Message: Bring on the Demolition

If there is one thing I am comfortable with, it's demolition. Some people are not so comfortable with it. It can be disorienting. But after spending 17 years as a contractor in Boston, I came to see it as a necessary step in the creative process. Yes, it's dusty and messy and there are lots of rusty nails to avoid stepping on, but if you can envision the final result the process is actually exciting and quite freeing.

When that terrible sewage flood hit us on All Saints day in 2014, some of us were secretly smiling. Stuff would now have to be torn out and we would have the opportunity to truly create rather than just patch things up. It was the catalyst we needed. The demolition of the walls actually invited vision as to how we might change the look and function of our space. The result is inspiring, and it all began with the necessary step of demolition.

I feel that God has brought us to a time of deconstruction. Now that the house in the path of our proposed bridge has been torn down, many of you have commented how the site lines from our parking lot out to Thornhill Road are stirring a vision for what is possible. Huge redwood trees that were hidden will become visible in dramatic ways. The creek itself

will become a place to visit and the new entrance will open our invitation up to our neighbors in the hills making them curious about what is back there. Demolition invites a vision for the future.

One could also say that our staffing structure is undergoing a time of demolition. Three of our five staff members are moving on to other callings. I am grateful that the vestry is seeing this not as a tragedy but as an opportunity to



envision how we might restructure job descriptions in a way that imagines an exciting future that grows our membership and increases our impact in the world. This is how I see this time

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Rev. Krista Says Goodbye



Rev. Krista in August 2011

Snoopy has it right, goodbyes are hard. And I too would hate "goodbye" if it didn't usually come with a bunch of "hellos" right around the corner.

July 8th will be my last Sunday at St. John's. This July marks the seventh year I've been at St. John's and wow, oh wow how time has flown!

Tom and I moved up here from Los Angeles looking to find connections closer to our family right here in the Bay Area. I was looking for a parish and a rector that would help mentor me and boy did I find a right fit! St. John's welcomed me into your warm wonderful style- as you do. Before we knew it, we were part of the St. John's family. When people asked me about



"-Why can't we get all the people together in the world that we really like and then just stay together? I guess that wouldn't work. Someone would leave. Someone always leaves. Then we would have to say good-bye. I hate good-byes. I know what I need. I need more hellos"



St. John's, I usually said I scored, I found a congregation who loves getting out into the world, who loves being creative, who loves to laugh, who experiments, who wants to make this world a better place to be.

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June-July Calendar

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June 27 – Wednesday

6:30-7:30 p.m. – Fiesta Fellowship

July 1 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist

9:00 a.m. - Summer Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist

10:00 a.m. - Summer Sunday School

July 8 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist

9:00 a.m. - Summer Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist

10:00 a.m. - Summer Sunday School

July 11– Wednesday

6:00 p.m. – Ministry Catalysts

6:30-7:30 p.m. – Fiesta Fellowship

July 15 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist

9:00 a.m. - Summer Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist

Last Sunday for Summer Choir

2:00 p.m. - Berkeley Bach Cantata Group

July 18– Wednesday

6:30-7:30 p.m. – Fiesta Fellowship

July 22 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist

10:00 a.m. – Eucharist

10:00 a.m. - Summer Sunday School

July 24 - Tuesday

11:30 a.m. - Just Elders

July 25– Wednesday

6:30-7:30 p.m. – Fiesta Fellowship

July 28 - Mid-year vestry retreat

July 29 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

7:45 a.m. - Early Eucharist

10:00 a.m. – Eucharist

10:00 a.m. - Summer Sunday School

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.*

Rector's' Message

—Continued from Page 1

as well. As the vestry hammers out a five year strategic plan, I can feel the conversation opening up and deepening in a way it hasn't for a very long time. And I want to invite your input as well. What can St. John's become in the years ahead? It is important that you share your hopes and dreams with me and with the vestry.

