

Benediction Weekly

December 20, 2015

St. Benedict's Church is an inclusive Christian community that celebrates the divine in all beings, and inspires spiritual growth through joyful sacramental worship, loving service, creative expression, thoughtful inquiry and commitment to social justice.



Today at 3 pm ~ A Celebration of Carols

Join the St Benedict Singers and musicians, directed by John Cribb, in a special afternoon celebration of carols from the 15th to the 20th century. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge for admission.

CALENDAR – This week at St. Benedict's: (at the church unless otherwise specified)

TODAY

8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with music
1:00 pm – Choir call for concert
3:00 pm – Christmas Concert

Tuesday, Dec 22

5:30 pm – Vespers & Potluck

Wednesday, Dec 23

10:00 am – Intercessory Prayer Circle
1:30 pm – Greening of the Church
7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec 24

4:30 pm – Family Christmas Eve Communion
7:45 pm – Christmas Carols
8:00 pm – Festival Christmas Eve Eucharist

Friday, Dec 25

10:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service,
followed by brunch

Sunday, Dec 27

8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with music



Greening of the Church

Please come help decorate the church for Christmas, on Wednesday afternoon at 1:30. We'll be setting up the crèche, putting out the poinsettias and holiday greenery, changing the hangings, and decorating the windows. Cookies provided for good elves! Contact Sarah Chesebro if you can help: sarahchesebro@gmail.com

JANUARY PREVIEW

Jan 2 – People's Kitchen at Prado Day Ctr.

Jan 6 – 12th Night – Epiphany Star Party

Jan 14 – Hollister Institute "Things Hidden"

Jan 23 – Ledward Kaapana Hawaiian Concert

Jan 31 – Annual Parish Meeting



Today is the last day to make a poinsettia dedication.

You can contribute a poinsettia in thanksgiving or in someone's honor or memory by signing up on the list posted on the board and placing your donation in the collection plates (suggested contribution \$20). The dedication will be printed in the Christmas bulletins and the poinsettias will decorate the church from Christmas Eve to Epiphany (January 6).

Still Looking for that perfect gift for Aunt Agnes?

Consider giving an alternative Christmas gift. You could buy her a piece of wall or a light fixture for St Ben's. There are envelopes at the back of the church that you can take to make your contribution, and cards that you can send to Aunt Agnes so she knows you thought of her.

(More alternative gift suggestions are available from Episcopal Relief and Development <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/gifts-for-life>)



Serving God and the People of St. Benedict's this Week:

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall; Deacon: The Rev. Sharon Dalrymple; Eucharistic Minister: Elaine Goodman;
Chalice: Bob Pelfrey; Lector: Betty Field-Haley; Ushers: Ron Thompson & Bill Hayes; Greeter: Joan Hayes;
Altar Guild: Sarah Chesebro; Flowers: Joan Ghiotti; Coffee Hour Hosts: Diana Hammerlund & Esta Kandarian;
Tellers: Judith Cadigan & Stef Shuman; Music Director: John Cribb. **Thank you all for your service!**



DREAMS & SPIRITUALITY GROUP—
First and third Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm.

HEALING SERVICE – a time for
prayers for healing at the 10:30
service on 5th Sundays.

HOLLISTER INSTITUTE –
Opportunities for stimulating
discussion and thoughtful exploration
for everyone, whether or not they are
members of a church. See website.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER CIRCLE—
Prayers for the community and the
world. 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 10am.

LITLOVERS' BOOK CLUB –
Discussion and fellowship. 4th
Saturdays 1pm in members' homes.

LUNCH BUNCH – lunchtime social
gathering following church, 2nd
Sundays at Celia's Garden Café.

MEET ME IN MORRO – lunchtime
social gathering, 3rd Tuesdays
at varying restaurants in Morro Bay.

MEN'S BREAKFAST – morning
social gathering, 2nd Saturdays 9am at
Sea Pines Golf Resort Grill.