When we made a commitment to create a long term strategic plan we had no idea that we would face so much deconstruction. Somehow I think God knew. And somehow I also know God will provide as we open our hearts to live fully into our vision of invitation, inclusion, faith and action. Fear not the dust and avoid those rusty nails. God has great plans for St. John's. Onward!

Scott+

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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



Rev. Krista Says Goodbye

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These past seven years have been amazing, transformative years for me and saying goodbye is going to be hard. Words just are not adequate enough for how I feel about you all. I know that the time has come for me leave and to share you with other associates looking to be transformed and inspired.

Over the next couple of months I hope to set up different one on one times with you. I hope it to be a time when I can share, connect and remember the amazing ministries we have worked together. (If you want to be part of the action- just email me and we can set a time.)

On August first I begin working as St. Paul's Walnut Creek as their eighth rector. As I am sure you are aware, there will be a celebration in the months to come at St. Paul's as I am "installed" (yep like a lamp) and I invite St. John's to come and share your support and love in this new chapter in my life. You know, St. John's has a habit of being an influencer around the diocese and around the world through all the seminarians and youth who are now rectors... just consider this your new franchise in Walnut Creek. :)

Krista+

New EfM Class to Begin

Join members of many other Oakland and Berkeley parishes in Education for Ministry (EfM) classes hosted by St. Clement's in Berkeley. Seats are now available for next year's classes. Classes begin in September. EfM is a 4 year religious study program in practical theology that includes explorations of the Bible, church history, Christian theology, and theological reflection. Many members of St. John's are EfM graduates. If you are interested in joining the group, please feel free to contact the mentor Helen Hampton from St. Clement's at 510-932-9108 or helenhampton@yahoo.com. You can also speak with Tim Hart at cuorese@gmail.com.



Carol Booth's Memory Celebrated

On May 12th family, friends, and leaders from all over the Bay Area gathered to celebrate the life of Caroline Hammond Booth who was a member of St. John's since the 1950's. A fiercely elegant woman, Carol will forever be remembered as a kind, generous, empathetic, intelligent, and formidable woman who led her community and her family quietly and eloquently through word and example. Carol won people over, considered alternate points of view, and worked toward an inclusive society. She truly loved this world, and improved it.

In her memory, her family suggests a contribution to St. Paul's Episcopal School endowment, <http://www.spes.org/carolinebooth> or Nature Conservancy, <https://gifts.nature.org/products/tribute-honor-gifts>.



Caroline Booth, June 25, 1925 – April 16, 2018

Peter Reflects on CDSP Experience

*One thing I have asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek;*

*that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.*

-Psalm 27:5



Settling into California three years ago, my CDSP class took a retreat to St. Dorothy's Rest. Afterwards, I headed home, I crossed the

Richmond-San Rafael Bridge as the sky began to darken. The air, water, and hills changed together from yellow to red to finally a deep purple. In that moment I found myself shouting aloud, again and again, "Thank you!"

Now my time at CDSP is finished and once again we will pack up everything we own and move. We are headed back to Michigan, where I will be working as a Deacon, and then a Priest, in my home diocese. My last Sunday with all of you will be June 24th.

Leaving, I find my prayer is the same as when I arrived. Thank you. Thank you to the people of St. John's: for providing a church home for these past two years; for tolerating the shifting of the furniture in your sanctuary; for joining me in two overnight Vigils, allowing me to sing the Exultet, putting up with my sermons; for employing me; for your generous, good humor toward yet another seminarian.

God's house, the Divine's temple, is everywhere, all around us, all the time. And living there does not take a special key, or secret password. All you need is a grateful heart, and someone to show you the way. Thank you for being my guide.

I pray that in your lives, you will continue to find yourself saying the simplest of prayers, "Thank you". So, that until I am fortunate enough to see you again in person, I can still meet you, in our Maker's house.

*Yours in Christ,
Peter Homeyer*

Congratulations to the Theology Graduates

In May, Stephen Baronian received a Master of Theological Studies from the Jesuit School of Theology. His thesis title was "Grief, the Bible, and the Bereft Parent".

Peter Homeyer received a Master of Divinity degree from Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP).

Also, the St. John's seminarians swept the CDSP preaching awards/scholarships. Kathleen Moore won the Lawrence Kristin Mikkelson Preaching Scholarship, for a second year student who, "has demonstrated outstanding promise as a preacher". Peter Homeyer won the Right Rev. Richard Millard Prize, which is given to a third year student for excellence in preaching.

St. John's is so proud of you all.



Stephen Baronian



Peter Homeyer with wife Lynne



Kathleen Moore

Invitation Bridge Committee Is Busy

The APCC (architectural, planning and construction committee) has been working with Montclair Presbyterian Church (MPC) down Thornhill Drive from St. John's to solve our "shade mitigation" issue which is one of the city's conditions of approval. As mentioned in a past column, we are required to compensate for the shadow/shade that our proposed bridge will cast on Thornhill Creek.

Ironically, MPC is seeking a permit from the city to remove a pedestrian bridge over the same creek. Our meetings have resulted in a plan that will benefit both churches since the removal of their bridge will create more daylight to the same creek, just down the road from our site. Although their bridge is smaller than ours, there is some area of their deck which hangs over part of the creek that is suffering from dry rot and will need to be removed. Combining these two areas should allow us to mitigate the condition of approval. Preliminary details and photos have been submitted to Water Quality Control and Fish and Wildlife to start the ball rolling.

The next step will be the demolition drawings which we will be reviewing with their committee on the 20th of May. Two more meetings are scheduled over the next four weeks to review the drawings depicting the removal of invasive species of plantings along the creek bank and replacement with native species. The last meeting will be the total package which, we believe, will satisfy the agencies and the city and allow us to go forward with the remainder if the city's requirements to secure our final permits for the bridge and the parking grove. This alternative to the earlier option of underwriting some of the work that the city is doing on Sausal Creek will be 50% of that alternative cost.

Please feel free to ask committee members who wear the green Invitation Bridge badge any questions you might have after the Sunday services. We are there to answer them.

Jerry Moran



Rev. Fran Toy's Remarkable Party



L-R: Rev. Jeannette Myers, Rev. Polly Hilsabeck, Rev. Dr. Katherine L. Ward, Bishop Marc Andrus, Rev. Dr. Fran Toy

It's not often that family, friends, co-workers, admirers, and well-wishers from as far away as Hong Kong gather to tell remembrances while the person is alive, but people filled St John's on the eve of Pentacost to help Rev. Fran Toy give thanks for Life and to celebrate her remarkable life of service. The stories and gratitude lasted for hours, but the time still seemed inadequate to describe all Fran and her family have done throughout her life.

When the service ended, a spectacular buffet commenced and conversations were continued on the patio. Contributions made in the Toy's honor go for scholarships to these St. John's activities: Women's, Men's and Parish Retreats; Youth Mission trips; Diocesan Camps and Conferences.

Thank You Fran and Art Toy!



Art and Fran's family



Rev. Scott Denman, Bishop Marc Andrus, sub-deacon Kathy Aranjó at the altar



Art and Fran Toy (Rev. Dr. Dean Mark Richardson in background)



Bishop Marc, Fran, and Rev. Jeannette Myers (a fellow seminarian in Fran's CDSP class)

Youth Notes

Pilgrimage to California's Untold Stories

Youth from both St. John's Oakland and St. John's Ross will be traveling on this pilgrimage together this summer from June 22-29. Tom Fergoso is the youth leader from St. John's Ross.

Scott Denman, Tom Fergoso, and Kellor Smith worked together to make this trip a success.

Pilgrims will drive from Oakland to LA to explore the state's places and people whose stories have been glossed over, misunderstood and even ignored in our history books but in whom Christ has been at work. As pilgrims they will have opportunities to listen and question, praying and laughing together as they come to better understand these people and their significant roles in our state history.