NATURE ACADEMY – Alternative
Middle and High School program
through Outside Now, a nonprofit
educational organization dedicated to
reconnecting people to the wonders of
the natural world. Mon & Fri 830-330

PEOPLE'S KITCHEN – Providing and
serving food at Prado Day Center, 1st
Saturday of odd-numbered months.

POTLUCK AND PRADO on the 1st
Sunday of each month donations to
Prado Day Center are collected, and
potluck lunch follows 10:30 service.

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND
On the last Sunday of each month, the
loose plate offering is designated to this
fund to help those in need.

VESPERS AND CONVERSATION
5:30 pm Tuesdays. Vespers service
using varying liturgies, followed by
potluck supper.

VESTRY / PARISH COUNCIL:
Maria Kelly, Sr. Warden
Pam Bleisch, Jr. Warden
John Cribb, Francis Rivinus,
Lisa Gonzalez, Michael Lucas,
Celeste Pennington, Anne Kanter,
Elaine Goodman, Kathie West

Western Tanganyika Scholarship Fund Needs Your Help

Since 2010, members of our diocese have provided support for over 300 students in the Diocese of Western Tanganyika to attend school. The scholarship fund began in 2009, supporting approximately 300 students. The scholarship program is thriving and continues to grow every year. This year has been particularly successful: we supported 702 students! Now we want to continue that support by raising \$30,000 for the 2016 school year. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to continue this important ministry. Thank you! You can read more at <http://www.realepiscopal.org/western-tanganyika-scholarship-fund-sets-30k-goal-for-2016/> To donate online go to <http://www.realepiscopal.org/donate/> or you may send a check directly to the diocese or put it in the offering plate.



Lit Lovers' Book Club

January selection (non-fiction)

"Tinseltown" by William J. Mann

Group discussion meets Saturday Jan 23, 1pm at Stef's

An Invitation to 'Things Hidden'

The Hollister Institute invites you to join us in January as we discuss Richard Rohr's **Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality**. Discussions begin January 14 and conclude March 17.

You can read and reflect on-line at <http://faithmatters.us/an-invitation-to-things-hidden/> and/or participate through our discussion group on Thursday mornings at St. Benedict's, from 10am-noon. Email donnaross@charter.net to register for this discussion.

Franciscan priest Richard Rohr is the founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Richard Rohr introduces Things Hidden by writing: "The Bible can be confusing because it records a very human history of our struggles with faith and doubt. But since it continues to give us amazing new revelations from the Spirit, we need to sift through it to find what really matters."

Things Hidden will help us see:

- The Bible's primary themes: Who is God? and Who are we?
- The development of very human characters, from Abraham to Jeremiah to Paul...to ourselves.
- The earthly ministry of Jesus, and the meaning of our encounter with him.
- The God who is always with us: the deepest meaning of *Emmanuel*.

The goal of Things Hidden is not to teach us 'what the Bible says' but to help us grow in our own relationship with God: Consider what Rohr says about prayer: *"I am increasingly convinced that the word prayer, which has become a functional and pious thing for believers to do, is, in fact, a descriptor for inner experience. We will understand prayer and inner experience this way throughout this book."*

Giving in November - St. Ben's General Operating Fund - Thank you!!

Nov Income: \$ 13,319	Monthly Income Budgeted: \$ 11,128	Difference: \$ 2,191 surplus
YTD Income: \$ 131,350	YTD Income Budgeted: \$122,403	Difference: \$ 8,947 surplus

Keeping in Touch during the Week. For counsel & spiritual care, please contact any of the clergy: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall, 704-5826; The Rev. Mary Elizabeth Pratt-Horsley, 528-7497; The Rev. Donna Ross, 235-5117; The Rev. Barry Turner, 784-0670; or The Rev. Sharon Dalrymple, (210) 422-8284. Call Celeste Pennington with pastoral care & prayer chain requests, 771-8974.

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