Kellor says, "The goal is to look at the social and racial injustices that have occurred through history in California. As we listen to the stories of the people who came before us, we will learn more about who we are today. Many mission trips are a jam-packed packed week. This pilgrimage will allow all of us to slow down and really hear people's stories and allow us to have real conversations with those who share their personal stories. As a group we will have the time to reflect, discuss and pray. We learn so much more about ourselves and who we want to be in the future with God beside us."

A few topics will include: Who is this stranger? How do we see the face of God in others? How can we build on our state's history and our future to really welcome all to our Eucharist feast?

We are excited to be part of the three Episcopal Dioceses in the United States to pilot this great program. North Carolina, Northern California now St. John's Oakland and St. John's Ross. In the years ahead there are plans to continue the Pilgrimage by inviting youth from all over our Dioceses. Bishop Marc Andres is planning to lead the next one. The youth from this year will be asked to lead the next one. As our youth strengthen their interpersonal skills, leadership skills and prayer life, they are also looking forward are leading other youth in the dioceses in the future. Youth leading the youth of

the Episcopal Church grounds them all and us in our faith and call to care for the people and places of California.

Highlights of our Pilgrimage are:

Allensworth Historic State Park is where a town was founded, financed and governed by African Americans in the 30's-50's .

Manzanar Nation Park War Relocation Center was a camp where Japanese American citizens were incarcerated during world War II.

Museum of Tolerance in LA is designed to examine racism and prejudice with a strong focus on the history of the Holocaust.

HomeBoy Industries provides hope, training and support for formally incarcerated men and women allowing them to redirect their lives.

Cesar Chavez Memorial is a monument to the man who led the farm workers and supporters in the establishment of the country's first permanent agricultural union.

We have set up a tour guide and speaker at each location. We will be staying in a few motels and the Episcopal Retreat center in LA. We will visit the local communities, include a beach day and try new foods as part of our trip. We leave Friday June 22 at 7:30 a.m. from the St. John's parking lot .We welcome you to wave goodbye.

Please pray for all of us on and all we meet on our pilgrimage. Please include yourselves in your prayers as you are part of this pilgrimage, too. We are grateful for all your donations, (donations are still being accepted) interest, and the sharing of your own stories.

1 John 3:17-18

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need but does not help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

Blessings,

Kellor

Fiesta Fellowship Highlights "Take Along Church" This Summer

From 6:30 – 7:30 on Wednesdays from June 20 through August 8 (except July 4), all parishioners and their friends are invited to the Reception Room at St. John's for food, fun, fellowship, Skittles, a family prayer service based on the New Zealand prayer book, and MUCH more.



We are adapting last summer's Dinner Church to include our summer stories with Cross Rocks, have a prayer service instead of Eucharist, and integrate the summer church school program, "An Illustrated Earth".

All the dinners are Mexican themed, but since different people are hosting, no two will be alike. Dinner will be served buffet style and begin promptly at 6:30.

There are a variety of activities to follow dinner – so many that not all can be done each week. We may tell Cross Rock stories, brainstorm "Serve Your Neighbor" ideas, use the prayer cube and make up new ones, discuss the Illustrated Earth story of the week, play Sardines, find out how we see God in nature, take a short hike outside, have a scavenger hunt, sing songs, or tell "Skittle Prayers".

Beginning May 20, buckets of "Take Along Church" were available in the Narthex to sign out and take home. There are about 30 buckets and some extra Cross Rocks. Contact Kellor (kellor@stjohnsoakland.org) if you want one reserved for you.

Mark your calendars, then Come And See.



A Wonderful Retreat at Bishop's Ranch

Mother's Day weekend at Bishop's Ranch outside of Healdsburg means just one thing: St. John's Parish Retreat is underway and exploding with fun adventures. Whether it was the bar-b-cue hosted by the Slatoff/George family on Friday evening, activities and relaxation on Saturday, or Chapel and more good times on Sunday, there were so many ways to enjoy the beautiful setting and lovely people.

Saturday's activities included hiking, biking, swimming, art projects in the new art center (formerly the Casita), softball, root beer tasting, reunions and kids running free. Naps, quiet conversations, wine tasting at local vineyards and energy renewal were also treasured throughout the weekend.



St. John's Family

ANDREW ROBINSON graduated from Northeastern University in December 2017 with a major in International Affairs, and a minor in Russian Language and Culture. He officially graduated on this May 4 with classmates at the TD Garden, Boston. He plans to teach English as a Second Language in Munich, Germany, beginning in August...



LINDA LONG performed in two concerts with WomenSing entitled, "Earth-Rise: A choral concert for compassion and peace"...

KATE WALKER, volleyball player extraordinaire, has now been named the 2017-18 Johnson & Wales University Female Athlete of the Year...



AARP Youth Group including CHRISTINE ANDERSON, SUZANNE TINDALL, TED MILHOUS (chaperone), SHELLEY MILHOUS PHO and her husband, KIT, the Reasoners and Elizabeth Burkhart met up briefly during Chris' last California visit...



SALLIE SADLER and BOB DAVIDSON had several entries in the recent North Oakland Village Art Show.



Bob's "Louvre and Pyramid, Paris"



Sallie's "Solitude"

Twelve year old MEREDITH LEVANDOWSKI won a junior prize in the Lafayette Youth Arts Society photography contest for her entry in the category, "Behind the Scenes": Pasta in Process...



In May, the Piedmont Post reported that GREG SLATOFF and CAROLYN GEORGE were awarded Piedmont's Civic Volunteers of the Year for their Harvest Festival work.



Meditation Garden Is Spruced Up

On May 5, parishioners refurbished the meditation garden near the Fischer Room by trimming trees, weeding, spreading clean gravel, and pruning bushes. Many thanks go to Susan and Bob Field, Susan Merrill, Tina Popenuck, Jun Kim, Linnea Adair, Lea and John Seals, Ken Fuller, Lilah Green and Jerry Moran. They were all great.



New Nametags Are Here

In the November, 2014 flood, most parishioners' nametags were destroyed. It's taken a long time, but the Invitation and Inclusion committee (and especially Kathy Araujo) had new ones made and are now available for pickup and storage at the mailbox in the Narthex.

The new nametags have magnetic clasps that won't harm fabric or draw blood. Find yours and wear it so that everyone will know your name.



St. John's Bulletin Board

The Gift of Learning to Sew

During the Fall, 2018 Kellor would like the youth to make their own floor pillows for the youth room. That's with the idea that they could take the pillow with them when they graduate.

She is looking for volunteers and their sewing machines to help with this project. This is a great way for adults and youth to interact one on one, learn a new skill and make a new friend.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to donate fabric or money to buy the fabric please email Kellor@stjohnsoakland.org



Please send your articles and photos for the August issue by Wednesday, July 18. Showcase your group's Fall activities and report the summer fun times. St. John's monthly newsletter publishes essays, articles, event information and all items of interest to our community. Email files to Laurie Bennett at lebennett1950z@gmail.com.

Genesis Invites You

The Genesis Fundraising Team cordially invites you to our main fundraising event of the year. Join us as we recognize the Genesis Equity Award Winner and the Genesis Community Award Winners. St. John's is one of the recipients!

Here are the details: Saturday, June 2, 2018 at First Congregational Church of Oakland (2501 Harrison Street, Oakland). Doors open at 8:30 am, Program starts at 9:00 am. This is a free fundraising event. RSVP using this sign up link.



Take Space, Make Space

6th Annual Genesis Fundraiser Breakfast

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dorsey O. Blake

Join us as we present the Genesis Award for Equity, the Genesis Community Award, and an update on our Issue Campaigns.

Saturday, June 2, 2018
8:30 am - 10:30 am

First Congregational Church of Oakland
(2501 Harrison Street, Oakland)

Please Register for this event here:
<https://bit.ly/2r61yfh>

For more information:
gamaliel.genescisc@gmail.com



Fiesta Fellowship

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

June 20
June 27
July 11
July 18
July 25
August 1
August 8

Food and Fun for all ages.

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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